

Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

Culmullin 220kV Substation

Energia Solar Holdings

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

AECOM was commissioned by Energia Solar Holdings (the 'Applicant') to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening in relation to the proposed construction of a 220 kilo Volt (kV) Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) substation, named Culmullin 220kV Substation, located at Woodtown, Co. Meath (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'). The AA Screening Report (included in Appendix A) concluded that, on the basis of objective scientific information, there were *no likely significant effects* from the Proposed Development on European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

As a precautionary approach, however, and given the interrelationship to the surrounding proposed solar farm development, the applicant has decided to undertake an AA as the broader solar farm screened in for AA. Therefore, a NIS has prepared for the Proposed Development to assess whether the Proposed Development could have adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites.

1.2 Description of the Proposed Development

This section provides a brief overview of the Proposed Development and a summary description of the existing Site.

1.2.1 The Proposed Development

The Proposed Development is located at Woodtown, Co. Meath and comprises a new 220kV AIS substation looped into the existing Maynooth – Gorman 220kV overhead line directly to the west ('Substation Site'), passing bays in five locations along the public road leading up to the substation to facilitate car passing ('Passing Bay Site') and an access road to the Substation Site ('Access Road Site'). The Proposed Development is shown on drawing 60657534-ACM-DWG-500 Culmullin 220kV Substation Site Location.

The Proposed Development will comprise a new 220 AIS substation, named Culmullin 220kV Substation, looped into the existing Maynooth – Gorman 220kV overhead line (OHL) directly to the west. The Substation Site is located at Woodtown, Co. Meath. The substation and grid connection will be constructed by the Applicant to EirGrid specifications and ownership will be transferred to ESB/EirGrid following construction.

The Proposed Development comprises:

The Proposed Development comprises:

- A new 220kV substation compound (approximately 2.24ha) consisting of:
 - Outdoor AIS equipment rated for the system voltage of 220kV equipped with 4 number 220kV cable bays.
 - Two number single storey buildings including an EirGrid standard control building with ancillary services, and a customer Medium Voltage (MV) module.
 - Two 180 megavolt amperes (MVA) oil-filled step-down power transformers within bunded enclosures.
 - 14 lightning protection masts (25m in height).
 - A 2.6m tall palisade fence.
- Two new Line Cable Interface Mast (LCIMs), under existing OHL to facilitate the removal of a short section (approximately 60m) of the existing 220kV lines.
- Approximately 120m of new underground cables to connect the substation to the grid.
- Adjacent telecoms mast area (225m²) for substation communications between Maynooth and Gorman 220kV substations at either end of the existing 220kV OHL.
- Five passing bays on the L62051.

In addition to the above the Proposed Development will include the following:

- New site access off the L62051 and internal site access road.
- Car parking.
- Drainage infrastructure.
- All associated and ancillary site development works.

The redline boundary of the Proposed Development covers an approximate area of 7.3 hectares (ha), with the substation footprint covering approximately 2.24ha, access road and passing bay works footprint covering approximately 1.05ha.

1.2.2 Overview of the Site

The Substation Site and Access Road Site of the Proposed Development is located at Woodtown, Co. Meath (ITM Coordinates: 690076, 750194). The R154 (regional road) (Trim Road) is approximately 2.9km north, R125 is approximately 2.5km east, R156 is approximately 3.3km south and the L2207 local road is approximately 2.7km to the west.

The Passing Bay Site of the Proposed Development is located in Culmullin, Co. Meath (ITM Coordinates: 691508, 749959). It is located along the existing Culmullin Road (L62051).

The nearest residential settlements (towns and villages) to the Site are Summerhill, approximately 6km to the southwest, Trim approximately 12km to the northwest, Dunshaughlin, approximately 7km to the northeast, Dunboyne approximately 13.5km southeast.

The majority of the Substation Site and Access Road Site is within agricultural fields encompassed by hedgerows. The majority of the Passing Bay Site is located on existing paved road with small sections of grassy verges. The land immediately surrounding the Site is predominately agricultural, with boundary hedgerows and small pockets of woodland.

The Site is shown on Figure 1.

1.3 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, which is more commonly known as 'the Habitats Directive', requires Member States of the European Union (EU) to take measures to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and wild species of fauna and flora of Community interest. The provisions of the Habitats Directive require that Member States designate Special Area of Conservation (SAC)s for habitats listed in Annex I and for species listed in Annex II.

Similarly, Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (more commonly known as 'the Birds Directive') provides a framework for the conservation and management of wild birds. It also requires Member States to identify and classify Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species. Collectively, SACs and SPAs are known as 'European sites'.

In Ireland, the habitats and/or species which are the reason(s) for designation of an SAC are referred to as the 'Qualifying Interest(s)' (QI) of that site. In relation to SPAs, the bird species for which a particular site is designated are referred to as the 'Special Conservation Interests' (SCI).

Under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, any plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, must be subject to an AA of its implications for the SAC/SPA in view of the site's conservation objectives.

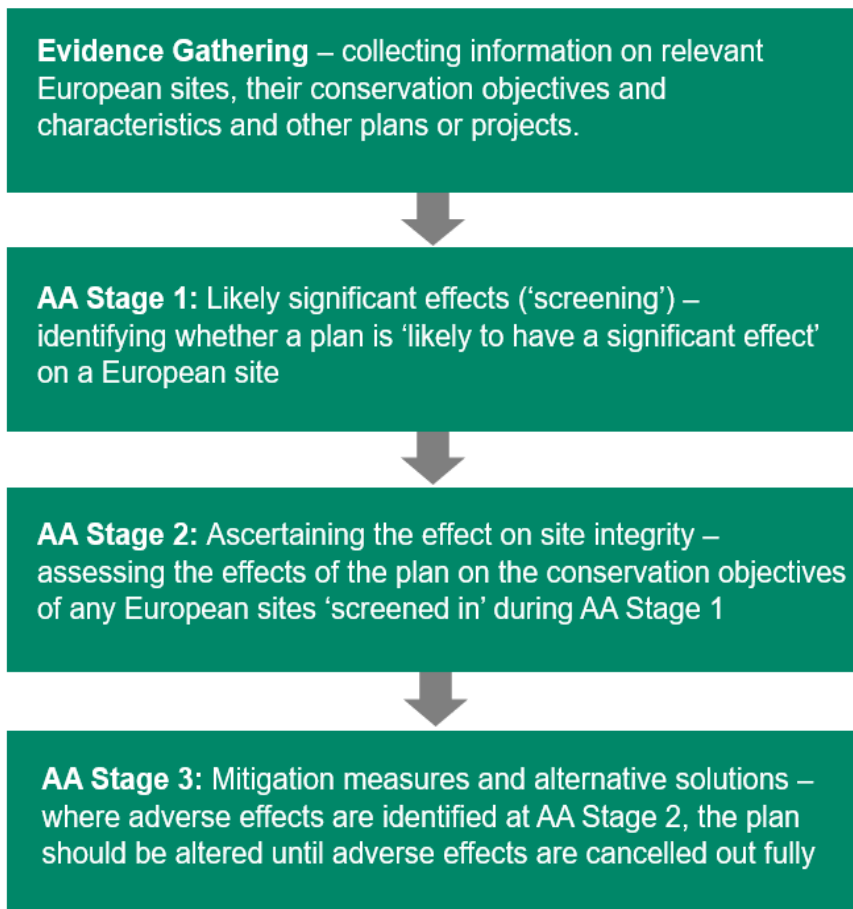
In the Republic of Ireland, the requirements of Article 6(3) are transposed into national law through Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (known as the 'PDA') for planning matters, and by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 in relation to other relevant approvals/consents. The legislative provisions for AA Screening for planning applications are set out in Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority, which is responsible for determining decisions regarding AA, is the relevant consenting body for each plan or project, which in this case is Meath County Council (MCC).

1.4 Overview of the Appropriate Assessment Process

The process required by Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive for AA is stepwise and must be followed in sequence. Diagram 1 below outlines the stages of AA according to current European Commission (EC) guidance (EC, 2021). The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations, and any relevant changes to the plan or project until no significant adverse effects remain.

Diagram 1 The Stages of Appropriate Assessment (taken from EC, 2021)



The first step in the sequence of tests is to establish whether an AA is required. This is often referred to as ‘AA Screening’. The purpose of AA Screening is to determine, in view of best available scientific knowledge, whether a plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could have likely significant effects on a European site, in view of that site’s conservation objectives. For this purpose and as a result of case law ‘likely’ means ‘possible’.

Section 177(U) of the PDA provides: “*The competent authority shall determine that an appropriate assessment of a ... proposed development ... is required if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that the ... proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, will have a significant effect on a European site*”.

If the competent authority determines that there are no likely significant effects (including ‘in combination’ effects from other plans or projects), then no further assessment is necessary and the plan or project can, subject to any other issues, be taken forward. If, however, the competent authority determines that there are likely significant effects, or if there is reasonable scientific doubt, then the next step in the process must be initiated and a detailed AA be undertaken.

Case law has established that AA is not a technical term. It refers to whatever level of assessment is appropriate to form a conclusion regarding effects on the integrity (coherence of structure and function) of European sites. As such, it has no pre-ordained methodology. The work involved is essentially identical to that of the AA Screening stage but involves more detail and the methodology is tailored specifically to the impact pathways and the European sites being assessed.

The purpose of the stage of AA is to further explore the potential impacts and effects and to determine whether a conclusion of no adverse effects on integrity can be drawn for any of the ‘screened in’ impacts/European sites.

One of the key considerations during the stage of AA is whether there is available mitigation that would entirely address potential effects.

1.5 Sources of Guidance

This NIS has been prepared in accordance with the EC guidance document *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC, 2021).

In addition, the following sources of guidance have also been used when preparing this NIS:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (DoEHLG, 2010).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular Letter NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 (NPWS, 2010).

2. Methodology

2.1 Data Sources

A desktop study was carried out by AECOM to obtain relevant information in September 2021 (re-checked in March 2022 and again in June 2023), using the following sources:

- Information on all relevant European sites in Ireland and their QI for which sites are designated (*i.e.*, non-bird species and habitats), and SCIS (bird species and habitats) available online from NPWS website.
- Information on ranges of mobile QI populations (*i.e.*, the area over which mobile species are known to occur) in Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, Volume 1 (NPWS, 2019).
- Mapping of relevant European site boundaries and known locations of GIS and SCIS in Conservation Objective mapping for relevant European sites available online from the NPWS¹.
- Distribution records for QI populations held online by the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC)², and data including surface water quality (including transitional waters) and groundwater quality status, and river catchment boundaries available from the online database of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)³.

Checks have been undertaken that confirm the continued relevance of the desktop study.

2.2 Establishing the Potential Zone of Influence

When seeking to identify relevant European sites, consideration was given to identified impact pathways and the source-pathway-receptor approach, rather than adopting a purely 'zones'-based approach. The source-pathway-receptor approach is a standard tool in environmental assessment. In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for an effect to occur. Furthermore, even where an impact is predicted to occur, it may not result in significant effects.

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010) states that European sites with the potential to be affected by a plan or project should be identified taking into consideration the potential for direct, indirect and/or cumulative (in-combination) effects. It also states that the specific approach in each case is likely to differ depending on the scale and likely effects of the plan or project. However, it advises that the following sites should generally be included:

- All European sites within or immediately adjacent to the plan or project area.
- All European sites within the likely 'zone of impact' of the plan or project.
- Adopting the Precautionary Principle (UNESCO, 2005), all European sites for which there is doubt as to whether or not such sites might be significantly affected.

