



**JENNINGS O'DONOVAN**  
& PARTNERS LIMITED  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Finisklin Business Park  
Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9



AN BORD PLEANÁLA  
LDG- 070876-24  
ASP-  
25 MAR 2024  
Fee: € 220.00 Type: CHQ  
Time: 9.00am By: REG-POST

6973/407/S5/BC/SG

21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

The Secretary,  
An Bord Pleanála,  
64 Marlborough Street,  
Dublin 1,  
**D01 V902.**

**Re: First Party Planning Appeal – Local Authority Reference 55-16-2023**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Grian PV Ltd., we hereby submit a First Party Appeal against the decision of Westmeath County Council to refuse a Section 5 Declaration for the following development:

*"A 38kV Underground Electrical Connection between the consented Slanemore Solar Farm WCC PL. Ref. 17/6028 and 17/6224 through the townlands of Slanemore, Walshestown North, Walshestown South, Tullaghan, and Irishtown to the existing ESB Sub-Station located at Mullingar Substation Co Westmeath is or is not development, and if it constitutes development, whether or not such development constitutes exempted development under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)."*

Accordingly, we enclose the following documents for your consideration:

- Grounds of Appeal Document
- Completed Planning Appeal Form
- Fee for the sum of €220 made payable to An Bord Pleanála

We look forward to receiving your formal acknowledgment of this Planning Appeal in due course.

Yours faithfully,

**Breena Coyle**  
**For: Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited**

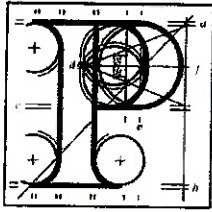
**Encl./**

Directors: D. Kiely, S. Lee  
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C. O'Reilly, M. Sullivan  
Company Reg No. 149104 VAT Reg. No. IE6546504D







An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Planning Appeal Form

### Your details

#### 1. Appellant's details (person making the appeal)

Your full details:

(a) Name

Grian PV Limited

(b) Address

Obton Limited | 4 Pembroke Street Upper |  
D02VN24 Dublin | Registration no. 636332

### Agent's details

#### 2. Agent's details (if applicable)

If an agent is acting for you, please **also** provide their details below. If you are not using an agent, please write "Not applicable" below.

(a) Agent's name

Breena Coyle

(b) Agent's address

Jennings O'Donovan & Partners, Finisklin  
Business Park, Sligo, F91 RHH9







## Postal address for letters

3. During the appeal we will post information and items to you or to your agent. For this appeal, who should we write to? (Please tick ✓ one box only.)

You (the appellant) at the address in Part 1

☐

The agent at the address in Part 2

☒

## Details about the proposed development

4. Please provide details about the planning authority decision you wish to appeal. If you want, you can include a copy of the planning authority's decision as the appeal details.

**(a) Planning authority**

(for example: Ballytown City Council)

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

**(b) Planning authority register reference number**

(for example: 18/0123)

S5-16-23

**(c) Location of proposed development**

(for example: 1 Main Street, Baile Fearainn, Co Ballytown)

The townlands of Slanemore, Walshestown North, Walshestown South, Tullaghan, and Irishtown, Mullingar, Co Westmeath









## Appeal details

5. Please describe the grounds of your appeal (planning reasons and arguments). You can type or write them in the space below or you can attach them separately.

The Grounds of Appeal are set out in a Separate Grounds of Appeal Document.



## Supporting material

6. If you wish you can include supporting materials with your appeal.

Supporting materials include:

- photographs,
- plans,
- surveys,
- drawings,
- digital videos or DVDs,
- technical guidance, or
- other supporting materials.

## Acknowledgement from planning authority (third party appeals)

7. If you are making a third party appeal, you **must** include the acknowledgment document that the planning authority gave to you to confirm you made a submission to it.

## Fee

8. You **must** make sure that the correct fee is included with your appeal. You can find out the correct fee to include in our Fees and Charges Guide on our website.



## Oral hearing request

9. If you wish to request the Board to hold an oral hearing on your appeal, please tick the “yes, I wish to request an oral hearing” box below.

Please note you will have to pay an **additional non-refundable fee** of €50. You can find information on how to make this request on our website or by contacting us.

If you do not wish to request an oral hearing, please tick the “No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing” box.

**Yes, I wish to request an oral hearing**

☐

**No, I do not wish to request an oral hearing**

☒

NALA has awarded this document its Plain English Mark

Last updated: April 2019.







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**GRIAN PV LIMITED**

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**SLANEMORE GRID CONNECTION  
MULLINGAR, CO. WESTMEATH**

**GROUNDS OF APPEAL FOLLOWING THE  
REFUSAL OF WESTMEATH COUNCIL TO  
GRANT A SECTION 5 DECLARATION**

**PLANNING REFERENCE**

**MARCH 2024**



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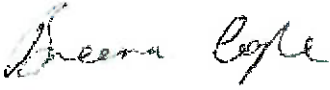
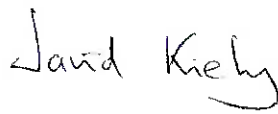
Email info@jodireland.com

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**DOCUMENT APPROVAL**

<b>PROJECT</b>	Slanemore Solar Farm, Mullingar, co. Westmeath	
<b>CLIENT / JOB NO</b>	Grian PV Limited	6973
<b>DOCUMENT TITLE</b>	Grounds of Appeal Document	

	<b>Prepared by</b>	<b>Reviewed/Approved by</b>
<b>Document</b>	Name Breena Coyle	Name David Kiely
<b>Date</b> 20 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Signature 	Signature 

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**Regional Director:** A. Phelan  
**Consultants:** C. Birney, R. Gillan

**Senior Associates:** R. Davis, S. Gilmartin, J. Healy, S. Lee,  
J. McElvaney, T. McGloin, S. Molloy  
**Associates:** B. Coyle, D. Guilfoyle, L. McCormack,  
C. O'Reilly, M. Sullivan

**Company Reg No.** 149104 **VAT Reg. No.** IE6546504D



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## **1 BACKGROUND TO THE PLANNING APPEAL**

Grian PV Limited (The Appellant) submitted a Section 5 Declaration to Westmeath County Council (WCC) on the 13<sup>th</sup> June 2023 for Request for Declaration on Development and Exempted Development for the Proposed 38kV Underground Electrical Connection between the consented Slanemore Solar Farm WCC PL. Ref. 17/6028 & 17/6224) and ESB Mullingar existing Sub-Station located at Mullingar Substation, Co. Westmeath.

A cover letter/supporting statement was enclosed with the Section 5 Declaration along with the following plans and particulars:

- Development Drawings;
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report as prepared by Doherty Environmental;
- Consent letters from the third-party landowner and The Applicant;
- Construction Method Statement; and
- ESB Networks Specification for the Installation of Ducts & Structures for Underground 38kV Power Cables & Communication Cables.

### **1.1 Planning History & Background to The Appeal Proposals**

The consented Slanemore Solar Farm and associated control building was granted planning permission by Westmeath County Council under Planning Ref.17/6028 & 17/6224. In accordance with the Group Processing Principles set out by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), ESB Networks as the Distribution System Operator specified the connection method in Slanemore Solar Farm's ESB Networks Connection Agreement to be via a new dedicated 38kV connection from the Slanemore Solar Farm site to the existing 110KV Mullingar Substation.

### **1.2 Request for Further Information**

WCC issue a request for further information on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023 with respect to the Section 5 Declaration. The Appellant submitted further information to WCC. A further request for information was requested by WCC on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Further information was furnished to WCC by way of e-mail dated the 05<sup>th</sup> February 2024. (See **Appendix C**).

WCC refused the declaration on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024. A Copy of The Decision is enclosed at **Appendix A**.

### **1.3 Site Location and Description**

The appeal consists of 4.995km of 38kV underground power cable ducted underground in the following townlands:

- Slane More
- Walshestown North
- Walshestown South
- Tullaghan
- Irishtown

### **1.4 The Proposed Development**

The Electricity Line runs in underground duct within the following areas:

- 4295 metres within public roads
- 700 metres within agricultural land

The proposed electrical connection is to be constructed by Grian PV Limited, to the requirements and specifications of ESB Networks such that the connection would be taken over by ESB Networks prior to energisation. Once taken over by ESB Networks, the asset will be owned, operated and maintained by the semi-state body. The construction of such 38kV underground electrical connections is generally exempted development in accordance with Article 6 and Class 26 of Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

The 38kV underground power cable construction type is 38kV XLPe cable to be ducted according to ESB Networks 'Standard Specification for ESB 38kV Networks Ducting/ Cabling' . The 38kV power cable will be laid in a cable trench according to:

- ESNB Drawing: '38kV Single Circuit Standard Trench Cross – Section 3.5 on page 10 of the ESB Networks specification document.
- ESNB Drawing: '38kV Single Circuit Joint Bay – Section 3.6 on page 10 of the ESB Networks specification document.

There will be 8 joint bays required along the 4.995km underground 38kV route. Please refer to JOD Drawing 6973-S5-100 Overall Location Plan (**See Appendix D**) showing location of the joint bays. The joint bays are standard ESB Networks 38kV design.

### **1.5 Screening for Appropriate Assessment**

A Screening for Appropriate Assessment was prepared by Doherty Environmental which concluded that there is no potential for significant effects to Natura 2000 sites. Doherty Environmental objectively concluded that there are no likely significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites from the proposed underground electrical connection. This is due to the scale of the project, implementation of best practice, and the distance and lack of ecological connectivity with any Natura 2000 sites. (See **Appendix B-AA** Screening.)

### **1.6 Environmental Assessment**

The appeal proposal does not come under scope of Part 1 of Part 2, Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended).

### **1.7 The Section 5 Decision**

Westmeath County Council, in considering this request, had regard particularly to —

- *Section 2(1), 3(1) and 4 Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).*
- *Articles 3, 6 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*
- *Schedule 2 Part 1 Class 26 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*
- *Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (vii) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*
- *The associated planning history.*
- *The plans and particulars submitted pertaining to the declaration.*
- *Submissions received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.*

Westmeath County Council concluded that the works subject to this request falls within the definition of 'development' under Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which is not exempt development having regard to the provisions of *Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).*







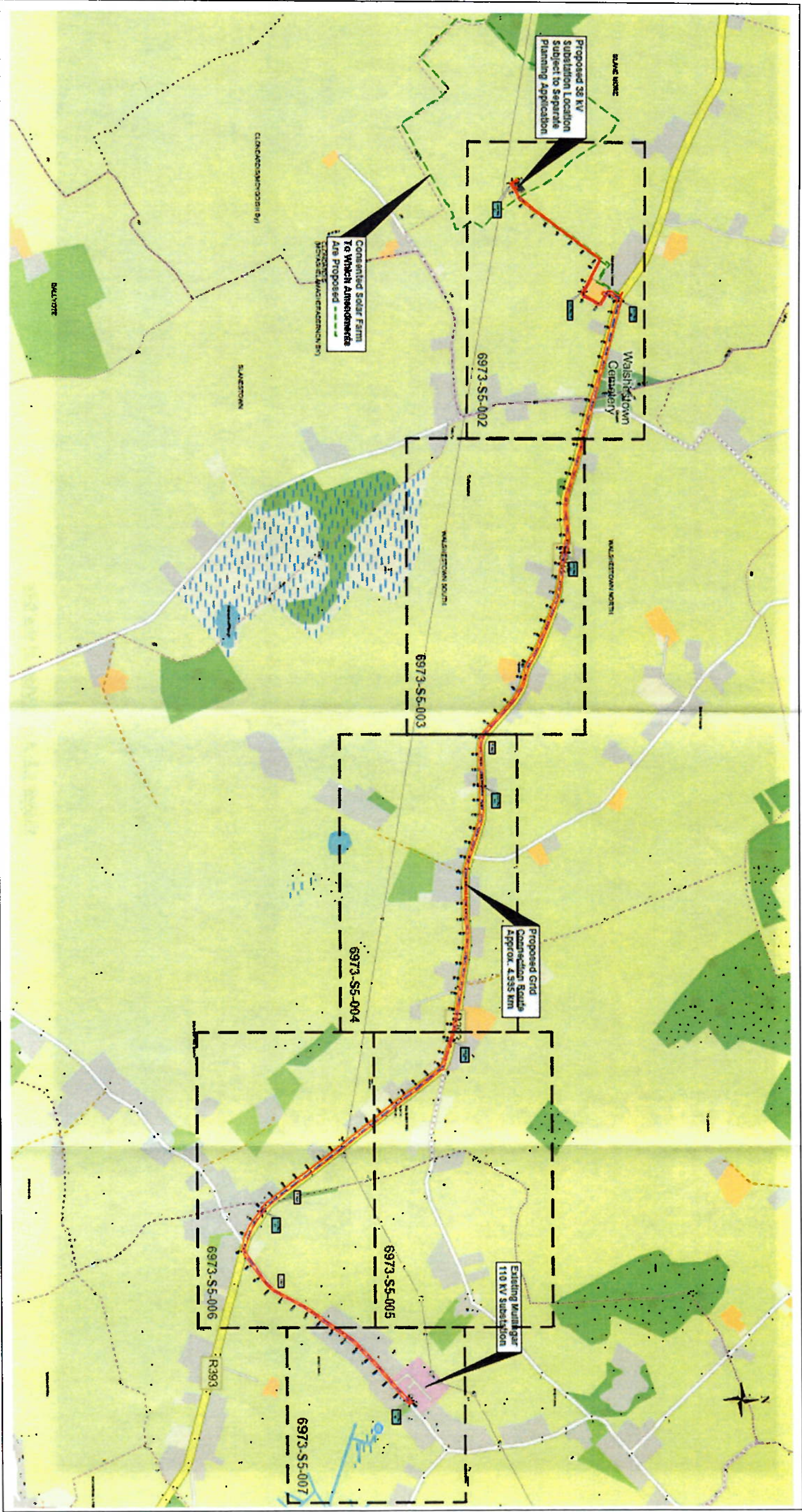


Figure 1.1 – Site Location

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

25 MAR 2024

LTR DATED FROM 1st Feb 2024

LDG- ABP- 219406-24





**Figure 1.2: Aerial View of the Site**





## **2 LEGISLATIVE AND PLANNING POLICY CONTEXT**

### **2.1 Screening for Environmental Impact Assessment**

Section 4(4) of the Act essentially de-exempts any development which attracts a requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Appropriate Assessment (AA). Underground cabling for the transmission of electricity does not fall into a class of development for the purposes of EIA. Therefore, the development of a connection between the medium voltage grid connection between the solar farm development permitted under ref no. PL- 17/47 and the Mullingar 110kV Substation is not a prescribed class of development for the purposes of EIA. In the context of the O'Grianna judgement, it is noted that the original solar farm application was not subject to EIA and is not a prescribed class of development for the purposes of EIA.

### **2.2 Grid Connection Works and Exempted Development**

Under Part X of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, such works, could constitute exempted development. Article 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (the "Regulations of 2001") provides that subject to Article 9, development of a class specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 shall be exempted development provided that the development complies with the conditions and limitations specified in column 2 opposite the mention of that class in column 1. The grid connection at issue in this case consists of an underground grid connection. In respect of underground cables specified in Class 26 of the Regulations of 2001 which are relevant.

### **2.3 Class 26 of The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended)**

The carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking.

Article 9 specifies restrictions on exempted development to which article 6 relates. Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended) – Article 6: Schedule 2: Part 1: Exempted Development – General: Class 26, provides that *'the carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking'* is exempted development and therefore does not require planning

permission. It is confirmed that none of the circumstances under Article 9(i)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, applies.

In particular, evidence is provided in **Table 2.1** with this application confirming that the proposed 38kV underground power cable will have not likely to have a significant effect on any European sites. See Screening for Appropriate Assessment -**Appendix B**.

**Table 2.1: Compliance with Article Art 9(1) Development to which article 6 relates shall not be exempted development for the purposes of the Act**

<b>Art 9(1) Development to which article 6 relates shall not be exempted development for the purposes of the Act—</b>	
<b>(a) if the carrying out of such development would—</b>	
i. contravene a condition attached to a permission under the Act or be inconsistent with any use specified in a permission under the Act	<p>There are 15 no conditions attached to the planning permission. The exemptions as applied would not contravene any of those conditions attached to that planning permission. Article 9(1)(a)(i) of the Regulations. It is noted from other such cases (Appeal Reference PL14.248470) does not include a clause stating that planning permission must be sought for the said grid connection works, rather that they are not granted by the said permission. In the subject case, the grant of permission issued for the Solar Farm did not include for the grid connection works detailed in the subject referral and, therefore, the cumulative impact of the said grid connection works when taken in conjunction with the Solar Farm was not assessed as part of that planning application. However, this condition did not explicitly state that permission is required for the grid connection works.</p> <p>This approach was reinforced under appeal reference ABP-310120-21 where the Inspector in the determination of The Section 5 Declaration considered that the restriction on exemption as per Article</p>

	<p>9(1)(a)(i) of The PDRS would not contravene a condition relating to the grid connection works.</p> <p>Paragraphs 8.4.3 of Inspectors Report ABP-310120-21</p> <p><i>"It is noted that, Condition no. 4 of PL14.248470 does not include the clause stating that planning permission must be sought for the said grid connection works, rather that they are not granted by the said permission. In the subject case, the grant of permission issued for the Solar Farm did not include for the grid connection works detailed in the subject referral and, therefore, the cumulative impact of the said grid connection works when taken in conjunction with the Solar Farm was not assessed as part of that planning application. However, this condition did not explicitly state that permission is required for the grid connection works.</i></p> <p>8.4.4. <i>Therefore, the restriction on exemption as per Article 9(1)(a)(i) of the said Regulations would not apply in that the grid connection which is the subject of this Referral would not contravene Condition no.4 of the said permission."</i></p>
ii. consist of or comprise the formation, laying out or material widening of a means of access to a public road the surfaced carriageway of which exceeds 4 metres in width	No road widening is required as part of the proposed 38kV grid connection.
iii. endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or obstruction of road users,	Temporary traffic management works will be in place for any elements of the proposed grid connection located on local public roads and thus, public safety will not be compromised, or a traffic hazard created or the road obstructed.

<p>iv. except in the case of a porch to which class 7 specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 applies and which complies with the conditions and limitations specified in column 2 of the said Part 1 opposite the mention of that class in the said column 1, comprise the construction, erection, extension or renewal of a building on any street so as to bring forward the building, or any part of the building, beyond the front wall of the building on either side thereof or beyond a line determined as the building line in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan</p>	<p>Not Applicable to the proposal in question.</p>
<p>v. consist of or comprise the carrying out under a public road of works other than a connection to a wired broadcast relay service, sewer, water main, gas main or electricity supply line or cable, or any works to which class 25, 26 or 31 (a) specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 applies</p>	<p>Part v is not applicable.</p>
<p>vi. interfere with the character of a landscape, or a view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, the preservation of which is an objective of a development plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan</p>	<p>The grid connection itself is located within public road and constitutes an underground grid connection. From a landscape and visual perspective, the proposed grid connection will be imperceptible.</p>
<p>vii. consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition (other than peat extraction) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological, geological,</p>	<p>The proposed grid connection will not traverse any European Sites.</p> <p><b>Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report:</b></p>

<p>historical, scientific or ecological interest, the preservation, conservation or protection of which is an objective of a development plan or local area plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or local area plan, or the making of a new development plan or local area plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the local area plan or the draft development plan or draft local area plan</p>	<p>A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) has been undertaken. It can be concluded by the competent authority, that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.</p> <p><b>Archaeological Assessment</b> – A site inspection was carried out in March 2023. The purpose of the inspection was to undertake a visual examination of the proposed development site and to assess the potential effects on known and unknown archaeological and architectural heritage assets and enable a visual assessment. There are 4 recorded monuments located within 100m of the proposed grid connection.</p> <p>The closest monument recorded to the proposed grid connection is a ringfort (WN018-087) located in Walshestown North townland, which is dissected by the R393 roadway. Two barrows (18-085001 &amp; 18-085003) in Walshestown South townland are located c. 45m &amp; 80m respectively south of the proposed route while an enclosure (WM-085002) is located 80m from the proposed route.</p> <p>Full time archaeological monitoring during construction is recommended in the area of the proposed grid connection route in proximity to the recorded monuments WM018-085001 - WM018-085003. The monitoring should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. If archaeological material is encountered work should be stopped and the archaeologist afforded adequate time to record the feature/artefact. A report on</p>
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	the finding should be forwarded to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to the archaeology uncovered. Archaeological monitoring is also recommended in the area of the proposed grid connection running alongside Walshestown church and graveyard.
viii. consist of or comprise the extension, alteration, repair or renewal of an unauthorised structure or a structure the use of which is an unauthorised use,	Part viii is not applicable as there are no unauthorised structures or unauthorised uses.
ix. consist of the demolition or such alteration of a building or other structure as would preclude or restrict the continuance of an existing use of a building or other structure where it is an objective of the planning authority to ensure that the building or other structure would remain available for such use and such objective has been specified in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan	Part ix is not applicable as no buildings will be demolished or altered.
x. consist of the fencing or enclosure of any land habitually open to or used by the public during the 10 years preceding such fencing or enclosure for recreational purposes or as a means of access to any seashore, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other place of natural beauty or recreational utility	Part x is not applicable to the proposals in question as no lands will be required to be fenced off.
xi. obstruct any public right of way	The underground cable will be located within public roads and will not obstruct a right of way.



