



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara

Kildare County Council

Planning Department
Phone: 045-980845

Date: 25/09/2024
File Ref: ED1280

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA
LDG- 083274-52
ACP-
03 OCT 2025
Fee: € 110 Type: *CCed*
Time: 13:54 By: *Yend*

RE: Referral of application for a Declaration of Exempted Development under Section 5(4) to An Coimisiún Pleanála for determination

Dear Sir/Madam,

A Section 5, Exempted Development Declaration request was received by Kildare County Council on 04/09/2025 (Reference ED1280] seeking a declaration on the following question, whether:

"Excavating trenches along public road roadside margins and through private land and laying 33kV underground cable over a c.4.7 km route from the solar farm permitted under Kildare County Council planning application ref: 22/111 (ABP-314320-22) and the existing Dunnstown 400kV substation site at Dunnstown, and all associated works" Is or is not development or is or is not exempted development.

The Planning Authority notes the following:

1. The parent permission (Reg. Ref: 22/111 / ABP-314320-22) was decided by An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála).
2. Related to Item 1. is An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref. VC09.310033, which relates to a pre-application consultation request in respect of the development of a 220kV substation at the existing Dunnstown 400kV substation approximately 3.5km southwest of the site, and grid connection to this proposed solar installation at Swordlestown, via the L2023 and south via Mullacash. The request was revised during the course of the consultations, omitting the solar installation grid connection. An Coimisiún Pleanála subsequently determined that the development came within the scope of **Section 182A** and would constitute strategic infrastructure development.

Neither of the above have an EIAR, both were screened out.

With reference to the O'Grianna -v- An Bord Pleanála Judgement (project splitting and EIAR), which in summary determined that a wind farm and its grid connection are a single, indivisible project for the purposes of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). Having regard to the O'Grianna case Kildare County Council understand that the environmental impacts and public consultation for the grid connection must be

Kildare County Council
Declaration of Exempt Development under Section 5,
of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended

Incomplete application forms will
be deemed invalid and returned



All responses must be in block
letters

Section 1	Details of Applicants
------------------	------------------------------

1. Name of Applicant(s) **Strategic Power Projects Limited....**
Phone No **+447841 469312** Fax No **None.**
2. Address **Suite 3, One Earlsfort Centre, Lower Hatch Street, Dublin 2**
.....

Section 2	Person/Agent acting on behalf of applicant (if applicable)
------------------	---

1. Name of Person/Agent: **Peter Thomson Planning Solutions**
Phone No: **086 819 6856** Fax No **None**
2. Address: **30 Archersleas, Kilkenny, R95R2VE**

Section 3	Company Details (if applicable)
------------------	--

1. Name of Company: **Strategic Power Projects Limited**
Phone No: **+447841 469312** Fax No: **None**
2. Company Reg. No...**680818**
3. Address: **Suite 3, One Earlsfort Centre, Lower Hatch Street, Dublin 2**

Section 4	Details of Site
------------------	------------------------

1. Planning History of Site: Kildare County Council application ref: **Kildare Co Co Planning Application Ref: 22/111 (ABP ref: ABP-314320-22)** refers
2. Location of Proposed Development: **Swordlestown South, Flemingstown North, Mullcash Middle, Mulcash South, Flemingstown South or Tonaphuca, Coughlanstown West, Johnstown or Dunshane, Dunnstown, Co Kildare**
.....
3. Ordnance Survey Sheet No: **1:2,500 3664-C, 1:2,500 3664-A, 1:2,500 3608-C, 1:2,500 3608-D**
4. Please state the Applicants interest in the site: **Statutory Undertaker with consent to develop within the public road and on private land**
.....

Kildare County Council
Planning Department

4 SEP 2025

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Section 6	Declaration
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I, Peter Thomson certify that all of the above information is correct and I have submitted all the required documents as outlined at Section 6 above.

Signature: *Peter Thomson*

Date: 4 September 2025

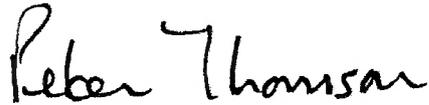
AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA
03 OCT 2025
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ACP- 323792-25

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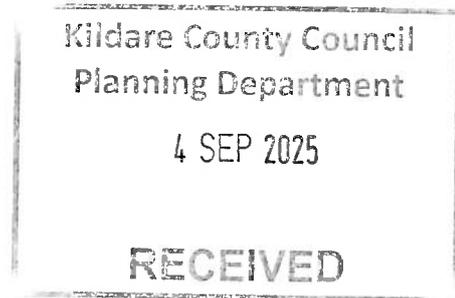
applications under the current EirGrid's Enduring Connection Process is 30 September 2025.

We respectfully request that the Planning Authority prioritise this Section 5 application to ensure a timely decision on this application for a Declaration, thereby potentially enabling the September ECP deadline to be met and, in turn, helping further Ireland's renewable energy ambitions and meet government renewable electricity targets.

Yours faithfully,

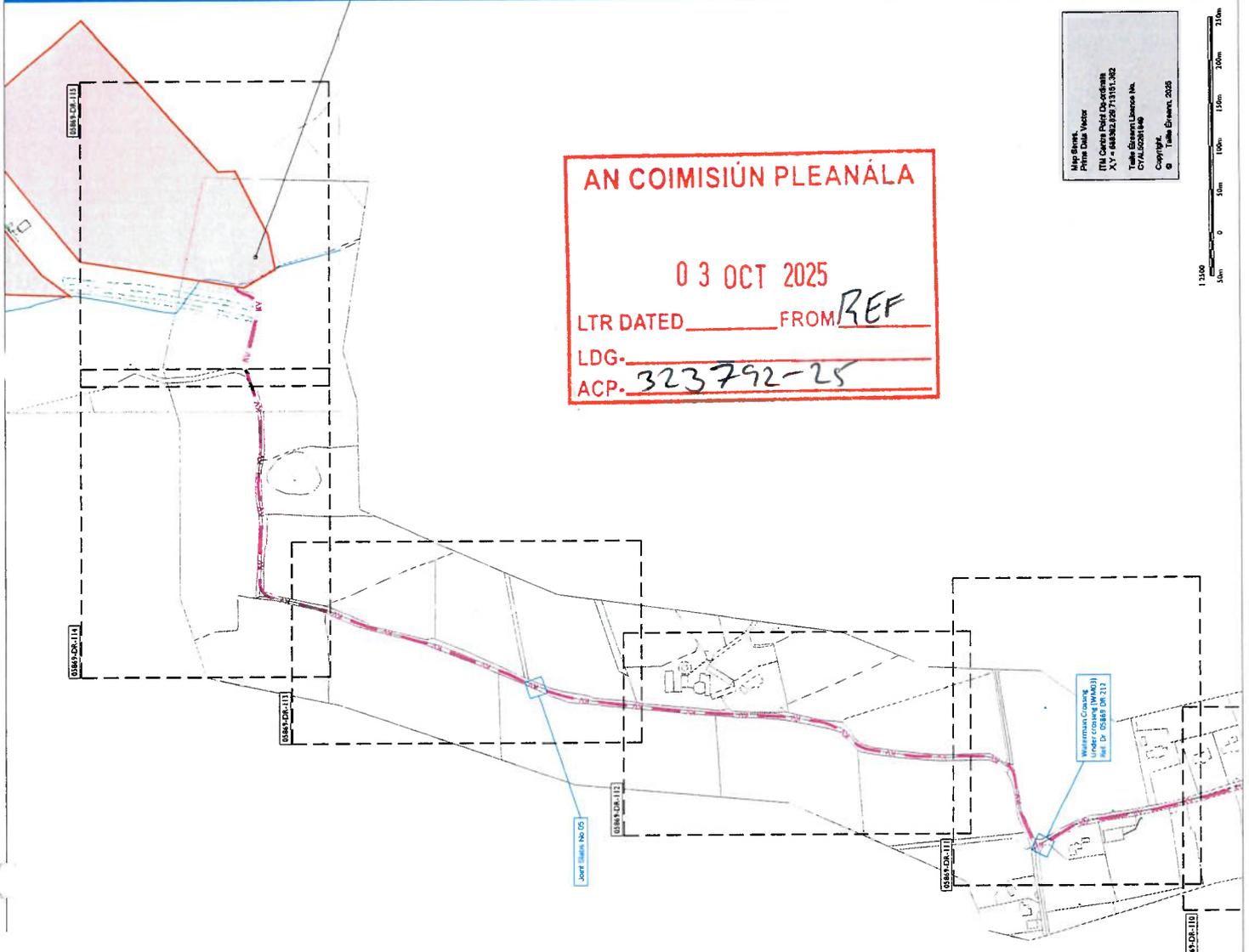


Peter Thomson, MSc, MIPI





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 Planning Department
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Map Sheet:
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 100, Canal Street
 15th Floor
 Dublin 1, D01 Y011
 Tel: +353 1 452 0000
 Fax: +353 1 452 0001
 Email: info@tli.ie
 Website: www.tli.ie

PROJECT
 Swordlestown
 33kV Underground Cable

CLIENT

STRATEGIC POWER PROJECTS
 CONSULTANTS

ADR
 MALONE O'REGAN
 CONSULTANTS

NOTES

LEGEND
 33kV UGC Swordlestown Solar Park
 33kV UGC Solar Park
 33kV UGC Solar Park (Planning Reference No. 22111) located at
 Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID)
 Planning Subarea/Planning Unit

ISSUE/REVISION

REV	DATE	DESCRIPTION
R1	08.03.22	Issued for Information
P1	16.12.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P2	01.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P3	21.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P4	02.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P5	12.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P6	02.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application

PROJECT NUMBER
 05-869

SHEET TITLE
 Site Location Map

SHEET NUMBER
 Sheet 2 of 2

SHEET NUMBER
 05869-DR-102

Site Location Map (Sheet 2 of 2)
 SCALE: 1:2,500

PATCHLINE REFER TO G15A-CR-110



Head Office:
 Newcastle
 100, Victoria Road
 Newcastle, Tyne and Wear
 NE4 6BE, UK
 Tel: 0191 276 7100

PROJECT
 Swardlestown
 33kV Underground Cable

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CONSULTANTS



NOTES:
 1. All work shall be done in accordance with the scope and specifications of the contract.
 2. All work shall be done in accordance with the relevant standards and codes of practice.

LEGEND:

- 33kV LVDC (Overhead/Underground) Cable
- 33kV LVDC (Overhead/Underground) Cable (1-Phase)
- 33kV LVDC (Overhead/Underground) Cable (3-Phase)
- Existing 11kV LVDC Networks (above/below)
- Existing 11kV LVDC Networks (above/below) Bus
- Existing Irish Water Network (above/below)