The likely zone of impact (also referred to as the likely 'zone of influence' (Zoi)) of a plan or project is the geographic extent over which significant ecological effects are likely to occur. In the case of projects, the DoEHLG guidance acknowledges that the zone of influence must be devised on a case-by-case basis with reference to the following criteria: the nature, size/scale and location of the project, sensitivity of ecological features under consideration and cumulative effects.

¹ Available from <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data>. Accessed June 2023.

² Available from <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie/#>. Accessed June 2023.

³ Available from <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>. Accessed June 2023.

The process of determining which (if any) European sites are within the potential Zol of the Proposed Development is a progressive process that effectively 'screens in' European sites if they considered to within the Zol of a particular effect.

3. Site and Local Baseline Information

3.1 Terrestrial Habitats

The Substation Site, Access Road Site, and the surrounding area, are predominantly used for agricultural purposes, both arable and grazing. Access to the Substation Site is currently via an informal farm track approximately 50m to the west that connects to residential property approximately 500m southwest.

The Passing Bay Site is located along the local road L62051 that predominately consists of a paved surface and grassy verges. There are agricultural grassland, broadleaved and conifer woodland, hedgerows, and treelines adjacent to this road and grassy verges. No invasives species listed on the Third Schedule of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 were identified within the Site. However, the non-scheduled, high-impact invasive species cherry laurel *Prunus laurocerasus* is present within the hedges and woodland parcels adjacent to the road.

There are no ancient woodlands located within 1km of the Proposed Development.

3.2 Water Environment

The nearest watercourses to the Site are approximately 190m to the west of the Substation Site (referred to by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as 'Arodstown') and 150 m to the east of the Passing Bay Site (referred to by the EPA as 'Moyleggan'). The Arodstown flows into the Boycetown and ultimately joins the River Boyne approximately 10km from the Site. The Moyleggan flows into the River Tolka approximately 11 km from the Site.

According to the EPA's Envision web-based mapping application and based on the Water Framework Directive (WFD) monitoring data from 2013-2018, the Arodstown and Moyleggan are considered to have "poor" water status.⁴

The majority of the drainage ditches adjacent to the L60251 were dry during the survey conducted in January 2023, with the exception of the drainage ditches at the northern section of the Passing Bay Site which had shallow water present.

4. Screening Assessment

This section considers whether a pathway for an effect on European sites exists and the nature of any effect (if any) on relevant receptors (comprising QI, SCI, or the ecological features/processes supporting them for which an impact pathway exists). This effectively establishes the potential Zol of the Proposed Development for each impact source, and any European sites (if any) within the potential Zol are stated. The Screening exercise is set out in Table 1.

⁴ Available from <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/> Accessed June 2023

Table 1 Impact Sources, Pathways, Effects and Resulting European Sites within the Potential ZOI

Potential Impact Source	Pathway to European site(s)	Potential for effect(s) on receptors*	European Sites Within Potential Zone of Influence	
Construction Phase				
Disturbance of qualifying animal species as a result of increased noise, artificial lighting and/or the increased presence of personnel, plant and machinery during construction.	The nearest European sites for which animal species are QI/SCI are the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA. These sites are coincident with one another where they occur closest to the Proposed Development, approximately 9.4 km west of the Substation Site and 10.3 km west of the Passing Bay Site as the crow flies.	At 9.4km distant from the Proposed Development, there is no potential for direct disturbance of the QI/SCI species of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA when within the boundary of these designations.	None.	
	The nearest watercourse to the Substation Site is approximately 190m to the west of the Site and is referred to by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as 'Arodstown' (river waterbody code: IE_EA_07B030200). The Arodstown flows into the Boycetown and ultimately joins the River Boyne at the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA approximately 11.4km downstream from the Proposed Development.	There is hydrological connectivity between the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA and the Arodstown watercourse. It is therefore possible that all of the aquatic and/or riparian QI/SCI of these designations could occur within the Arodstown watercourse, approximately 150 m from the Proposed Development. This is still beyond the distance at which disturbance is likely to be caused by the relatively minor construction works required for the Proposed Development. For example, guidance published by the National Roads Authority (NRA) (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)) recommends that a 150m buffer should be applied around a breeding otter holt, this being substantially reduced for non-breeding holts (NRA, 2008). None of the other QI/SCI species are likely to be disturbed by construction works taking place at distances of 150m or more away.		
	All others European sites are more than 10 km from the Proposed Development.	There is no possibility of disturbance impacts on the QI/SCI of other European sites as there is no connectivity to such sites, or habitat which could be used by those species in proximity to the Proposed Development.		
Airborne or waterborne pollution of QI or SCI habitats/species, or habitats supporting QI/SCI.	Works will be limited to the construction of the new substation building, plus associated removal and replacement of existing 220 kV line and pylons. The works will be relatively minor in nature.	The very minor construction works will not generate sufficient quantities, even in a worst-case scenario, of airborne pollution (e.g. dust) to result in likely significant effects on any European site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC 	
	The nearest watercourse to the Substation Site is approximately 190m to the west. As set out in the row above, this flows via the Boycetown to the River Boyne, entering the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA approximately 11.4 km downstream of the Proposed Development.	There is theoretically a hydrological connection between the Proposed Development and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA via the Arodstown.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA
	The nearest watercourse to the Passing Bay Site is approximately 150m to the east and is referred to by the EPA as 'Moyleggan' (river waterbody code: IE_EA_09T010600). This is a tributary of the River Tolka, which enters the South	However, the connection between the Proposed Development and the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA via the Moyleggan is tenuous given the considerably large distance between the Proposed Development and this SPA (greater than 30 km). Therefore, any pollution generated from the Proposed Development would be subjected to a large amount of dilution and any significant effects on a European site would be highly unlikely.		

Potential Impact Source	Pathway to European site(s)	Potential for effect(s) on receptors*	European Sites Within Potential Zone of Influence
Direct loss of or damage to qualifying or supporting habitat(s)	<p>Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA approximately 31km southeast.</p> <p>There will be no works within the boundary of any European site.</p> <p>There is furthermore no habitat within the Site which could be used by QI or SCI species of any European site.</p>	There is no potential for direct loss of or damage to qualifying or supporting habitats.	None.
Spread of invasive non-native species	No invasive non-native species were identified within the Substation Site. However, the non-scheduled, high-impact invasive species cherry laurel is present along the road at the Passing Bay Site.	The proposed works for the Passing Bay Site has the potential to spread non-native invasive species, cherry laurel, however this is unlikely as the nearest watercourse is located 150 m from the works. Furthermore, if any seeds of cherry laurel were to spread into the watercourse, the nearest European site downstream in the Dublin Bay are located greater than 30 m downstream and are saline in nature. Therefore, given the nature of the works, the distance from European sites, and the saline habitats present at the European sites downstream of the Passing Bay Site, it is not likely that invasive species will be spread to European sites.	None.
Operational Phase			
Disturbance of qualifying animal species as a result of increased noise, artificial lighting and/or the increased presence of personnel, plant and machinery during construction.	As described for the construction phase.	Operational activities are likely to be very minor in nature and will involve infrequent visits by small numbers of personnel to conduct operational and maintenance activities. There is no possibility of such activities having an effect through disturbance of QI/SCI species occurring in the Arodstown watercourse 190m away.	None.
Airborne or waterborne pollution of QI or SCI habitats/species, or habitats supporting QI/SCI.	<p>There is very low potential for small amounts of dust to be generated during the operational phase as there will be only a small number of occasional vehicle movements. The Proposed Development will not emit to air, thus there will be no impacts on air quality.</p> <p>The electrical equipment within the new substation is designed so as to contain any spillages of potentially polluting material. This is done as a matter of good practice and to comply with relevant environmental legislation, and not to avoid adverse effects on European sites.</p>	<p>There will be no impacts from dust or other airborne pollution, thus there is no possibility of effects.</p> <p>Due to the inherent design of the equipment within the substation, there is no potential for liquid pollutants to escape the Site and enter the surface water system.</p>	None.
* Receptors here means any Qualifying Interest(s) of SAC(s) or Special Conservation Interest(s) of SPA(s), or any other ecological features which support Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests.			

Based on the Screening exercise shown in Table 1, the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA may be within the Zol of the Proposed Development. These designations are coincident and are, at closest, approximately 11.4km downstream of the Proposed Development. Information on the QI/SCI and conservation objectives of these sites is given in Table 2.

Table 2 European sites within the potential Zol of the Proposed Development

European site name and code	Approximate distance from the Proposed Development	Summary of QI/SCI	Conservation objectives
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC [002299]	11.4km east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alkaline fens [7230] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] <i>Salmo salar</i> (Atlantic salmon) [1106] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Alkaline fens To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) To restore the favourable conservation condition of River Lamprey (<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>) To restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>). To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Otter (<i>Lutra lutra</i>)
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA [004232]	11.4km east	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) [A229] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>)

Having considered the potential impacts from the Proposed Development, and the pathways for effects on European sites, the possibility for waterborne pollution during the construction phase to have adverse effects on the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA has been screened into the next stage of Appropriate Assessment. All other impacts have been screened out because there is clearly no possibility of them having any effect on any European site.

5. Appropriate Assessment

5.1 Construction Phase Waterborne Pollution

The Appropriate Assessment stage considers in more detail the potential for waterborne pollution of the Arodstown watercourse during the construction phase of the Proposed Development to have adverse effects on the integrity of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA. No other impact sources from the Proposed Development have been screened into the Appropriate Assessment as it was clearly shown in the Screening Assessment that they could not have any effect on any European site.

The Arodstown watercourse is separated from the Proposed Development by extensive areas of land including agricultural fields and woodlands. Any pollution generated by the construction of the Proposed Development would be very unlikely to reach the watercourse due to natural filtration by vegetation. Moreover, although the watercourse connects to European sites downstream, these are more than 9km distant. Over such distances, the degree of dilution would be extremely large and there is no possibility of any waterborne pollution generated by construction of the Proposed Development having an effect on any European site.

Notwithstanding the above, during the construction phase of the Proposed Development, industry-standard good practice measures will be implemented to prevent pollution of terrestrial and aquatic habitats. This will include typical pollution prevention measures which ensure no pollutants, including fuels, oils or sediment, can enter the Arodstown watercourse.

5.2 In-Combination Effects

Cumulative effects can result from individually insignificant but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time or concentrated in a location (CIEEM, 2012). Effects which arise in-combination with other projects or plans must be considered as part of AA process. The assessment of in-combination effects must examine:

- Completed projects.
- Projects which are approved but not completed.

- Proposed developments (i.e. for which an application for approval or consent has been made, including refusals subject to appeal and not yet determined).
- Proposals in adopted plans.
- Proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for consultation or adoption.

Projects and plans that are not yet proposed do not generally need to be considered in the assessment of in-combination effects. The exception to this is where the project is considered to be functionally interdependent with the development being put before the competent authority.

A desktop search of proposed and existing planning applications was undertaken of publicly available data from MyPlan.ie 'National Planning Application' database, MCC planning application portal and ABP online database.

An overview of the planning history search is included in Appendix B.

This assessment considers whether any of these existing/approved projects will likely have significant cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development. The assessment also considers whether all of the existing/approved projects taken together as a whole will likely have significant cumulative effects in combination with the Proposed Development. There are many projects listed on the planning databases considered, however, the focus for this assessment was on the proximity, scale and nature of those projects in relation to the Proposed Development and on those which could potentially exacerbate environmental effects and thus be of significance to the cumulative effects assessment. Particular attention was given to those projects which were designated as Strategic Infrastructure Developments (SID) in proximity to the proposed development given the larger scale and nature of these developments. Those projects where EIARs or NIS's accompanied the planning applications were also given due regard at review stage. Live or proposed projects which have not yet been permitted were not considered in this assessment.