<p>xii. further to the provisions of section 82 of the Act, consist of or comprise the carrying out of works to the exterior of a structure, where the structure concerned is located within an architectural conservation area or an area specified as an architectural conservation area in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan and the development would materially affect the character of the area</p>	<p>Part xii is not applicable as there are no works required to a structure.</p>
<p>(b) in an area to which a special amenity area order relates, if such development would be development</p>	
<p>(i) of class 1, 3, 11, 16, 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 31, (other than paragraph (a) thereof), 33 (c) (including the laying out and use of land for golf or pitch and putt or sports involving the use of motor vehicles, aircraft or firearms), 39, 44 or 50(a) specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2, or</p>	<p>The proposed area is not subject to a special amenity area order.</p>
<p>(ii) consisting of the use of a structure or other land for the exhibition of advertisements of class 1, 4, 6, 11, 16 or 17 specified in column 1 of Part 2 of the said Schedule or the erection of an advertisement structure for the exhibition of any advertisement of any of the said classes, or</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>(iii) of class 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 or 13 specified in column 1 of Part 3 of the said Schedule, or</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>(iv) of any class of Parts 1, 2 or 3 of Schedule 2 not referred to in subparagraphs (i), (ii) and (iii)</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>

where it is stated in the order made under section 202 of the Act that such development shall be prevented or limited	
(c) if it is development to which Part 10 applies, unless the development is required by or under any statutory provision (other than the Act or these Regulations) to comply with procedures for the purpose of giving effect to the Council Directive	This may not be applicable and is dependent on the screening exercise.
(d) if it consists of the provision of, or modifications to, an establishment, and could have significant repercussions on major accident hazards.	Not applicable
2. Sub-article (1)(a)(vi) shall not apply where the development consists of the construction by any electricity undertaking of an overhead line or cable not exceeding 100 metres in length for the purpose of conducting electricity from a distribution or transmission line to any premises	Not applicable
3. For the avoidance of doubt, sub-article (1)(a)(vii) shall not apply to any operation or activity in respect of which a Minister of the Government has granted consent or approval in accordance with the requirements of regulation 31 of the Habitats Regulations 1997, and where regulation 31(5) does not apply	Not applicable

### **3 GROUND OF APPEAL**

#### **3.1 The Decision and Reason for the Decision**

Planning permission was refused by Westmeath County Council on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Westmeath County Council, in considering this request, had regard particularly to —

- Section 2(1), 3(1) and 4 Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- Articles 3, 6 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- Schedule 2 Part 1 Class 26 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- The associated planning history.
- The plans and particulars submitted pertaining to the declaration.
- Submissions received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Westmeath County Council concluded that the works subject to this request falls within the definition of 'development' under Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which is not exempt development having regard to the provisions of Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

#### **3.2 Compliance with Article 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001**

The definition of works set out in Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (As Amended) that the proposal i.e the provision of an underground grid connection cable, does involve works and constitutes development for planning purposes.

The Appellant contends that the appeal proposal meets the criteria set out under Article 9 of The Planning and Development Regulations as demonstrated in **Table 2.1**. In particular the Local Authority assert that the Section 5 Declaration does not meet the provisions of Article 9 (vii) and (viiA) of The Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (As Amended).

### 3.3 **Submission Received Submissions received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DPHLG)**

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage had requested further information as part of the Section 5 Declaration. A site inspection was carried by Through Time Ltd, appointed Archaeologist out in March 2023. The purpose of the inspection was to undertake a visual examination of the proposed development site and to assess the potential effects on known and unknown archaeological and architectural heritage assets and enable a visual assessment. There are 4 recorded monuments located within 100m of the proposed grid connection.

The closest monument recorded to the proposed grid connection is a ringfort (WN018-087) located in Walshestown North townland, which is dissected by the R393 roadway. Two barrows (18-085001 & 18-085003) in Walshestown South townland are located c. 45m & 80m respectively south of the proposed route while an enclosure (WM-085002) is located 80m from the proposed route.

The proposed grid connection travels along the existing road network that dissects the recorded monument-ringfort WM019-087. Any development within this area requires prior notification (8 weeks) to be given to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It is recommended that the grid connection be located on the west side of the roadway –furthest away from the remains of the ringfort (WM019087). It is possible that sub-surface archaeological remains associated with the recorded monument survive in the area of the proposed grid connection at this location. It was recommended that archaeological pre-development testing is undertaken in the area of the proposed grid connection route in the vicinity of the ringfort to ascertain if any sub-surface archaeological layers/features survive. The testing should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A report on the findings should be submitted to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to any archaeology uncovered. If significant archaeological features are uncovered the report may recommend that the area is avoided and/or that further archaeological measures are required.

Full time archaeological monitoring during construction was recommended along the proposed grid connection route in proximity to the recorded monuments WM018-085001 - WM018-085003. The monitoring should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. If archaeological material is encountered work should be stopped and the archaeologist afforded adequate time to record the feature/artefact. A report on the finding

should be forwarded to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to the archaeology uncovered. Archaeological monitoring was also recommended in the area of the proposed grid connection running alongside Walshestown church and graveyard.

The mitigation strategy recommended was subsequently endorsed by the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage. They recommended that archaeological testing in green field areas (off road alignment) be included as part of the Archaeological Impact Assessment and recommended monitoring during construction. Notification for the archaeological works in the vicinity of the ringfort (WM018-087) was submitted to National Monuments in January 2024. Archaeological testing in the vicinity of the ringfort will entail works along the R393 that will require appropriate permissions to enable the works to be completed safely. (A copy of the correspondence is set out at **Appendix C.**)

### 3.4 **Associated Planning History**

The Local Authority cite the associated planning history as a reason for refusal. However, There are 15 no conditions attached to the planning permission. The exemptions as applied would not contravene any of those conditions attached to that planning permission. Article 9(1)(a)(i) of the Regulations. It is noted from other such cases (Appeal Reference PL14.248470) does not include a clause stating that planning permission must be sought for the said grid connection works, rather that they are not granted by the said permission. In the subject case, the grant of permission issued for the Solar Farm did not include for the grid connection works detailed in the subject referral and, therefore, the cumulative impact of the said grid connection works when taken in conjunction with the Solar Farm was not assessed as part of that planning application. However, this condition did not explicitly state that permission is required for the grid connection works.

This approach was reinforced under appeal reference ABP-310120-21 where the Inspector in the determination of The Section 5 Declaration considered that the restriction on exemption as per Article 9(1)(a)(i) of The PDRS would not contravene a condition relating to the grid connection works.

#### **Paragraphs 8.4.3 of Inspectors Report ABP-310120-21**

*"It is noted that, Condition no. 4 of PL14.248470 does not include the clause stating that planning permission must be sought for the said grid connection works, rather that they are not granted by the said permission. In the subject case, the grant of permission issued*

*for the Solar Farm did not include for the grid connection works detailed in the subject referral and, therefore, the cumulative impact of the said grid connection works when taken in conjunction with the Solar Farm was not assessed as part of that planning application. However, this condition did not explicitly state that permission is required for the grid connection works."*

Paragraph 8.4.4.

*"Therefore, the restriction on exemption as per Article 9(1)(a)(i) of the said Regulations would not apply in that the grid connection which is the subject of this Referral would not contravene Condition no.4 of the said permission."*

### 3.5 **Precedent**

There are a number of appeal decisions relevant to this case which are referred to on the below;

- **ABP-21.310120**-Longford County Council -ABP determined that whether the provision of 38kv underground medium voltage grid connection cable between the consented Cleggill Solar Farm (Ref 17/47) to the nearest 38kv Longford substation was exempted development.
- **ABP-307927-20** The Board determined that the provision of c.5.1km underground grid connection from the permitted solar farm at Clondardis and Slane More Townlands, Walshestown, Mullingar, County Westmeath to the national grid via the ABP-310120-21 Inspector's Report Page 14 of 27 existing ESB Mullingar 110kV substation at Irishtown Townland, Mullingar, County Westmeath is development and is exempted development.
- **ABP-302895-18** Kildare County Council Reference. The Board determined that a medium voltage grid connection from the Dysart solar farm at Johnstownbridge, County Kildare to the Dunfirth ESB substation is exempted development. The reasons for this decision, as per the Inspector's report, are as follows:

*'The provision of the medium voltage grid connection between the solar farm development permitted under ref no. 16/1265 and the Dunfirth ESB substation comes within the scope of Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Act and constitutes development,*

*The said underground cable comes within the scope of Class 26 Part 1, Schedule 2, of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,*

*ABP-302895-18 Inspector's Report Page 16 of 16*

*The said underground cable does not come within the scope of section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. In this regard the Board adopts the report of the Inspector in relation to EIA and AA and, thereby has carried out the necessary assessments to conclude that neither EIA nor AA is required,*

*The said underground cable does not come within the scope of Article 9(1)(a)(i), (ii), (v), (vii), (viiA) or (viiB) or Article 9(1)(c) of the of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.'*

- **RL3503-** The Board determined that the provision of a connection between the 110kv substation of the Yellow River Windfarm granted under PA0032 & the National Grid is development and is exempted development at Rhode, Co. Offaly.
- **RL3375** -The Board determined that 220m of 20kv underground cable forming part of grid connection at Raragh, Kingscourt, Co Cavan is development and is exempted development.

#### **4 CONCLUSION**

Having regard to the provisions of Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) we respectfully ask the Board to reconsider the Appeal Proposal now before ABP.





## **APPENDIX A: COPY OF DECISION NOTICE**



Grian PV Limited  
C/O Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited  
Finisklin Business Park  
Sligo,  
Ireland,  
F91 RHH9



Date: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024  
Our Ref: S5-16-2023

**Re: Whereas a question has arisen as to whether a 38kV Underground Electrical Connection between consented Slanemore Solar Farm WCC PL. Ref. 17/6028 and 17/6224 through the townlands of Slanemore, Walshestown North, Walshestown South, Tullaghan, and Irishtown to the existing ESB Sub-Station located at Mullingar Substation Co Westmeath is or is not development, and if it constitutes development, whether or not such development constitutes exempted development under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).**

A Chara,

Westmeath County Council has reviewed your application for exempted development and in exercise of the powers conferred on it, by Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended and has decided that the subject of your application constitutes development and is **not exempted** development for the reasons set out in the attached Schedule.

A Declaration made by the Planning Authority may be appealed to An Bord Pleanála with the required fee within four weeks of the date of the issuing of the Declaration in accordance with Section 5(3) (a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as amended.

Yours sincerely,

*PP Maria Hareney*  
Éamonn Brennan, AO.,  
Planning Department,  
Tel No: [REDACTED]  
E-Mail: [REDACTED]  
Enc

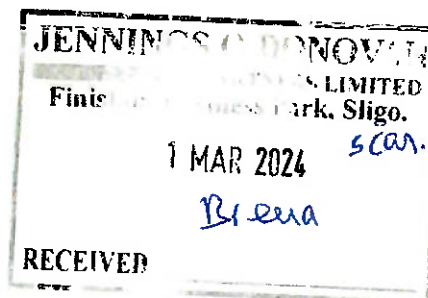


Figure 1. The effect of the  
temperature on the rate of  
the reaction.

Figure 2. The effect of the concentration of the reactants on the rate of the reaction.

## **Schedule**

### **Westmeath County Council Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

**Section 5 Declaration Reference: S5-16-23**

#### **Section 5 Declaration**

**WHEREAS** a question has arisen as to whether a 38kV Underground Electrical Connection between consented Slanemore Solar Farm WCC PL. Ref. 17/6028 and 17/6224 through the townlands of Slanemore, Walshestown North, Walshestown South, Tullaghan, and Irishtown to the existing ESB Sub-Station located at Mullingar Substation Co Westmeath is or is not development, and if it constitutes development, whether or not such development constitutes exempted development:

**AND WHEREAS** the said question is the subject of a request under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

**AND WHEREAS** Westmeath County Council, in considering this request, had regard particularly to –

- Section 2(1), 3(1) and 4 Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- Articles 3, 6 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- Schedule 2 Part 1 Class 26 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
- The associated planning history.
- The plans and particulars submitted pertaining to the declaration.
- Submissions received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**AND WHEREAS** Westmeath County Council in considering this request has concluded that: the works subject to this request falls within the definition of 'development' under Section 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which is not exempt development having regard to the provisions of Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

**NOW THEREFORE** Westmeath County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), hereby decides that the construction of a 38kV Underground Electrical Connection between consented Slanemore Solar Farm WCC PL. Ref. 17/6028 and 17/6224 through the townlands of Slanemore, Walshestown North, Walshestown South, Tullaghan, and Irishtown to the existing ESB Mullingar Sub-Station located at Mullingar Substation Co Westmeath is 'Development' and **'is not'** Exempted Development.



## **APPENDIX B: SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**







# Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment

## Slanemore Solar Grid Connection

Doherty Environmental Consultants Ltd.

June 2023



**Proposed Grid Connection**

**Slanemore Solar**

**Westmeath**

**Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment**

Document Stage	Document Version	Prepared by
Final	1	Pat Doherty MSc, MCIEEM



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## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Doherty Environmental Consultants (DEC) Ltd. has been commissioned by Grian PV Ltd. to prepare a Screening Report in support of an Appropriate Assessment (AA), under Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive, for a proposed 38kV electricity cable connection (i.e. grid connection) from Slanemore Solar Farm to an existing ESB substation at Mullingar, Co. Westmeath (see Figure 1.1 for the location of grid connection route and Figure 1.2 for an aerial view of the grid connection route).

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment forms Stage 1 of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and is being undertaken in order to comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive Article 6(3). The function of this Screening Report is to determine if it can or cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the project, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European Site. This Screening Report has been prepared to provide information to the competent authority to assist them in their determination as to whether a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required for the project.

## 1.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment is being prepared in order to enable the competent authority to comply with Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (The Habitats Directive). It is prepared to assess whether or not the project alone or in combination with other plans and projects is likely to have a significant effect on any European Site in view of best scientific knowledge and in view of the conservation objectives of the European Sites and specifically on the habitats and species for which the sites have been designated.

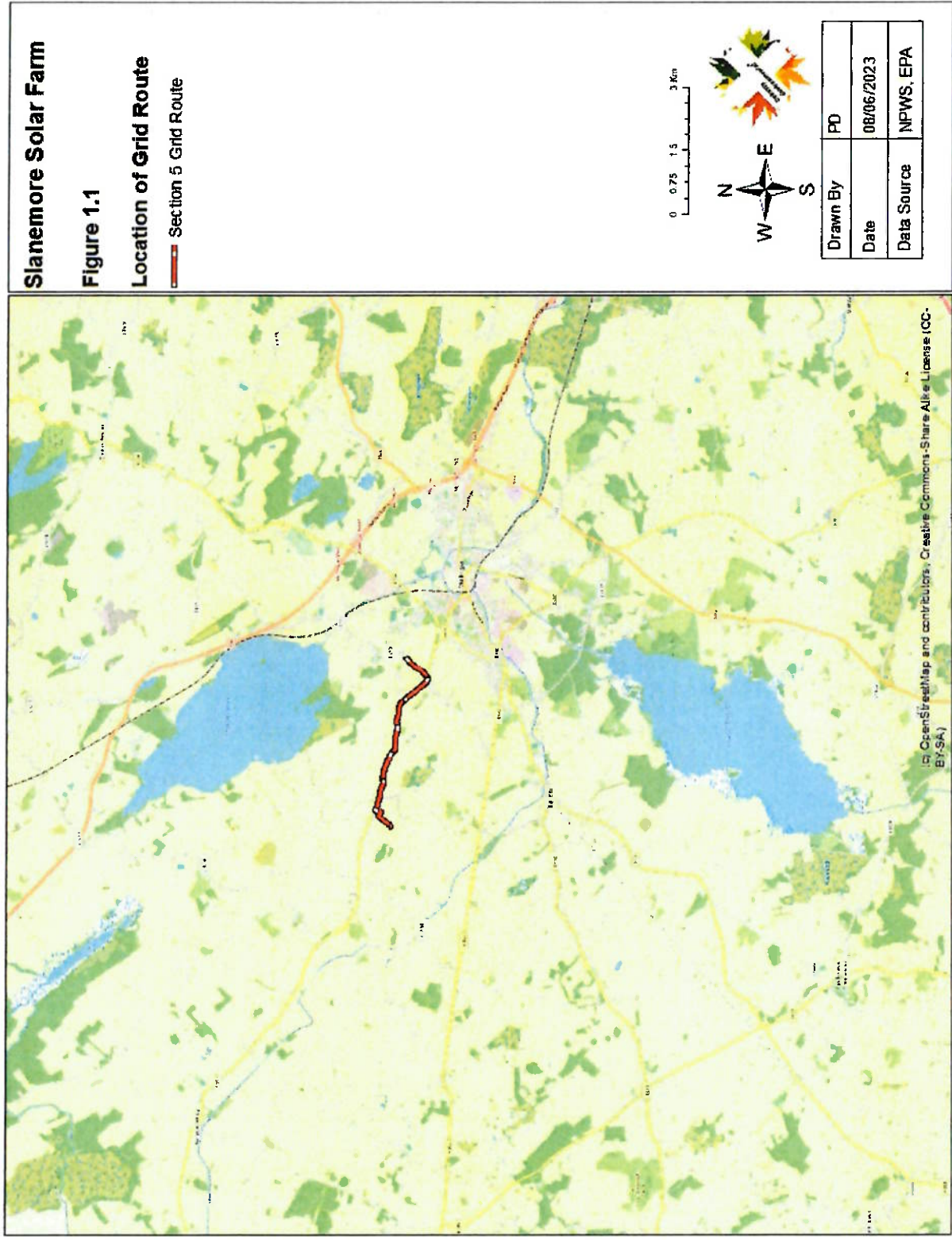
### 1.1.1 *Requirement for an Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive*

According to Regulation 42(1) of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 – 2015, the competent Authority has a duty to:

- Determine whether the proposed Project is directly connected to or necessary for the management of one of more European Sites; and, if not,















- Determine if the Project, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have a significant effect on the European Site(s) in view of best scientific knowledge and the Conservation Objectives of the site(s).