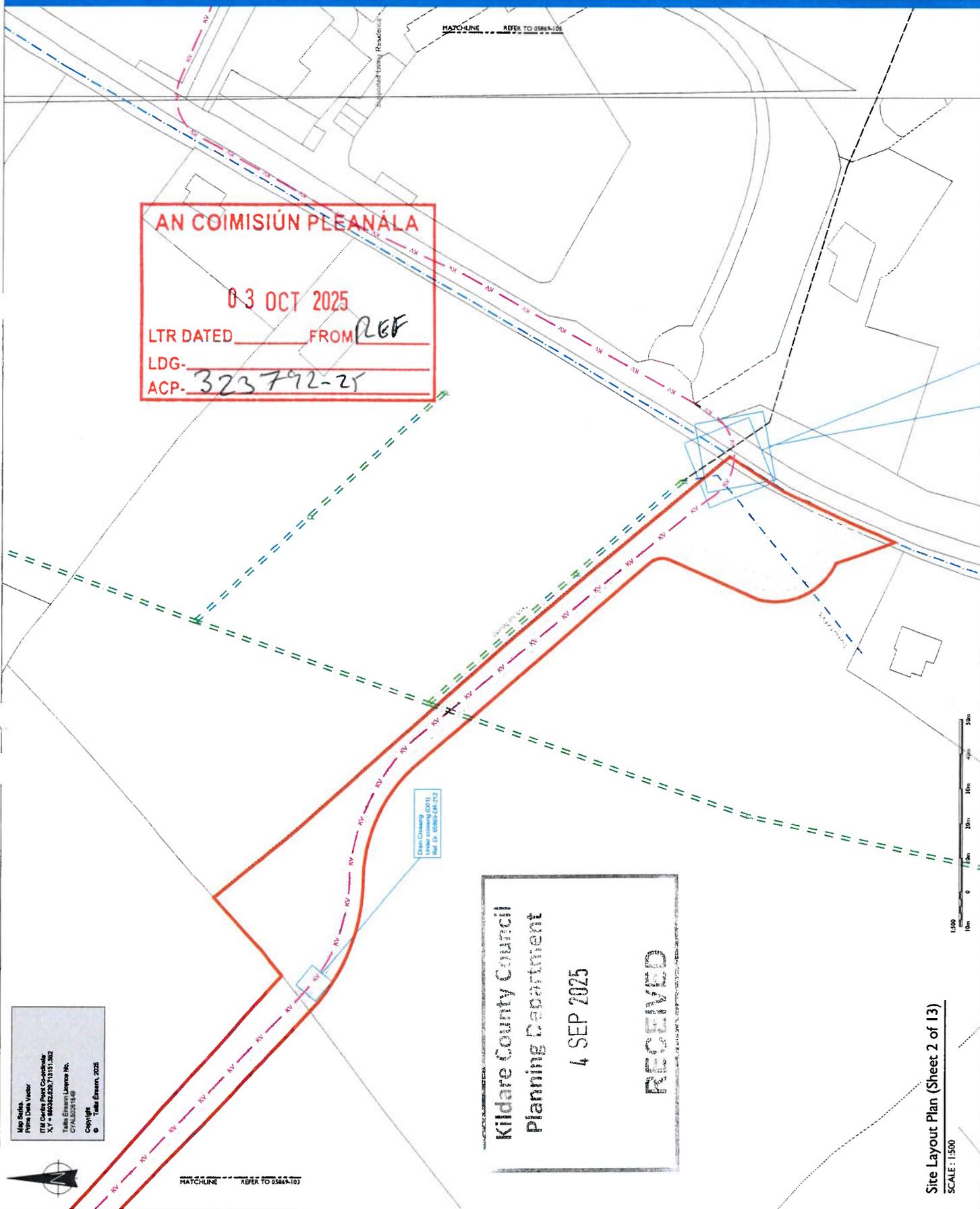
ISSUE/REVISION

NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION
01	07.08.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
02	12.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
03	07.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
04	21.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
05	01.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
06	16.12.22	Issued for Section 5 Application
07	08.03.22	Issued for Information

PROJECT NUMBER
 05-869

SHEET TITLE
 Site Layout Plan
 Sheet 2 of 13

SHEET NUMBER
 05869-DR-104



Map Scale:
 From Ordnance Survey
 TM Co-ordinate System
 X Y = 680022.000 / 713131.500
 Table of Coordinates
 GDA 2025
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Site Layout Plan (Sheet 2 of 13)
 SCALE: 1:500



MATCHLINE REFER TO 05869-109

Drain Crossing
Under crossing (002)
Ref. Dr. 02889C-012

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

03 OCT 2025

LTR DATED _____ FROM **LEF**

LDG- _____

ACP: **323792-26**

**Kildare County Council
Planning Department**

4 SEP 2025

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LEGEND: -

- 33kV UGC Overhead/Underground Solar Park to Proposed Substation Location (4.70km)
- Existing ESB LV/MV Networks shown thus
- Existing Irish Water Network shown thus
- Existing Lake, River / Stream Network shown thus

NOTES: -

- All proposed routes shown are indicative only at this stage and are subject to further assessment.
- Additional watercourses and services may be encountered.

tli GROUP

41-42 DUBLIN
Beaumont
Abbey Street
Tralee, Co. Kerry
Ireland
Tel: 00353 86 7135710

217, 218 & 219
Beaumont Business Centre
Stroudley Road, Beaumont
Hampshire
RG24 8LP, UK
Tel: 00 44 1256 406864

PROJECT

**Swordlestown
33kV Underground Cable**

CLIENT

**STRATEGIC
POWER
PROJECTS**

CONSULTANTS

**MOR
MALONE O'REGAN
CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

ISSUE/REVISION

NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION
P6	02.09.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P5	12.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P4	02.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P3	21.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P2	01.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P1	18.12.22	Issued for Section 5 Application
FOI	09.03.22	Issued for Information
IR		DATE DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
05-869

SHEET TITLE
Site Layout Plan
Sheet: 6 of 13

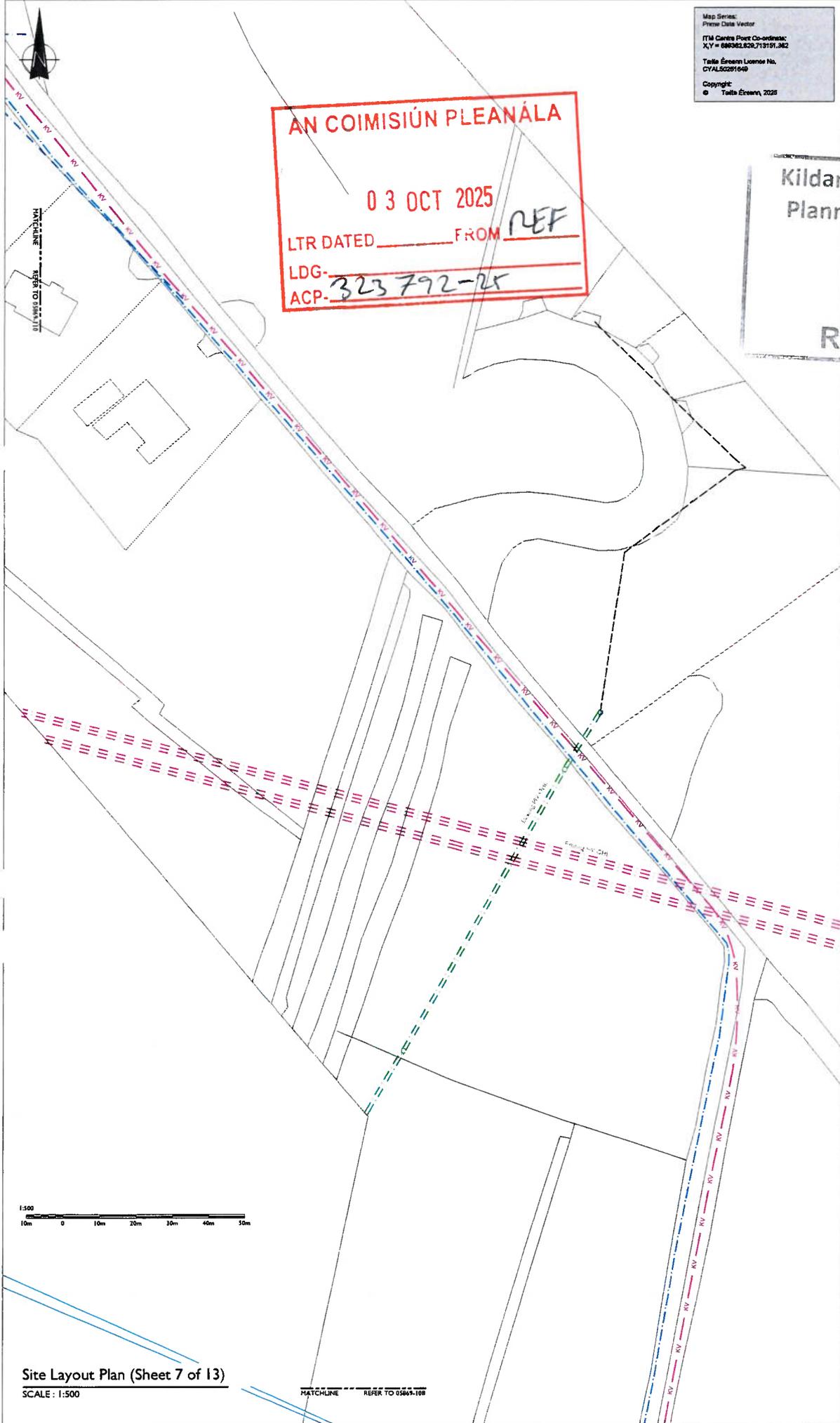
SHEET NUMBER
05869-DR-108

Map Series
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ITM Centre Point Co-ordinate
X,Y = 650562.829,719151.382
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Site Layout Plan (Sheet 6 of 13)
SCALE: 1:500

MATCHLINE REFER TO 05869-109





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03 OCT 2025

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LDG- _____

ACP- 323 792-25

Map Series:
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 ITM Centre Point Co-ordinates:
 X,Y = 686382.826,713191.282
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LEGEND: -

- 33kV UGC Swordlestown Solar Park to Proposed Substation Location (4.70km)
- Existing ESB HV Networks shown thus
- Existing ESB LV/MV Networks shown thus
- Existing ESB UGC shown thus
- Existing Irish Water Network shown thus

Kildare County Council
 Planning Department

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NOTES: -

- All proposed routes shown are indicative only at this stage and are subject to further assessment.
- Additional watercourses and services may be encountered.

tli GROUP

Head Office:
 Abbeymore,
 Tralee, Co. Kerry
 Ireland
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Regional Office:
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 Hampshire
 RG24 8UP UK
 Tel: 00 44 1256406864

PROJECT

**Swordlestown
 33kV Underground Cable**

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**STRATEGIC
 POWER
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CONSULTANTS

**MOR
 MALONE O'REGAN**

ISSUE/REVISION

NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION
PS	02.09.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
PS	12.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
PS	02.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
PS	21.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
PS	01.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
PI	16.12.22	Issued for Section 5 Application
FR	08.03.22	Issued for Information
IR	DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
 05-869

SHEET TITLE
 Site Layout Plan
 Sheet: 7 of 13

SHEET NUMBER
 05869-DR-109



Site Layout Plan (Sheet 7 of 13)
 SCALE: 1:500

MATCHLINE REFER TO 05869-108



MATCHLINE REFER TO 05869-111

LEGEND:-

- 33kV UGC Swordlestown Solar Park to Proposed Substation Location (4.70km)
- Existing ESB HV Networks shown thus
- Existing ESB LV/MV Networks shown thus
- Existing Irish Water Network shown thus

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Joint Slab No 04

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA
 03 OCT 2025
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 ACP-323 792-25

NOTES:-

- All proposed routes shown are indicative only at this stage and are subject to further investigation.
- Additional undercrossings and services may be encountered.

tli GROUP

Regional Office: **Belfast**
 Abbeystray, Co. Kerry
 Ireland
 Tel: 00353 86 7135710

Regional Office: **Belfast Business Centre**
 Stroudley Road, Bangor
 Hampshire
 RG24 6LP, UK
 Tel: 00 44 1256408664

PROJECT
 Swordlestown
 33kV Underground Cable

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STRATEGIC POWER PROJECTS

CONSULTANTS

MOR
 MALONE O'REGAN
 CONSULTANTS AND ARCHITECTS

ISSUE/REVISION

NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION
P6	02.09.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P5	12.06.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P4	02.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P3	21.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P2	01.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P1	16.12.22	Issued for Section 5 Application
FOG	09.03.22	Issued for Information
IR1	DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
 05-869

SHEET TITLE
 Site Layout Plan
 Sheet 8 of 13

SHEET NUMBER
 05869-DR-110

Map Series:
 Prime Data Vector
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Site Layout Plan (Sheet 8 of 13)
 SCALE: 1:500





Map Series
Prime Data Vector
ITM Centre Point Co-ordinate
X,Y = 86632,823,713151,362
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LDG: _____

ACP: **523 792 -25**

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Planning Department
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Site Layout Plan (Sheet 10 of 13)
SCALE: 1:500

MATCHLINE REFER TO 05869-111

MATCHLINE REFER TO 05869-113

LEGEND: -
33kV UGCV Swordlestown Solar Park
to Proposed Substation Location (4.70km)

NOTES: -

- All enclosed routes shown are indicative only at this stage and are subject to further examination.
- Additional manholes and services may be encountered.