Arising from this review, a number of existing and/or approved projects (as listed in Table 3) were identified which could have the potential for likely significant cumulative effects.

Table 3 List of Planned Projects Identified as Having a Potential Cumulative Effect of the Proposed Development

Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Planning Status	Distance from Site
221550	Woodland , Batterstown, Co. Meath	The development will consist of: 1. Installation of outdoor Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical apparatus, including an associated extension to the hardstand compound (approximately 4 hectares) to facilitate same. This includes: a. installation of an extension to both sides of the existing 400 kV busbar, with provision of an associated wing coupler at either end of the existing 400 kV busbar. b. additional apparatus and associated works to the two existing busbars to create what is known as sectionalising bays. c. relocation of existing transformer connections from existing busbar to adjacent location on new busbar. d. an associated single-story extension (approximately 80 m2) to the existing control building. 2. The erection of four new lightning masts and relocation of one existing mast (each approximately 45m high). 3. Two bays on opposite sides to the newly extended 400 kV busbars at the southern end of the substation, each bay to incorporate breakers, reactive compensation devices and cable sealing ends. These bays will facilitate the connection of the new 400 kV underground cable links from Dunstown and Belcamp substations respectively. 4. Renewal, alteration and/or removal of associated 400 / 220 kV electrical apparatus and equipment. 5. All ancillary site development works including site preparation works, site clearance and levelling; provision of hardstanding, internal access tracks and temporary construction compound; associated underground cabling and earthgrid; associated extended surface water drainage network including a soakaway; associated palisade fencing and gates (approximately 2.65m high); lighting poles and landscaping as required to facilitate the development. Planning Permission is sought for a period of 10 years. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	Conditional Grant 25/05/2023	c.5km southeast

Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Planning Status	Distance from Site
22837 23136	Creemore & Belshamstown, Batterstown, Co. Meath	<p>The proposed development constitutes a new battery energy storage facility & synchronous condenser, with associated change of use on lands currently in agricultural use. The proposed development will comprise of rechargeable battery units with grid forming inverters contained within 253 no. 40 foot containers on site. (An associated Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application will be made to An Bord Pleanala in relation to a 220 kV Gas Insulated Substation and associated development on the adjoining lands to the east of the proposed development site, located at Creemore & Woodland, in Co. Meath, in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended). In addition, the proposed development includes a synchronous condenser within a c.983 sqm building (ranging in height from c. 11 to 13 m), with associated compound & plant; oil separator & collection pit; transformers; circuit breakers; underground cabling ducts & cable. The proposed development includes underground cable which will connect the new battery energy storage facility to the adjoining proposed 220 kV Gas Insulated Substation (the subject of the associated Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application as reference above). The proposed development will also include a battery storage control building (c. 400 sqm, 6.86 m in height); security gates & boundary treatments; hard & soft landscaping; well; bollards; plant & water storage tank; wastewater treatment system; SuDs; attenuation pond; installation of earthen berms; piped infrastructure & ducting; culverts; street lighting; lighting masts & CCTV columns; car parking; stoned access roads & the upgrading of the existing vehicular access to the R154; changes in level & all associated site development & excavation works above & below ground. Planning Permission is sought for a period of 10 years. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application</p> <p>Permission for development at a c. 14.14 ha site, located at Creemore and Belshamstown, in Batterstown, Co. Meath, as permitted under MCC Reg. Ref. 22837 (which permitted a new battery energy facility and synchronous condenser.). The proposed development will consist of amendments to the previously permitted development (MCC Reg. Ref. 22837) including amendments to the previously approved internal access road layout; amendments to the previously approved attenuation pond to the south of the site and associated piped infrastructure, ducting and drainage arrangements. In addition, a previously permitted earthen berm to the centre of the site is to be omitted. No changes are proposed to the permitted vehicular access to the R154. Any associated amendments to changes in level and all associated site development, hard and soft landscaping and excavation works above and below ground are also included. Planning permission is sought for a period of 10 years</p>	Conditional Grant 7/12/2022 Conditional grant 16/05/2023	c.4.6km southeast
MCC 21985 ABP- 312723-22	On lands including Derryclare, Cloney meath, Ballygortagh and Moynalvy, Summerhill, Co. Meath.	<p>A Solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of 108.68ha, to include solar panels mounted on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 27 no. MV Power Stations, 3 No. Client Substations, 3 No. temporary construction compounds, access tracks, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary works.</p> <p>Solar energy plant and ancillary equipment. Associated site development works. Significant Further information/Revised plans submitted on this application. NIS submitted with FI.</p>	MCC Conditional Grant 17/01/2022 ABP Conditional Grant 27/01/2023	c.5.0km west
212214 ABP- 314058-22	On lands including Culmullin, Woodtown, Arodstown & Summerhill, Co Meath	<p>For a solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of 206ha, to include solar panels mounted on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 54 No. MV Power Stations, 2 No. Client Substations, 4 No. Temporary Construction Compounds, access tracks, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary works, accessed via two existing accesses along the L62051. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).</p>	MCC Conditional Grant 15/06/2022 ABP Decision Pending	c.800m southwest

Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Planning Status	Distance from Site
MCC 21546	Clonmeath, Summerhill, Co Meath.	Permission for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) development within the townland of Clonmeath, Summerhill, Co Meath. Planning permission is sought for the construction and operation of a solar PV farm consisting of solar arrays on ground mounted steel frames, with a maximum overall height of 3 metres, over an area of 91.9 ha and ancillary equipment including up to 30 no. medium voltage power stations, 1 no. modular Battery Energy Storage Compound (comprising up to 5 no. battery containers) and all other associated site development works and services, including, internal solar PV farm, underground electrical cabling and ducting, 2 no. temporary construction compounds, security fencing, CCTV camera stands, replacement of an existing site entrance with a new gated site entrance via the L2210 local road, provision of new internal access tracks including the upgrading and installation of span bridge structures, site drainage and landscaping, as required to facilitate the development. Planning permission is sought for a period of 10 years with an operational life of 35 years from the date of commissioning. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Significant Further information/Revised plans submitted on this application. Solar PV development. NIS lodged at application stage.	MCC Conditional Grant 29/09/2021 ABP Conditional Grant 24/05/2022	c.4.80km west
ABP- 311760-21				
RA170766	Knockstown & Clarkstown, Summerhill, Co. Meath	The development will consist of the following: Photovoltaic solar farm on a site of 23.6 hectares (58 acres) with an export capacity of approximately 8MW, comprising photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames; 4 no. inverter stations; 1 no. interface substation; ducting and underground electrical cabling; perimeter fencing; pole mounted CCTV cameras; screen planting/landscaping; closing up of existing vehicular entrance and creation of a new vehicular entrance on the local road (L6215); new internal access track from the new vehicular entrance to connect with existing internal farm tracks, and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	MCC Conditional Grant 1/6/2018	c. 4.70km southwest

In addition to the projects listed in Table 3 a number of consented solar developments within the wider surrounding areas have been considered, these are summarised in Table 4.

Table 4 Additional Solar Projects Considered in the Cumulative Assessment

Site	Potential MW MEC	Planning Reference	Planning Status	Description	Distance from Site (km)
Paddock	70	21180 ABP- 311066-21	Approved by Meath CC and ABP	The development will consist of permission for a Solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of 82.5ha, to include solar panels mounted on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 21 No. MV Power Stations, 7No. Battery Storage Containers, 1 No. Temporary Construction Compound, access tracks, hardstanding area, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary works.	13.6
Fieldstown	70	F21A/0042	Planning approved by Fingal CC	Permission for a Solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of c 105 ha, to include solar panels mounted on steel supports, associated cabling and ducting, 1 no. client substation, 33 no. MV Power Stations, 8 No. Battery Storage Containers, 1 no. Temporary Construction Compound, access tracks, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary site works.	20.4
Ballaghaweary	18	211436	Planning approved by Meath CC	A Solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of 34.4ha. to include solar panels mounted on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 7 No. MV Power Stations, 1 No. Client Substation, 1 No Temporary Construction Compound, access tracks, hardstanding area, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary works. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	18.7

Two European sites were deemed to be within the potential Zol of the Proposed Development:

- River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC.
- River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA.

The only possible impact from the Proposed Development which could cause significant effects on the QI/SCI of a European site is waterborne pollution of the Arodstown watercourse. This impact was therefore screened into Appropriate Assessment.

However, due to the intervening distance between the Proposed Development and the Arodstown, the distance from the Arodstown to the downstream European sites, and with implementation of industry-standard good practice pollution prevention measures, there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC. Similarly, there will be no adverse effects on species of interest of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA, the kingfisher, due to the distance from the Site to the habitat.

An Ecological Impact Assessment and Natura Impact Statement has been prepared for the Woodtown Solar Farm development (Planning Reference 212214), which is located in the vicinity of the Proposed Development site. The Ecological Impact Assessment and Natura Impact Statement for this development also includes measures to prevent pollution from entering watercourses. Therefore, given the distances from watercourses and the pollution prevention measures included in the Natura Impact Statements for the Proposed Development and for the Woodtown Solar Farm, there will be no in-combination effect on any European site, including the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA from these developments.

Furthermore, the remaining planning applications described in Appendix B and Table 3 either have no possible pathway to result in waterborne pollution to the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA, are located at a large distance from the Proposed Development, and/or have included pollution prevention measures for watercourses in a Natura Impact Statement. Therefore, given the nature of the developments assessed and pollution prevention mitigation measures to be implemented, there will be no in-combination effects on any European site, including the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA.

This NIS therefore concludes that, on the basis of objective information, the Proposed Development will not result in adverse effects on the integrity any European site, either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects.

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Figures

Drawing 60657534-ACM-DWG-500 Culmullin 220kV Substation Site Location

Figure 1 – Designated Sites

- EXISTING OHL TO REMAIN
- EXISTING OHL TO REMOVE
- PROPOSED NEW UGC
- PROPOSED SUBSTATION
- EXISTING LAND OWNERSHIP BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT BOUNDARY
- PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD
- APPROXIMATE RURAL SUPPLY UGC ROUTE
- LOCATION OF SITE NOTICE

NOTES

1. DRAWINGS ARE FOR PLANNING ONLY AND SHOULD NOT BE USED FOR DETAILED DESIGN, EQUIPMENT DIMENSIONS MAY CHANGE ONCE EXACT SPECIFICATIONS ARE DETERMINED;
2. THE SUBSTATION IS BASED ON THE LATEST EIRGRID STANDARD (XDN-LAY-ELV-STND-F-001-R02 AS OF 13/02/2020);
3. SUBSTATION COMPOUND COORDINATES ARE 53°29'33.16"N, 6°38'33.31"W;
4. THIS DRAWING IS NOT TO BE SCALED, ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN METERS.