This Report contains information to support a Screening for Appropriate Assessment and is intended to provide information that assists the competent authority when assessing and addressing all issues regarding the construction and operation of the Project and to allow the competent authority to comply with the Habitats Directive. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive defines the requirements for assessment of projects and plans for which likely significant effects on European Sites may arise. The European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 – 2015 (the Habitats Regulations) transpose into Irish law Directive 2009/147/EC (the Birds Directive) and Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) together which list habitats and species that are of international importance for conservation and require protection. The Habitats Regulations requires competent authorities, to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects that, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. This requirement is transposed into Irish Law by Part 5 of the Habitats Regulations and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

## 1.2 STAGE 1 SCREENING METHOD

This Screening Report has been prepared in order to comply with the legislative requirements outlined in Section 1.1 above and aims to establish whether or not the proposed project, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, would be likely to have significant effects on European Sites in view of best scientific knowledge and the Site's conservation objectives. In this context "likely" means a risk or possibility of effects occurring that **cannot** be ruled out based on objective information and "significant" means an effect that would undermine the conservation objectives of the European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects (Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR), 2021).

The nature of the likely interactions between the Plan and the Conservation Objectives of European Sites will depend upon the:



- the ecological characteristics of the species or habitat, including their structure, function, conservation status and sensitivity to change; *and/or*
- the character, magnitude, duration, consequences and probability of the impacts arising from land use activities associated with the plan, in combination with other plans and projects.

This Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken with reference to respective National and European guidance documents: Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities (DEHLG 2010) and *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*; Office of the Planning Regulator – OPR Practice Note PN01: *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management*, and recent European and National case law. The following guidance documents were also of relevance during the preparation of this Screening Report:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010). DEHLG.
- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites – Methodological Guidance of the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/42/EEC. European Commission (2021).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European commission (2018).

The EC (2021) guidelines outline the stages involved in undertaking a Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment for projects. The methodology adopted during the preparation of this Screening Report is informed by these guidelines and was undertaken in the following stages:

1. Describe the project and determine whether it is necessary for the conservation management of European Sites;
2. Identify European Sites that could be influenced by the project;
3. Where European Sites are identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project identify potential effects arising from the project and screen the potential for such effects to negatively affect European Sites identified under Point 2 above; and





4. Identify other plans or projects that, in combination with the project, have the potential to affect European Sites.

## **2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

### **2.1 BACKGROUND**

The consented Slanemore Solar Farm and associated control building was granted planning by Westmeath County Council Pl. Ref.17/6028 & 17/6224.

In accordance with the Group Processing Principles set out by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), ESB Networks as the Distribution System Operator specified the connection method in Slanemore Solar Farm's ESB Networks Connection Agreement to be via a new dedicated 38kV connection from the Slanemore Solar Farm site to the existing 110kVMullingar Substation.

### **2.2 PROPOSED GRID CONNECTION**

The proposed electrical connection is to be constructed by Grian PV Limited, to the requirements and specifications of ESB Networks such that the connection would be taken over by ESB Networks prior to energisation. Once taken over by ESB Networks, the asset will be owned, operated and maintained by the semi-state body.

The 38kV underground power cable construction type is 38kV XLPe cable to be ducted according to ESB Networks 'Standard Specification for ESB 38kV Networks Ducting/Cabling' (refer to **Appendix 6**). The 38kV power cable will be laid in a cable trench according to:

- ESBN Drawing: '38kV Single Circuit Standard Trench Cross – Section 3.5 on page 10 of the ESB Networks specification document.
- ESBN Drawing: '38kV Single Circuit Joint Bay – Section 3.6 on page 10 of the ESB Networks specification document.



There will be 8 joint bays required along the 4.995km underground 38kV route. Please refer to JOD Drawing 6973-S5-100 Overall Location Plan in **Appendix 1 of the Section 5 Application Cover Letter** showing location of the joint bays. The joint bays are standard ESB Networks 38kV design.

## 2.3 CONSTRUCTION SEQUENCING

The works are summarised below.

1. Preparatory Works
  1. Preparatory Trial Pit Survey along the cable route
  2. Access to the start point and setting out
  3. Access to joint bays
  4. Silt Attenuation Features and watercourse set back buffer
  5. Stream Crossing
  6. Joint Bay Excavation
2. Trenching Works
  7. Storage of Materials
  8. Trench Operations
  9. Managing excess material from trench

## 2.4 CONSTRUCTION METHOD

The Grid Connection will be constructed to the requirements and specifications of ESB Networks and EirGrid. The UGC will consist of 3 No. 160mm diameter HDPE power cable ducts, 2 No. 125mm diameter HDPE communications duct and 1 no. 63mm diameter earth continuity duct to be installed in an excavated trench, typically 825mm wide by 1,315mm deep, with variations on this design to adapt to bridge crossings, service crossings and watercourse crossings, etc. The power cable ducts will accommodate 1 No. power cables per duct. The communications duct will accommodate a fibre cable to allow communications between the Slanemore Solar Farm substation and ESB Mullingar substation. The inclusion 1 No. earth continuity conductor duct will also be required. The ducts will be installed and the trench reinstated in accordance with the local road's authority within Westmeath County Council. Once all are satisfied, then the electrical cabling/fibre cable is pulled through the installed ducts.



### **3.0 IS THE PROJECT NECESSARY FOR THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT OF EUROPEAN SITES**

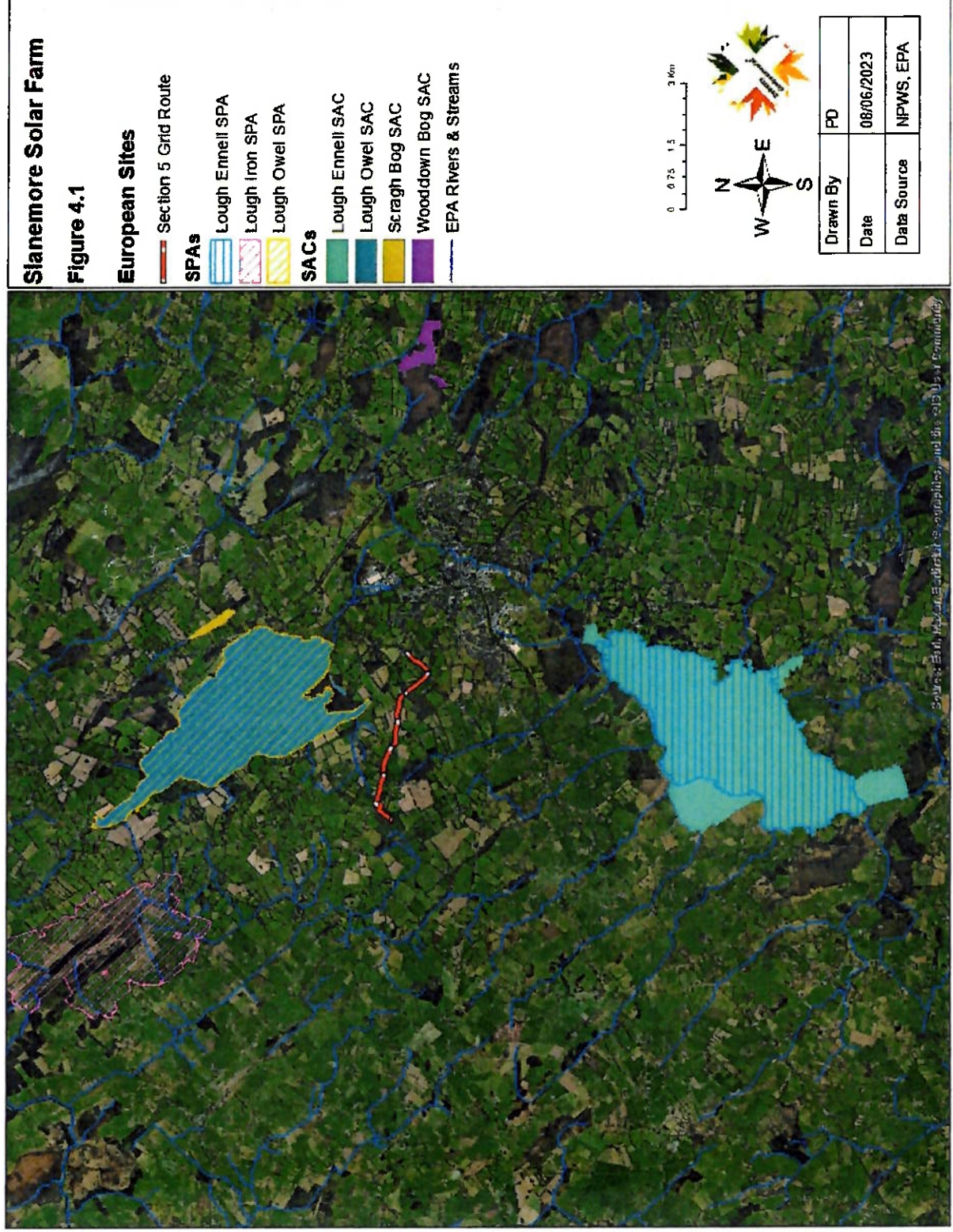
The project has been described in Section 2 of this Screening Report and it is clear from the description provided that the project is not directly connected with or necessary for the future conservation management of any European Sites.

### **4.0 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT**

The proposed grid connection route is not located within any European Sites and does not bound any European Sites. The proposed grid connection route does not cross any watercourses and is not hydrologically connected to any European Sites in the wider surrounding area.

- The nearest European Sites to the proposed grid connection route is the Lough Owel SAC & SPA, which is located approximately 650m to the north and overland. The next nearest European Sites to the proposed grid connection route with the Lough Ennell SAC and SPA, located approximately 3.6km to the south of the route; followed by Lough Iron SPA, located approximately 4.8km to the north of the proposed grid connection route. All other European Sites are located at more remote distances over 5km from the project site. The location of the above listed European Sites with respect to the proposed grid connection route are shown on Figure 4.1. Both Lough Owel SAC & SPA and Lough Ennell SAC & SPA are designated for their role in supporting Annex 1 lake habitats as well as fringing mire and fen habitats. These two lakes as well as Lough Iron SPA are also designated for their role in supporting over-wintering waterbirds. Lough Owel SAC also supports a population of white-clawed crayfish. The qualifying features of interest for these European Sites are listed in Appendix 1 below. management of one of more European Sites; and, if not,









The grid connection route will be restricted to the public road corridor of the R393 at this nearest point to the south of the SAC and SPA. Given that there are no hydrological pathways connecting the grid connection route to the Lough Owel SAC and SPA and given the distance of c. 650 separating the grid connection route from these European Sites, there will be no potential for other pathways for other potential emissions such as air, noise etc that could be generated during the installation of the electrical cable. For instance Holman et al. (2014) have provided guidance for the evaluating the negative impacts to biodiversity associated with emissions to air in the form of dust and have ranked European Sites as high sensitive sites. Holman et al. identify a high risk to high sensitive sites such as European Sites as occurring within 20m of the source of dust and a medium risk to such sites within 50m of the source. Low risks, representative of insignificant and de-minimis effects, arise at distances greater than 50m from source. As the nearest European Sites are located c. 650m from the proposed grid connection route, they are located well outside the zone of sensitivity for air emissions and will not be negatively affected by any emissions to air that may arise during the installation of the electrical cable. Furthermore it is noted that the potential for emissions to air is considered to be minimal during all works associated with the electrical cable installation.

Similarly noise and vibration emissions are considered to have the potential to result in negative impacts to biodiversity up to a 300m distance from the emission source. This distance is based on the maximum noise disturbance zone of 300m for wetland bird species, as specified by Cutts et al. (2013). The potential for noise and vibration effects for other qualifying species as well as qualifying habitats of European Sites are even less than 300m. For mammal species listed as qualifying features of interest for SACs this distance is set at 150m, as per the NRA (2009). For qualifying aquatic species a potential noise and vibration impact pathway will only arise where works such as piling or blasting are proposed at instream or bankside locations within adjoining SACs. No such proposals form part of the proposed Development. There are European Sites occurring within 300m of the proposed grid connection route and as such there will be no noise or vibration pathway connecting the project to European Sites in the surrounding area.

Development projects that are located outside of European Sites can also result in impacts to mobile qualifying species of European Sites in the event that such species rely on habitats occurring within the proposed development site. However given that the proposed grid connection route will be located along existing regional and local roads, that do not provide suitable habitat for Annex 2 qualifying species or special conservation interest bird species of



European Sites there will be no potential for a mobile species pathway to connect the proposed grid connection route to European Sites in the surrounding area.

Given that the project is located outside the zone of influence of surrounding European Sites along with the absence of any potential impact pathways, this project will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to European Sites. A Screening Matrix, in line with European Commission (2021) guidelines is provided below in Table 4.1.

**Table 4.1: Screening Matrix for Project Activities associated with the proposed grid connection route**

Brief description of the project or plan	The project and associated activities are described in Section 2 above.
Brief description of the European Sites	The European Sites occurring in the wider surrounding area are identified and described this Section above and in Appendix 1.
Describe the individual elements of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) likely to give rise to impacts on the European Sites.	<p>The elements of the project that could (conceivably) give rise to potential environmental effects relate to surface water, noise or air emissions from the project during the installation of the electrical cable.</p> <p>However given the small scale nature of the works and the sequencing of the works along a section by section basis the potential for negative impacts to the environment as a result of surface water runoff, noise or air emissions are considered to be low and insignificant.</p> <p>Furthermore given the absence of any pathways for the conveyance of insignificant water, noise or air emissions from the sections of works to European Sites in the surrounding area there will be no potential for works associated with the grid connection route to influence European</p>



	Sites or undermine the conservation objectives of European Sites.
Describe any likely direct, indirect or secondary impacts of the project (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on the European Sites site by virtue of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• size and scale;</li> <li>• land-take;</li> <li>• distance from the Natura 2000 site or key features of the site;</li> <li>• resource requirements (water abstraction etc.);</li> <li>• emissions (disposal to land, water or air);</li> <li>• excavation requirements;</li> <li>• transportation requirements;</li> <li>• duration of construction, operation, decommissioning, etc.;</li> </ul>	The project will not have the potential to result in direct, indirect or secondary impacts to European Sites. All European Sites in the wider surrounding area have been identified as lying outside the zone of influence of the project.
Describe any likely changes to the site arising as a result of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduction of habitat area;</li> <li>• disturbance to key species;</li> <li>• habitat or species fragmentation;</li> <li>• reduction in species density;</li> <li>• changes in key indicators of conservation status</li> </ul>	<p>All European Sites in the wider surrounding area have been identified to lie outside the zone of influence of the project.</p> <p>Given the absence of pathways the project will not have the potential to result in changes to the Annex 1 habitats of these European Sites arising from these factors.</p> <p>The project will not result in the reduction of habitat area for special conservation interest bird species or waterbirds of SPAs in the wider surrounding area.</p> <p>Given the absence of pathways the project will not have the potential to result in changes to the population of white-clawed crayfish supported by the Lough Owel SAC arising from these factors.</p> <p>Key indicators of the conservation status for the bird species of surrounding SPAs designated for</p>



	<p>overwintering species, as per the published conservation objectives of overwintering bird SPAs are:</p> <p>The population size and distribution of populations of overwintering birds supported by SPAs in the wider surrounding area; and the extent of wetland habitat.</p> <p>Key indicators of the conservation status for the Annex 1 habitats of these European Sites include habitat area, habitat distribution, vegetation supported by the habitat, water quality, nutrient status etc. The key indicators of the conservation status of white-clawed crayfish include distribution, population structure, water quality, habitat quality and negative indicator species.</p> <p>Given that the European Sites in the wider surrounding are located outside the zone of influence of the project, as established above, there will be no potential for the project to undermine the conservation status and conservation objectives for any European Sites.</p>
Describe any likely impacts on the European Sites site as a whole in terms of: interference with the key relationships that define the structure of the site; interference with key relationships that define the function of the site	For reasons set out above the project will not have the potential to interfere with key relationships that define the structure and function of European Sites.
Provide indicators of significance as a result of the identification of effects set out above in terms of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• loss;</li> <li>• fragmentation;</li> <li>• disruption;</li> <li>• disturbance;</li> </ul>	For reasons set out above the project will not have the potential to result in such effects to European Sites.





<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>change to key elements of the site (e.g. water quality etc.).</li> </ul>	
Describe from the above those elements of the project or plan, or combination of elements, where the above impacts are likely to be significant or where the scale or magnitude of impacts is not known.	The project will not have the potential to result in likely significant effects to European Sites.

## 5.0 IN-COMBINATION EFFECTS

Given that all elements of the project are located outside the zone of influence of European Sites in the wider surrounding area and are not connected to European Sites via any potential impact pathways, there will be no potential for the project to combine with other land use plans or project relevant to lands at or surrounding the project site.

## 6.0 SCREENING CONCLUSION

During the Screening of the project European Sites in the wider surrounding area that required examination to ascertain whether or not they are located within the zone of influence of the project were identified. These European Sites are the Lough Owel SAC & SPA and Lough Ennell SAC & SPA and Lough Iron SPA. All other European Sites beyond these sites are located at remote distance from the proposed grid connection route.

An examination of emission pathways that could be generated by the project have been set out in this screening and these relate to surface water runoff emissions, air emissions and noise emissions. The potential for the project to generate such emissions and result in negative environmental impacts is considered to be insignificant due to the small scale nature of works which will be completed on a section by section basis along the proposed grid connection route. Furthermore the examination provided in this screening has confirmed that there are no pathways connecting the proposed grid connection route to the European Sites in the surrounding area or any other European Sites. Given the absence of pathways there will be no potential for the conveyance any emissions that could arise during the installation of the



electrical cable to European Sites. The screening has also ruled out the potential for interaction with mobile species such as special conservation interest bird species of surrounding SPAs due to the location of the proposed grid connection route within the public road corridor and the absence of suitable habitat along the public road corridor for wetland bird species. As such no mobile species pathway connects the proposed grid connection route to European Sites.

Given that no European Sites in the wider surrounding have been identified as occurring within the zone of influence of the project, it is the considered view of the authors of this Screening Report for Appropriate Assessment that it can be concluded by the competent authority, that the project is not likely, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects, to have a significant effect on any European Sites in view of their Conservation Objectives and on the basis of best scientific evidence and there is no reasonable scientific doubt as to that conclusion.

## REFERENCES

Department of the Environment Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) (2010). *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland: Guidance for Planning Authorities*. Second Edition, February, 2010.

European Commission (2018). *Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*. Luxembourg.

European Commission (2021). *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*. Luxembourg.

OPR (2021). Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management. OPR Practice Note PN01.