Phone: 01454 77111
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By e-mail: 77111@tli.ie
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Hampshire
RG24 8LP UK
Tel: 0044 1254 408864

PROJECT
Swordlestown
33kV Underground Cable

CLIENT

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ISSUE/REVISION

IRI	DATE	DESCRIPTION
PR1	02.08.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
PR2	12.08.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
PR3	02.09.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
PR4	21.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
PR5	01.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
PR6	18.12.22	Issued for Section 5 Application
PR7	06.03.22	Issued for Information

PROJECT NUMBER
05-869

SHEET TITLE
Site Layout Plan
Sheet: 10 of 13

SHEET NUMBER
05869-DR-112



MATCHLINE REFER TO 05869-114

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ACP. **323792-25**

Kildare County Council
Planning Department

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Joint State No 05

Site Layout Plan (Sheet 11 of 13)

SCALE : 1:500

MATCHLINE REFER TO 05869-112



Map Sheet:
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LEGEND: -

33kV UDC Swordlestown Solar Park
to Proposed Substation Location (4.70km)

NOTES -

- All proposed routes shown are indicative only at this stage and are subject to further assessment.
- Additional resources and services may be encountered.



tli GROUP

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Hampshire
RG24 8UP, UK
Tel: 00 44 1256 406654

PROJECT

**Swordlestown
33kV Underground Cable**

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ISSUE/REVISION

IR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
P6	02.09.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P5	12.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P4	02.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P3	21.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P2	01.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P1	18.12.22	Issued for Section 5 Application
POD	08.03.22	Issued for Information

PROJECT NUMBER

05-869

SHEET TITLE

Site Layout Plan
Sheet 11 of 13

SHEET NUMBER

05869-DR-113



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 ACP-323 792-25

MATCHLINE REFER TO 05669-115

MATCHLINE REFER TO 05669-117



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tli GROUP
 tli Group
 Business Centre
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 Tully, Co. Kerry
 Ireland
 Tel: 02033 667137/0
 Fax: 02044 120406/4

PROJECT
**Swordlestown
 33kV Underground Cable**

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CONSULTANTS

ADR
 MALONE O'REGAN
 CONSULTANTS

NOTES:-
 • All proposed works shown on this plan are subject to further assessment.
 • Potential subsurface utilities and obstructions may be encountered.

LEGEND:-
 33kV UGCL (Underground Cable Path)
 Proposed Substation Location (11kV)

ISSUE/REVISION

IR	DATE	DESCRIPTION
P6	02.08.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P5	12.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P4	02.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Application
P3	21.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P2	01.02.23	Issued for Section 5 Application
P1	16.12.22	Issued for Section 5 Application
FOI	08.03.22	Issued for Information

PROJECT NUMBER
05-469

SHEET TITLE
Proposed Site Layout Plan

Sheet 12 of 13

SHEET NUMBER
05669-DR-114



Project Title:	Swordlestown 33kV UGC Section 5 Application
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Project No.	05-869
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Title	Drawing/ Doc Number	Size	Revision								
			P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Overall Site Location Map	05869-DR-100	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Location Map (Sheet 1 of 2)	05869-DR-101	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Location Map (Sheet 2 of 2)	05869-DR-102	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 1 of 13)	05869-DR-103	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 2 of 13)	05869-DR-104	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 3 of 13)	05869-DR-105	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 4 of 13)	05869-DR-106	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 5 of 13)	05869-DR-107	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 6 of 13)	05869-DR-108	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 7 of 13)	05869-DR-109	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 8 of 13)	05869-DR-110	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 9 of 13)	05869-DR-111	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 10 of 13)	05869-DR-112	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 11 of 13)	05869-DR-113	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 12 of 13)	05869-DR-114	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Site Layout Plan (Sheet 13 of 13)	05869-DR-115	A1	P1	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6		
Ducting through Off Road Section	05869-DR-209	A3	P1	P2	-	P3	P3	P3	P3		
Ducting through Access Track Section	05869-DR-210	A3	P1	P2	-	P3	P3	P3	P3		
Ducting through Regional/Local Roadway	05869-DR-211	A1	P1	P2	-	P3	P3	P3	P3		
Culvert Undercrossing	05869-DR-212	A1	P1	P2	-	P3	P3	P3	P3		
Culvert Overcrossing	05869-DR-213	A1	P1	P2	-	P3	P3	P3	P3		
Joint Slab Detail	05869-DR-214	A1	P1	P2	-	P3	P3	P3	P3		
Watermain/Wastewater Undercrossing	05869-DR-215	A1	-	P1	-	P2	P2	P2	P2		
Watermain/Wastewater Overcrossing	05869-DR-216	A1	-	P0	-	P1	P1	P1	P1		
Construction Methodology Report	05869-R02	A4	00	01	-	02	03	04	08		

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

03 OCT 2025

LR DATED FROM REF

LDG-323 7912-25

ACP-

Issue Date	D	16	31	01	21	02	12	02		
	M	12	01	02	02	05	05	09		
	Y	22	23	23	23	25	25	25		

Distribution List

Strategic Power Projects	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Malone o'Regan Consulting Engineers	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		

Status:

Status	PL								
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P = Preliminary, A = Approval, T = Tender, C = Construction, R = Record, I = Information, PL =

Method	E	E	E	E	E	E	E		
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Kildare County Council
 Planning Department
 4 SEP 2025
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Designed by Darragh Buckley
Approved by Ruairi Geary
Issued by Damien Browne

For & on behalf of TLI Group

Planning Department,
Kildare County Council,
Áras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park,
Naas,
Co. Kildare

28 March 2025

Re: Proposed electricity grid connection works between a proposed solar farm at Swordlestown North and Swordlestown South and Dunnstown 400kV substation, County Kildare for Strategic Power Projects Limited.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

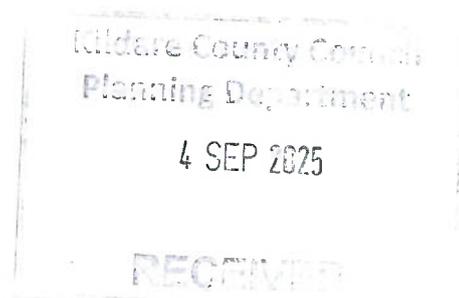
Please be advised that cables are proposed to be laid under sections of the public road and associated works carried out as part of the proposed grid connection works. The works are detailed in the Section 5 Declaration application that this letter relate to.

The works to be undertaken in this regard will be undertaken by Strategic Power Projects Limited which is a "Statutory Undertaker" within the definition of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, authorised to carry out works for the supply of electricity.

Yours faithfully,



Paul Carson for Strategic Power Projects Limited.



Planning Department.
Kildare County Council,
Áras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park,
Naas,
Co. Kildare

29 April 2025

**Re: Proposed electricity grid connection works between a proposed solar farm at
Swordlestown North and Swordlestown South and Dunnstown 400kV substation,
County Kildare for Strategic Power Projects Limited.**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I, Caroline de Robeck, Gowran Grange, Naas, County Kildare, hereby consent to Strategic
Power Projects Limited applying for a Section 5 declaration for works on my property at
Swordlestown South, County Kildare.

Yours faithfully,



Caroline de Robeck



Planning Department,
Kildare County Council,
Áras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park,
Naas,
Co. Kildare

29 April 2025

**Re: Proposed electricity grid connection works between a proposed solar farm at
Swordlestown North and Swordlestown South and Dunnstown 400kV substation,
County Kildare for Strategic Power Projects Limited.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, James Lynch, Dunnstown, County Kildare, hereby consent to Strategic Power Projects
Limited applying for a Section 5 declaration for works on my property at Dunnstown, County
Kildare.

Yours faithfully,



James Lynch



Planning Department,
Kildare County Council,
Áras Chill Dara,
Devoy Park,
Naas,
Co. Kildare

29 April 2025

Re: Proposed electricity grid connection works between a proposed solar farm at Swordlestown North and Swordlestown South and Dunnstown 400kV substation, County Kildare for Strategic Power Projects Limited.

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I, Miriam Clarke, Coghlanstown, Ballymore Eustace, County Kildare W91 D263, hereby consent to Strategic Power Projects Limited applying for a Section 5 declaration for works on my property at, Coghlanstown West, County Kildare.

Yours faithfully,


Miriam Clarke

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03 OCT 2025

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Planning Department

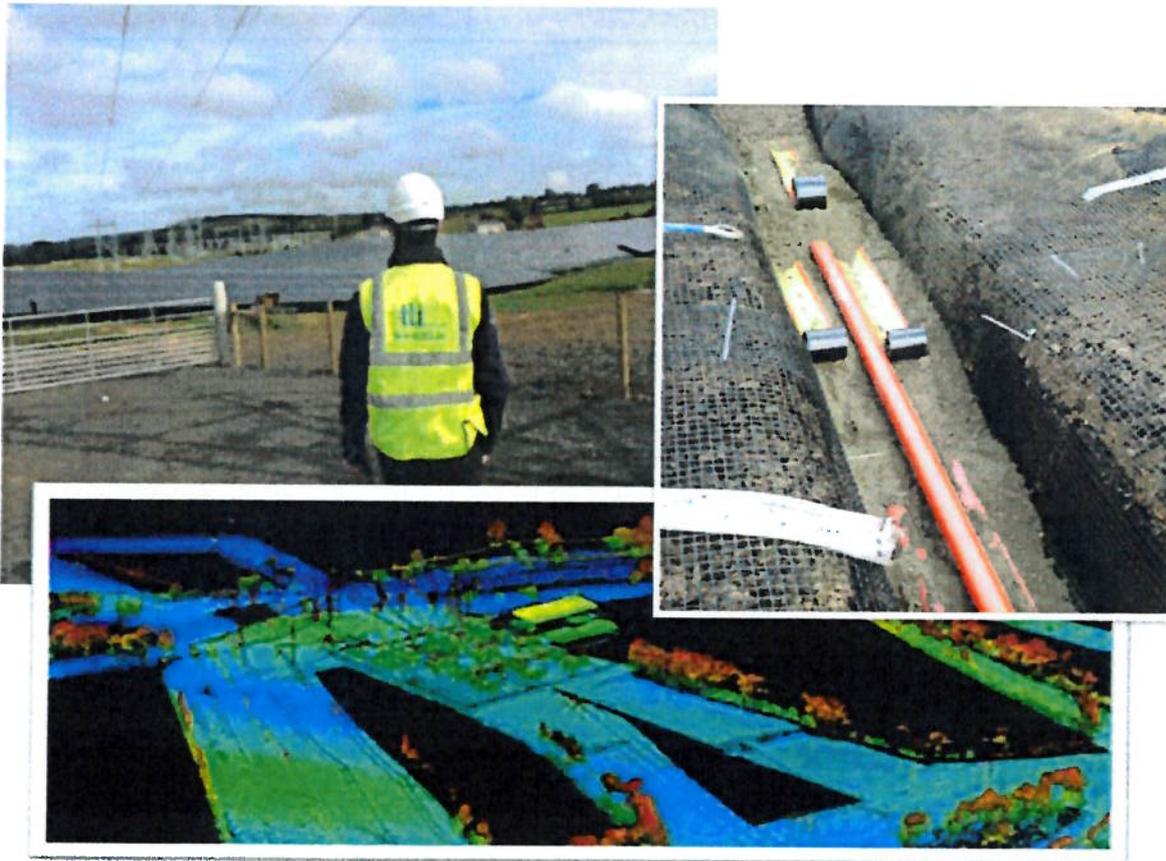
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Construction Methodology



Swordlestown 33kV Underground Cable



Report Ref: 05869-R02-06

Client: Strategic Power Providers Limited c/o Malone O'Regan Consulting Engineers



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1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline and explain the construction techniques and methodologies which will be implemented for the construction of the proposed Swordlestown 33kV underground cable. The internal network will be used to link a Ring Main Unit (RMU) within the proposed Swordlestown Solar site (Planning Application Reference No. 22111) to the ESB Networks owned Dunstown 400kV Substation.

The internal network will consist entirely of underground cables which will be installed in private lands and in the public road network. The UGC works will consist of the installation of 8 no. ducts in an excavated trench to accommodate 6 no. power cables, 1 no. earth continuity conductor and 1 no. fibre communications duct.

This Construction Methodology Plan (OCMP) document is intended to be used as an aid to understand the methodologies to be employed during construction and should be read in conjunction with all other specialist reports which accompany the Section 5 Planning Exemption Application. In addition, this document is in outline form only and will be revised and updated prior to the commencement of any construction activities. Detailed method statements will be prepared in respect of each aspect of the proposed development.