ISSUE/REVISION

I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION
P7	13/06/2023	UPDATE SITE NOTICES
P6	26/05/2023	CLIENT COMMENTS
P5	24/05/2023	BOUNDARY UPDATE
P4	11/11/2022	SITE NOTICE LOCATION ADDED
P3	09/11/2022	CLIENT COMMENTS
P2	10/10/2022	CLIENT COMMENTS
P1	19/09/2022	CLIENT COMMENTS
P0	27/05/2022	FIRST ISSUE FOR PLANNING

STATUS

FOR PLANNING

PROJECT NUMBER 60657534 SCALE 1:3000 @ A1

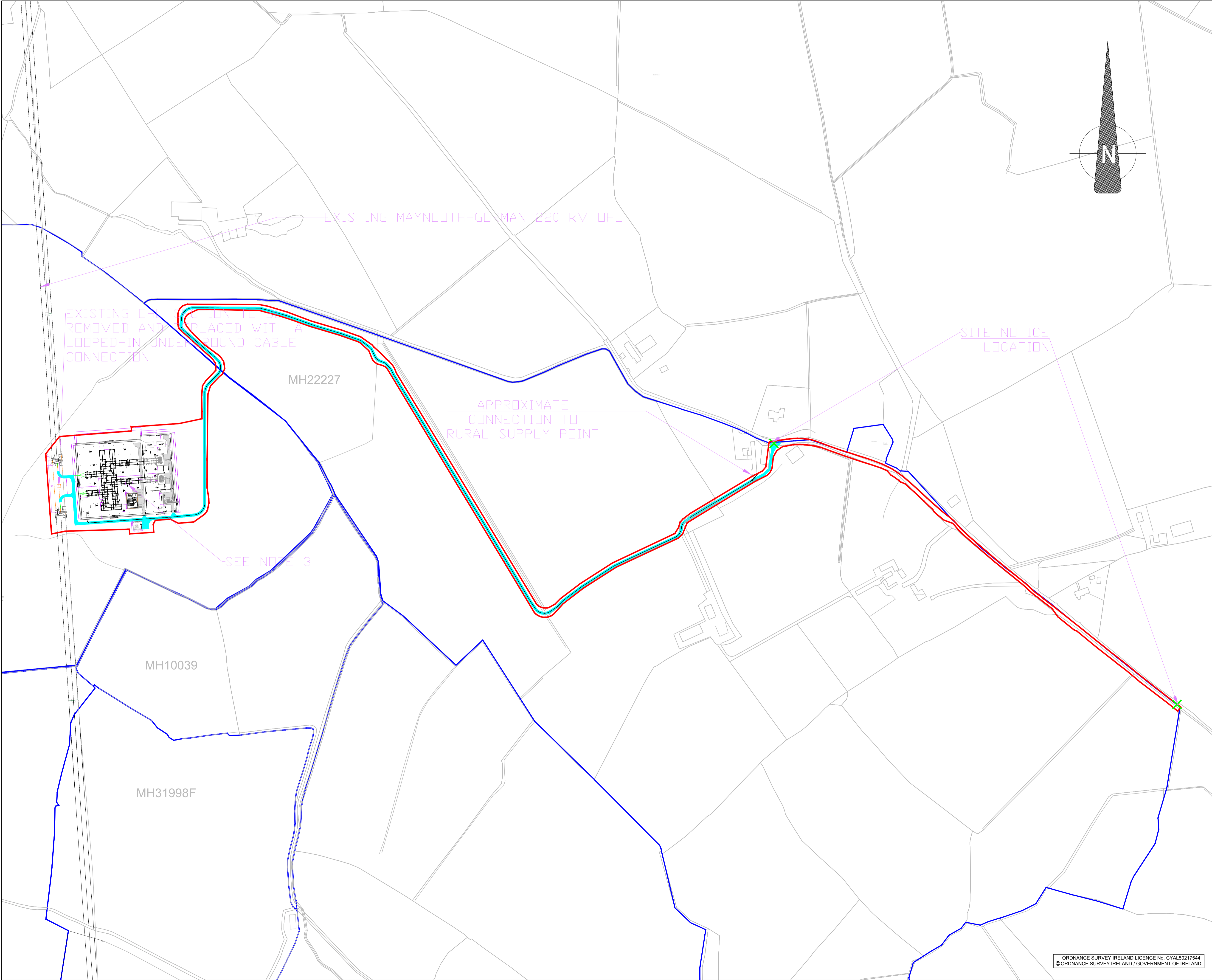
SHEET TITLE

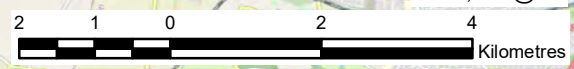
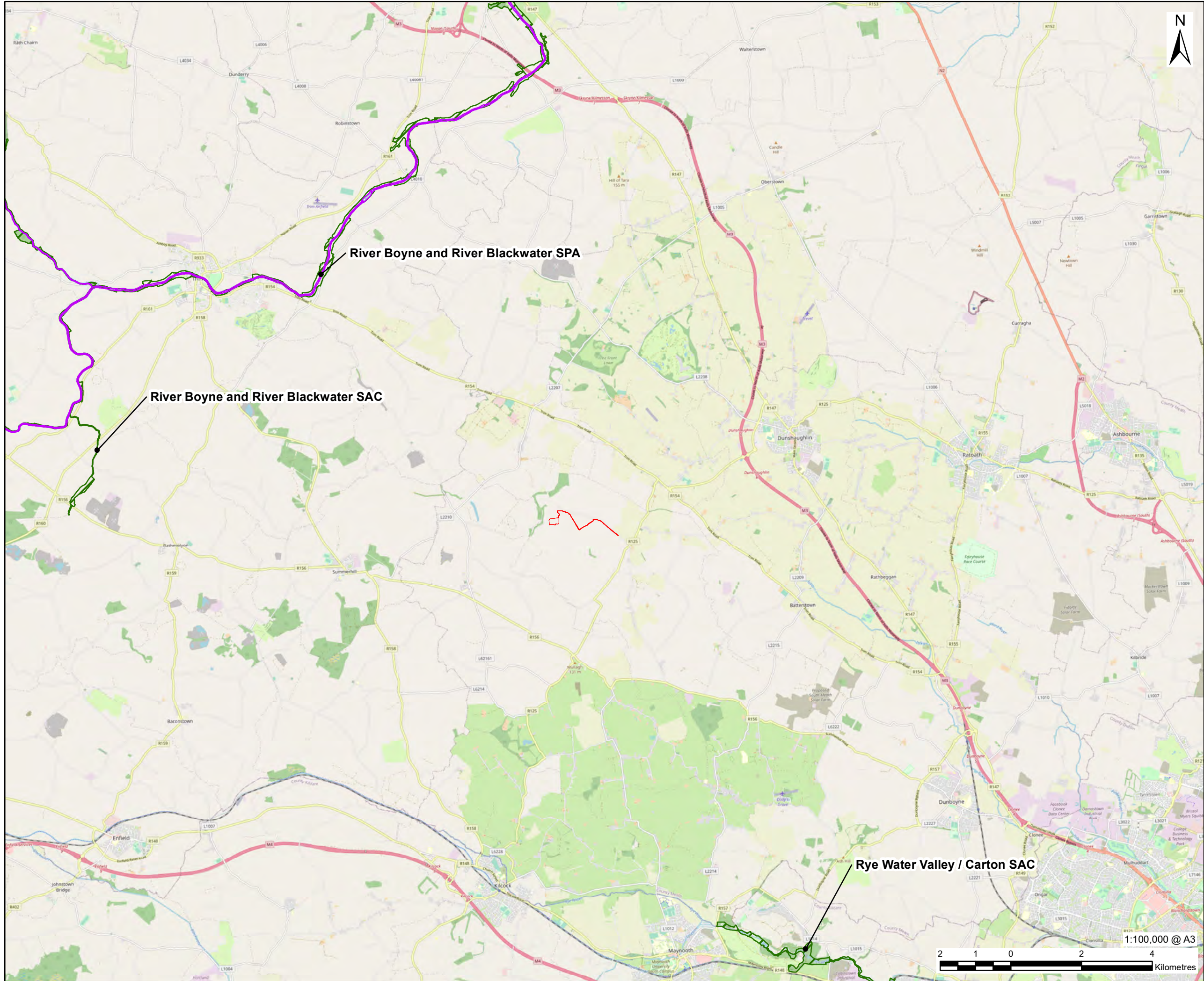
CULMULLIN 220 kV SUBSTATION

SITE LOCATION

SHEET NUMBER 60657534-ACM-DWG-500 REV P7

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1:100,000 @ A3

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Appendix A AA Screening Report

Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Culmullin 220kV Substation & Grid Connection

Energia Solar Holdings Ltd

Project number: 60657534

Document reference: 60657534_ACM_RP_EN_CM_011_1

26 June 2023

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Revision History

Revision	Revision date	Details	Authorized	Name	Position
0	26 March 2023	Draft	Y	Bernice Cahill	Associate Director
1	26 June 2023	Final	Y	Bernice Cahill	Associate Director

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background and Overview of the Proposed Development

Energia Solar Holdings Ltd (the Applicant) proposes to construct a new 220 kV air insulated switchgear (AIS) substation at Woodtown, County Meath, named Culmullin 220 kV substation, which will be looped into the existing Maynooth – Gorman 220 kV line directly to the west (hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development').

The Site of the Proposed Development is located at Woodtown, Co. Meath (Coordinates: 53°29'33.15"N 6°38'37.32"W). The R154 (regional road) (Trim Road) is approximately 2.9km north, R125 is approximately 2.5km east, R156 is approximately 3.3km south and the L2207 local road is approximately 2.7km to the west.

The Proposed Development comprises two line cable interface masts to facilitate the removal of a short section circa 60m of the existing 220kV overhead line which traverse the Site to connect the new substation to the grid by circa 120m of new underground cables. Four 220 kV bays are proposed to be provided within the substation (two underground cable bays for EirGrid and two bays for the Applicant's transformers).

The redline boundary of the Proposed Development covers an approximate area of 6.34 hectares (ha), with the substation boundary covering approximately 2.24ha.

The Substation and grid connection will be constructed by the applicant to EirGrid specifications and ownership will be transferred to ESB/EirGrid following construction. All works will be contained within the boundary of the Site.

1.2 Legislative Context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, which is more commonly known as 'the Habitats Directive', requires Member States of the European Union (EU) to take measures to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and wild species of fauna and flora of Community interest. The provisions of the Habitats Directive require that Member States designate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats listed in Annex I and for species listed in Annex II. Similarly, Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (more commonly known as 'the Birds Directive') provides a framework for the conservation and management of wild birds. It also requires Member States to identify and classify Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for rare or vulnerable species listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive, as well as for all regularly occurring migratory species. Collectively, SACs and SPAs are known as 'European sites'.

Under article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, any plan or project which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of its implications for the SAC/SPA in view of the site's conservation objectives.

In the Republic of Ireland, the requirements of Article 6(3) are transposed into national law through Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for planning matters, and by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 in relation to other relevant approvals/consents. The legislative provisions for AA Screening for planning applications are set out in Section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The competent authority which is responsible for carrying out the AA is the relevant consenting body for each plan or project, which in this case is An Bord Pleanála (ABP).

1.3 Overview of Appropriate Assessment Process

The process required by Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive is stepwise and must be followed in sequence.

The first step in the sequence of tests is to establish whether an AA is required. This is often referred to as AA Screening. The purpose of AA Screening is to determine, in view of best available scientific knowledge, whether a plan or project, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, could have likely significant effects on a European site, in view of that site's conservation objectives.

For this purpose and as a result of case law 'likely' means 'possible'. If the competent authority determines that there are no likely significant effects (LSEs) (including 'in combination' effects from other plans or projects), then no further assessment is necessary and the plan or project can, subject to any other issues, be taken forward. If, however, the competent authority determines that there are LSE, or if there is reasonable scientific doubt, then the next step in the process must be initiated and a detailed AA is undertaken.

1.4 Sources of Guidance

This Report has been prepared in accordance with the European Commission (EC) guidance document *Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* (EC, 2001). It also accords with the guidance provided in the Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) document on *Appropriate Assessment Screening for Development Management* (OPR, 2021), and follows the structure and approach recommended, as shown on Figure 1-1.

Figure 1-1 The AA Screening process (taken from OPR (2021))



In addition, the following sources of guidance have also been used when carrying out this AA Screening exercise:

- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland (DoEHLG, 2010).
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites: the provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2018).
- Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular Letter NPWS 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 (NPWS, 2010).