## APPENDIX 1: QUALIFYING FEATURES OF INTEREST

European site	Qualifying features of interest
Lough Ennell SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of chara spp. [3140] Alkaline fens [7230]
Lough Ennell SPA	Pochard (aythya ferina) [a059] Tufted duck (aythya fuligula) [a061] Coot (fulica atra) [a125] Wetland and waterbirds [a999]
Lough Owel SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of chara spp. [3140] Transition mires and quaking bogs [7140] Alkaline fens [7230] Austropotamobius pallipes (white-clawed crayfish) [1092]
Lough Owel SPA	Shoveler (anas clypeata) [a056] Coot (fulica atra) [a125] Wetland and waterbirds [a999]
Lough Iron SPA	Whooper swan (cygnus cygnus) [a038] Wigeon (anas penelope) [a050] Teal (anas crecca) [a052] Shoveler (anas clypeata) [a056] Coot (fulica atra) [a125] Golden plover (pluvialis apricaria) [a140] Greenland white-fronted goose (anser albifrons flavirostris) [a395] Wetland and waterbirds [a999]



**APPENDIX C: ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT &  
CORRESPONDENCE WITH DPHLG**







**JENNINGS O'DONOVAN**  
— & PARTNERS LIMITED —  
**CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Finisklin Business Park  
Sligo, Ireland, F91 RHH9

T: [REDACTED]  
F: [REDACTED]  
E: [REDACTED]  
W: [REDACTED]

6973/405/001/BC

28<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Planning Department,  
Westmeath County Council,  
Áras An Chontae,  
Mount Street,  
Mullingar,  
Co. Westmeath,  
**N91 FH4N.**

**Re: Section 5 Declaration-(Reference S5-16-23) Section 5 of The Planning and Development Act 2000 (As Amended)**  
**Slanemore Solar Farm Grid Connection, Co Westmeath**

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Grian PV Westmeath Limited, we hereby submit a response to your letter dated the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

**Further Information Requested by Westmeath County Council**

1. *"The high concentration of Recorded Monuments within close proximity of the application site, including Recorded Monument Ref WM018-085001- Barrow - ring-barrow, Ref WM018-085002 — Enclosure, Ref WM018-085003 - Barrow - mound barrow, Ref WM019- 087 — Ringfort — rath, indicates potential for subsurface archaeological remains across the site and surrounding environs. Due to the nature and magnitude of the construction works required, including excavation works along a total route of 4.995km, there is a risk that works may result in the excavation or alteration of in-situ features or other objects of archaeological interest. Having regard to the provisions of Article 9(1)(a)(vii) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), the applicant is requested to submit an Archaeological Impact Assessment which shall address the following matters:*
  - a. *The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist to carry out an archaeological assessment of the development site. No sub-surface developmental work, including geotechnical test pits, should be undertaken until the archaeological assessment has been completed and commented on by this office.*
  - b. *The archaeologist shall carry out any relevant documentary research and inspect the development site. As part of the assessment a programme of test excavation shall be carried out at locations chosen by the archaeologist (licensed under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004).*

Directors: D. Kiely, C. McCarthy  
Regional Director: A. Phelan  
Consultants: C. Birney, R. Gillan

Senior R. Davis, M. Forbes, S. Gilmarin, J. Healy, S. Lee,  
Associates: J. McElvaney, T. McGloin, S. Molloy  
Associates: B. Coyle, D. Gullfoyle, L. McCormack,  
C. O'Reilly, M. Sullivan

Company Reg No. 149104 VAT Reg. No. IE6546504D



- c. *Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report stating their recommendations to the Planning Authority. Where archaeological material/features are shown to be present, preservation in situ, preservation by record (excavation) or monitoring may be required."*

### **Response**

An Archaeological Assessment (AA) was carried out by Through Time Ltd and is enclosed as part of this RFI. This report presents the results of an archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage impact assessment for a proposed Slanemore grid connection in County Westmeath. The purpose of the report is to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the surrounding archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape. The assessment is based on a desktop study of the cultural heritage and archaeological data along the proposed route and a site visit.

The closest monument recorded to the proposed grid connection is a ringfort (WN018-087) located in Walshestown North townland, which is dissected by the R393 roadway.

Section 5 of the AA sets out conclusions and recommendations.

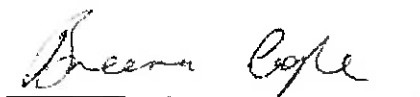
*"The proposed grid connection will travel along the existing road network that dissects the recorded monument-ringfort WM019-087. Any development within this area requires prior notification (8 weeks) to be given to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It is recommended that the grid connection be located on the west side of the roadway –furthest away from the remains of the ringfort (WM019087). It is possible that sub-surface archaeological remains associated with the recorded monument survive in the area of the proposed grid connection at this location. It is recommended that archaeological pre-development testing is undertaken in the area of the proposed grid connection route in the vicinity of the ringfort to ascertain if any sub-surface archaeological layers/features survive. The testing should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A report on the findings should be submitted to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to any archaeology uncovered. If significant archaeological features are uncovered the report may recommend that the area is avoided and/or that further archaeological measures are required.*

*Full time archaeological monitoring during construction is recommended in the area of the the proposed grid connection route in proximity to the recorded monuments WM018-085001 - WM018-085003. The monitoring should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. If archaeological material is encountered work should be stopped and the archaeologist afforded adequate time to record the feature/artefact. A report on the finding should be forwarded to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to the archaeology uncovered. Archaeological monitoring is also recommended in the area of the proposed grid connection running alongside Walshestown church and graveyard."*

Testing of this area is not possible at present as it is a busy road but that will be incorporated into the site investigations which will take place as part of the Road Opening Licence under the supervision of the appointed Archaeologist.

We respectfully ask that the information requested by the local authority be carried out as part of the construction phase works.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Breena Coyle", is written above a horizontal line.

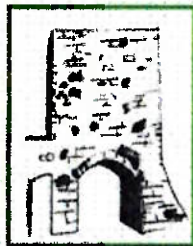
**Breena Coyle**  
**For: Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Limited**

**Encl./**

**APPENDIX A**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF  
SLANEMORE GRID CONNECTION ROUTE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF A PROPOSED  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE  
TO SLANEMORE SOLAR FARM  
COUNTY WESTMEATH**

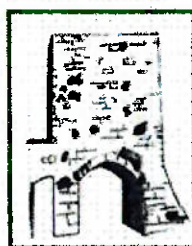


***Through Time Ltd.  
Professional Archaeological Services  
Old Church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway***

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF A PROPOSED  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE  
TO SLANEMORE SOLAR FARM  
COUNTY WESTMEATH**

**Martin Fitzpatrick, M.A.**

**March 2023**



***Through Time Ltd.***

***Professional Archaeological Services  
Old Church Street, Athenry, Co. Galway***

**COPIES OF THIS  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORT  
HAVE BEEN PRESENTED TO:**

***Client:*** Jennings O'Donovan & Partners, Consulting Engineers  
Finisklin, Sligo.

***Statutory Bodies:*** National Monuments Section, Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage.  
National Museum of Ireland.  
Westmeath County Council

**PLEASE NOTE...**

Any recommendations contained in this report are subject to the ratification of National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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## **I. LIST OF FIGURES & PLATES**

### **FIGURES**

**Fig. 1:** Details of the proposed grid connection route.

**Fig. 2:** Details of recorded monuments and recorded structures located within 100m of proposed route.

**Fig. 3:** Detail of area of notification surrounding recorded monuments.

**Fig. 4:** Extract from first edition OSi 6 inch map indicating grid connection route to S of Walshestown church and graveyard.

**Fig. 5:** Extracts from 25 inch OSi map indicating grid connection route to S of Walshestown church and graveyard.

**Fig. 6:** Extracts from first edition OSi 6 inch map indicating grid connection route to N of Barrow (WM018-085001).

**Fig. 7:** Extract from 25 inch map indicating grid connection route dissecting the SW sector of ringfort (WM019-087).

### **PLATES**

**Plate 1:** Walshestown Church and graveyard. Taken from the E.

**Plate 2:** View from SW of ring barrow (WM10-085001) with roadway that proposed cable will be laid visible in background.

**Plate 3:** Existing remains of ringfort (WM019-087) taken from the N.

**Plate 4:** Ringfort (WM019-087) and roadway taken from the NW.

## II ABBREVIATIONS AND TERMS USED IN TEXT

**Barony, Parish, Townland** *These terms refer to land divisions in Ireland. The barony is the largest land division in a county, which is formed from a number of parishes. These parishes are in turn made up of several townlands, which are the smallest land division in the country. The origins of these divisions are believed to be in the Early Medieval/Christian period (AD500-AD1000), or may date earlier in the Iron Age (500BC-AD500).*

**First Edition** *This relates to editions of the OS 6 inch maps for County Westmeath. The first edition map completed for the area dates to the early 1840s and this is referred to in the text as the 'first edition'.*

**WM** - *This number is the number of the site on the SMR map (see below). It begins with the county code, here WM for Westmeath, the 6-inch sheet number, followed by the number of the archaeological site.*

**m** *Metres, all dimensions are given in metres or part of a metre.*

**OS** *Ordnance Survey*

**RMP** *Record of Monuments and Places. A record on which all known archaeological sites are marked and listed in an accompanying inventory. This resource is based on all publicly available material and cartographic sources and is read in conjunction with constraint maps.*

**Sheet** *This relates to the 6 inch map for County Westmeath which are divided into sheets.*

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 General Introduction**

The following report was compiled by the writer at the request of Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd., Consulting Engineers. It concerns the proposed grid connection route connecting the consented Slanemore Solar Farm (PL. Ref. 17/6028, 17/6224) to the existing Mullingar 110KV substation, a distance of c. 4.2km.

### **1.2 Background**

This report presents the results of an archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage impact assessment for a proposed Slanemore grid connection in County Westmeath. The purpose of the report is to assess the potential impacts of the proposed development on the surrounding archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape. The assessment is based on a desktop study of the cultural heritage and archaeological data along the proposed route and a site visit.

The proposed grid connection will travel north from the consented solar farm in Slanemore townland to the R393 and travel east along the R393, that marks the townland boundary between Walshestown North and Walshestown South, for a distance of c. 3.5km before travelling NE along a local road for a distance of c. 700m to the existing Mullingar substation in Irishtown townland. This report sought to identify areas of archaeological, architectural and/or cultural significance likely to be impacted by the proposed development. An assessment of the impacts is included and mitigation measures recommended where appropriate.



**Fig. 1:** Details of the proposed route.

## **2. RELEVANT LEGISLATION**

Archaeological monuments are protected through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource. This is facilitated in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), which was ratified by Ireland in 1997.

The National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014 and relevant provisions of the National Cultural Institutions Act 1997 are the primary means of ensuring the satisfactory protection of archaeological remains, which includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. A National Monument is described as:

*"A monument or the remains of a monument the preservation of which is a matter of national importance by reason of the historical, architectural, traditional, artistic or archaeological interest attaching thereto"* (National Monuments Act 1930 Section 2).

A number of mechanisms under the National Monuments Acts are applied to secure the protection of archaeological monuments. These include the Register of Historic Monuments, the Record of Monuments and Places and the placing of Preservation Orders and Temporary Preservation Orders on endangered sites.

The minister of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DCHG) may acquire National Monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The State or the Local Authority may assume guardianship of any National Monument (other than

dwelling). The owners of National Monuments may also appoint the Minister or the Local Authority as guardians of that monument, if the State or Local Authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the State, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

Section 5 of the 1987 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Register of Historic Monuments. Historic monuments and archaeological areas present on the Register are afforded statutory protection under the 1987 Act. Any interference with sites recorded on the Register is illegal without the permission of the Minister. Two months' notice in writing is required prior to any work being undertaken on or in the vicinity of a Registered Monument. The Register also includes sites under preservation orders and temporary preservation orders with the written consent, and at the discretion of the Minister.

Section 12(1) of the 1994 Act requires the Minister to establish and maintain a Record of Monuments and Places where the Minister believes that such monuments exist. The Record comprises a list of monuments and relevant places and a map showing each monument and relevant place in respect of each county in the state. All sites recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places receive statutory protection under the National Monuments Act 1994.

Section 12(3) of the 1994 Act provides that:

*"Where the owner or occupier (other than the Minister) of a monument or place included in the Record, or any other person, proposed to carry out, or to cause or permit the carrying out of, any work at or in relation to such a monument or place, he or she shall give notice to the Minister to carry out work and shall not, except in the case of urgent necessity and with the consent of the Minister, commence the works until two months after the giving of notice".*

The Council of Europe, in Article 2 of the 1985 Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada Convention), states that 'for the purpose of precise identification of the monuments, groups of structures and sites to be protected, each Member State will undertake to maintain inventories of that architectural heritage'. The Granada Convention emphasises the importance of inventories in underpinning conservation policies.

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage ("NIAH") was established in 1990 to fulfill Ireland's obligations under the Granada Convention, through the establishment and maintenance of a central record, documenting and evaluating the architectural heritage of Ireland. Article 1 of the Granada Convention establishes the parameters

of this work by defining 'architectural heritage' under three broad categories of Monument, Groups of Buildings, and Sites:

- Monument: all buildings and structures of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, including their fixtures and fittings;
- Group of buildings: homogeneous groups of urban or rural buildings conspicuous for their historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest, which are sufficiently coherent to form topographically definable units;
- Sites: the combined works of man and nature, being areas which are partially built upon and sufficiently distinctive and homogenous to be topographically definable, and are of conspicuous historical, archaeological, artistic, scientific, social or technical interest.

The Architectural Heritage and Historic Properties Act 1999 and the Planning and Development Act of 2000 are the main built heritage legislation. The Architectural Heritage Act requires the Minister to establish a survey to identify, record and assess the architectural heritage of the country. The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage ("NIAH") records all built heritage structures within specific counties in Ireland. The document is used to advise Local Authorities on the register of a Record of Protected Structures ("RPS") as required by the Planning and Development Act, 2000.

The Act of 2000 requires Local Authorities to establish a Record of Protected Structures to be included in the County Development Plan ("CDP"). Buildings recorded in the RPS can include Recorded Monuments, structures listed in the NIAH or buildings deemed to of architectural, archaeological or artistic importance by the Minister. Once listed in the RPS the sites/areas receive statutory protection from injury or demolition under the 2000 Act. Damage to or demolition of a site registered in the RPS is an offence. The detail of the list varies from County to County. If the Local Authority considers a building to need a repair, it can order conservation and/or restoration works. The owner or developer must make a written application/request to the Local Authority to carry out any works on a protected Structure and its environs.

Where an NIAH survey has been carried out, those structures which have been attributed a rating value of international, national or regional importance in the inventory are recommended by the Minister of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (CHG) to the relevant planning authority for inclusion on the RPS. In accordance with

Section 53 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, if a planning authority, after considering a recommendation made to it under this section, decides not to comply with the recommendation, it shall inform the Minister in writing of the reason for its decision.

### **Westmeath County Development Plan 2022-2028**

Westmeath County Council has written policies on the preservation of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage remains in relation to permitted development in the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027. The principal aim is to conserve, enhance, manage and protect the architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage as key social, economic and cultural assets which are an integral part of the county and safeguard these valuable resources through proper management, sensitive enhancement and appropriate development. The development plan recognises the important role that the arts and cultural can play in making a place as attractive area to live, work and enjoy.

These policies relate to archaeological features and objects, built structures, views, cultural heritage and scenic routes.

Archaeological monuments are protected through national and international policy designed to secure the protection of the cultural heritage resource. This is facilitated in accordance with the provisions of the European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta Convention), which was ratified by Ireland in 1997.

## **3. METHODOLOGY**

The study was divided into three main components:

1. Desk-based assessment, including gathering and analysing baseline data;
2. A site inspection of the proposed development.
3. Report writing. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>SEP</sub>

### **DESK BASED SURVEY**

Record of Monuments and Places for County Westmeath;

Sites and Monuments Record for County Westmeath;

National Monuments in State Care Database;

Preservation Orders List;

Recorded Artefacts from the area;



Cartographic and written sources relating to the study area;

Westmeath County Development Plan;<sup>[1]</sup>

Aerial photographs;

Excavations Bulletin.

**Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)** is a list of archaeological sites known to the National Monuments Section, which are afforded legal protection under Section 12 of the 1994 National Monuments Act and are published as a record.

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) holds documentary evidence and field inspections of all known archaeological sites and monuments. Some information is also held about archaeological sites and monuments whose precise location is not known e.g. only a site type and townland are recorded. These are known to the National Monuments Section as 'un-located sites' and cannot be afforded legal protection due to lack of locational information. As a result, these are omitted from the Record of Monuments and Places. SMR sites are also listed on a website maintained by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoHLGH) – [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).

**National Monuments in State Care Database** is a list of all the National Monuments in State guardianship or ownership. Each is assigned a National Monument number whether in guardianship or ownership and has a brief description of the remains of each Monument. The Minister for the DoHLGH may acquire national monuments by agreement or by compulsory order. The state or local authority may assume guardianship of any national monument (other than dwellings). The owners of national monuments (other than dwellings) may also appoint the Minister or the local authority as guardian of that monument if the state or local authority agrees. Once the site is in ownership or guardianship of the state, it may not be interfered with without the written consent of the Minister.

**Preservation Orders List** contains information on Preservation Orders and/or Temporary Preservation Orders, which have been assigned to a site or sites. Sites deemed to be in danger of injury or destruction can be allocated Preservation Orders under the 1930 Act. Preservation Orders make any interference with the site illegal. Temporary Preservation Orders can be attached under the 1954 Act. These perform the same function as a Preservation Order but have a time limit of six months, after which the situation must be reviewed. Work may only be undertaken on or in the

vicinity of sites under Preservation Orders with the written consent, and at the discretion, of the Minister.

**Recorded finds from the area** This archive relates primarily to artefacts but also includes references to monuments and unique records of previous excavations. The find spots of artefacts are important sources of information on the discovery of sites of archaeological significance.

**Cartographic sources** are important in tracing land use development within the development area as well as providing important topographical information on areas of archaeological potential and the development of buildings. Cartographic analysis of all relevant maps has been made to identify any topographical anomalies or structures that no longer remain within the landscape.

**Documentary sources** are consulted to gain background information on the archaeological and cultural heritage landscape of the proposed development area. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>Development Plans contain a catalogue of all the Protected Structures and archaeological sites within the county. The Westmeath County Development Plan was consulted to obtain information on cultural heritage sites in and within the immediate vicinity of the proposed development area.

**Aerial photographic** coverage is an important source of information regarding the precise location of sites and their extent. It also provides initial information on the terrain and its likely potential for archaeology. A number of sources were consulted including aerial photographs held by the Ordnance Survey and Google Earth. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

**Excavations Bulletin** is a summary publication that has been produced every year since 1970. This summarises every archaeological excavation that has taken place in Ireland during that year up until 2010 and since 1987 has been edited by Isabel Bennett. This information is vital when examining the archaeological content of any area, which may not have been recorded under the SMR and RMP files. This information is also available online ([www.excavations.ie](http://www.excavations.ie)) from 1970–2020. <sup>[1]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>

## SITE INSPECTION

A site inspection was carried out in March 2023. The purpose of the inspection was to undertake a visual examination of the proposed development site and to assess the potential effects on known and unknown archaeological and architectural heritage assets and enable a visual assessment.

## Townland Names

Townlands are the smallest land divisions in the Irish landscape and many may preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The layout of Irish townlands was recorded and standardised by the work of the Ordnance Survey in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Irish translation of townland names often refer to natural topographical features but name elements may also give an indication of the presence of past human activities within the townland. The possible translation of the Irish origin of the townland names is included for each route..

## ROUTE

The c. 4.2km route will travel north from the consented solar farm in Slanemore townland to the R393 and travel east along the R393 for a distance of c. 3.5km before travelling NE along a local road for a distance of c. 700m to the existing Mullingar substation in Irishtown townland.



**Fig. 2:** Details of recorded monuments (yellow dot) within 100m of the proposed route.

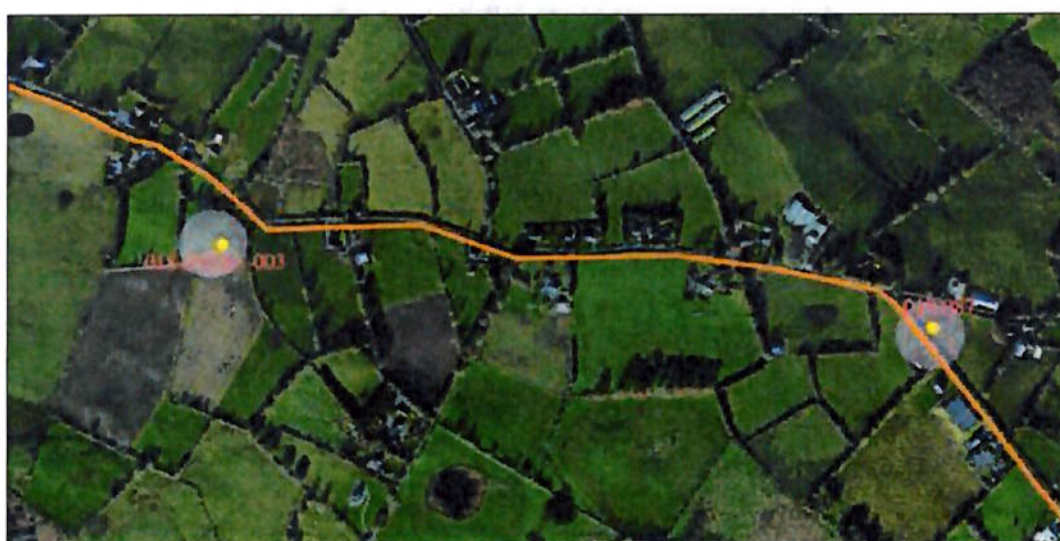
### Recorded Monuments

There are 4 recorded monuments located within 100m of the proposed grid connection.