2.0 Proposed Grid Connection Route

The total route length of the proposed grid connection is approximately 4.70km.

The first section of the connection route traverse the proposed Battery Storage site and converges onto local public road network to traverse within sections of the L-6044, third party green field parcel and forestry plantation before re-emerging onto the local road network to carry predominantly in a northerly direction towards Swordlestown Solar site within the curtilage of localised roads, (L-6045 & L-20231) respectively.

The proposed UGC internal network route as described in this report, all associated documents and drawings will be discussed with Kildare Co. Council prior to the build phase of this project. Figure 1 below shows the location of the proposed internal network route, with each section of the route being discussed in detail in Table 2 below.



Approximate Location of Grid Connection		
Public Roads	Private Lands	Access Track through Battery Storage Area
3.08km	1km	0.62km
Total: 4.70km		

Table 1 – Swordlestown 33kV Underground Cable- Route Location Summary

Table 2 separates the UGC route into several sections and describes the specific construction requirements of each individual section with access routes to the work areas. All plant and equipment employed on the proposed works will be subject to good site organisation and hygiene, particularly during construction activities.

Table 2 - Summary of Underground Cable Route	
Section	Description
UGC 0.81km	<p><i>Battery Storage Site to local road (L-6044)</i></p> <p>The first section initiates within the Battery Storage Site (Planning Reference No. 21/608 and traverses the development boundary along the northern periphery for approximately 0.7km. At this point the internal underground cable will converge onto the local secondary roadway (L-6044). The UG internal network will carry within this second of local roadway in a northerly direction for circa. 0.2km prior to leaving the roadway to enter third party consenting lands in the townland of Dunshane.</p> <p>Section 1 contains one joint slab. The joint slab will be installed below ground and fully reinstated as per the site requirements. The Joint Slab location has been selected off the carriageway and away from residences where possible.</p> <p>Features;</p> <p><i>1 No. Joint Slab.</i> Joint slab 01 will be installed below ground and fully reinstated as per the site requirements.</p> <p><i>1 No. Watermain Crossing</i> – The UG internal network will under cross an existing water utility on exiting the Battery Storage site to converge onto the local road (L-6044)</p>



3.0 UGC Construction Methodology

The proposed UGC trench will consist of 6 no. 125mm diameter HDPE power cable ducts, 1 no. earth continuity conductor duct, and 1 no. 125mm diameter HDPE communications duct to be installed in an excavated trench, typically 1000mm wide by 1265mm deep, with variations on this design to adapt to service and watercourse crossings. The power cable ducts will accommodate 6 no. power cables. The communications duct will accommodate a fibre cable to allow communications between the future transformer compound located within the boundary of Dunstown 400kV Substation and the Swordlestown Solar Park site.

The proposed UGC will be installed in existing access tracks within private land and in short sections of public road. The location where the ducting is installed will depend on several factors such as track widths and bends along the track and crossings. Excavated material will be stored adjacent to the trench and incorporated into the backfilling where possible. Should there be any excess material it will be handled and treated in accordance with the Circular economy. This is to ensure waste will be prevented ([Refer to 14.0 Waste Management](#)). Construction methodologies to be implemented and materials to be used will ensure that the UGC is installed in accordance with the requirements and specifications of the cable design.

The ducts will be installed, and the trench reinstated in accordance with the relevant local authority standards and agreed with Kildare County Council where installed in public roads and reinstated in accordance with the landowners requirements where installed in private lands. The electrical/fibreoptic cables are pulled through the installed ducts in approximately 1000m sections. Construction methodologies to be implemented and materials to be used will ensure that the UGC is installed in accordance with the requirements of the Council and private landowners.

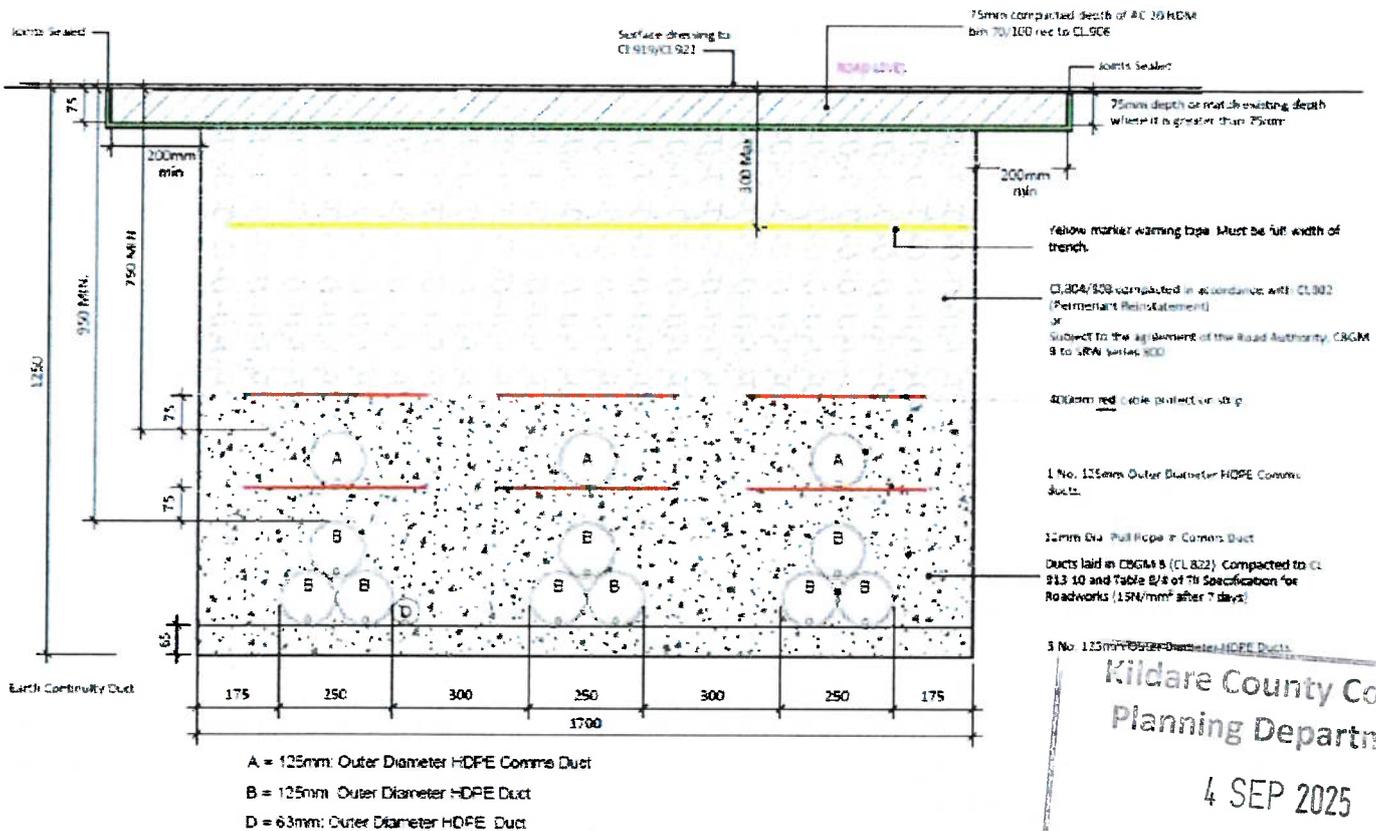


Figure 2 - Typical Double Circuit 33kV Duct Installation in Public Roadway

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ditch line to facilitate the installation of the cable trench, this will be reinstated as per landowner requirements and local environment.

- No more than a 100-metre section of trench will be opened at any one time. The second 100 metres will only be excavated once the majority of reinstatement has been completed on the first section.
- The excavation, installation and reinstatement process will take on average of 1 no. day to complete a 100m section.
- Works will only be conducted in normal working hours of Monday to Friday 08:00 to 17:00 and Saturday 08:00 to 13:00, with no works on Sundays or Bank Holidays except in exceptional circumstances or in the event of an emergency.
- Following the installation of ducting, pulling the cable will take approximately 1 no. day between each section.

Equipment:

- 2-3 General Operatives.
- 1 Excavator Operator.
- 360° tracked excavator (only rubber tracked machines will be allowed on public roads)
- 1 no. dumper or tractor and trailer.

Materials:

- Sand for pipe bedding.
- Trench backfilling material (excavated material and aggregates) to relevant specifications.
- 125mm diameter HDPE ducting.
- 63mm diameter MDPE ducting.



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Figure 4 - Typical Single 33kV Underground Duct Installation

3.6 Joint Slabs and Associated Chambers

Joints Slabs are to be provided approximately every 1000m-1200m along the UGC route to facilitate the jointing of 2 no. lengths of UGC. Joint Slabs are typically 1.8m wide x 2.7m long with a flat slab of concrete installed below finished ground level to facilitate the jointing of the cable. Reinstatement will be in accordance with purple book, road opening guidelines and will be reinstated to match the existing surface wearing course, as agreed with Kildare County council, roads department. Final cable depth is typically 750mm as per Figure 5 - Typical Roadway Joint Slab detail. Joint Slabs will require less excavating and disruption to the existing public roadway and therefore minimise the invasive nature of the works.

In association with Joint Slabs, Communication Chambers are also required to facilitate the installation and jointing of the communication fibres. Communication Chambers are located in close proximity to Joint Slabs. Communication Chambers will typically be pre-cast concrete structures with an access cover at finished surface level.

The precise siting of all Joint Slabs and Communication Chambers is subject to detailed design and site investigations. Marker posts will be used on non-roadway routes to delineate the duct route and joint slab positions.

Equipment:

- 2-3 General Operatives
- 1 Excavator Operator
- 360° tracked excavator (only rubber tracked machines will be allowed on public roads)
- 1 no. tracked dumper or tractor and trailer

Materials:

- Sand for pipe bedding
- Ready-mix Concrete where necessary (delivered to site)
- Trench backfilling material (excavated material and aggregates) to relevant specifications
- 125mm diameter HDPE ducting
- Precast Chamber Units / Construction materials for chambers

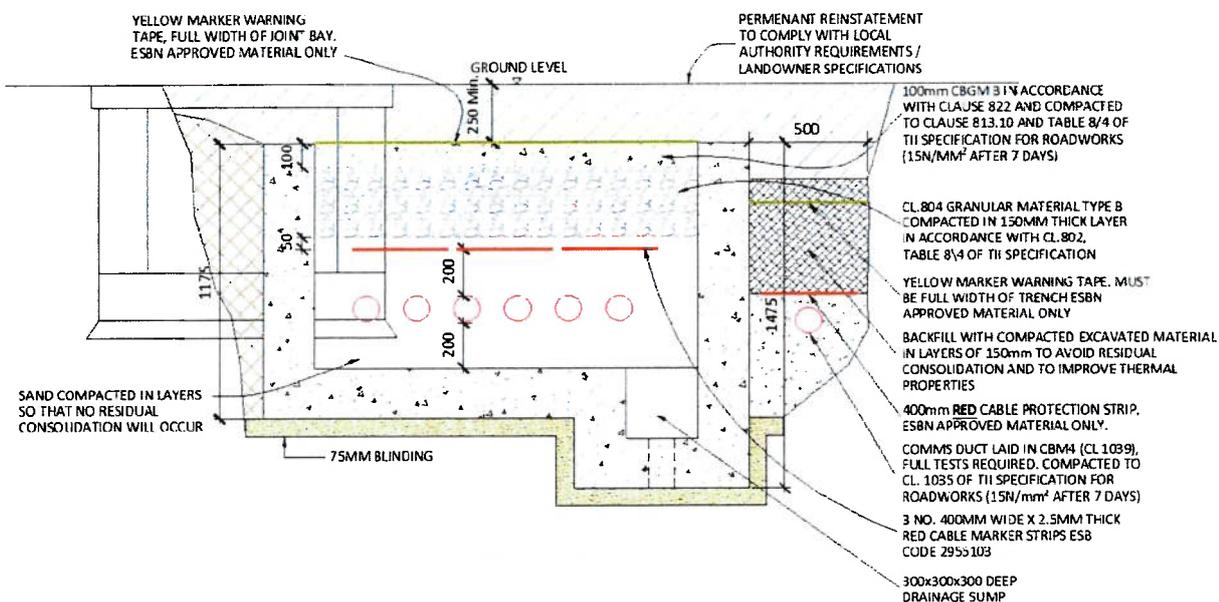


Figure 5 - Typical Roadway Joint Slab detail

4.0 Major Water Course Crossings

There are no major water course crossings along this route. However, this route traverses in close proximity to fluvial features, such as ponds, drainage ditches, etc. Where the cable route intersects with existing watercourses, a detailed construction method statement will be prepared by the Contractor prior to the commencement of construction and is to be approved by the Local Authority and relevant environmental agencies.