1.5 Relevant Case Law

A series of rulings of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) are relevant and are considered throughout this document. These rulings and their implications for this AA Screening exercise are summarised in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 Case law relevant to the AA Screening of the Proposed Project

Case	Ruling	Relevance to the AA Screening of the Proposed Project
People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)	The ruling of the CJEU in this case requires that any conclusion of 'no likely significant effect' on a European site must be made prior to any consideration of measures to avoid or reduce harm to the European site. The determination of LSE should not, in the opinion of the CJEU, constitute an attempt at detailed technical analyses. This should be conducted as part of the AA.	It is necessary to distinguish between those measures which are intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site and those elements of a plan or project that may incidentally provide some degree of mitigation, but which are intrinsic or essential parts of the plan/project itself. If it can be concluded that the Proposed Development will have no adverse effect on any European site, in the absence of mitigation, it will be possible to conclude 'no likely significant effects', and the need for further detailed AA will be 'screened out'.

Case	Ruling	Relevance to the AA Screening of the Proposed Project
Waddenzee (C-127/02)	<p>The ruling in this case clarified that AA must be conducted using best scientific knowledge, and that there must be no reasonable scientific doubt in the conclusions drawn.</p> <p>The Waddenzee ruling also provided clarity on the definition of 'significant effect', which would be any effect from a plan or project which is likely to undermine the conservation objectives of any European site.</p>	<p>Adopting the precautionary principle, a 'likely' effect in this AA screening is interpreted as one which is 'possible' and cannot be objectively ruled out.</p> <p>The test of significance of effects has been conducted with reference to the conservation objectives of relevant European sites.</p>
Holohan and Others v An Bord Pleanála (C-461/17)	<p>The conclusions of the Court in this case were that consideration must be given during AA to:</p> <p>effects on qualifying habitats and/or species of a SAC or SPA, even when occurring outside of the boundary of a European site, if these are relevant to the site meeting its conservation objectives.,</p> <p>effects on non-qualifying habitats and/or species on which the qualifying habitats and/or species depend and which could result in adverse effects on the integrity of the European site.</p>	<p>This relates to the concept of 'functionally-linked habitat', i.e. areas outside of the boundary of a European site which supports its qualifying feature(s). In addition, consideration must be given to non-qualifying features upon which qualifying habitats and/or species rely.</p>
T.C Briels and Others v Minister van Infrastructuur en Milieu (C-521/12)	<p>The ruling of the CJEU in this case determined that compensatory measures cannot be used to support a conclusion of no adverse effect on site integrity.</p>	<p>Compensation can only be considered at the relevant stage of AA and not during AA. Compensation must be delivered when appropriate assessment concludes that there will be adverse effects on site integrity.</p>

In addition, in a Judicial Review in Irish High Court in the case of Kelly v An Bord Pleanála & Anor, it was ruled that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) which form a part of the design of a development can be considered an integral part of the development and:

- Are not measures that are intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of a particular development on a European site.
- Are not intended to have that effect as they are required to comply with other relevant policies and legislation, including the Water Framework Directive and associated water quality Directives and Regulations.
- Are not required to be incorporated by reason of the potential effect of a development on a European site.

The court concluded *"as a matter of fact and law, that SuDS are not mitigation measures which a competent authority is precluded from considering at the [AA] screening stage"*.

1.6 Purpose of this Report

Whilst the various steps involved in the Appropriate Assessment process must be carried out by a competent authority, under Section 177U (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), project proponents or their consultants may undertake a form of screening to establish if an AA is required and provide advice or may submit the information necessary to allow the competent authority to conduct a screening of an application for consent. Specifically, Section 177U (3) states that *"in carrying out a screening for appropriate assessment of a proposed development a competent authority may request such information from the applicant as it may consider necessary to enable it to carry out that screening, and may consult with such persons as it considers appropriate..."*.

This Appropriate Assessment Screening Report therefore serves to provide AECOM's opinion on the requirement for further AA, and to provide the information needed by MCC to make their own screening decision as competent authority for the planning application for the Proposed Development.

2. Relevant European Sites

A range of data sources were used to identify relevant European sites to this AA Screening:

- EPA maps website (<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/>).
- National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Protected Sites in Ireland website (<https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites>).

- The Status of European Union (EU) Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland (Article 17 Report) (<https://www.npws.ie/publications/article-17-reports/article-17-reports-2019>),..
- information on local watercourses (www.catchments.ie) and water quality (www.epa.ie).

When seeking to identify relevant European sites, consideration has been given primarily to identified impact pathways and the source-pathway-receptor approach (see OPR (2021)), rather than adopting a purely 'zones'-based approach. The source-pathway-receptor approach is a standard tool in environmental assessment. In order for an effect to occur, all three elements of this mechanism must be in place. The absence or removal of one of the elements of the mechanism means there is no likelihood for an effect to occur. Furthermore, even where an impact is predicted to occur, it may not result in significant effects.

Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance (DoEHLG, 2010) states that European sites with the potential to be affected by a plan or project should be identified taking into consideration the potential for direct, indirect and/or cumulative (in-combination) effects. It also states that the specific approach in each case is likely to differ depending on the scale and likely effects of the plan or project. However, it advises that the following sites should generally be included:

- All European sites within or immediately adjacent to the plan or project area.
- All European sites within the likely 'zone of impact' of the plan or project.
- Adopting the Precautionary Principle (UNESCO, 2005), all European sites for which there is doubt as to whether or not such sites might be significantly affected.

The likely zone of impact (also referred to as the likely 'zone of influence' (Zol)) of a plan or project is the geographic extent over which significant ecological effects are likely to occur. The DoEHLG guidance document prescribes a 15 km distance threshold for European sites from the boundary of a plan area. In the case of projects, the guidance acknowledges that the zone of influence must be devised on a case-by-case basis with reference to the following criteria: the nature, size/scale and location of the project, sensitivity of ecological features under consideration and cumulative effects.

In the first instance, therefore, a search was made for European sites within 15 km of the Site. An overview of the three sites identified within this search area is given in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 European sites within 15 km of the Proposed Development

Site Name [Site Code]	Approximate distance (as the crow flies) from the Proposed Project	Summary of Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests
River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC	9.4 km northwest	Alkaline fens [7230] Alluvial forests with alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> [91E0] River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> [1099] Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> [1106] Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> [1355]
River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA	9.4 km northwest	Kingfisher <i>Alcedo atthis</i> [A229]
Rye Water Valley/Carton SAC [001398]	12.3 km southeast	Petrifying springs with tufa formation [7220] Narrow-mouth whorl snail <i>Vertigo angustior</i> [1014] Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i> [1016]

Having identified the European sites within 15 km, consideration was next given to potential impact sources from the Proposed Development at all stages¹ and pathways to European sites (including those located at distances of more than 15 km) by which effects could arise from these impacts on relevant receptors².

Based on all possible impacts, pathways, and receptors, the Zol of the Proposed Development was estimated. A description of this process is given in Table 2-2.

It can be seen from Table 2-2 that it is possible to conclude that there are no European sites within the Zol of the Proposed Development.

¹ In other words, the construction and operational phases of the Proposed Development. There is no expectation of a decommissioning stage.

² i.e. Qualifying Interests (QI) or Special Conservation Interests (SCI) or the ecological features or process which support them.

Table 2-2 Consideration of all Possible Impacts and Pathways for Effects on European Sites from Proposed Development

Potential Impact Source	Pathway to European site(s)	Potential for effect(s) on receptors*	European Sites Within Potential Zone of Influence
Construction Phase			
Disturbance of qualifying animal species as a result of increased noise, artificial lighting and/or the increased presence of personnel, plant and machinery during construction.	<p>The nearest European sites for which animal species are QI/SCI are the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA. These sites are coincident with one another where they occur closest to the Proposed Development, approximately 11.4 km to the north-west of the Site.</p> <p>The nearest watercourse to the Proposed Development is approximately 150 m to the west of the Site and is referred to by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as 'Arodstown' (river waterbody code: IE_EA_07B030200). The Arodstown flows into the Boycetown and ultimately joins the River Boyne approximately 11.4 km from the Proposed Development.</p> <p>All others European sites are more than 10km from the Proposed Development.</p>	<p>At 11.4 km distant from the Proposed Development, there is no potential for direct disturbance of the QI/SCI species of the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA when within the boundary of these designations.</p> <p>There is hydrological connectivity between the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA and the Arodstown watercourse. It is therefore possible that all of the aquatic and/or riparian QI/SCI of these designations could occur within the Arodstown watercourse, approximately 150m from the Proposed Development. This is still beyond the distance at which disturbance is likely to be caused by the relatively minor construction works required for the Proposed Development. For example, guidance published by the National Roads Authority (NRA) (now Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)) recommends that a 150m buffer should be applied around a breeding otter holt, this being substantially reduced for non-breeding holts (NRA, 2008). None of the other QI/SCI species are likely to be disturbed by construction works taking place at distances of 150m or more away.</p> <p>There is no possibility of disturbance impacts on the QI/SCI of other European sites as there is no connectivity to such sites, or habitat which could be used by those species in proximity to the Proposed Development.</p>	None.
Airborne or waterborne pollution of QI or SCI habitats/species, or habitats supporting QI/SCI.	<p>Works will be limited to the construction of the new substation building, plus associated removal and replacement of existing 220 kV line and pylons. The works will be relatively minor in nature.</p> <p>The nearest watercourse to the Site is approximately 150m to the west. As set out in the row above, this flows via the Boycetown to the River Boyne.</p> <p>The next nearest watercourse is approximately 1.3km east-south-east of the Proposed Development, referred to by the EPA as 'Moyleggan' (river waterbody code: IE_EA_09T010600). This is a tributary of the River Tolka, which enters the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA approximately 31km southeast (as the crow flies).</p>	<p>The very minor construction works will not generate sufficient quantities, even in a worst-case scenario, of airborne pollution (e.g. dust) to result in likely significant effects on any European site.</p> <p>There is theoretically a hydrological connection between the Proposed Development and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC and SPA via the Arodstown.</p> <p>At more than 1.3km to the Moyleggan, there is no potential for the Proposed Development to impact that watercourse and from there the downstream South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC • River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA
Direct loss of or damage to qualifying or supporting habitat(s)	<p>There will be no works within the boundary of any European site.</p> <p>There is furthermore no habitat within the Site which could be used by QI or SCI species of any European site.</p>	<p>There is no potential for direct loss of or damage to qualifying or supporting habitats.</p>	None.

Potential Impact Source	Pathway to European site(s)	Potential for effect(s) on receptors*	European Sites Within Potential Zone of Influence
Operational phase			
Disturbance of qualifying animal species as a result of increased noise, artificial lighting and/or the increased presence of personnel, plant and machinery during construction.	As described for the construction phase.	Operational activities are likely to be very minor in nature and will involve infrequent visits by small numbers of personnel to conduct operational and maintenance activities. There is no possibility of such activities having an effect through disturbance of QI/SCI species occurring in the Arodstown watercourse 150m away.	None.
Airborne or waterborne pollution of QI or SCI habitats/species, or habitats supporting QI/SCI.	<p>There is very low potential for small amounts of dust to be generated during the operational phase as there will be only a small number of occasional vehicle movements. The Proposed Development will not emit to air, thus there will be no impacts on air quality.</p> <p>The electrical equipment within the new substation is designed so as to contain any spillages of potentially polluting material. This is done as a matter of good practice and to comply with relevant environmental legislation, and not to avoid adverse effects on European sites.</p>	<p>There will be no impacts from dust or other airborne pollution, thus there is no possibility of effects.</p> <p>Due to the inherent design of the equipment within the substation, there is no potential for liquid pollutants to escape the Site and enter the surface water system.</p>	None.
* Receptors here means any Qualifying Interest(s) of SAC(s) or Special Conservation Interest(s) of SPA(s), or any other ecological features which support Qualifying Interests/Special Conservation Interests.			