The closest monument recorded to the proposed grid connection is a ringfort (WN018-087) located in Walshestown North townland, which is dissected by the R393 roadway. Two barrows (18-085001 & 18-085003) in Walshestown South townland are located c. 45m & 80m respectively south of the proposed route while an enclosure (WM-085002) is located 80m from the proposed route. The table below details the monuments and the distances they are located in relation to the proposed grid connection route. Prehistoric activity in the area is highlighted by the barrows (18-085001 & 18-085003) in Walshestown South townland.

No.	Townland	Site	RMP	Distance
1	Walshestown South	Ringbarrow	WM018-085001-	50m
2	Walshestown South	Enclosure	WM018-085002-	80m
3	Walshestown South	Mound barrow	WM018-087	95m
4	Walshestown North	Ringfort	WM018-087003-	0m

**Table 1:** Details of recorded monuments within 100m of the proposed grid connection.



**Fig. 3:** Area of notification surrounding recorded monuments along the route.

### **Topographical Files of The National Museum of Ireland**

No finds are recorded along the proposed grid connection route.

### **Aerial Photography**

An examination of aerial photographs identified no additional archaeological monuments along this route.

### **National Monuments in State care**

There are no national monuments in state care along this route.

### **National Inventory of Architectural Heritage**

One structure recorded in the NIAH is located within 100m of the proposed grid connection route. The 19<sup>th</sup> century church of Assumption (reg. 15401817) in Walshestown North townland is located c. 45m north of the proposed route.

There are no gardens or designed landscapes on their records from the area of the proposed development.



**Plate 1:** Walshestown Church and graveyard. Taken from the E.

### **Previous Archaeological Work in the Area**

A search through the archive of archaeological excavations ([excavations.ie](http://excavations.ie)) found a reference to an archaeological monitoring (01E0524) by Donald Murphy in Irishtown townland. Nothing of archaeological significance was recorded.



### Cartographic Analysis

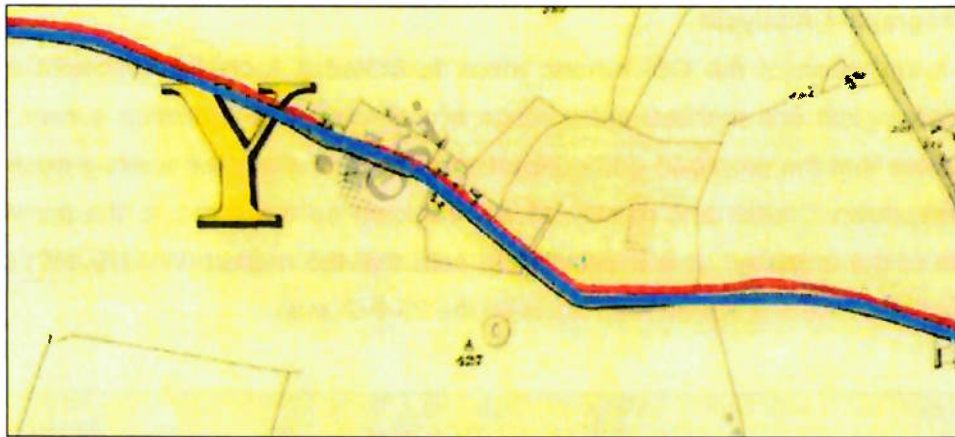
An examination of the OSi historic maps facilitated a further assessment of the archaeological and architectural heritage of the route. The ordnance survey maps indicates that the proposed grid connection route runs along the existing roadways. Walshestown Church and graveyard are depicted on the maps to the immediate north of the roadway. It is interesting to note that the ringfort (WM019-087) is not recorded on the first edition map but is on the 25-inch map.



**Fig. 4:** Extracts from first edition OSi 6 inch map indicating grid connection route (blue line) to S of Walshestown church.



**Fig. 5:** Extracts from 25 inch OSi map indicating grid connection route (blue line) to S of Walshestown church and graveyard.



**Fig. 6:** Extracts from first edition OSi 6 inch map indicating grid connection route (blue line) to N of Barrow (WM018-085001).



**Fig. 7:** Extract from 25 inch map indicating grid connection route (blue line) dissecting the SW sector of ringfort (WM019-087).

### **LiDAR Survey**

The area of the proposed grid connection route is not included in the LiDAR survey information available on the open topographical data viewer that provides access to processed LiDAR data in raster format from

- Geological Survey Ireland,
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,
- Discovery Programme,
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland,
- New York University,
- The Office of Public Works,

- Westmeath County Council

### **Townland Names along Route**

Townlands are the smallest land divisions in the Irish landscape and many may preserve early Gaelic territorial boundaries that pre-date the Anglo-Norman conquest. The layout of Irish townlands was recorded and standardised by the work of the Ordnance Survey in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The Irish translation of townland names often refer to natural topographical features, but name elements may also give an indication of the presence of past human activities within the townland. The following table provides the possible translation of the Irish origin of the townland names within or adjacent to the proposed grid connection route.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Derivation</b>	<b>Possible Meaning</b>	<b>Barony</b>	<b>Civil Parish</b>
Tawnagh	An Tamhnach	Arable place/Field	Tirerrill	Tawnagh
Springfield	Choill Fiaigh	Coill- Wood	Tirerrill	Tawnagh
Knockadoo	Chnoc an Dumha	Cnoc- Hill  Dumhna- grave/mound	Tirerrill	Tawnagh
Ogham	Ócham		Tirerrill	Tawnagh
Tobernaglashy	Thobar na Glaise	Thobar-Well Glaise- Stream	Tirerrill	Tawnagh

**Table 2:** Townland names along route.

## **4. SITE VISIT & ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS**

Impacts can be assessed based on the detailed information on the project, the nature of the area affected and the range of resources potentially affected. Developments can potentially affect the architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage landscape in a number of ways, as follows.



***Direct Impacts:***

Archaeological sites can be adversely affected by excavation for development, topsoil stripping for service trenches and by the effects of heavy machinery passing over features of archaeological significance.

Permanent and temporary land-take, landscaping, mounding and general excavations associated with construction may result in the loss or damage of archaeological remains or physical loss to the setting of historic landscapes and to the physical coherence of the landscape.

Construction work can alter the hydrological system resulting in changes to groundwater levels. This may have an adverse impact on archaeological sites and features.

Landscaping associated with developments can damage or destroy sub-surface archaeological features. Root action of trees for example can adversely impact on archaeological layers.

The proposed development involves the laying of a grid connection cable along rural roads in County Westmeath extending to the outskirts of Mullingar town. The development will involve the mechanical excavation of all artificial surface layers and subsoil down to and through geologically deposited strata to enable ground engineering works and laying of the cable.

The site visit undertaken in March 2023 found that 4 recorded monuments are located immediately within 100m of the proposed grid connection. A ringbarrow (WM018-085001), enclosure (WM018-085002) and mound barrow (WM018-085003) in Walshestown South townland are located between 50m and 100m of the proposed grid connection route while a ringfort (WM019-087), in Walshestown North townland is directly impacted by the route. The area of notification surrounding the ringfort extends into the area of the proposed grid connection.



**Plate 2:** View from SW of ring barrow (WM10-085001) with roadway that proposed cable will be laid visible in background.



**Plate 3:** Existing remains of ringfort (WM019-087) taken from the N.



**Plate 4:** Ringfort (WM019-087) and roadway taken from the NW.

The archaeological monuments within 100m of the proposed route are described as follows .

**Ringbarrow                      WM018-085001**

Surveyed in 2012 and described by McGuinness (2012, 39-40) as following: 'Very well preserved, roughly circular ring-barrow (Diam. 25.5m N-S x 25m E-W) composed of very stony earth, situated on upper E-facing slope of low hill. Monument comprises a central mound (base diam. 11.3m N-S x 10m E-W) surrounded by a flat-bottomed ditch, 2.7-3.2m in width, and a very stony outer bank, 3.5-4m in width from base of ditch to ground level outside. On S side is an irregularly shaped gap in the bank 5m in length, apparently due to later disturbance. Central mound, which appears to be raised slightly above level of surrounding ground, rises up to 1.5m above base of ditch on E side, being higher on N and E sides than S and W sides. Bank rises up to 1.4m above base of ditch on W side, being higher on S and W sides than N and E sides. Maximum depth of ditch below and perpendicular to a line joining top of bank to upper surface of platform is 0.95m, and the distribution of such depths (N: 95cm; S: 85cm; E: 94cm; W: 95cm) indicates a fairly uniform depth around its circumference. Running SW from W side of barrow is a scarp or possibly a low bank 1.5m wide, the ground to NW of it being lower than that to SE; at 15.5m from the barrow it kinks to SSE, running as a scarp for another 10.5m to another barrow on summit of hill (WM018-085003-) 20m to WSW of ring-barrow. Running E from this mound in a very gently S-curving line for 20m is another low scarp, the

ground to S being 0.3m lower than that to N and dropping down quite steeply. E end of this scarp is 7m SW of ring-barrow. These two scarps or low banks are identified as an 'Enclosure' in RMP (WM018-085002-), and although the second scarp does not join onto the ring-barrow, the overall effect is that the flattish summit of this low hill has been defined by a scarp, linking the mound at highest part of hill to the ring-barrow on slope of hill to ENE.

#### **Enclosure WM018-085002**

Situated on the top of a steep hill, in pasture, directly overlooking a steep sided valley to S with extensive views in all directions. Part of a complex of three monuments whereby ring barrow (WM018-0085001-) is abutting to E, on the NE shoulder of the hill and mound barrow (WM018-085003-) is at the SW corner, on the SW shoulder of the hill. Not depicted on the 1837 ed. OS 6-inch map or the revised 1913 ed. OS 25-inch map. Monument described in 1980 as a rectangular-shaped area (approx. dims. 20m E-W; 16m N-S) enclosed by a low earthen bank, which is much worn in places and falls steeply to S. On the E side the bank abuts the ring barrow (WM018-085001-). Mound barrow (WM018-085003-) is located partially in the SW corner. Outline of rectangular-shaped enclosure is clearly visible on Digital Globe aerial photography.

#### **Barrow WM018-085003**

Surveyed in 2012 and described by McGuinness (2012, 40) as following: 'Subcircular, approximately flat-topped earthen mound (dims. 4.5 N-S x 6.1 E-W), on summit of low hill 20m to WSW of ring-barrow (WM018-085001-) and site of OS benchmark on older editions of OS 6" map. S side of mound has been heavily eroded by cattle in recent times, so that it currently has a D-shape, and difference between N-S and E-W diameters—over 1.5m—suggests that a substantial piece of the mound may have been removed. The curve of the mound suggests an original N-S diameter of up to 6.5m. Projecting from eroded S side is the end of a flat, horizontal slab 0.23m in width. Height of mound on intact sides is up to 0.66m. Mound appears to linked by scarps to nearby ring-barrow (WM018-085001-).

**Ringfort      WM019-087**

Situated on the summit of a prominent steep-sided hill, in pasture with good views of Lough Owel to N, E and S. Depicted on the 1913 ed. OS 25-inch map as a semi-circular shaped earthwork (dims. 33m NW-SE) which is cut by the public road across the SW sector. Monument described in 1972 as a partially levelled earthwork enclosed by a steep earthen bank and traces of a fosse from NW-N-E-S only. The monument has been levelled from S-W-NW where it has been cut by the public road running NW-SE. The bank is best preserved from NW-N-NE, is very slight from NE-E-ESE and has been levelled from ESE-SE-S. The remains of a wide fosse are visible from NW-N-NE and with traces at ENE. The original entrance is not recognisable. The interior has a slight ENE-facing slope and there are traces of cultivation ridges running ENE-WSW. Monument is visible today as the arc of a tree-lined earthwork on Digital Globe aerial photography.

***Indirect Impacts***

Noise impacts on the archaeological landscape can arise from construction. Traffic associated with construction, machinery working and the noise associated with general construction can impact on the landscape.

Visual impacts on the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage landscape can arise through the physical construction of structures, landscaping mounding and planting as well as boundary fences, perimeter walls and associated works. These features can impinge directly on historic and archaeological landscape as well as their visual amenity value.

Positive impacts can also be attributed from development. These may include improved maintenance and access to archaeological monuments and an increase in the level and understanding of an archaeological or historical landscape as a result of archaeological assessments and subsequent fieldwork.

The proposed development will involve the laying of a cable along the existing road network. While there will be a temporary negative impact while the project is underway this will be removed once work is completed.

## 5. CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

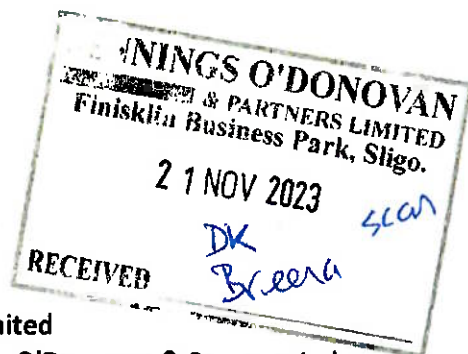
The proposed grid connection will travel along the existing road network that dissects the recorded monument-ringfort WM019-087. Any development within this area requires prior notification (8 weeks) to be given to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. *It is recommended that the grid connection be located on the west side of the roadway –furthest away from the remains of the ringfort (WM019087).* It is possible that sub-surface archaeological remains associated with the recorded monument survive in the area of the proposed grid connection at this location. *It is recommended that archaeological pre-development testing is undertaken in the area of the proposed grid connection route in the vicinity of the ringfort to ascertain if any sub-surface archaeological layers/features survive. The testing should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A report on the findings should be submitted to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to any archaeology uncovered. If significant archaeological features are uncovered the report may recommend that the area is avoided and/or that further archaeological measures are required.*

*Full time archaeological monitoring during construction is recommended in the area of the the proposed grid connection route in proximity to the recorded monuments WM018-085001 - WM018-085003. The monitoring should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. If archaeological material is encountered work should be stopped and the archaeologist afforded adequate time to record the feature/artefact. A report on the finding should be forwarded to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to the archaeology uncovered. Archaeological monitoring is also recommended in the area of the proposed grid connection running alongside Walshestown church and graveyard.*

**PLEASE NOTE...**

***Any recommendations contained in this report are subject to the ratification of the National Monuments Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.***





Grian PV Limited  
C/O Jennings O'Donovan & Partners Ltd  
Finisklin Business Park  
Sligo,  
Ireland,  
F91 RHH9

Date: 17 November 2023  
Our Ref: S5-16-23

**Re: Request for Declaration on Development and Exempted Development for the Proposed 38kV Underground Electrical Connection between the consented Slanemore Solar Farm WCC PL. Ref. 17/6028 & 17/6224) and ESB Mullingar existing Sub-Station located at Mullingar Substation Co Westmeath**

A Chara ,

Your request for a declaration received in this office on the the **16 June 2023** and further information received on **28 September 2023** refers.

The Planning Authority notes that the proposed grid connection is intended to travel along an existing road network that dissects the recorded monument-ringfort WM019-087 and there is also potential to impact on sub-surface archaeological remains of other close by recorded monuments (WM018-085001 - WM018-085003) all of which are subject to statutory protection under the Record of Monuments and Places, pursuant to section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.

Having regard to the provision of Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), exempt development provisions do not apply in instances where works consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of any archaeological monument included in the Record of Monuments and Places, pursuant to section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, save for excavation or any works which are carried out pursuant to and in accordance with a consent granted under section 14 or a licence granted under section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (No. 2 of 1930) as amended.

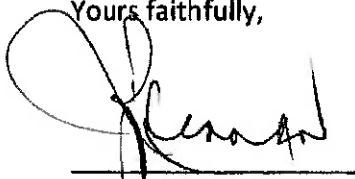
Having regard to a submission received from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (copy attached for reference), you are therefore requested, by way of clarification, to demonstrate compliance with the provision of Article 9(1)(a)(vii) and (viiA) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended), i.e. that any works or excavations, in so far as they relate to any recorded monument, associated with your request for exemption, are being carried out pursuant to and in accordance with a consent



granted under section 14 or a licence granted under section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (No. 2 of 1930) as amended.

The foregoing information is required in order to fully appraise your application for Section 5 of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 as amended and the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 as amended.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Brennan', written over a horizontal line.

Eamonn Brennan,  
Administrative Officer,  
Planning Department

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday 26 October 2023 11:34  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Section 5 Declaration - Slanemore Grid Connection, Slanemore, Mullingar Co Westmeath

Dear Mr Ciaran O'Donnell

**Re: Section 5 Declaration-(Reference S5-16-23) Section 5 of The Planning and Development Act 2000 (As Amended) Slanemore Solar Farm Grid Connection, Co Westmeath**

### **Archaeology**

With regard to the above proposed development the Department has reviewed the archaeological assessment report that was submitted as Further Information. The archaeological assessment was carried out by Martin Fitzpatrick , dated March 2023, and included archaeological the results, conclusions and recommendations of a desk based archaeological impact assessment . Which includes the following conclusions and recommendations:

*It is recommended that archaeological pre-development testing is undertaken in the area of the proposed grid cobbection route in the vicinity of the ringfort to ascertain if any sub-surface archaeological layers/features survive. The testing should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A report on the findings should be submitted to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to any archaeology uncovered. If significant archaeological features are uncovered the report may recommend that the area is avoided and/or that further archaeological measures are required.*

*Full time archaeological monitoring during construction is recommended in the area of the proposed grid connection route in proximity to the recorded monuments WM018-085001 - WM018-085003. The monitoring should be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist working under license from National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. If archaeological material is encountered work should be stopped and the archaeologist afforded adequate time to record the feature/artefact. A report on the finding shoud be forwarded to all relevant authorities and make recommendations on how best to proceed in relation to the archaeology uncovered. Archaeological monitoring is also recommended in the area of the proposed grid connection running alongside Walshestown church and graveyard.*

The Department concurs with the recommendations in the report in respect of the proposed development and it is noted that the proposed grid connection will travel along the existing road network that dissects the recorded monument-ringfort WM019-087. A section 12 Notification notice will have to be submitted to the National Monuments, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, (Notification to the Minister - section 12 (3) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 (Recorded Monument) and section 5 (8) of the 1987 Act (Register of Historic Monuments) The Section 12 notification form must be completed and submitted to the National Monuments Service AT LEAST TWO MONTHS

before any work is carried out at an archaeological/historic structure or site included in the Record of Monuments and Places or Register of Historic Monuments.

Outlined below are the archaeological recommendations of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

**Archaeology:**

It is noted that the proposed development contains the site of recorded monument-ringfort WM019-087 and lies in proximity to Recorded Monuments, WM018-085001 - WM018-085003 all of which are subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. Given the scale, extent and location of the proposed development it could impact on subsurface archaeological remains.

In line with national policy, see Section 3.6 of the Frameworks and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999, the Department recommends that an Archaeological Impact Assessment, as outlined below, should be prepared to assess any impact on archaeological remains within the proposed development site. This assessment should be carried out as a condition of any grant of planning permission.

**Archaeological Investigations test trenching and monitoring**

1. The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist to carry out an archaeological assessment of the development site.
2. The archaeologist shall carry out any relevant documentary research and inspect the development site. Were the proposed development crosses green fields ( off road alignment) As part of the assessment a programme of test excavation shall be carried out at locations chosen by the archaeologist (licensed under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004), having consulted the site drawings and the National Monuments Service.
3. All ground works associated with the proposed development shall be monitored under licence by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Should archaeological material be found during the course of works, the work on the site shall be stopped pending a decision as to how best to deal with the archaeology. The developer shall be prepared to be advised by the National Monuments Service with regard to any necessary mitigating action (e.g. preservation in situ, or excavation) and should facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found.
4. Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report stating their recommendations to the Planning Authority and to the National Monuments Service. Where archaeological material/features are shown to be present, preservation in situ, preservation by record (excavation) or monitoring may be required.