Inland Fisheries Ireland have published guidelines relating to construction works along water bodies entitled ‘Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitats during Construction and Development Works at River Sites’, and these guidelines will be adhered to during the construction of the proposed development.

Numerous other minor watercourses crossing locations have been noted along the proposed cable route i.e. culverts, pipe drains. These minor watercourses will be identified and surveyed as part of the detailed design process prior to construction. A culvert crossing schedule will be prepared identifying all major culverts and the proposed crossing method.

4.1 Drainage Channel – Undercrossing Crossing

ITM Coordinates: 688329.392, 712464.013

This drainage channel is run off from the surrounding agricultural lands. The method for crossing this obstacle will be to utilise the typical culvert undercrossing methodology of the dry drain. All clean course surface material on the dry drain bed (e.g. gravel, cobbles and boulders), to a depth of 200mm will be removed prior to works. See drawing 05869-DR-212 for further details.

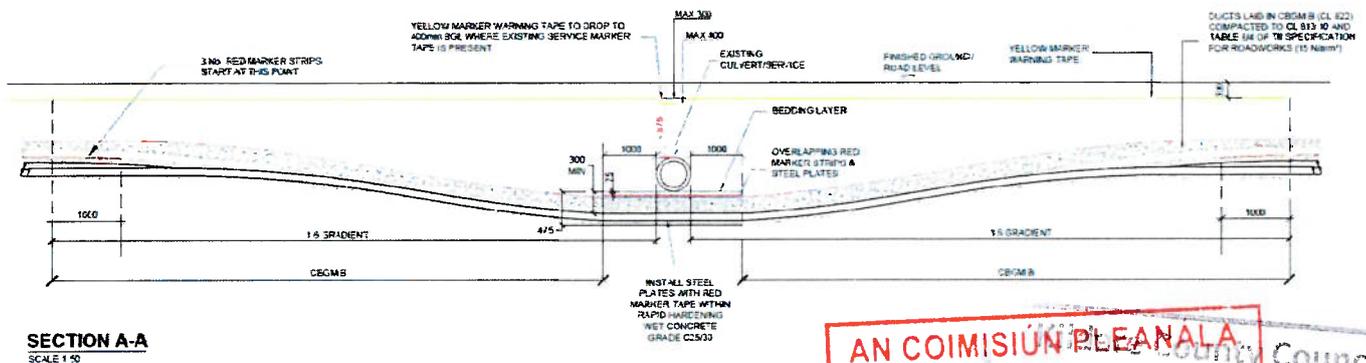


Figure 9 - Typical Culvert Under Crossing Detail

4.2 Drainage Channel – Undercrossing Crossing

ITM Coordinates: 689561.392, 712607.386

This drainage channel is run off from the surrounding agricultural lands and runs perpendicularly under the L6045 local road. The method for crossing this obstacle will be to utilise the typical culvert undercrossing methodology of the drain. All clean course surface material on the drain bed (e.g. gravel, cobbles and boulders), to a depth of 200mm will be removed prior to works. See drawing 05869-DR-212 for further details.

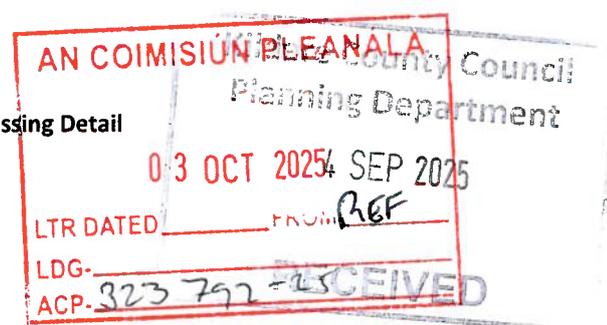




Figure 10 - Temporary Aluminium Bog Mats

7.0 Enabling Works

Any surface water management, bunding, waste management measures etc. will be put in place at the outset.

Pre-commencement activities will also include the erection of signage and information boards for the general public, site employees and trucks transporting materials to/from the site.

A traffic management plan will be completed prior to the works commencing and this will be agreed between the Developer, the Contractor and Kildare County Council to ensure that traffic is managed during the works safely and with minimal impact.

8.0 Cable Pulling

After the ducting is installed, the electrical cables (situated on a drum) are pulled through the ducting by a specialised mechanical winch. The winch will also monitor the tension on the cables being pulled so as not to damage the cables. A guide rope is installed with the ducting to assist in the cable pulling process. The guide rope is also utilised in the cleaning of the installed duct and confirm that the duct is free from debris. A sponge or brush (known as a mandrel) attached to the guide rope is pulled through the installed ducting and can be examined for evidence of debris in the duct. Cable lubricant is applied to the outside of the cables being pulled through the duct. The lubricant assists in the pulling process by reducing friction between the cable, cable rollers and the duct.

9.0 Relocation of Existing Services

In order to facilitate the installation of the proposed UGC, it may be necessary to relocate existing underground services such as water mains, telecoms or existing cables. In advance of any construction activity, the contractor will undertake additional surveys of the proposed route to confirm the presence or otherwise of any services. If found to be present,

- H. Masters-Williams et al (2001) *Control of water pollution from construction sites. Guidance for consultants and contractors* (C532).
- Enterprise Ireland (unknown). *Best Practice Guide (BPGCS005) Oil storage guidelines*.
- Law, C. and D'Aleo, S. (2016) *Environmental good practice on site pocketbook*. (C762) 4th edition. CIRIA.
- CIRIA *Environmental Good Practice on Site (fourth edition) (C741) 2015*.

The proposed works will be carried out in accordance with the following best practice construction measures:

- If required, an ecological clerk of works shall be engaged to periodically inspect all elements of the works for their entire duration.
- All materials shall be stored at the main contractor compound and transported to the works zone immediately prior to construction.
- During the construction period appropriate containment measures such as sandbags or similar, shall be installed on site where material is required to be stored temporarily, thus ensuring adequate protection from silt-laden runoff draining off site.
- Where hedgerows and ditch lines are to be crossed, these will be crossed between mature trees where possible to mitigate disturbing the existing tree line. Where it is required to remove a section of hedgerow or ditch line to facilitate the installation of the cable trench, this will be reinstated as per the landowner requirements and local environment.
- Where drains and watercourses are crossed with underground cables, the release of sediment over baseline conditions will be prevented by the use of silt traps, check dams and/or bunds. These will be put in place in advance of construction works.
- Weather conditions will be considered when planning construction activities to minimise risk of run off from site.
- Where possible, stream crossings will be undertaken in dry conditions when water levels in the streams are low.
- 20 metre exclusion zones will be provided with barriers (sediment fences) between any excavated material and any surface water features to prevent sediment washing into the receiving water environment.
- If dewatering is required as part of the proposed works e.g. in trenches for underground cabling or in wet areas, water must be treated prior to discharge. The Contractor shall employ best practice settling systems to ensure maximum removal of suspended solids prior to discharge of any surface water or groundwater from excavations to receiving waterbodies. This may include treatment via settlement tanks. There will be no direct pumping of water from the works to watercourses at any time.
- The Contractor shall ensure that sediment/silt-traps, and check dams are regularly maintained during the construction phase.
- If very wet ground must be accessed during the construction process bog mats will be used to enable access to these areas by machinery. Temporary roads/access tracks will not be constructed.
- The Contractor shall ensure that all personnel working on site are trained in pollution incident control response. A regular review of weather forecasts of heavy rainfall is required and the Contractor is required to prepare a contingency plan for before and after such events.
- The Contractor will carry out visual examinations of watercourses receiving flows from the proposed works during the construction phase to ensure that sediment is not above baseline conditions.
- Excavations will be left open for minimal periods to avoid acting as a conduit for surface water flows.
- No storage of hydrocarbons or any polluting chemicals will occur within 50m of watercourses or surface water features. Any diesel or fuel oils stored on site will be bunded to 110% of the capacity of the storage tank. Re-

aquatic / riparian species such as Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* and Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*. A sign off sheet will be maintained by the contractor to confirm cleaning.

- Material gathered in the dedicated and contained clean down area will need to be appropriately treated as contaminated material on site.
- For any material entering the site, the supplier must provide an assurance that it is free of invasive species.
- Ensure all site users are aware of invasive species management plan and treatment methodologies. This can be achieved through 'toolbox talks' before works begin on the site.
- Adequate site hygiene signage should be erected in relation to the management of non-native invasive material.

14.0 Waste Management

In Alignment with the principles of the Circular Economy and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2022. Waste generation shall be prevented at source. Materials will be managed to ensure the maximising value of materials throughout its lifecycle.

Excess materials generated during project activities will, wherever feasible shall be classified and managed as by-products. This is to be done in accordance with Article 27 of the European Union (Waste Directive) Regulations 2011 (as amended). It is to be ensured that such materials meet the criteria for by-product status. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be notified in accordance with these provisions.

It is acknowledged that a by-product is not waste, noting that this distinction is central to our material management strategy. Where a by-product classification is not applicable, the prioritisation of reuse, recycling or recovery of materials in line with the waste hierarchy and Circular Economy requirements will be applied.

Materials removed off-site will be re-used as much as possible under the Article 27 notification procedure, and other applicable procedures, to prevent and minimise waste.

Soil and Excavated materials will be treated as potential by-products under Article 27, and if this is not feasible, they will be managed for recycling or recovery in accordance with best environmental practices.

The use and implementation of Article 28 notified materials will remain open that satisfy end-of-waste criteria, particularly as the EPA streamlines its decision-making processes in this area.

Any materials identified as containing invasive species will be appropriately segregated, treated and transported to authorised facilities for safe disposal or treatment. This is to be done in compliance with national and EU environmental regulations

All waste arising during the construction phase will be managed and disposed of in a way that ensures the provisions of the Waste Management Act 1996 and associated amendments, and regulations of the Waste Management Plan are followed.

15.0 Archaeology

The following monitoring works and mitigation is proposed regarding archaeology:

- Construction of the cable route will be archaeologically monitored, including pre-construction geotechnical site investigations.

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September 2025

Appropriate Assessment – Stage 1: Screening Report

Proposed Underground Grid Connection

at

Swordlestown South and Swordlestown North, Co. Kildare

On behalf of

Strategic Power Projects Ltd.