3. In-Combination Effects

Cumulative effects can result from individually insignificant but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time or concentrated in a location (CIEEM, 2018). Effects which arise in-combination with other projects or plans must be considered as part of AA Screening. In accordance with OPR (2021), the assessment of in-combination effects must examine:

- Completed projects.
- Projects which are approved but not completed.
- Proposed projects (i.e. For which an application for approval or consent has been made, including refusals subject to appeal and not yet determined).
- Proposals in adopted plans.
- Proposals in finalised draft plans formally published or submitted for consultation or adoption.

Projects and plans that are not yet proposed do not generally need to be considered in the assessment of in-combination effects. The exception to this is where the project is considered to be functionally interdependent with the development being put before the competent authority.

However, no possible effects were identified for any impacts which may arise from the Proposed Development. Where there is no possibility of any effect (as opposed to a small but insignificant effect), there cannot be any in-combination effect with other projects or plans as there will be no addition from the Proposed Development.

It is therefore possible to concluded that there is no possibility of the Proposed Development acting in-combination with other projects or plans to result in likely significant effects on any European site.

4. Conclusion

Three European sites are located within 15 km of the Proposed Development. There is potentially hydrological connectivity between the Proposed Development and two of these sites via surface water systems: the River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC, and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA. There is also very low potential for surface water hydrological connectivity to exist to the South Dublin Bay and River Tolka Estuary SPA, located more than 30 km from the Proposed Development.

Despite this, it has been shown in this AA Screening Report that there are no European sites within the Zol of the Proposed Development and that there is no possibility of any effects on any such site from its construction and/or operation.

With no possibility of any effects (as opposed to some effect which is considered to be insignificant) from the Proposed Development individually, there is no possibility for it to act in-combination with other projects or plans to result in likely significant effects on any European site.

Therefore, in view of best scientific knowledge and on the basis of objective information, it is concluded that likely significant effects from the Proposed Development on any European site, whether individually or in combination with other plans or projects, beyond reasonable scientific doubt, can be excluded.

There is consequently no requirement to proceed to the next stage of Appropriate Assessment.

5. References

CIEEM (2018). Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater Coastal and Marine. Version 1.1, Updated September 2019. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

DoEHLG (2010). Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government: Ireland.

EC (2001). Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting European sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (European Commission Environment Directorate-General).

EC (2018). Commission Notice: Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. Brussels, 21.11.2018 (2018) 7621 final.

NPWS (2010). Circular NPW 1/10 & PSSP 2/10 Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive: Guidance for Planning Authorities.

NRA (2008). Guidelines for the Treatment of Otters Prior to the Construction of National Road Schemes. National Roads Authority, Dublin.

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

UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (2005) The Precautionary Principle. World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology, UNESCO.

Appendix B Cumulative Planning Search

A desktop search of proposed and existing planning applications was carried out 8 September 2022 (and subsequently updated on 6 June 2023). The search used publicly available data from the MyPlan.ie's 'National Planning Application' database, ABP database and Council Planning Portals.

The scope of the search was based within a 5 km radius from the approximate Centrepont of the Proposed Development. A specified criteria informed the search and omitted any planning applications greater than five years old, refused, invalid and withdrawn applications. The criteria then focused on foreseeable developments to be considered in line with the Proposed Development. In respect of this, any small scale residential and extension type developments along with minor amendments, changes of use and small-scale farming / agricultural applications were omitted. Only reasonably foreseeable developments were considered.

The findings show the majority of planning applications for adjoining lands consist of mainly agriculture and rural dwelling related developments, however recent applications have shown a rise in renewable energy, recreational and tourism related development.

Table 5 Planning Search (5km Radius)

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
Meath CC	221508	Culmullin, Curraghtown, Cultromer, Gaulstown, Bogganstown, Cullendragh, Drumree, Co. Meath	a Solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of 171.34ha, to include solar panels mounted on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 47 No. MV Power Stations, 3 No. Client Substations, 3 No. Temporary Construction Compounds, tracks, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary works, with a 40 year operational period. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) had be submitted to the Planning Authority with the Application. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	24/07/2023	c.2.5km east
Meath CC	23527	Drumree Road, Readsland, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath	the construction of 62 no. residential units comprising: - 27no. 2-storey houses (10 no. 3-bed and 17 no. 4-bed) and 35 no. apartments (14 no. 1-bed, 16 no. 2-bed and 5 no. 3-bed units) in a part 5-storey part 4- storey apartment building situated adjacent to the R125 Dunshaughlin link Road, with balconies on all elevations. And all associated site development, landscape and boundary works, including: - a new 4-arm roundabout junction on the R125 Dunshaughlin Link Road, connecting with an extended Dun Rioga Avenue to the southeast of the existing Dun Rioga estate providing new vehicular, cycle and pedestrian access and egress from the west, without alteration to the existing estate entrances at the Drumree Road; 1. 8m high acoustic fence to the west of the proposed apartment block extending c.50m in length alongside the R125; 98 no. car parking spaces; 83 no. secure bicycle parking spaces; public open space of c. 3,660 sq.m. including new children's playground; private communal open space of c. 233 sq.m. serving the apartments; private and communal bin stores; 1no. ESB substation	11/07/2023	c.5km northeast
Meath CC	23236	Martinstown, Crossakiel, Co Meath A82 F2C4	(1) construct a new building to be used as office space, welfare facilities and storage, (2) install a new proprietary effluent treatment system and percolation area and (3) all associated site services	01/06/2023	c.3.9km northwest
Meath CC	221664	Woodridge Stables, Killeen, Dunsany, Co Meath	(a) construction of a lunging ring, loading ramp, wash down area and machinery shed (b) erection of solar/pv panels (c) provision of internal staff facilities into one bay of existing barn to be connected to existing 6-8 person wastewater treatment system and polishing filters (d) the provision of all associated site works to upgrade existing farm complex including proposed internal service roads, beech hedging, timber fencing, general paddocks, nursery paddocks, all weather areas with individual horse shelters, external all weather sand arena, cross country area, hunter & pony all weather area, trailer and horse box parking area, vegetable garden and external hen & pig area	01/06/2023	c.5km northeast
Meath CC	221505	Drumlargan, Kilcock, Co. Meath	development will consist of (a) modification of the existing agricultural field entry from the public road to accommodate the proposed development; (b) construct new equestrian facilities including horse stables building, barn building, manure pit/dungstod and associated seepage tanks, horse walker unit, lunge arena, gallops, sand arena, fenced paddocks and surface water system; (c) construct a part single-storey, part two-storey detached dwelling house, detached domestic	25/05/2023	c.4.8km southwest

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
			garage, wastewater treatment system and landscaping; and (d) associated site works. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application		
Meath CC	221550	Woodland , Batterstown, Co. Meath	The development will consist of: 1. Installation of outdoor Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) electrical apparatus, including an associated extension to the hardstand compound (approximately 4 hectares) to facilitate same. This includes: a. installation of an extension to both sides of the existing 400 kV busbar, with provision of an associated wing coupler at either end of the existing 400 kV busbar. b. additional apparatus and associated works to the two existing busbars to create what is known as sectionalising bays. c. relocation of existing transformer connections from existing busbar to adjacent location on new busbar. d. an associated single-story extension (approximately 80 m2) to the existing control building. 2. The erection of four new lightning masts and relocation of one existing mast (each approximately 45m high). 3. Two bays on opposite sides to the newly extended 400 kV busbars at the southern end of the substation, each bay to incorporate breakers, reactive compensation devices and cable sealing ends. These bays will facilitate the connection of the new 400 kV underground cable links from Dunstown and Belcamp substations respectively. 4. Renewal, alteration and/or removal of associated 400 / 220 kV electrical apparatus and equipment. 5. All ancillary site development works including site preparation works, site clearance and levelling; provision of hardstanding, internal access tracks and temporary construction compound; associated underground cabling and earthgrid; associated extended surface water drainage network including a soakaway; associated palisade fencing and gates (approximately 2.65m high); lighting poles and landscaping as required to facilitate the development. Planning Permission is sought for a period of 10 years. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	25/05/2023	c.5km southeast
Meath CC	221505	Drumlargan, Kilcock, Co. Meath	development will consist of (a) modification of the existing agricultural field entry from the public road to accommodate the proposed development; (b) construct new equestrian facilities including horse stables building, barn building, manure pit/dungsted and associated seepage tanks, horse walker unit, lunge arena, gallops, sand arena, fenced paddocks and surface water system; (c) construct a part single-storey, part two-storey detached dwelling house, detached domestic garage, wastewater treatment system and landscaping; and (d) associated site works. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	25/05/2023	c.3.3km southwest
Meath CC	23136	Creemore & Belshamstown, Batterstown, Co. Meath	permission for development at a c. 14.14 ha site, located at Creemore and Belshamstown, in Batterstown, Co. Meath, as permitted under MCC Reg. Ref. 22837 (which permitted a new battery energy facility and synchronous condenser.). The proposed development will consist of amendments to the previously permitted development (MCC Reg. Ref. 22837) including amendments to the previously approved internal access road layout; amendments to the previously approved attenuation pond to the south of the site and associated piped infrastructure, ducting and drainage arrangements. In addition, a previously permitted earthen berm to the centre of the site is to be omitted. No changes are proposed to the permitted vehicular access to the R154. Any associated amendments to changes in level and all associated site development, hard and soft landscaping and excavation works above and below ground are also included. Planning permission is sought for a period of 10 years	16/05/2023	c.4.6km southeast
Meath CC	23263	Crumpstown or Marshallstown, Kilmessan, Co. Meath	an equestrian holiday centre, which will comprise four holiday cottages made up of conversion of two stable buildings each to a one-bedroom single storey dwelling, conversion of a shed to a two-bedroom single-storey dwelling, and refurbishment of a stone cottage to a two-bedroom single-storey dwelling, with a new sewage treatment system, three stable blocks containing four, six and nine horse cubicles respectively and associated site development works, outdoor riding arena, horse walker and associated site development works, access will be via the existing entrance serving the existing farmyard and dwelling	03/05/2023	c.4km northwest