**Reason:** To ensure the continued preservation (either in situ or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

Kindly forward a copy of your decision to the following address as soon as it issues:

The Manager, Development Application Unit

In addition, please acknowledge receipt of this letter (as required under Article 29(2) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001) and forward this relevant receipt to the address above.

Mise le meas,

---

Jon Stirland

Archaeologist, Planning and Licencing Unit National Monuments Service

**Jon Stirland**

Seandálaí

- Archaeologist

Seirbhís Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta - National Monuments Service

**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 W6X0

Custom House, Dublin 1, D01 W6X0

M: [REDACTED]

T: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]





National Monuments Service,  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage,  
Newtown Road,  
Wexford, Y35 AP90

Our Reference: NM07136

Grian PV Westmeath Ltd.,  
C/o Mr. Martin Fitzpatrick,  
Through Time Ltd.,  
Old Church Street,  
Athenry,  
Co. Galway.

29 January 2024

**Re: S12 (3) Notification of proposed works at Recorded Monument WM019-087----  
, Walshestown North, Co. Westmeath.**

Dear Mr. Fitzpatrick,

Thank you for the notification of works at Recorded Monument WM019-087----, Walshestown North, Co. Westmeath. Please note this notice pertains to the requirements of Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994 only and the work outlined in the papers submitted on 23 January 2024.

The proposed works have been the subject of a Section 5 Declaration under the Planning & Development Act 2000 and the National Monuments Service made the following recommendations for an Archaeological Impact Assessment to be compiled, in correspondence to Westmeath County Council dated 26 October 2023:

1. The applicant is required to engage the services of a suitably qualified archaeologist to carry out an archaeological assessment of the development site.
2. The archaeologist shall carry out any relevant documentary research and inspect the development site. Where the proposed development crosses green fields (off road alignment) as part of the assessment a programme of test excavation shall be carried out at locations chosen by the archaeologist (licenced under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2014), having consulted the site drawings and the National Monuments Service.
3. All groundworks associated with the proposed development shall be monitored under licence by a suitably qualified archaeologist. Should archaeological material be found during the course of works, the work on the site shall be stopped





pending a decision on how best to deal with the archaeology. The developer shall be prepared to be advised by the National Monuments Service with regard to any necessary mitigating action (eg, preservation in-situ, or excavation) and should facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found.

4. Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report stating their recommendations to the Planning Authority and to the National Monuments Service. Where archaeological material/features are shown to be present, preservation in-situ, preservation by record (excavation) or monitoring may be required.

This response does not confer any authority to carry out the work other than with the owner's permission and in compliance with all other statutory requirements.

Please do not hesitate to contact this office should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely,  
Catherine McLoughlin

**Catherine McLoughlin**

*Archaeologist*

**Seirbhís na Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta**

*National Monuments Service*

**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**

*Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage*

M: 353 10182 1506577  
T: 353 (0)1 5393661

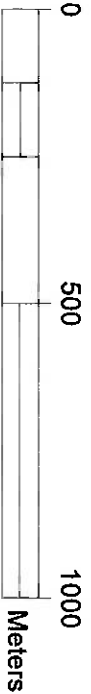
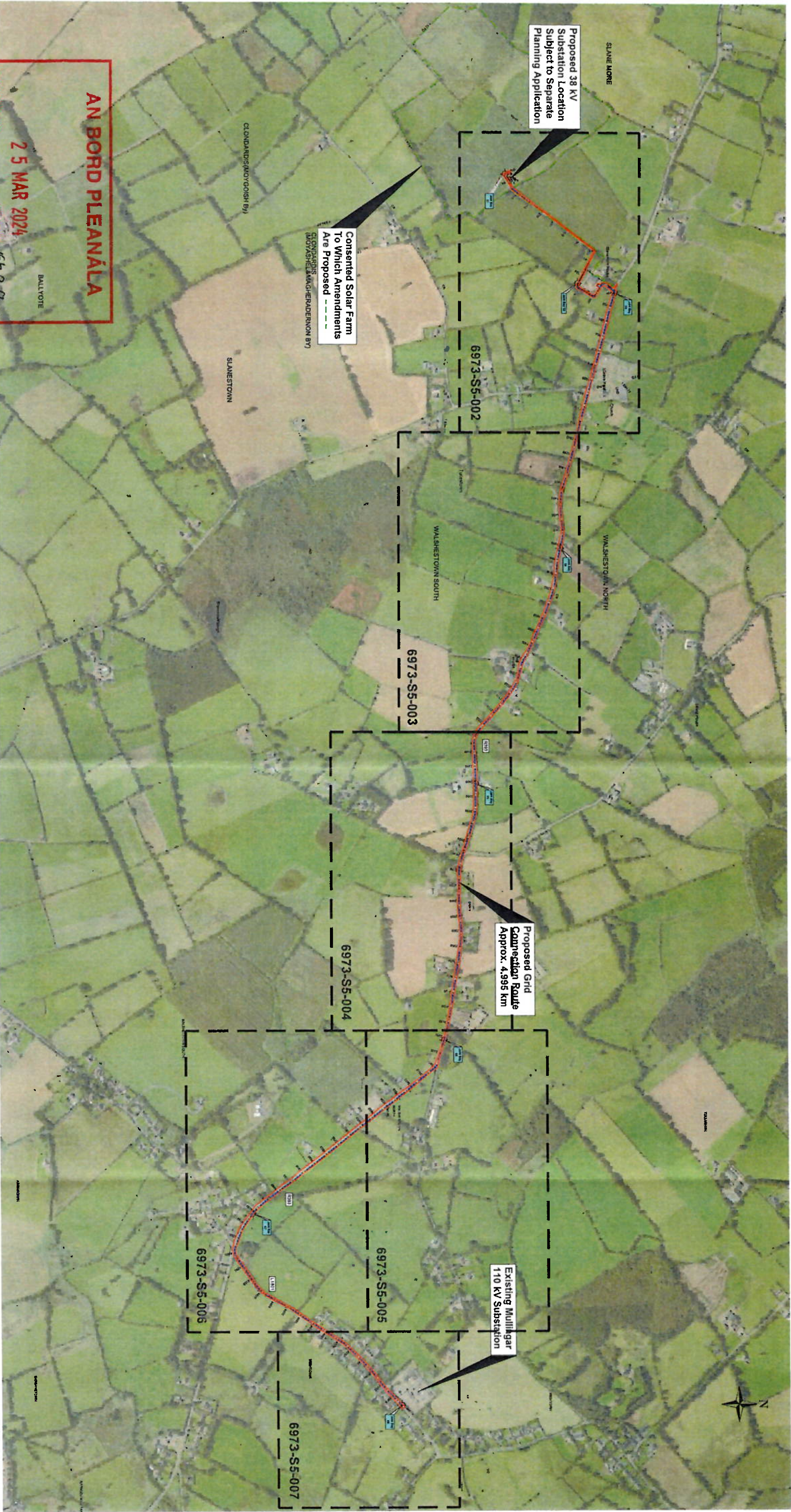




## **APPENDIX D: SITE LOCATION PLAN**







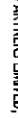

**Legend**

Denotes Development Boundary

Denotes Proposed Grid Connection Route



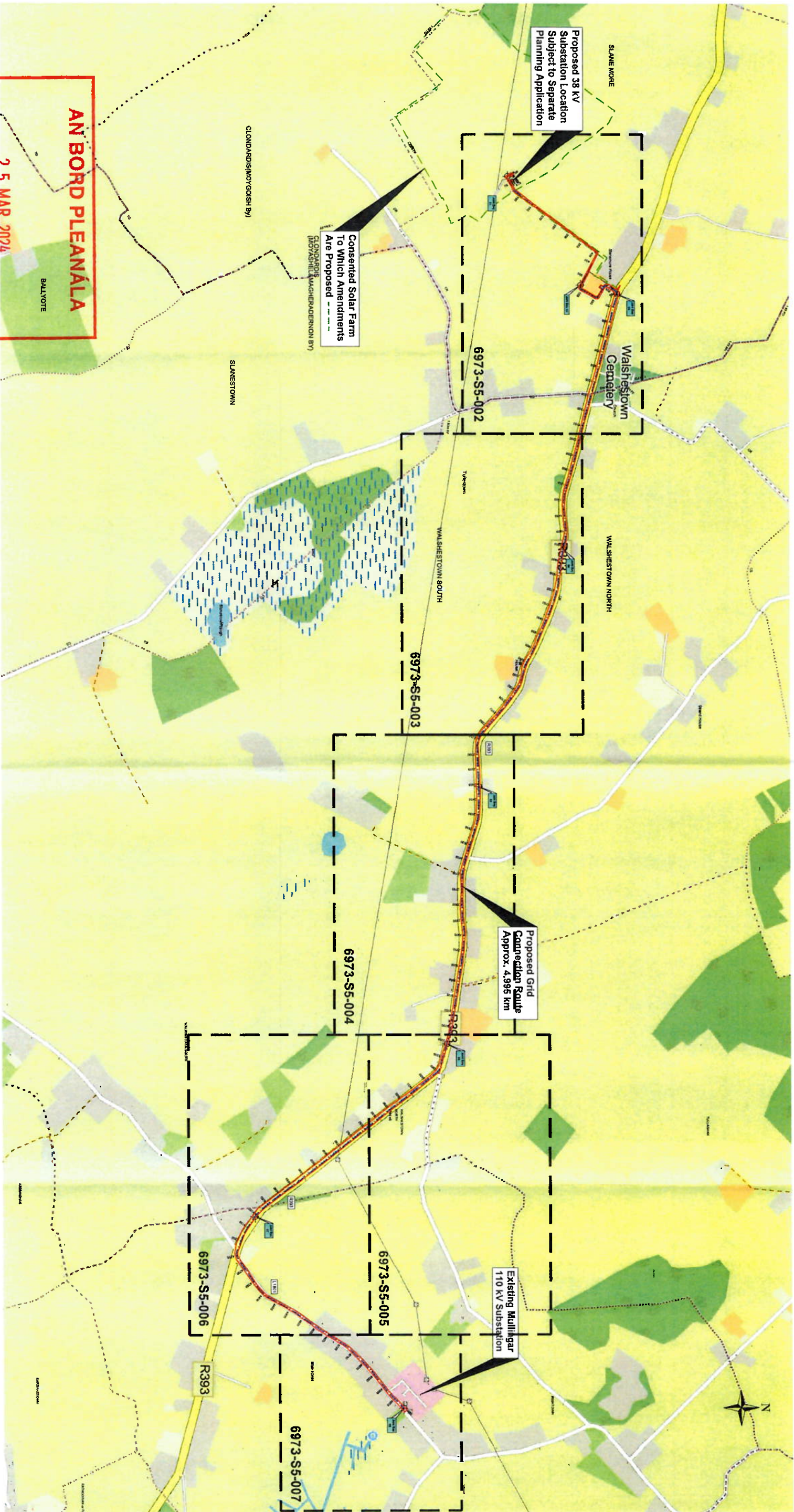
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<div><div>OBTON</div><div>Grian PV Westmeath Limited</div></div>		<div><div><div>© copyright of JENNINGS O'DONOVAN &amp; PARTNERS LIMITED, CONSULTING ENGINEERS, FINISKILIN, SLIGO, IRELAND.</div><div></div></div><div> Web: <a href="http://www.jodpartners.com">www.jodpartners.com</a></div></div>		<div>Notes</div> <div><div>1.</div><div>2.</div></div>		<div><div>Project</div><div>SLANEMORE SOLAR FARM GRID CONNECTION ROUTE</div></div>		<div><div>Title</div><div>SECTION 6 APPLICATION LOCATION PLAN AERIAL VIEW</div></div>		<div><div>Issue Details</div><table><tr><td>Designed: JOD</td><td>Information</td><td>X</td><td rowspan="5">Office Use Only Drawing Number  6973-S5-000</td></tr><tr><td>Drawn: A.MSC</td><td>Approval</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Checked: B.C.</td><td>Tender</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Approved: B.C.</td><td>Construction</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Scale: 1:12,500 (A3)</td><td>Record</td><td></td></tr></table></div>		Designed: JOD	Information	X	Office Use Only Drawing Number  6973-S5-000	Drawn: A.MSC	Approval		Checked: B.C.	Tender		Approved: B.C.	Construction		Scale: 1:12,500 (A3)	Record		<div><div>Date</div><div>08/05/23</div><div>Rev.</div></div>	
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Checked: B.C.	Tender																												
Approved: B.C.	Construction																												
Scale: 1:12,500 (A3)	Record																												









**AN BORD PLEANÁLA**

LTR DATED 25 MAR 2024

LDG- 1st Rev

ABP- 219406-24



**Legend**

Denotes Development Boundary

Denotes Proposed Grid Connection Route



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**OBTION**

Grian PV Westmeath Limited



Notes

1.	
2.	

Rev	Date	By	Amendments

Project: **SLANMORE SOLAR FARM  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE**

Title: **SECTION 5 APPLICATION  
LOCATION PLAN**

Issue Details				Office Use Only	
Designed:	JOD	Information		Drawing Number: <b>6973-S5-001</b>	Rev.
Drawn:	A.McC	Approval			
Checked:	B.C.	Tender			
Approved:	B.C.	Construction			
Scale: 1:12,500 (A3) Record				Date: 08/08/23	



AMERICAN JESUIT	
DATE	1900
TIME	10:00
PLACE	NEW YORK
NAME	JOHN J. ...
ADDRESS	...
CITY	...
STATE	...
COUNTRY	...



FINAL POSITION OF JOINT BAYS  
SUBJECT TO FINAL DESIGN  
BY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

25 MAR 2024

LTR DATED FROM 15 Feb 2024

LDG. 319406-24

Consented Solar Farm

Proposed 38 kV Substation  
Location Subject to a Separate  
Application

KEYPLAN

6973-SS-002

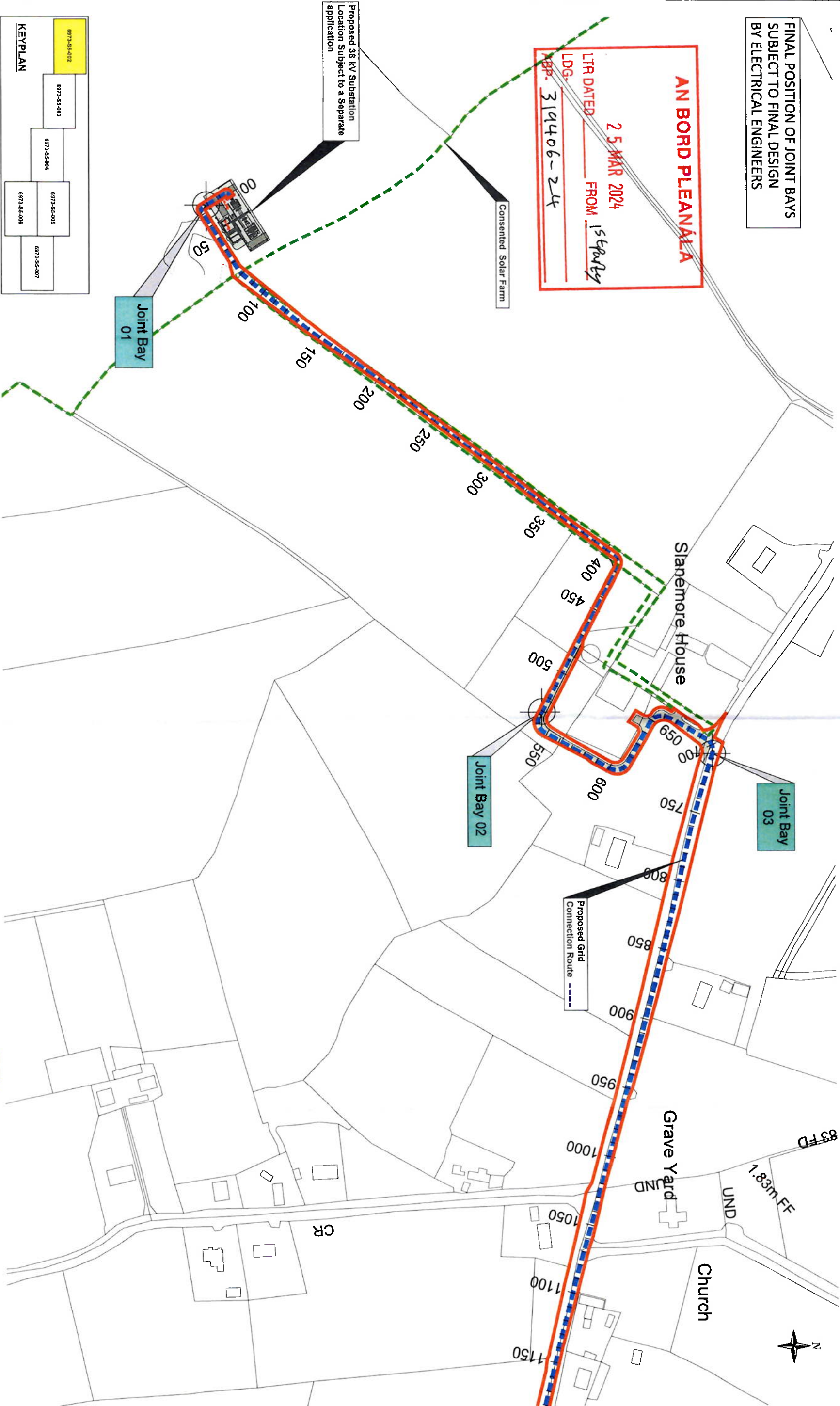
6973-SS-003

6973-SS-004

6973-SS-005

6973-SS-007

6973-SS-008



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OBTION

Grian PV Westmeath Limited

COMPANY OF  
JENNINGS O'DONOVAN & PARTNERS LIMITED,  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS,  
FRINSKILN,  
SLEO,  
IRELAND.

Notes

1.

2.

Project

SLANEMORE SOLAR FARM  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE

Title

PROPOSED SECTION 5 APPLICATION  
LAYOUT PLAN  
SHEET 1 of 6

Issue Details

Designed: JOD

Information

Drawn: AAKC

Approval

Checked: B.C.

Tender

Approved: B.C.

Contribution

Scale: 1:2,500 (A3)

Record

Office Use Only

Drawing Number:

6973-SS-002

Date:

27/06/23

Rev.