Kildare County Council
Planning Department

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MALONE O'REGAN

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA

03 OCT 2025

LTR DATED FROM

LDG. 323792-21

ACP. 323792-21

**Appropriate Assessment – Stage 1: Screening Report
Proposed Underground Grid Connection
Strategic Power Projects Ltd.
Swordlestown South and Swordlestown North, Co. Kildare**

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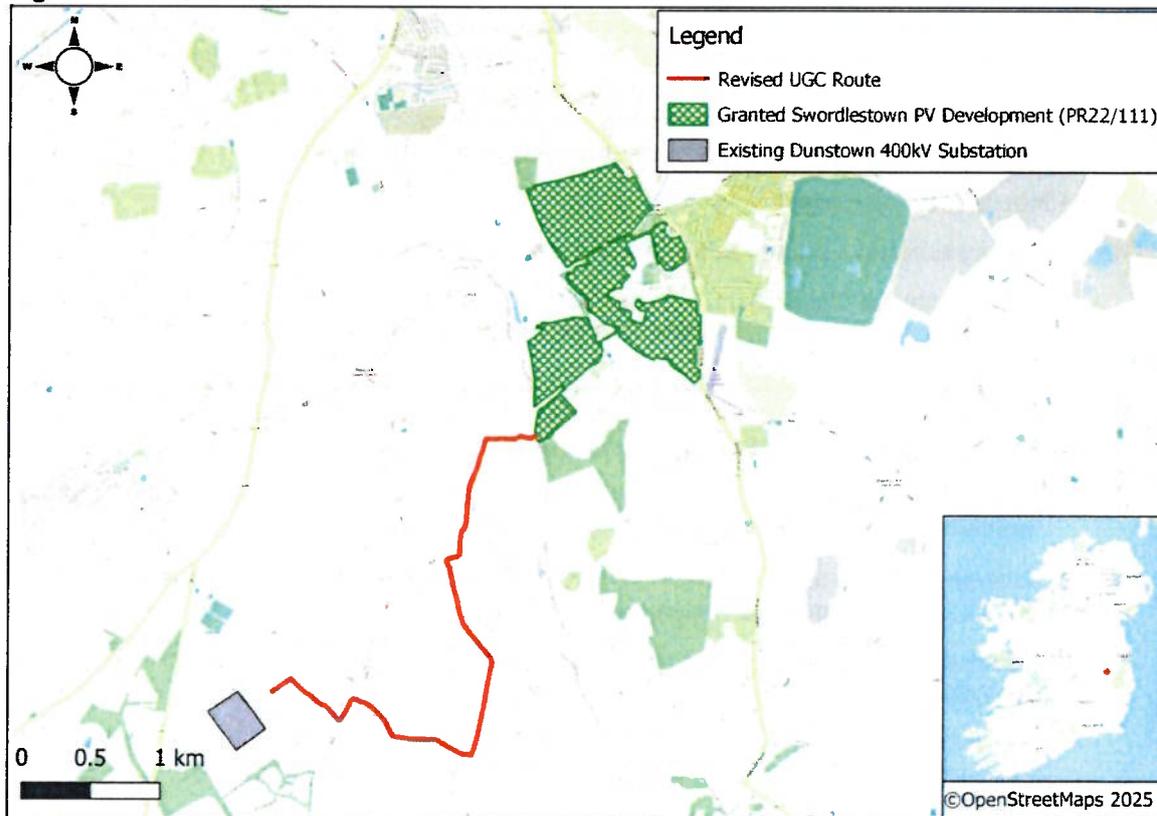
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Figure 1-1: Site Location



1.1 Background

The Proposed UGC will serve as critical infrastructure that will intrinsically link the consented solar PV development (ref: 22/111) to the national grid as outlined in Section 1.1.1 below.

1.1.1 Solar PV Farm

A notification of a decision to grant permission for the Solar Photovoltaic ('PV') farm (ref: 22/111) was issued by KCC on the 19th July 2022. The decision was appealed via An Bord Pleanála ('ABP') (ref: ABP-314320-22). ABP granted permission for the Solar PV farm on 6th February 2024. The Solar PV development, when delivered, will be of critical national importance in helping to facilitate more renewables on the Irish electricity grid.

1.2 Need for the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development will connect a large renewable energy project (Solar PV farm) to the national grid. This Solar PV farm is ca. 122 hectares ('ha') and will provide an estimated 125 Megawatts ('MW'). This will provide much-needed green electricity to the grid to assist in decarbonising the Irish electrical network.

1.3 The Applicant

Strategic Power Projects Ltd. is an Irish-based firm that develops renewable energy projects within Ireland. The founders of the company have extensive experience in developing a range of renewable energy projects in both Ireland and the United Kingdom.

1.4 Statement of Authority

This report was reviewed and approved by Ms. Kathryn Broderick, Principal Consultant - Ecologist. Kathryn has over nine years' experience working in the ecological consultancy

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [Natura 2000] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, shall be subjected to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implication for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public”.

The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation, and compensatory measures. First, the project should aim to avoid any negative impacts on European sites by identifying possible impacts early in the planning stage and designing the project in order to avoid such impacts. Second, mitigation measures should be applied, if necessary, during the AA process to the point, where no adverse impacts on the site(s) remain. If the project is still likely to result in adverse effects, and no further practicable mitigation is possible, it must be rejected unless it follows the process established under Article 6(4). If the project is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI test) under Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, then compensation measures are required for any remaining adverse effects.

1.6 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

There are four distinct stages to undertaking an AA as outlined in the current European Union (‘EU’) and Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (‘DoEHLG’) guidance:

Stage 1: Screening

This process identifies the potential impacts of a plan or project on a Natura site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. If potentially significant impacts are identified, the plan or project cannot be screened out and must proceed to Stage 2.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

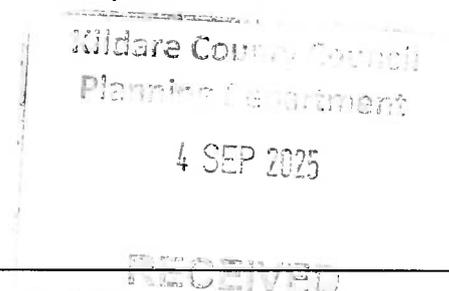
Where potentially significant impacts are identified, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts is required; this stage considers the appropriateness of those mitigation measures in the context of maintaining the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites. If potential significant impacts cannot be eliminated with appropriate mitigation measures, the assessment must proceed to Stage 3.

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

This process examines alternative ways to achieve the objectives of the plan or project that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 site if mitigation measures are deemed insufficient.

Stage 4: Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (‘IROPI’)

Assessment where no alternative solution exists for a plan or project, and where adverse impacts remain. This includes an assessment of compensatory measures, which, in the case of projects or plans, can be considered necessary for IROPI.



2.1.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

European sites are only at risk from significant effects where a source-pathway-receptor link exists between a Proposed Development and European sites. This can take the form of a direct impact (e.g. where the Proposed Development is located within / in close vicinity to the boundary of a European site), or an indirect impact where impacts outside of the European site but affect ecological receptors within (e.g. impacts to water quality which can affect estuarine habitats at a distance from the impact source).

The likely effects of the Proposed Development on any European site have been assessed using a source-pathway-receptor model. A source-pathway-receptor model is a standard tool used in environmental assessment and is recommended by OPR Guidance [8], [9]. The model comprises:

- A source: any potential impacts from the Proposed Development, e.g. the runoff of sediment / construction pollution;
- A pathway: the means or route by which a source can affect the ecological receptor; and,
- A receptor: the qualifying interests and / or special conservation interests of the European Designated sites.

In order to establish the Zone of Influence of the Proposed Development works, the likely key environmental impacts / changes associated with the Proposed Development were determined having regard to the project characteristics set out in Section 3.3 of this report. ZOI for various potential impact pathways are discussed in Section 4.1.

2.1.3 Desk-Based Studies

A desk-based review of information sources was completed, which included the following sources of information:

- Review of aerial maps of the Site and surrounding area;
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service ('NPWS') website was consulted with regard to the most up-to-date details on conservation objectives for the European Designated sites relevant to this assessment [10];
- The National Biodiversity Data Centre ('NBDC') website was consulted with regard to species distributions [11];
- The Environmental Protection Agency ('EPA') Maps website was consulted to obtain details about watercourses in the vicinity of the Site [12];
- The KCC Planning Portal to obtain details about existing / proposed developments in the vicinity of the Site [13]; and,
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's planning portal – the National Planning Application Database was reviewed to obtain details about existing / proposed developments in the vicinity of the Site [14].

2.1.4 Field Survey

A Site walkover was undertaken on the 19th January 2023 by a suitably qualified and experienced MOR Environmental Ecologist to assess the extent and the quality of habitats present on the Site and to identify any potential ecological receptors associated with the European sites. An updated Site walkover was undertaken on the 9th April 2025.

Kildare County Council
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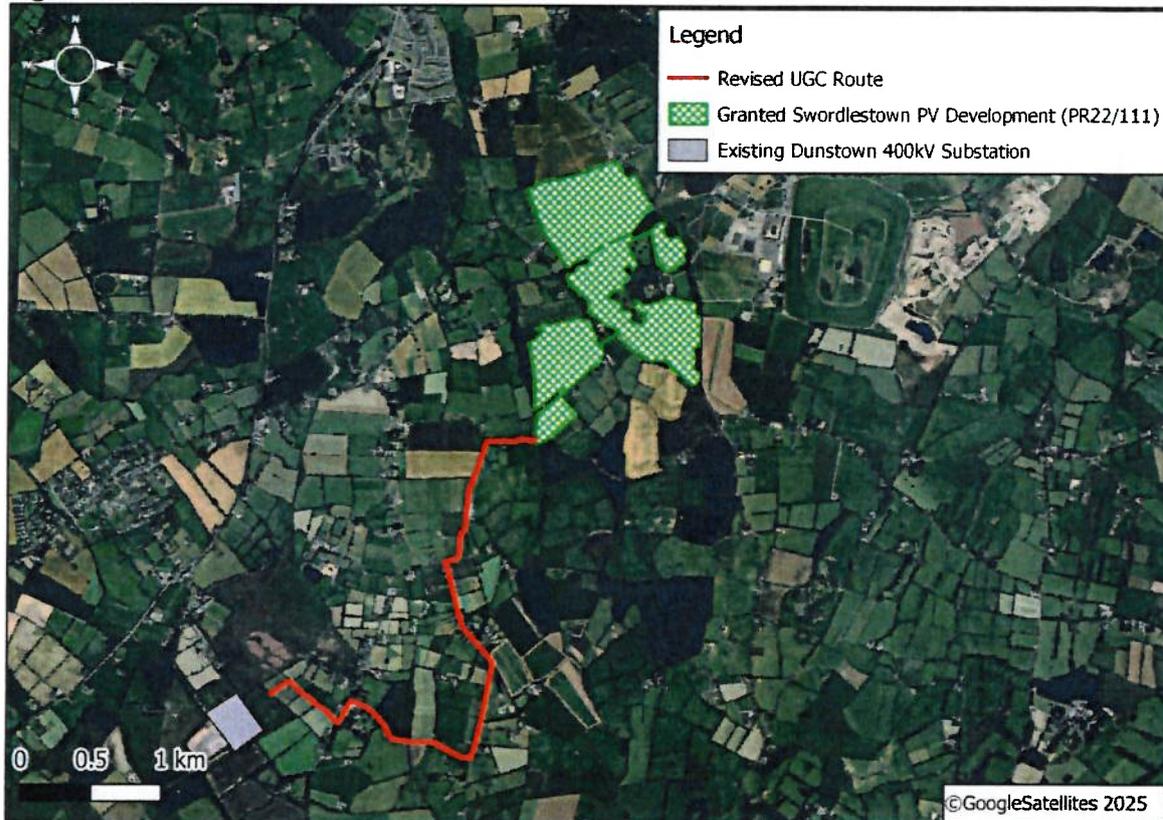
3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Proposed UGC Route

The proposed UGC will be used to connect the permitted Swordlestown Solar Photovoltaic ('PV') Development (ref: 22/111) to the existing ESB-owned Dunnstown 400kV Substation.

The proposed UGC will be ca.4.7km in length, of which ca. 3km will be on the public road network and will traverse through the townlands of Swordlestown South, Flemingstown North, Mullcash Middle, Mulcash South, Flemingstown South or Tonaphuca, Coughlanstown West, Johnstown or Dunshane, Dunnstown, Co. Kildare situated ca. 5.5km south of Naas. The Proposed Development Layout is illustrated in Figure 3-1 below.

Figure 3-1: Site Context



3.2 Watercourses within the Vicinity of the Site

The proposed UGC route is situated within the Liffey and Dublin Bay WFD Catchment [Catchment_ID: 09] and the Liffey_SC_060 subcatchment [Subcatchment_ID: 09_6] [12].

As per EPA maps, there is one hydrological feature of note within the vicinity of the proposed UGC route, the Flemington South Stream.

1. The Flemington South Stream

The Flemington South Stream is located directly adjacent to the proposed UGC route. This stream flows in a southerly direction, and drains into the River Liffey, ca. 2.9km downstream of the Site. The River Liffey is hydrologically connected to the North Dublin Bay SAC, South Dublin Bay SAC, Wicklow Mountains SAC, Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA, South Dublin Bay SPA and River Tolka Estuary SPA, and North Dublin Bay SPA.

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3.3 Proposed Development

The works will consist of the installation of six 125mm diameter HDPE power cable ducts, one earth continuity conductor duct, and one 125mm diameter HDPE communications duct to be installed in an excavated trench, typically 1000mm wide by 1265mm deep, with variations on this design to adapt to service and watercourse crossings.