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
An Bord Pleanála	ABP-312723-22	On lands including Derryclare, Cloneymeath, Ballygortagh and Moynalvy, Summerhill, Co. Meath.	Solar energy plant and ancillary equipment. Associated site development works. Significant Further information/Revised plans submitted on this application. NIS submitted with FI.	27/01/2023	c.5.0km west
Meath CC	221320	12 Loughmore Walk , Killeen Castle Demesne, Dunsany, Co. Meath	development comprising of alterations to design of 1 no. permitted 2 storey 5-bedroom C-type detached house & garage and associated site development and landscape works, with a site area of 0.28ha, at 12 Loughmore Walk, Killeen Castle Demesne, Dunsany, Co. Meath, being part of a previously permitted residential development of 22 houses at Loughmore Walk/The Burrows (Ref RA/191174). Alterations to include new rear extension, internal layout changes at ground and upper floors, attic conversion with new stairs, revisions to elevations of house and garage, new velux roof lights, extended garage with gym, new door and covered carport link to house, the vehicular access is as previously permitted via the existing internal roads & entrances to Killen Castle Demesne. All within the overall site of approx. 255 ha. (a protected structure)	20/01/2023	c.5km northeast
Meath CC	221209	Killeen Castle Demesne (a protected structure), Dunsany, Co Meath	the change of use for a temporary period of 4 years of 6 no. of the 22 no. courtyard dwellings (referred to as Hunters Yard) permitted under Reg Ref DA/802774 (as extended by Reg Ref RA/180960) from residential to ancillary hotel accommodation facilitating short term lettings in the form of 24 no. bedrooms (6 no. keys) in 6 no. 2 storey 4 bedroom units. To accommodate this temporary change of use, the following modifications are also required:- Amendments for all 6 no. units include: The replacement of permitted kitchen to facilitate 1 no. accessible double bedroom with ensuite and inclusion of a small kitchenette facility in the permitted study's, Solar Panels omitted, Chimneys omitted, Corner Lightbox/Lanterns omitted, Amendments for 4 no. units (House Type HY1, HY1H and HY3, HY3H) include: Omission of internal door, a Balcony column support added, Suite 1 walk in wardrobe replaces with ensuite bathroom, Walk in wardrobe with ensuite included for Suite 2 , Total 12 no. car parking spaces to be provided. Selected stone cladding removed from upper storey of House Type HY1, HY1H and HY3, HY3H, A minor change of Finished Floor Levels on site. The development also includes all associated landscape and site development works. There is no change to the building footprint or house design to those units permitted under Reg. Ref. DA/802774 (as extended by Reg Ref RA/180960). The design is in keeping with all other residential units proposed within the Killeen Castle Demesne. The vehicular access is as otherwise permitted via the existing internal road network and entrances to Killeen Castle Demesne	19/12/2022	c.5km northeast
Meath CC	22752	Augherskea, Drumree, Co Meath	the development consists of land recovery operation (being) reclamation of agricultural land and all associated site works comprising of the importation of natural materials of clay, silt, sand, gravel or stone and which comes within the meaning of inert waste, through deposition for the purposes of the improvement or development of land Class 5 of the waste management (Facility Permit and Registration) Regulations 2007-2008. A 5 year planning permission is requested and during the duration of this period 62,490 tons of inert soil and stone will be imported for the purpose of land reclamation. Entrance to the site will be via the existing farm road on adjoining site the subject of current Planning RA/170057 and WFP-MH17/0006/01	16/12/2022	c.2.4km northeast
Meath CC	221194	Teagasc Grange Research Facility, Derrypatrick Grange, Dunsany, Co. Meath C15 PW93	development will consist of the proposed green energy initiative development consisting of the alterations to an existing building unit consisting of the installation of Photovoltaic Panels on the existing roof structure, together with all associated site works	07/12/2022	c.3.5km north

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
Meath CC	22837	Creemore & Belshamstown, Batterstown, Co. Meath	the proposed development constitutes a new battery energy storage facility & synchronous condenser, with associated change of use on lands currently in agricultural use. The proposed development will comprise of rechargeable battery units with grid forming inverters contained within 253 no. 40 foot containers on site. (An associated Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application will be made to An Bord Pleanála in relation to a 220 kV Gas Insulated Substation and associated development on the adjoining lands to the east of the proposed development site, located at Creemore & Woodland, in Co. Meath, in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended). In addition, the proposed development includes a synchronous condenser within a c.983 sqm building (ranging in height from c. 11 to 13 m), with associated compound & plant; oil separator & collection pit; transformers; circuit breakers; underground cabling ducts & cable. The proposed development includes underground cable which will connect the new battery energy storage facility to the adjoining proposed 220 kV Gas Insulated Substation (the subject of the associated Strategic Infrastructure Development planning application as reference above). The proposed development will also include a battery storage control building (c. 400 sqm, 6.86 m in height); security gates & boundary treatments; hard & soft landscaping; well; bollards; plant & water storage tank; wastewater treatment system; SuDs; attenuation pond; installation of earthen berms; piped infrastructure & ducting; culverts; street lighting; lighting masts & CCTV columns; car parking; stoned access roads & the upgrading of the existing vehicular access to the R154; changes in level & all associated site development & excavation works above & below ground. Planning Permission is sought for a period of 10 years. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	07/12/2022	c.4.6km southeast
Meath CC	22629	Shanks Mare Public House, Collegeland and Arodstown, Summerhill, Co. Meath	the development consists of the erection of four 51.5 sqm. detached pods, each of which would be 3 metres tall and which would provide two bedrooms and a combined kitchen/ dining area, as well as bathroom accommodation, along with the use of these four structures for tourist accommodation purposes; The retention of an existing 54 sqm. timber log cabin which already occupies the site (whose removal is required under condition no. 4 of permission reg. RA/191557) and the use of this two-bedroom plus living area building for short-term residential occupation. The proposal also includes the decommissioning of a septic tank (which was permitted under reg. RA191557), the provision of a new soakaway, the installation of a mechanical aeration sewage treatment system and the construction of a 300 sqm. soil polishing filter, the closure of an existing entrance and upgrade works to an existing access which serves the adjacent Shanks Mare development and its use in connection with this proposal, a new turning circle for fire services and an extra parking area accommodating 11 new bays, which are in addition to the 21 spaces on the subject land. The application includes all site works, such as the removal of an existing stone wall, the raising of the land at Gate 1 by 300mm, the creation of a gravel surface, the provision of a wheelie-bin store and the removal of a gas tank. This development will be held in common ownership with the Shanks Mare development and will not be sold or leased separately. Included in this are all associated site works and services. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	17/11/2022	c.2.9km northwest
An Bord Pleanála	ABP-314071-22	Boycetown, Dunsany, Co. Meath	Importation of materials for land reclamation and all associated site works. NIS and EIAR are included	15/11/2022	c.4.5km north
An Bord Pleanála	ABP-314058-22	On lands including Culmullin, Woodtown, Arodstown & Summerhill, Co Meath	Solar PV energy development and associated site works. NIS submitted to Planning Authority.	14/11/2022	c.800m southwest
Meath CC	22497	Knockmark, Drumree, Co Meath	The erection of a new dwelling and garage with associated site works	08/09/2022	c.3.7km northeast

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
Meath CC	22425	Derrypatrick , Drumree, Co. Meath	the development will consist of the following: (a) Construction of a new access road from existing farmyard to new farmyard (b) Construction of a new milking parlour, dairy, external milk silo & ancillary rooms, drafting & handling facilities, waiting yard, meal bin, water storage tank & underground slatted reception tank adjacent to existing circular overground slurry storage tank (c) Construction of agricultural livestock shed comprising of calving area, cubicles and underground slatted slurry reception tanks (d) Construction of calf rearing shed (e) Construction of 2 no. silage pits, maize pit & dungstead and all associated site works	15/07/2022	c.2.2km northwest
Meath CC	22425	Derrypatrick , Drumree, Co. Meath	The development will consist of the following: (a) Construction of a new access road from existing farmyard to new farmyard (b) Construction of a new milking parlour, dairy, external milk silo & ancillary rooms, drafting & handling facilities, waiting yard, meal bin, water storage tank & underground slatted reception tank adjacent to existing circular overground slurry storage tank (c) Construction of agricultural livestock shed comprising of calving area, cubicles and underground slatted slurry reception tanks (d) Construction of calf rearing shed (e) Construction of 2 no. silage pits, maize pit & dungstead and all associated site works	15/07/2022	c.1.8km northeast
Meath CC	22338	Plot 13, Loughmore Walk, Killeen Castle Demesne, Dunsany, Co. Meath	alterations and extension to previously approved two storey detached dwelling and detached garage and associated site development/landscaping works, with a site area of 0.29 Ha, being part of a previously permitted residential development of 22 houses at Loughmore Walk/The Burrows, (Reg. Ref.: RA/191174). The alterations will consist of A) omission of bay windows in living room (west elevation) and drawing room (south elevation) resulting in a reduction in floor area of 7.57sq/m, B) length of ground floor study and first floor bedroom 5 increased by 1.8 m at front (east elevation) resulting in additional floor area of 18 sq/m, C) increase in width and depth of detached garage (additional floor area of 8.7 sq/m) with covered area to rear (west) of garage and covered link between house and garage, D) additional windows and door on side (north) elevation, E) increase in width of bedroom no. 5 window at front (east) elevation and F) increase in height of window of bedroom no. 5 window at front (east) elevation and F) increase in height of window of bedroom 2 at rear (west) elevation. The vehicular access is as previously permitted via the existing internal roads and entrances to Killeen Castle Demesne. All within the overall site of approx. 255Ha (a Protected Structure)	23/06/2022	c.5km northeast
Meath CC	212179	Boycetown, Dunsany, Co. Meath	The development will consist of the importation of natural materials of topsoil, soil or stone for the purposes of land reclamation for a beneficial agricultural afteruse (5.6 hectares), temporary Wheel Wash, Weighbridge, Office, access track, landscaping and all ancillary site development infrastructure. The project provides for the importation of topsoil, soil and stone to provide an access track and final landscaping under Article 27 as defined by the EPA for land reclamation and reinstatement purposes. The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and associated documents. The application relates to a reclamation development for the purpose of an activity requiring a Waste Permit to be issued by the Meath County Council. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application	17/06/2022	c.4.5km north
Meath CC	212214	On lands including Culmullin, Woodtown, Arodstown & Summerhill, Co Meath	For a solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of 206ha, to include solar panels mounted on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 54 No. MV Power Stations, 2 No. Client Substations, 4 No. Temporary Construction Compounds, access tracks, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary works, accessed via two existing accesses along the L62051. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).	15/06/2022	c. 800m southwest
An Bord Pleanála	ABP-311760-21	Clonymeath, Summerhill, Co Meath.	Solar PV development. NIS lodged at application stage.	24/05/2022	c.4.80km west

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
Meath CC	2250	Killeen Castle Demesne, Dunsany, Co Meath	alterations to 13 no. 2 storey detached house types (permitted Plot Nos. 62-74) and development for associated site development and landscape works of a previously permitted residential scheme under Reg Ref DA/802274 (as extended by Reg Ref RA/180960) comprising overall of 135 no. dwellings (comprising 83 no. detached dwellings, 49 no. courtyard house and 3 no. gate lodges). The development now proposed comprises alterations to 13 no. of the already permitted detached houses now proposed to comprise of 2 no. 4 bedroom 2 storey detached dwellings (House Type D) each with a detached single storey garage (c. 34sqm each) and on individual plots of between c0.24-c.0.25ha, 2 no. 4 bedroom 2 storey detached dwellings (House Type DC), each with an attached single storey garage/study (c.34sqm each) and on individual plots of between c 0.27-c 0.29ha, 6 no. 5 bedroom 2 storey detached dwellings (House Types A & C) each with a detached single storey garage(c 34sqm each) and on individual plots of between c 0.26-c.0.32ha, 3 no. 5 bedroom 2 storey detached dwellings (House Types AC & CC), each with an attached single storey garage/study (c 34sqm each) and on individual plots of between c 0.27-c. 0.35ha. Each unit is served by 2 no. carparking spaces (26 no. in total) and associated site development and landscape works to include; boundary treatments and adjustments to permitted plot boundaries at two no. house plots (permitted House Plot Nos. 62 and 74). The vehicular access is as otherwise permitted via the existing internal road network and entrances to Killeen Castle Demesne. All on a site of approximately c 3.63ha within the overall approx. 255ha Killeen Castle Demesne (a protected structure), Dunsany, Co Meath	29/04/2022	c.5km northeast
Meath CC	22264	Drumree, Co Meath	To construct a single storey dwelling house, detached garage, new wastewater treatment system and percolation area, new well, new entrance from public road and all associated site development works	21/04/2022	c.4.7km east
Meath CC	212144	Pelletstown, Drumree, Co Meath	A single storey detached dwelling and domestic garage, new domestic entrance onto public road, septic tank and percolation area, landscaping and all associated works	13/04/2022	c.5km northeast
Meath CC	212208	Knockmark, Drumree, Co. Meath	The development will consist of a) Demolition of existing agricultural sheds, b) Construction of a new farmyard entrance in place of existing roadside entrance, c) Construction of a stable & straw storage shed, d) Construction of a dungstead e) Construction of a machinery shed, f) Erection of a meal bin, g) Construction of a livestock shed & handling area with underground slatted slurry storage tanks and all associated site works	11/04/2022	c.4.4km east
Meath CC	22198	Branganstown, Kiltale, Co Meath	EXTENSION OF DURATION OF PLANNING PERMISSION REF TA/161305 - construction of 3 no. dormer/storey and a half style agri-tourism accommodation dwellings, accessed via existing private laneway, install proprietary waste water treatment systems and percolation areas and all associated site works. Significant further information/ revised plans submitted on this application	11/04/2022	c.4.8km north
Meath CC	211844	Newtownrathganley, Kilcock, Co. Meath.	Construction of A) 2 no. new pig houses B) extension to 3 no. existing pig houses and C) 4 no. ancillary overground /underground storage tanks together with all ancillary structures and associated site works (to include an upgrading of the existing site entrance, the provision of an on-site wastewater treatment system and percolation area, and an on-site storm water attenuation swale), arising from the above development. The proposed works are to be completed in preference to, or in lieu of, any outstanding developments previously approved under planning ref DA101175, but not constructed to provide for and ensure higher environmental standards in line with BAT requirements, and improved animal welfare standards). The application relates to a development which is for the purposes of an activity requiring a Licence underpart IV of the Environmental Protection Agency (Licensing) Regulations 1994-2013. An Environmental Impact Statement Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (N.I.S) is submitted with this application.	05/04/2022	c. 5.0km southwest