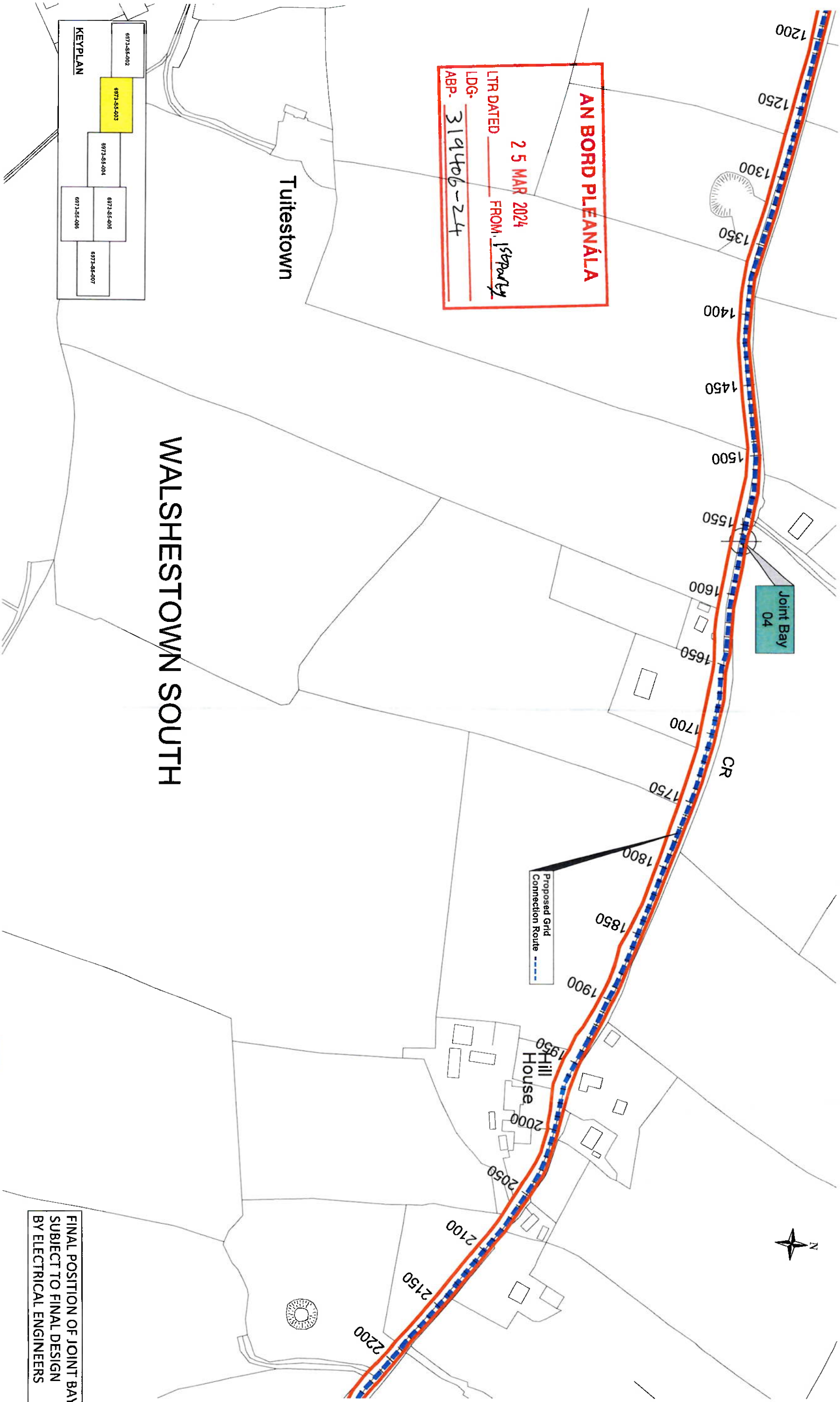


1



2

3



AN BORD PLEANÁLA

2 5 MAR 2024

LTR DATED FROM 1st party

LDG- 319406-24

ABP-

WALSHESTOWN SOUTH

KEYPLAN

6973-SS-002

6973-SS-003

6973-SS-004

6973-SS-005

6973-SS-006

6973-SS-007

FINAL POSITION OF JOINT BAYS  
SUBJECT TO FINAL DESIGN  
BY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

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FINISKILIN,  
SLIGO,  
IRELAND.  
Web: www.jodpartners.com

1.

Notes

2.

Project

SLANMORE SOLAR FARM  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE

Title

PROPOSED SECTION 5 APPLICATION  
LAYOUT PLAN  
SHEET 2 of 6

Issue Details

Designed: JOD

Information

Drawn: A.M.C.

Approval

Checked: B.C.

Tender

Approved: B.C.

Construction

Scale: 1:2,500 (A3)

Record

Office Use Only

Drawing Number: 6973-SS-003

Date: 27/08/23

Rev:

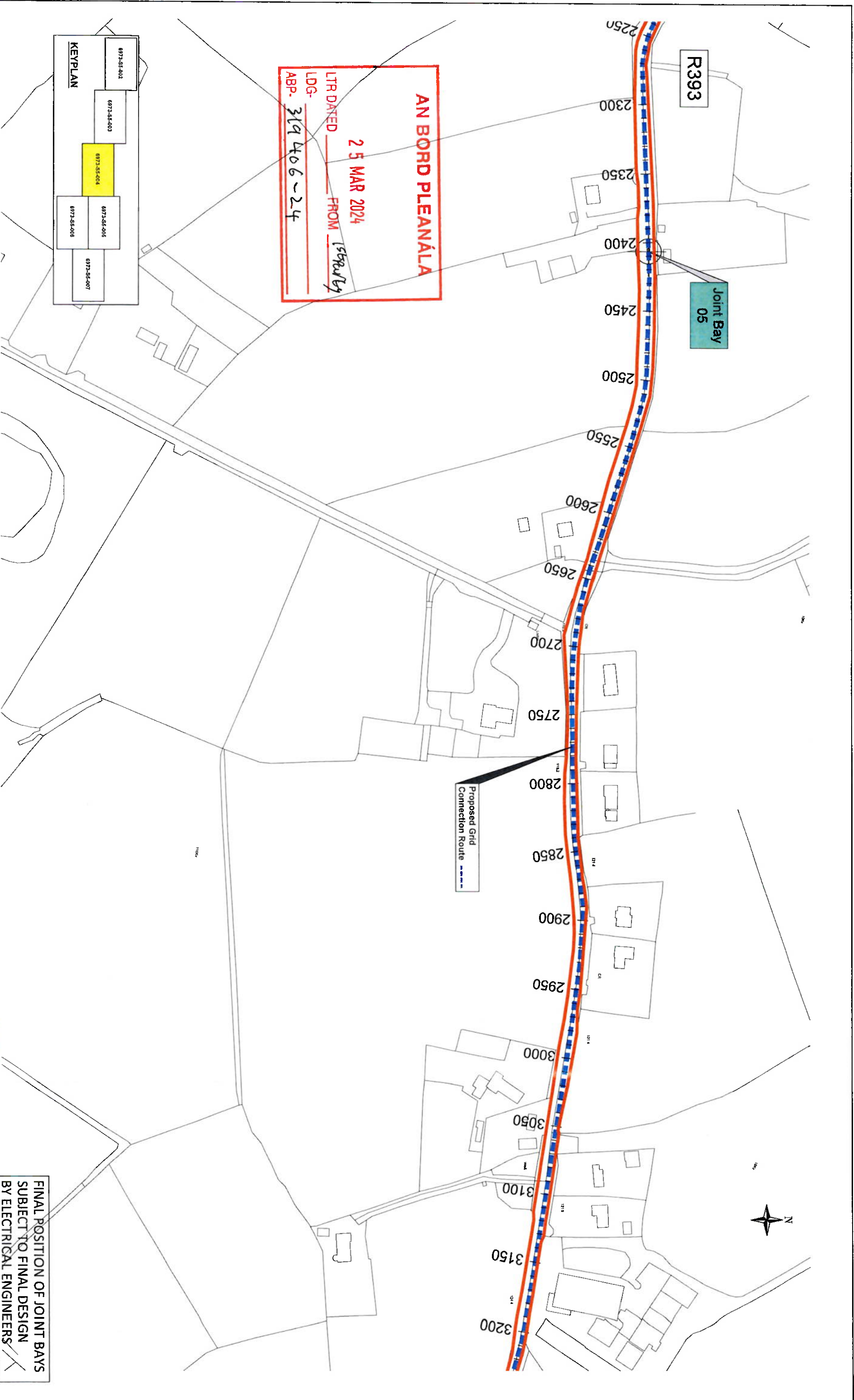
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AN BORD PLEANÁLA

25 MAR 2024

LTR DATED FROM 15th July

LDG- 319 406 ~ 24

ABP-

KEYPLAN

6973-SS-002

6973-SS-003

6973-SS-004

6973-SS-005

6973-SS-007

FINAL POSITION OF JOINT BAYS  
SUBJECT TO FINAL DESIGN  
BY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS



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Notes

1.

2.

Project

SLANEMORE SOLAR FARM  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE

Title

PROPOSED SECTION 5 APPLICATION  
LAYOUT PLAN  
SHEET 3 OF 6

Issue Details		Office Use Only	
Designed	JOD	Information	
Drawn	A.M.C.	Approval	X
Checked	B.C.	Tender	
Approved	B.C.	Construction	
Scale	1:2,500 (A3)	Record	

Drawing Number: 6973-SS-004

Date: 27/06/23

Rev:

Grian PV Westmeath Limited





FINAL POSITION OF JOINT BAYS  
SUBJECT TO FINAL DESIGN  
BY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

LTR DATED 25 MAR 2024  
LDG- FROM 156m Ayl  
ABP- 319406-24

Joint Bay  
06

Proposed Grid  
Connection Route

WALSHESTOWN  
NORTH

Part of

KEY PLAN

6973-SS-002

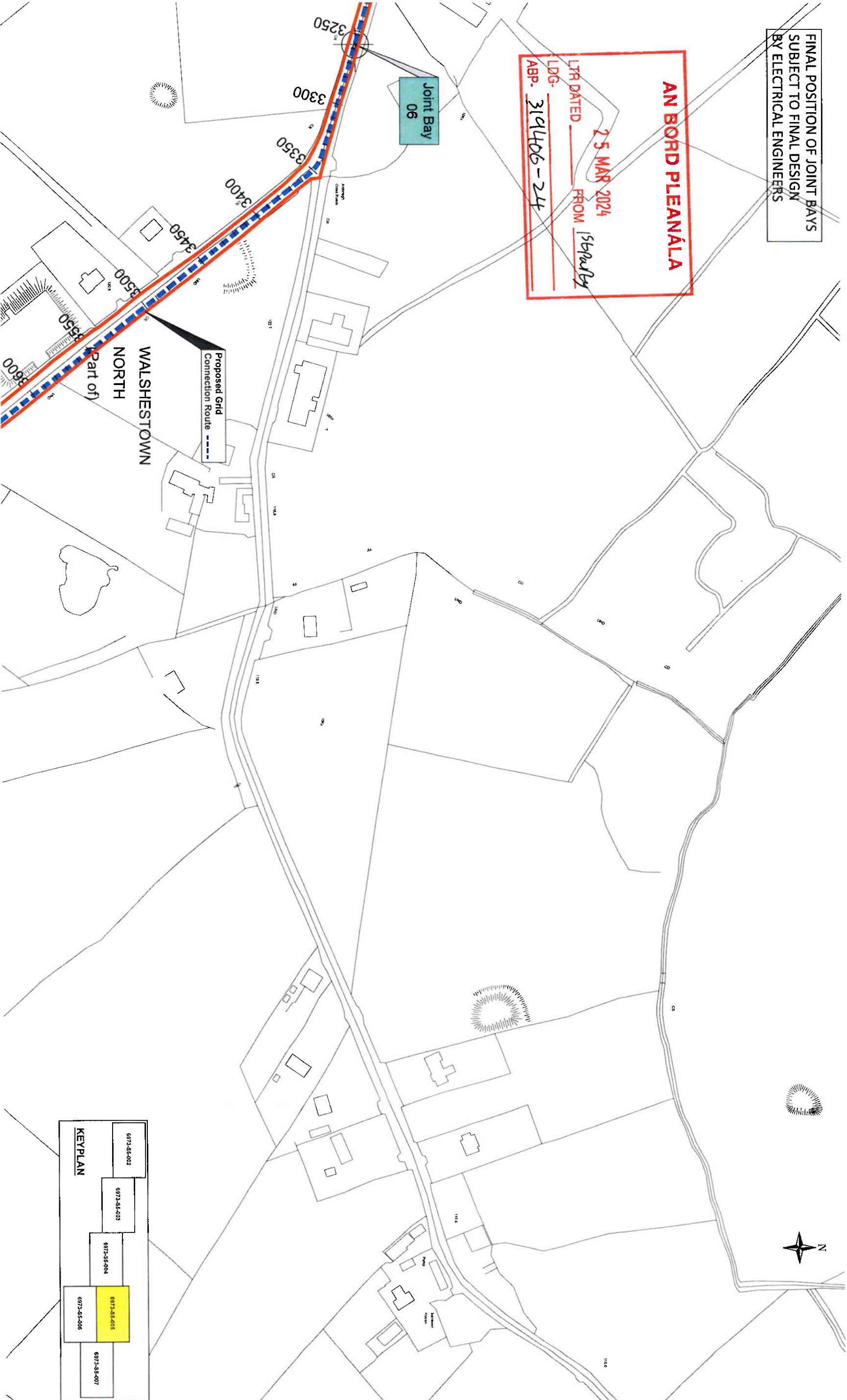
6973-SS-003

6973-SS-004

6973-SS-005

6973-SS-006

6973-SS-007



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Notes

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2.

Project

SLANEMORE SOLAR FARM  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE

Title

PROPOSED SECTION 5 APPLICATION  
LAYOUT PLAN  
SHEET 4 of 6

Issue Details

Designed: JOD

Information

Drawn: A.M.C.

Approval

Checked: B.C.

Tender

Approved: B.C.

Construction

Scale: 1:2,500 (A3)

Record

Office Use Only

Drawing Number: 6973-SS-005

Date: 27/05/23

Rev:

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SECRET  
NO. 100-100000  
100-100000

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FINAL POSITION OF JOINT BAYS  
SUBJECT TO FINAL DESIGN  
BY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS

Revised  
(Westmeath Co. Du.)

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

25 MAR 2024

LTR DATED FROM 1st party

LDG- 319406-24

ABP- 319406-24

6973-S5-002

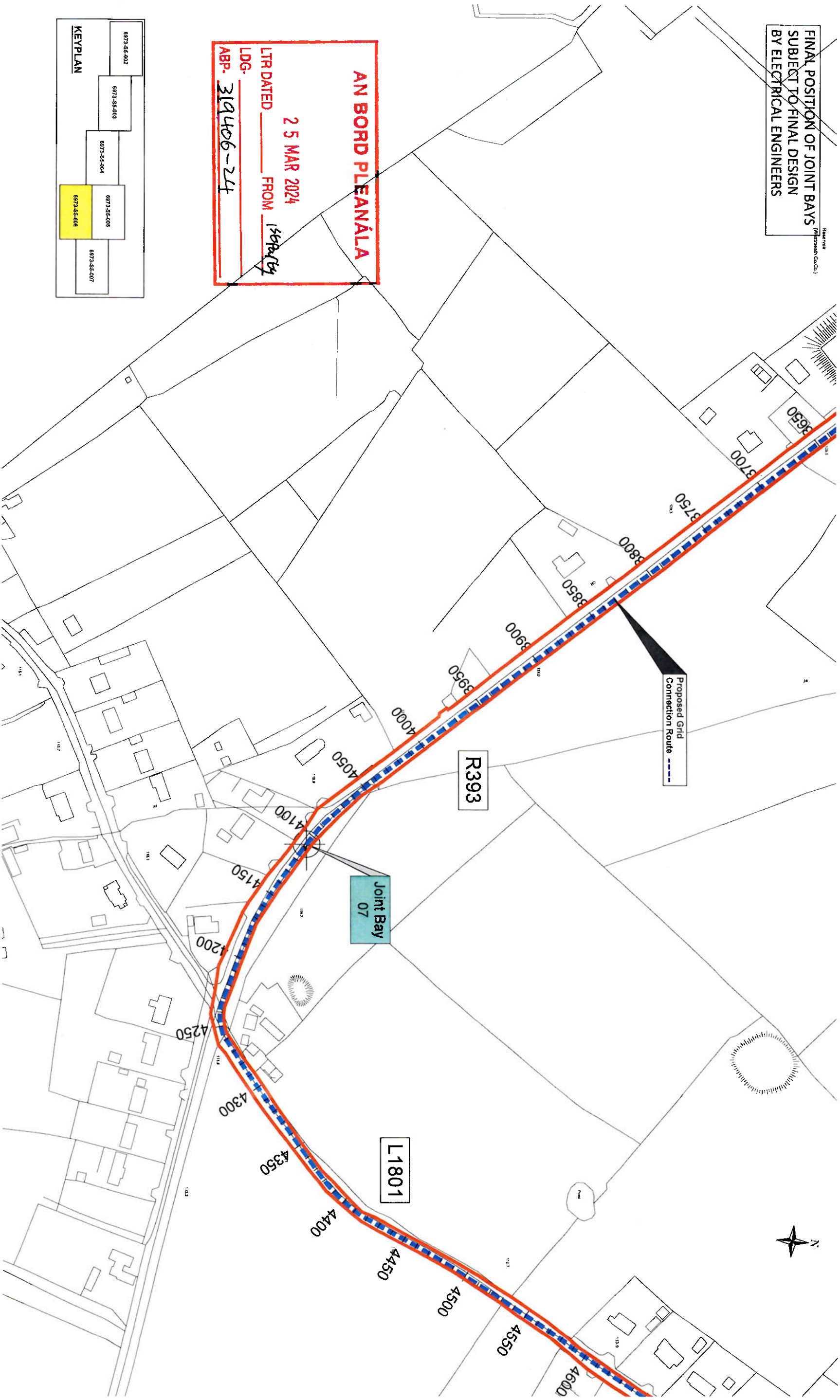
6973-S5-003

6973-S5-004

6973-S5-005

6973-S5-007

KEYPLAN



OBTION

Grian PV Westmeath Limited

ORIGINATOR  
JENNINGS O'DONOVAN & PARTNERS LIMITED,  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS,  
FINSKILIN,  
SLIGO,  
IRELAND.  
Web: [www.jod.ie](http://www.jod.ie)

Notes

1.

2.

Rev	Date	By	Amendments

Project

SLANEMORE SOLAR FARM  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE

Title

PROPOSED SECTION 5 APPLICATION  
LAYOUT PLAN  
SHEET 5 of 6

Issue Details				Office Use Only	
Designed	JOD	Information		Drawing Number:  6973-S5-006	Date 27/06/23
Drawn	A.W.C.	Approval	X		
Checked	B.C.	Tender			
Approved	B.C.	Construction			
Scale	1:2,000 (A3)	Record			Rev

Ordnance  
Survey  
Ireland  
National Mapping Agency

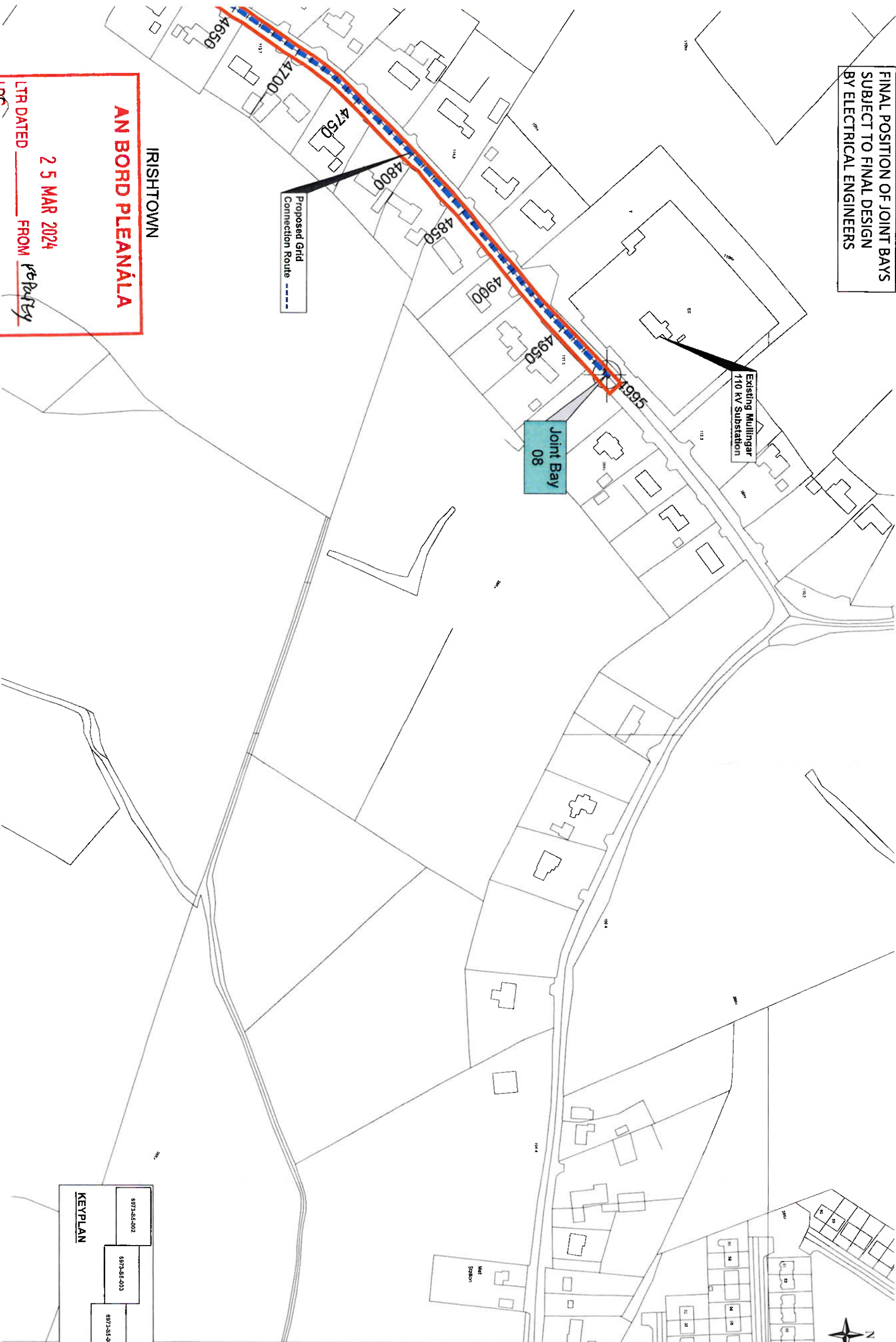
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1

FINAL POSITION OF JOINT BAYS  
SUBJECT TO FINAL DESIGN  
BY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS



AN BORD PLEANÁLA

2 5 MAR 2024

LTR DATED FROM 15th Party

LDG. ABP. 319406-24

IRISHTOWN

Proposed Grid  
Connection Route

Existing Mullingar  
110 kV Substation

Joint Bay  
08

8973-S5-002

8973-S5-003

8973-S5-004

8973-S5-005

8973-S5-006

8973-S5-007

KEYPLAN



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Notes

1.