The cable duct installations and the trench reinstatement that will occur on public roads will be in accordance with the Roads Department of Kildare County Council. Installation works that will occur on private lands will be in accordance with best practice guidelines and the landowners' requirements. All works will be completed to ESB specification.

Full details of the proposed UGC development are provided within the TLI Group Construction Methodology Report, which will be submitted in support of this application.

3.4 UGC Route

The Site is located predominantly within the agricultural landscape and existing road infrastructure. The approximate UGC is summarised in Table 3-1 below.

Table 3-1: Swordlestown UGC Route Summary

Route Type	Approximate Length (km)	Approximate Total Length (km)
Private Lands	Ca. 1.6km	Ca. 4.7km
Public Roads	Ca. 3.1km	

The first section of the connection route traverse the proposed Battery Storage site and converges onto local public road network to traverse within sections of the L-6044, third party green field parcel and forestry plantation before reemerging onto the local road network to carry predominantly in a northerly direction towards Swordlestown Solar PV Development (PR: 22/111) within the curtilage of localised roads (L-6045 & L-20231), respectively. Refer to Figure 3-1.

3.5 Construction Methodology

3.5.1 Construction Procedures

During the Construction Phase, the methods of working will comply with all relevant legislation and best practice guidelines in reducing the environmental adverse effects of the works. Although Construction Phase adverse effects are generally of a short-term duration and are localised in nature, the adverse effects will be reduced as far as practicable through compliance with current construction industry guidelines. Detailed method statements will be prepared in respect of each aspect of the Proposed Development.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan ('CEMP') will be prepared by the appointed contractor and will be submitted to the planning authority in advance of works commencing at the Site. The following guidance will be referred to and will be followed during the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development to prevent water pollution that may occur within the area:

- C532 – Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites. Guidance for Consultants and Contractors [17];
- C648 - Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects: Technical Guidance [18];
- C649 - Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects: Site Guide [19];
- C811 - Environmental Good Practice on Site (5th edition) [20];

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separation distances in accordance with the ducting design and Irish Water specifications;

- Traffic management measures will be implemented in accordance with a detailed Traffic Management Plan, which will be prepared and agreed with KCC in advance of the works;
- The base of the excavated trench will be lined with sand bedding to be imported to site from a local licensed supplier. The 125mm diameter HDPE cable ducts, the 125mm communications ducts and the 63mm earth continuity ducts will be placed into the prepared trench, inspected, and backfilled;
- Any earthen (sod) banks to be excavated will be carefully opened with the surface sods being stored separately and maintained for use during reinstatement;
- Public road trenching will be reinstated in line with KCC requirements and as per the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads (Purple Book – Second Edition (Rev 1) April 2017);
- Where required, grass will be reinstated by either seeding or by replacing with grass turves;
- Where hedgerows and ditch lines are to be crossed, these will be crossed between mature trees where possible to mitigate disturbing the existing tree line. Where it is required to remove a section of hedgerow or ditch line to facilitate the installation of the cable trench, this will be reinstated as per landowner requirements and local environment;
- No more than a 100-metre section of trench will be opened at any one time. The second 100 metres will only be excavated once the majority of reinstatement has been completed on the first section;
- The excavation, installation and reinstatement process will take on average of 1 no. day to complete a 100m section;
- Works will only be conducted in normal working hours of Monday to Friday 08:00 to 17:00 and Saturday 08:00 to 13:00, with no works on Sundays or Bank Holidays except in exceptional circumstances or in the event of an emergency; and,
- Following the installation of ducting, pulling the cable will take approximately 1 no. day between each section.

3.5.3 Managing Excess Material from Trench

All excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trench prior to re-use in the trench reinstatement (where applicable). Stockpiles will be restricted to less than 2m in height. Where excess material exists, it will be handled and treated as a by-product in accordance with principles of the Circular economy. Stockpiles will be located in suitably safe locations, and all stockpiling locations will be subject to approval by the Site Manager and Project Ecological Clerk of Works ('ECoW').

Excavated material shall be employed to backfill the trench where appropriate, and any surplus material will be transported off-site to a fully authorised soil recovery facility.

3.5.4 Storage and Management of Plant and Machinery

All plant, machinery and equipment will be stored on-site within the works area or within the temporary construction compounds to be located at the Swordlestown Solar PV Site, oils and fuels will not be stored on-site and will be stored in an appropriately bunded area within the temporary construction compounds.

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4 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN DESIGNATED SITES

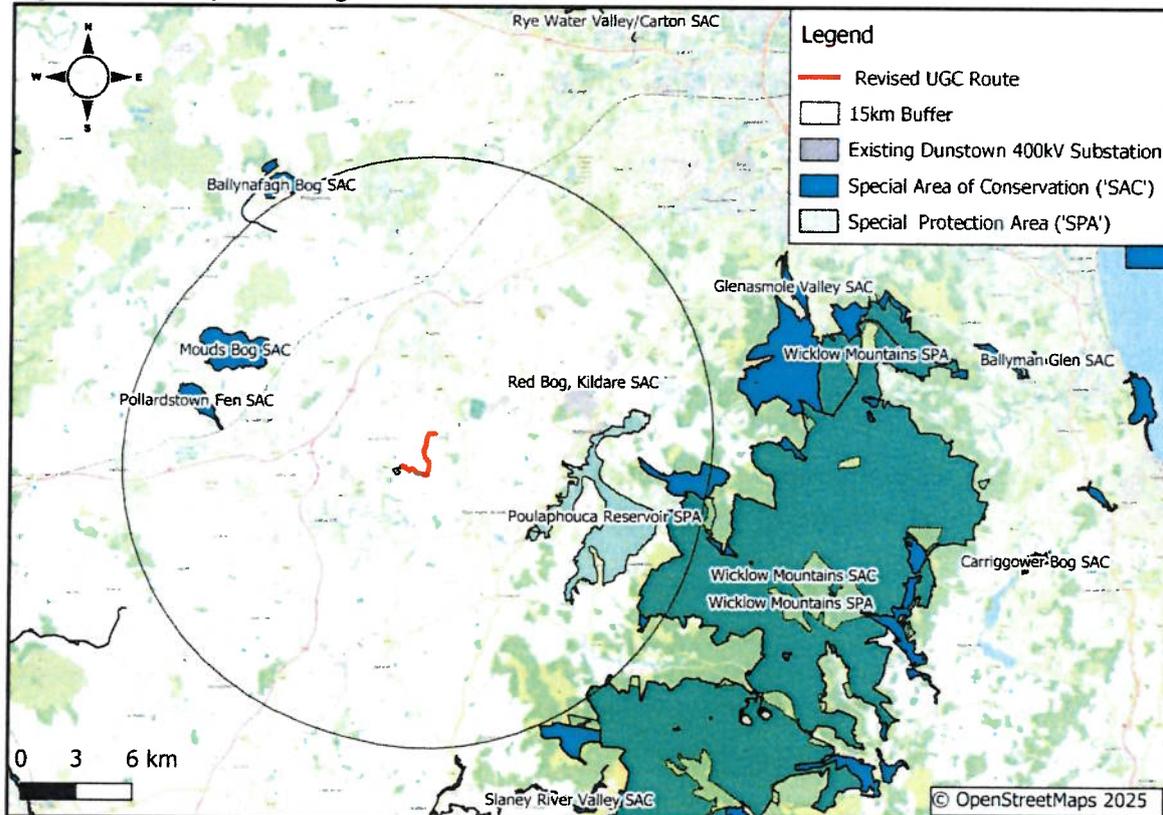
In accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance [23] a list of European Designated sites that can be potentially affected by the Proposed Development has been compiled. Guidance for Planning Authorities prepared by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government [5] states that defining the likely zone of impact for the screening and the approach used will depend on the nature, size, location and the likely significant effects of the project. The key variables determining whether or not a particular European site is likely to be significantly affected by a project are:

- The physical distance from the project to the European site;
- The presence of impact pathways;
- The sensitivities of the ecological receptors; and,
- The potential for in-combination effects.

All SPAs and SACs within 15km have been considered to assess their ecological pathways and functional links. As acknowledged in the Office of Public Relations ('OPR') guidelines [1], few projects have a zone of influence this large. However, the identification of European sites within 15km has become widely accepted as the starting point for the screening process. For this reason, all SPAs and SACs within 15km have been identified for consideration as part of the screening.

There are seven European sites located within 15km of the Site - these are identified in Figure 4-1 and Table 4-1.

Figure 4-1: European Designated sites within 15km of the Site



of perennial ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), clover, ribwort plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) dandelion (*Taraxacum officinale*) and bitter dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*).

Sections of the agricultural grassland were wetter in nature. Species present included common rush (*Juncus effusus*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*).

Arable Crops (BC1)

This habitat was present within the southwestern section of the Site. This field was cultivated and managed as arable land. At the time of the survey, the field was stubble crop.

Tilled Land (BC3)

This habitat was identified within the southwestern section of the Site. At the time of the survey, it had been recently ploughed and no notable species were recorded.

Hedgerow / Treeline (WL1) / (WL2)

The species present included hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) common snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*) cedar (*Cedrus sp.*) goat willow (*Salix caprea*) blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*) ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*)

The understorey consisted of ivy (*Hedera helix*) soft shield fern (*Rubus fruticosus*) drooping sedge (*Carex pendula*) cleavers (*Galium aparine*) hearts tongue fern (*Asplenium scolopendrium*).

Drainage Ditches (FW4)

The UGC route will transverse one drainage ditch onsite, located in the southwestern section of the Site. This drainage ditch had no discernible flow. The species present included meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) common rush and stinging nettle. See Figure 4-3 below.

Lowland / Depositing Stream (FW2)

The Flemington South Stream is located directly adjacent to the proposed UGC route. This stream flows in a southerly direction, and drains into the River Liffey, ca. 2.9km downstream of the Site.

Oak-birch-holly woodland (WN1)

This habitat was identified to the southwest of the Site. The species present was birch (*Betula sp.*). The understorey consisted of grasses (*Poa sp.*) and drooping sedge. The UGC route will transverse through a section of this habitat.

Overall Habitat Loss/ Degradation

The Site is not located within or directly adjacent to any European Designated sites; however, the boundaries of the six European Designated sites, as listed above, are located within 15km from the Site. The Site is located within existing road infrastructure and an area of agricultural grassland only. No designated habitats were identified within the Site.

No impacts associated with designated habitat loss / degradation as a result of the Proposed Development, given the distance separating the Site from the European Designated sites.

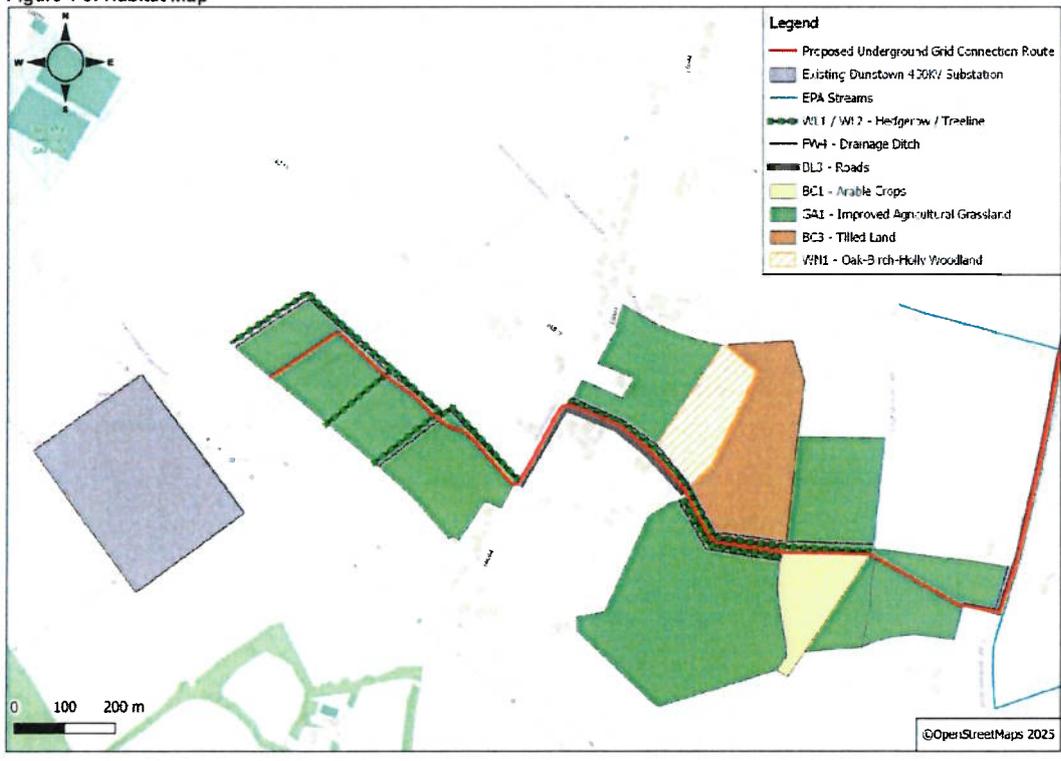
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Figure 4-3: Habitat Map



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4.1.4 Noise / Disturbance

Noise from the construction activity has the potential to cause disturbance to resting, foraging and commuting qualifying species of the European sites. As there will be no in-river works required for the Proposed Development, there will be no potential for underwater noise impacts beyond the immediate vicinity of the Site.

Individual species will provoke different behavioural responses to disturbances at different distances from the source of disturbance.

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly the National Roads Authority) has produced a series of best practice planning and construction guidelines for the treatment of certain protected mammal species (i.e. otter), which indicate that disturbance to terrestrial mammals would not extend beyond 150m [24]; and,
- Studies have noted that different types of disturbance stimuli are characterised by different avifaunal reactions; however, in general, a distance of 300m can be used to represent the maximum likely disturbance distance for waterfowl [25].

The Zol for noise and disturbance is defined as the Site with a 300m buffer.

No European sites were identified within the zone of influence for noise/ disturbance arising from the Proposed Development. Therefore, no impacts associated with noise or disturbance will occur as a result of the Proposed Development and the European Designated sites have been scoped out for further consideration in relation to potential noise impacts.

4.1.5 Invasive Species

No medium or high-impact invasive species (including those that are regulated under the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 374/2024) [26]) were recorded within the Site. Therefore, no impacts associated with the spread of invasive species as a result of the Proposed Development will arise.

4.2 Zol Conclusion

The Site is not located within or directly adjacent to any European sites; however, the boundaries of seven are located within 15km of the Site.

Given the localised nature and short duration of the construction works, distance separating the Site from the Red Bog, Kildare SAC, Mouds Bog SAC, Pollardstown Fen SAC, Wicklow Mountains SAC, Ballynafagh Lake SAC, and Wicklow Mountains SPA, and the intervening lands separating the Site from the European Designated sites and the lack of impact pathways, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not result in adverse effects to these European Sites and they have therefore been screened out from further consideration.

However, a hydrological connection was identified between the Site and the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and the South Dublin Bay SAC, ca. 35km from the Site via the Flemington South Stream. Therefore, on a precautionary basis, these European Sites were screened in for further consideration to assess potential adverse effects resulting from the Proposed Development.

Table 4-2: European Designated Sites within Zol

Site Name	Code	Distance at closest point and source-pathway-receptor link
South Dublin Bay SAC	000210	The Site is located ca. 35km southwest of the South Dublin Bay SAC see Figure 4-2. Given the hydrological connection via the Flemington South Stream between the Site to the SAC, water quality impairment will be taken forward for further consideration.

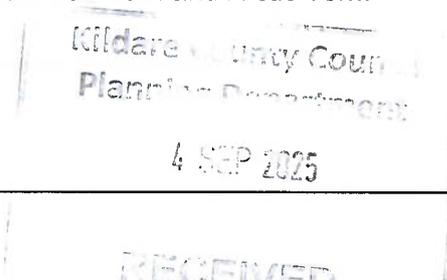
Qualifying Habitats (* denotes Priority Habitat)	Code	Site Specific Conservation Objective
		<p>Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and • the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance <p>exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.
<p><i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand</p>	<p>1310</p>	<p>The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest.</p> <p>Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and • the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance <p>exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.
<p>Embryonic shifting dunes</p>	<p>2110</p>	<p>The overall aim of the Habitats Directive is to maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of habitats and species of community interest.</p> <p>Favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • its natural range, and area it covers within that range, are stable or increasing, and • the specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance <p>exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future, and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the conservation status of its typical species is favourable.

4.4 South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA (Site Code:004024)

The South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA comprises a substantial part of Dublin Bay. It includes the intertidal area between the River Liffey and Dun Laoghaire, and the estuary of the River Tolka to the north of the River Liffey, as well as Booterstown Marsh. A portion of the shallow marine waters of the bay is also included.

This SPA is an important site for wintering waterfowl being an integral part of the internationally important Dublin Bay complex. This site supports internationally important populations of Light-bellied Brent Goose and nationally important numbers of Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover, Grey Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Bar-tailed Godwit, Redshank and Black-headed Gull and also supports populations of Great Crested Grebe, Curlew and Turnstone.

This site is a significant site for wintering gulls, with a nationally important population of Black-headed Gull, and also Common Gull and Herring Gull. Also, this site is selected for designation for its autumn tern populations: Roseate Tern, Common Tern and Arctic Tern.



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Species Names	Scientific Name	Code	Site Specific Conservation Objective
			- No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>	A162	To maintain the favourable conservation condition, which will be achieved when: - Long term population trends are stable or increasing - No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
Black-headed Gull	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>	A179	To maintain the favourable conservation condition, which will be achieved when: - Long term population trends are stable or increasing - No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-headed gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation
Roseate Tern	<i>Sterna dougallii</i>	A192	To maintain the favourable conservation condition, which will be achieved when: - No significant decline in passage population individuals, roost areas and prey biomass availability. - No significant increase in barriers to connectivity - Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the numbers of roseate tern among the post-breeding aggregation of terns
Common Tern	<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	A193	To maintain the favourable conservation condition, which will be achieved when: - No significant decline in breeding population abundance, productivity rate of fledged young per breeding pair, passage population individuals, distribution of breeding colonies, roosting areas and prey biomass availability. - No significant increase in barriers to connectivity - Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the numbers of roseate tern among the breeding populations and among post-breeding aggregation of terns
Arctic Tern	<i>Sterna paradisaea</i>	A194	To maintain the favourable conservation condition, which will be achieved when: - No significant decline in passage population individuals, roost areas and prey biomass availability. - No significant increase in barriers to connectivity - Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the numbers of roseate tern among the post-breeding aggregation of terns
Wetland and Waterbirds		A999	To maintain the favourable conservation condition, which will be achieved when: - The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 2,192ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

4.5 Conservation Objectives

European and national legislation places a collective obligation on Ireland and its citizens to maintain a favourable conservation status at candidate and designated Natura 2000 Sites. The Government and its agencies are responsible for the implementation and enforcement of regulations that will ensure the ecological integrity of these sites.

5 STUDY RESULTS

5.1 Desk-Based Study Results

5.1.1 NBDC Records

Table 5-1 provides a summary of records of legally protected or otherwise notable species protected under the South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA that occur within 2km of the Site at the time of writing this report [28]. The following NBDC 2km grids were checked: N81R, N81W, N81V, N81X, N91A, N91B and N91C [28].

Following a review of the NBDC's website, grid squares (N81R, N81W, N81V, N81X, N91A, N91B and N91C), where no protected or otherwise notable species protected under the South Dublin Bay SAC and South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA occur within 2km of the Site were recorded.

A parameter of 10 years was chosen to allow for habitat adaptation and modification; it is considered that any records over 10 years old are not representative of the current distribution of species populations.

5.2 Field-Based Survey Results

5.2.1 Habitat Assessment

As outlined in Section 4.1.1, the Site is comprised of eight habitats:

- Buildings and Artificial Surfaces – Roads (BL3);
- Improved Agricultural Grassland (GA1);
- Arable Crops (BC1);
- Tilled Land (BC3);
- Hedgerow / Treeline (WL1) / (WL2);
- Drainage Ditches (FW4);
- Lowland / Depositing Stream (FW2); and,
- Oak-birch-holly woodland (WN1).

No designated habitats were identified on-site. Furthermore, the on-site habitats were not considered optimal for any species designated for the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA or the South Dublin Bay SAC.

5.2.2 Other Habitats / Species

No other features of nature conservation importance, such as species afforded legal protection under either Irish or European legislation, were identified during the walkover on-site or within the vicinity of the Site.



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It is considered that any potential pollutants will either be diluted within the watercourse or pollutants, such as sediment, will settle to the bottom of the watercourse prior to discharge into the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA and the South Dublin Bay SAC.

Nonetheless, all construction works will be undertaken in accordance with recognised best practice guidance as outlined in Section 3.5 of this report. It can, therefore, be concluded that the Proposed Development will not have any adverse effects on either the surface water or groundwater quality of any European Designated sites or any of the designated habitats or species.

It can, therefore, be concluded that the construction or operational phase of the Proposed Development will result in any adverse effects to designated species, habitats or to the integrity of any European Designated sites.

6.2 Analysis of 'In-Combination' Effects

The Habitats Directive requires competent authorities to make an appropriate assessment of any plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

As described above, the proposed work alone will unlikely have any direct or indirect adverse effects on any of the European Designated sites located within 15km of the Site.

A review of the KCC Planning ePlan website [13] did not identify any current or previous granted plans or projects in the immediate vicinity that are considered likely in combination with the Proposed Development to result in significant impacts on any European Designated sites.

However, the following planning applications listed in Table 6-1 are currently being assessed by the KCC within the planning system, all which are located in the vicinity of the proposed UGC.

Table 6-1: Planning Applications within the vicinity of the Site

Application Ref	Planning Status	Development Description	Documentation Submitted
22111	Notification of Grant Received by KCC. Appealed by third party (ABP 314320-22)	A 10-year planning permission for development at Swordlestown North and Swordlestown South, County Kildare. The development will consist of the construction of solar PV development on a c.129 ha site and all associated ancillary development works.	Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening was completed. Progression to Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement was not considered necessary.
22261	Final Grant Received	The construction on an American barn stable block, hayshed and dungstead, and the upgrade of the existing agricultural entrance to recessed entrance along with all associated site development works.	Appropriate Assessment was not required.
22296	Final Grant Received	The amendment of Condition No.2(b) of Planning File Ref 92/786 to remove sterilisation of a portion of the land to allow for the erection of the proposed house, new vehicle storey dwelling, new vehicle entrance, domestic garage, treatment system and percolation area along with all associated works.	Appropriate Assessment was not required.

7 SCREENING CONCLUSIONS AND STATEMENT

The screening process has examined the details of the Proposed Development and has considered the potential for causing adverse effects on Natura 2000 European sites and their qualifying features of interests within a 15km radius of the Proposed Development.

Seven designated sites - the Red Bog, Kildare SAC, Mouds Bog SAC, Pollardstown Fen SAC, Wicklow Mountains SAC, Ballynafagh Lake SAC, Wicklow Mountains SPA and Poulaphouca Reservoir SPA - are located within a 15km radius of the Proposed Development.

In addition, the South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA and the South Dublin Bay SAC are located ca. 35km northeast of the Site, however, a hydrological connection was identified via the Flemington South Stream and, therefore, as a precautionary measure further consideration was also given to these European Designated sites.

However, as described in Section 4 and Section 6, given the nature of the Proposed Development works, the fact that no in-river works will be undertaken, there will be no direct discharges to surface water or groundwater during the installation of the cable, given the distance separating the sites, and the multiple tributaries entering the watercourse prior to discharging into the South Dublin Bay and Tolka Estuary SPA and the South Dublin Bay SAC, it can be concluded that the Proposed Development will not result in any significant impacts either directly or indirectly on the conservation objectives or status of the listed European Designated sites and will not result in the direct loss or disturbance of any Annex I habitats and / or Annex II species for which the European Designated sites are designated.

It has been objectively concluded, following an examination, analysis and evaluation of the relevant information, that the Proposed Development either alone, or in-combination with other plans, projects or land uses, have not had and will not have any direct or indirect significant effects on any European Designated sites in light of the site's conservation objectives and best scientific knowledge, and no reasonable scientific doubt exists in relation to this conclusion.

Accordingly, the progression to Stage 2 of Appropriate Assessment process (i.e., preparation of a Natura Impact Statement) was not considered necessary.



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