2.

Project

SLANEMORE SOLAR FARM  
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE

Title

PROPOSED SECTION 5 APPLICATION  
LAYOUT PLAN  
SHEET 6 of 6

Issue Details

Designed: JOD

Information

Drawn: ALM/C

Approval

Checked: B.C.

Tender

Approved: B.C.

Construction

Record

Office Use Only

Drawing Number:

6973-S5-007

Date:

27/06/23

Rev.

27/06/23

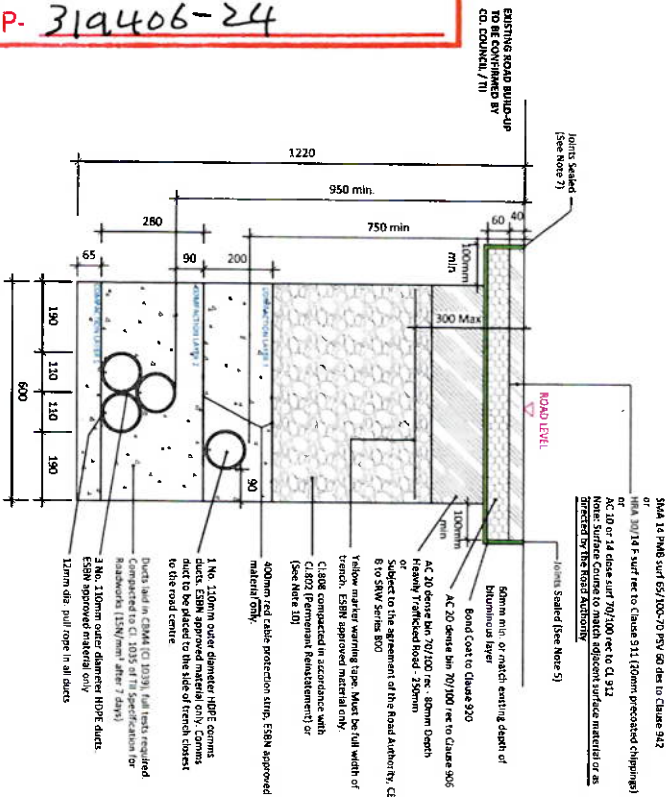
Rev.

DATE	1900
NO.	100
NAME	JOHN J. HENRY
ADDRESS	100 N. 10th St.
CITY	ST. LOUIS, MO.

100

Permanent Reinstatement

Reinstatement details based on Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads - S04



AN BORD PLEANÁLA

25 MAR 2024

LTR DATED FROM 1st party

LDG-

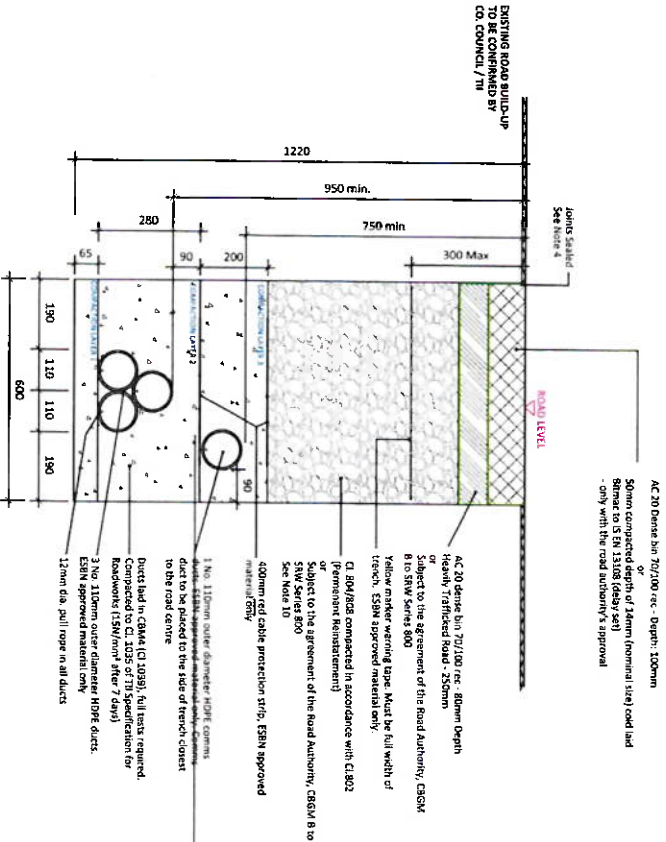
ABP- 319406-24

Typical Section Through Permanent Reinstatement of Longitudinal Opening in Roadway

SCALE 1:20

Temporary Reinstatement

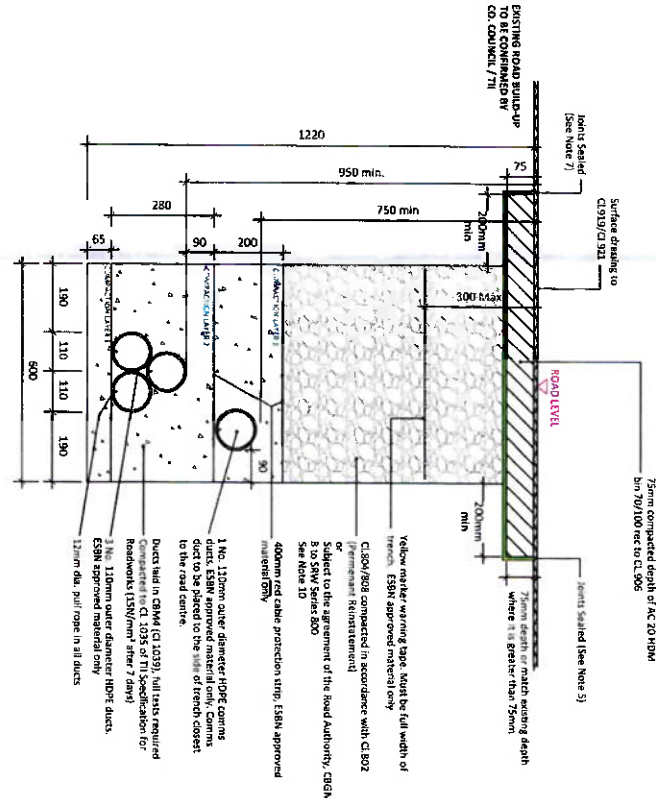
Reinstatement details based on Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads - S01



Typical Section Through Temporary Reinstatement of Longitudinal Opening in Roadway

SCALE 1:20

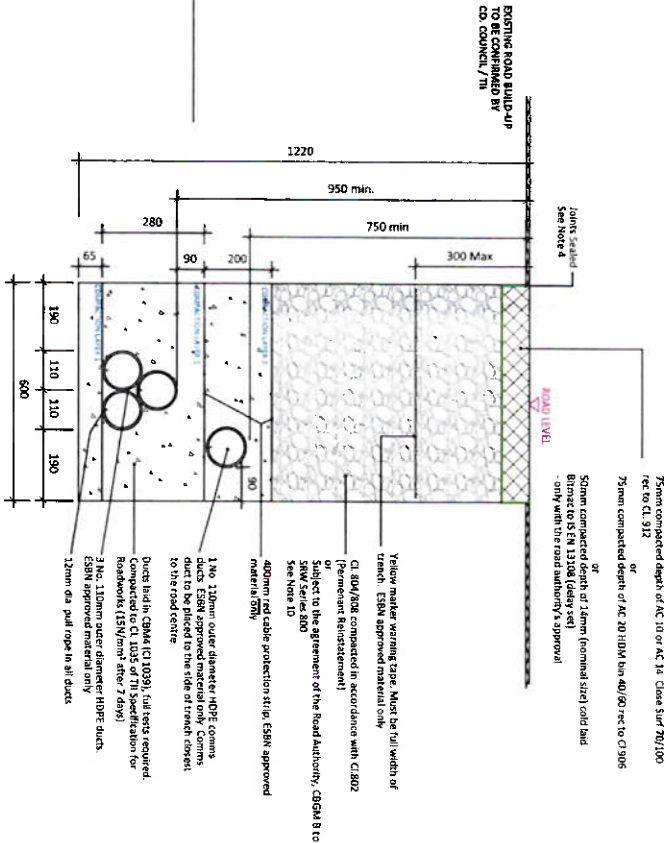
Reinstatement details based on Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads - S05



Typical Section Through Permanent Reinstatement of Longitudinal Opening in Dressed Rural Unbound Roadway

SCALE 1:20

Reinstatement details based on Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads - S02



Typical Section Through Temporary Reinstatement of Longitudinal Opening in Dressed Rural Unbound Roadway

SCALE 1:20

ALL REINSTATEMENT WORKS ARE TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL AREA ENGINEERS REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING OPENINGS IN PUBLIC ROADS

- Note:
- Refer to Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (Purple Book - April 2021), Chapter 6 Specifications for Guidance on Duct type / colour and Marker Tape type / colour.
  - All bound edges shall be saw cut to expose the full vertical thickness of each layer prior to excavation. All edges shall be essentially straight, smooth and vertical.
  - Where a temporary surface has been used, material shall be placed out to the depth specified in this drawing. The new permanent surface shall be mechanically laid and mechanically compacted with a vibrating roller.
  - Where the trimmed edge of excavation is within 400mm of a joint / edge, formwork or other reinstatement, this trimmed edge shall be extended to include same and the area of reinstatement shall be extended accordingly (increase to 800mm where this is pre-existing practice).
  - Any damaged area adjacent to the opening and resulting from the excavation operation shall be included within the area to be reinstated.
  - Chipse 808 or Cement Bound Granular Material surface to be sprayed per clause 920 prior to application of Asphalt Concrete Layer.
  - Joint sealer shall be a hot 50 pen bitumen binder or cold thixotropic bitumen 50-70 pen to be applied to all vertical cuts in accordance with S.5594987 prior to application of bituminous materials.
  - For roads without asphalt concrete surface (e.g. may be C1804 with double surface dressing), the road authority may at its discretion permit the temporary reinstatement surface of asphalt concrete to be regulated in lieu of excavation and reinstatement and subsequently surface dressed.
  - On highly trafficked roads services must have a minimum cover of 750mm.
  - Where required by the Road authority the trench may be reinstated with a Cement Bound Granular Material.
  - Full line width reinstatement will be carried out for the affected sections of the R439 and full carriageway width reinstatement will be carried out on the affected sections of the L70352.

ALL REINSTATEMENT WORKS ARE TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH LOCAL AREA ENGINEERS REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING OPENINGS IN PUBLIC ROADS

- Note:
- Refer to Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (Purple Book - April 2021), Chapter 6 Specifications for Guidance on Duct type / colour and Marker Tape type / colour.
  - All bound edges shall be saw cut to expose the full vertical thickness of each layer prior to excavation. All edges shall be essentially straight, smooth and vertical.
  - Chipse 808 surface to be sprayed per clause 920 prior to application of Asphalt Concrete Layer.
  - Joint sealer shall be a hot 50 pen bitumen binder or cold thixotropic bitumen 50-70 pen to be applied to all vertical cuts in accordance with S.5594987 prior to application of bituminous materials.
  - License holder must maintain temporary reinstatement to a safe and acceptable standard.
  - Any damaged area adjacent to the opening and resulting from the excavation operation shall be included within the area to be reinstated.
  - Temporary Road Surface warning signs must be used in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual (Chapter 8 - Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks).
  - Refer to detail Permanent Reinstatement of Road for advice on permanent reinstatement - all permanent reinstatement shall be carried out when adequate settlement has occurred as determined by the Road Authority.

Notes				Project		Title	
1. JENNINGS O'DONOVAN & PARTNERS LIMITED, FUNKILIN, SLIGO, IRELAND.				SIANMORE SOLAR FARM GRID CONNECTION ROUTE		SECTION 5 APPLICATION TRENCH DETAILS SHEET 1 of 2	
2.							
Issue Details				Office Use Only			
Designed:	JOD	Information		Drawing Number:			
Drawn:	A.M.C.	Approval	X	6973-SS-008			
Checked:	B.C.	Tender					
Approved:	B.C.	Construction					
Scale: 1:20 (A3)				Date:		Rev:	
				27/05/23			

OBTION

Grian PV Westmeath Limited

JENNINGS O'DONOVAN & PARTNERS LIMITED, FUNKILIN, SLIGO, IRELAND.





ANALYSIS OF

1900

1900

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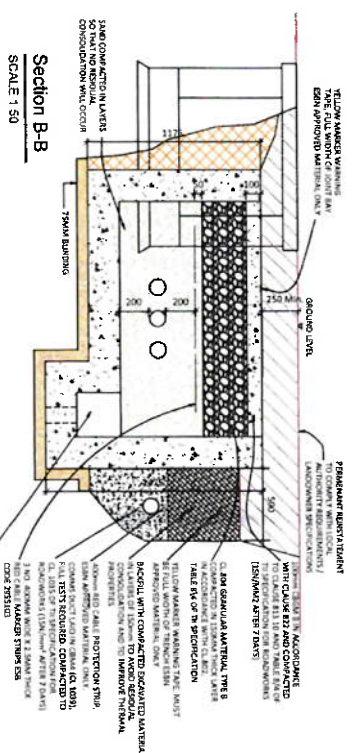
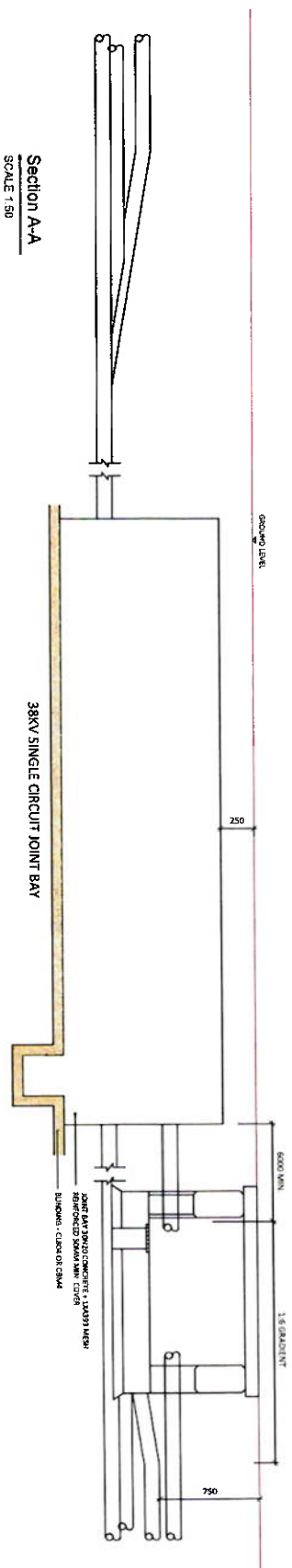
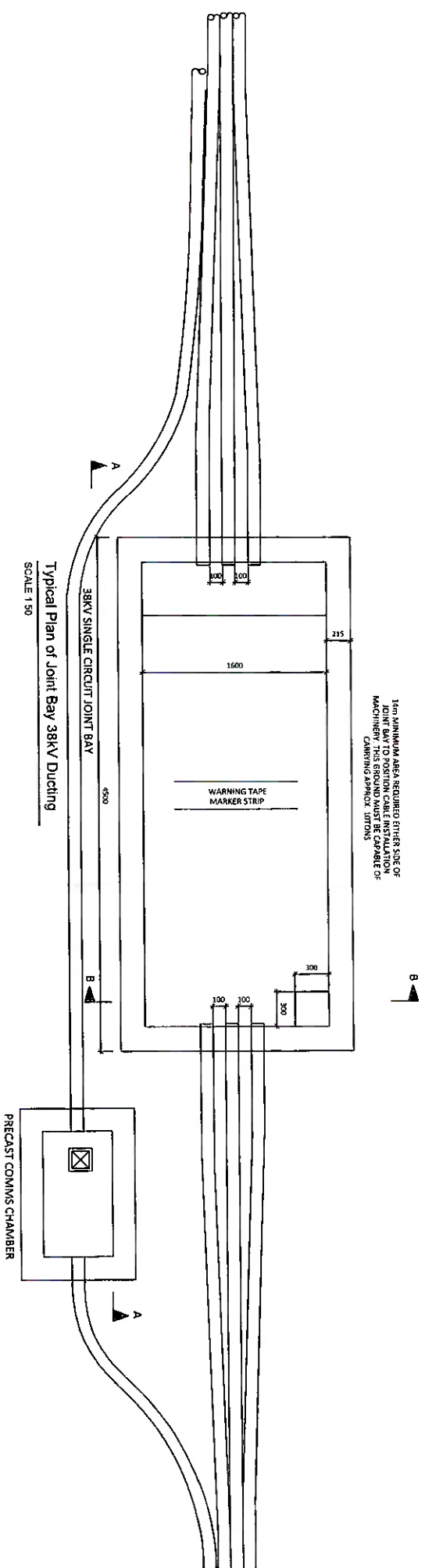


1

BOUNDARY

1000

1000



**NOTES**  
This drawing is subject to E30 approval and should be used for planning purposes only. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with relevant drawings, specifications and reports. Dimensions are in millimeters, unless noted otherwise.  
Drawings are not to be scaled unless figured dimensions only.  
Suitability of standard joint type foundations can only be confirmed following ground investigation. Standard foundations are based on the formation at the base of the excavation having been subjected for a minimum bearing pressure of 1000 kPa. Where this is not achievable and where said is encountered, the contractor shall refer to the Engineer for guidance.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

LTR DATED 25 MAR 2024

LDG. FROM 15th Party

ABP. 319406-24



[illegible]







ALMAZUELA  
JULIO 1971  
JULIO 1971  
JULIO 1971  
JULIO 1971