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
Meath CC	212117	Teagasc Grange Research Facilities , Grange, Dunsany, Co. Meath	The demolition of existing agricultural structures and construction of three new agricultural buildings consisting of a new slatted floor cattle feeding house, a new calf rearing unit and a new agricultural services store coupled with all associated site works	17/02/2022	c.3.1km north
Meath CC	212004	Tullaghmedan, Drumree, Dunsany, Co Meath	The removal of an existing telecommunications pole attached to a farm shed with a total height of 12 metres above ground level together with telecommunications equipment on it and replacement with a new 17.5 metres telecommunications structure carrying antennas, dishes, associated equipment, together with ground-based equipment cabinets, fencing and all associated site development works for wireless data and broadband services	31/01/2022	c.2.5km north
Meath CC	211982	Knockstown, Moynalvy, Summerhill, Co. Meath	A new two-storey detached dwelling and associated landscaping and site works including a new waste waterwastewater treatment system and percolation area and upgrading the existing site entrance onto the public road.	21/01/2022	c.3.2km southwest
Meath CC	21985	On lands including Derryclare, Cloneymeath, Ballygortagh and Moynalvy, Summerhill, Co. Meath	A Solar PV Energy Development with a total site area of 108.68ha, to include solar panels mounted on steel support structures, associated cabling and ducting, 27 no. MV Power Stations, 3 No. Client Substations, 3 No. temporary construction compounds, access tracks, boundary security fencing and security gates, CCTV, landscaping and ancillary works.	17/01/2022	c.5.0km west
Meath CC	211424	Clonymeath, Summerhill, Co. Meath	The development will consist of two storey dwelling, detached domestic garage, entrance and driveway. The development also includes the installation of new proprietary wastewater treatment system and polishing filter together with all associated site works.	16/12/2021	c.4.0km west
Meath CC	211220	Clonymeath, Summerhill, Co. Meath	Two storey dwelling, detached domestic garage, entrance and driveway. The development also includes the installation of new proprietary wastewater treatment system and polishing filter together with all associated site works.	11/11/2021	c.4.0km west
Meath CC	21546	Clonymeath, Summerhill, Co Meath	Permission for Solar Photovoltaic (PV) development within the townland of Clonymeath, Summerhill, Co Meath. Planning permission is sought for the construction and operation of a solar PV farm consisting of solar arrays on ground mounted steel frames, with a maximum overall height of 3 metres, over an area of 91.9 ha and ancillary equipment including up to 30 no. medium voltage power stations, 1 no. modular Battery Energy Storage Compound (comprising up to 5 no. battery containers) and all other associated site development works and services, including, internal solar PV farm, underground electrical cabling and ducting, 2 no. temporary construction compounds, security fencing, CCTV camera stands, replacement of an existing site entrance with a new gated site entrance via the L2210 local road, provision of new internal access tracks including the upgrading and installation of span bridge structures, site drainage and landscaping, as required to facilitate the development. Planning permission is sought for a period of 10 years with an operational life of 35 years from the date of commissioning. The application is accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Significant Further information/Revised plans submitted on this application.	29/09/2021	c.4.80km west
Meath CC	RA201932	Leonardstown, Drumree, Co. Meath	Development will consist of a new two-storey detached dwelling house, a single-storey detached garage, proprietary wastewater treatment system and percolation area and all associated siteworks to include a new vehicular access from public road. Significant Further information /Revised plans submitted on this application.	05/07/2021	c.4.0km northeast
Meath CC	21141	Ballygortagh, Summerhill, Co. Meath	Storey and a half type dwelling house, detached garage, new wastewater treatment system and percolation area to proposed site, removal of existing septic tank and percolation area on site and to relocate adjoining dwelling house located to the west and all associated site development works. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	24/06/2021	c.4.0km southwest

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
Meath CC	RA201202	Kiltale Group Water Scheme , Pumping Station, Kiltale, Dunsany, Co. Meath C15 T923	The relocation of the existing entrance to the north eastern boundary of the site grounds. The development will include the construction of an in-situ concrete retaining wall along the site road boundary with palisade fence on top of the boundary wall with a land drain to its base with a petrol interceptor connected. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	14/04/2021	c.4.0km north
An Bord Pleanála	PL17.308034	Knockmark, Drumree, Co. Meath	Importation of uncontaminated soil and stones for the improvement of lands for agricultural purposes	02/03/2021	c.4.5km northeast
Meath CC	RA200607	Curraghtown, Drumree, Co. Meath	The development will consist of: 1. New dwelling and detached garage. 2. New domestic entrance. 3. Oakstown Wastewater Treatment system with Percolation area. 4. Landscaping & all associated site works.	17/12/2020	c.2.0km east
Meath CC	RA191754	Rathkilmore, Kilcock, Co. Meath	A new two storey dwelling with single storey living and lounge area to the west, associated domestic garage, open new vehicular entrance to site, new secondary wastewater treatment unit and polishing filter together with all associated site development works. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	27/11/2020	c.3.5km south
Meath CC	RA200497	Rathkilmore, Kilcock, Co. Meath	A single storey dwelling & domestic garage. Permission is sought to upgrade existing agricultural entrance to facilitate shared domestic entrance and for the installation of a packaged wastewater treatment system and polishing filter and all associated site works.	24/11/2020	c.3.5km south
Meath CC	RA191502	Knockmark, Drumree, Co. Meath	The development will consist of the importation of uncontaminated soil and stones for the improvement of ground levels in rear garden to existing dwelling, in order to carry out landscaping works, gardens & lawns. Subsequent to planning a Certificate of Registration will be sought from Meath County Council Environment/Waste Section for the duration of the infilling process. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	24/09/2020	c.4.5km northeast
Meath CC	RA191557	Shanks Mare Public House,, Collegeland & Arodstown,, Summerhill, Co. Meath	The development consists of retention of the partly-complete works for the conversion of the upper ground level of "Shanks Mare" Public house from a public house to four apartments for tourist accommodation (rental) purposes (291.46 sq.m.). Retention permission is also being sought for a covered patio (17.52 sq.m.) which has been constructed to the west of the existing building, along with elevational changes to this structure, which was permitted under permission Reg. No. 71/598. The application also includes future works for the completion of the conversion of the upper ground floor of Shanks Mare to living accommodation, comprising of two number two-bedroom apartments and two number one-bedroom apartments, along with the use of these units for tourist rental purposes. These works shall include the provision of private deck areas to the rear (north-facing) elevation of these dwellings and associated elevational changes. Permission is sought for the change of use of store area (63.54m ²) to a function room at lower ground floor level. Under this arrangement the lower ground floor and the uppermost levels within this building will remain in use for public house and residential purposes, respectively. Permission is sought to remove three unauthorised features which occupy the site comprising a perimeter fence, a log cabin and existing signage. Permission is also sought for a new proprietary effluent treatment system and polishing filter to replace the existing septic tank (to be decommissioned) and the closure of an existing entrance and upgrade works to an existing access, together with all associated site works. Significant further information/revised plan submitted on this application.	14/09/2020	c.2.80km west
An Bord Pleanála	ABP-307458-20	Shanks Mare Public House,, Collegeland & Arodstown,, Summerhill, Co. Meath.	Retention of the partly-complete works for the conversion of the upper ground level of "Shanks Mare" Public house from a public house to four apartments for tourist accommodation (rental) purposes.	28/08/2020	c.2.80km west

Planning Authority	Reference	Address	Proposed Development	Grant / Due Date	Distance from Subject Site
An Bord Pleanála	PL17.307021	Roestown, Readsland & Knocks, Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath	Amendments to a permitted residential scheme (Reg. Ref. DA120987, An Bord Pleanála Reg. Ref. PL17.241988), overall comprising of a 142 residential scheme, a creche and associated site services.	27/07/2020	c.5km east
Meath CC	RA200003	Arodstown, Summerhill, Co. Meath	A two-storey dwelling house, domestic garage, creation of new entrance, private well, domestic wastewater treatment plant and all ancillary site works.	03/04/2020	c.1.7km northwest
An Bord Pleanála	PL17.305208	Larchill Stud, Newtownrathganley & Phepotstown, Kilcock, Co. Meath	New entrance and access road from the L6215 and associated upgrade works of the L6215 from the proposed new entrance to the junction with the R125.an activity requiring an Industrial Pollution Prevention and Control Licence (Now replaced by an Industrial Emissions Licence).	20/12/2019	c.5km south
Meath CC	RA180853	Curraghdoo, Summerhill, Enfield, Co. Meath	A two-storey dwelling with detached domestic garage, a domestic effluent treatment system, a well, new site entrance and all associated site works.	17/04/2019	c.4.0km west
Meath CC	RA181075	Bogganstown, Drumree, Co. Meath	Single storey replacement dwelling with detached domestic garage, a domestic effluent treatment system, new site entrance and all associated site works. The existing single storey dwelling is to be used as a farm office.	07/02/2019	c.3.0km southeast
Meath CC	RA180994	Glen Road,, Moynalvy, Kilcock, Co. Meath	A two-storey dwelling, detached domestic garage, wastewater disposal system, domestic site entrance and all associated site works.	05/12/2018	c.2.0km southwest
Meath CC	RA180692	Merrywell, Drumree, Co. Meath	Construction of a two-storey dwelling with domestic garage, proprietary wastewater treatment system, percolation area, new entrance off public road and all associated site works.	15/11/2018	c.4.0km southeast
Meath CC	TA180245	Martinstown, Kiltale, Co. Meath	Single storey dwelling incorporating domestic garage to rear, upgrade of existing entrance to form new shared dual entrance, driveway, connection to main water and sewerage together with all associated site works.	01/11/2018	c.4.0km northwest
Meath CC	RA170766	Knockstown & Clarkstown, Summerhill, Co. Meath	The development will consist of the following: Photovoltaic solar farm on a site of 23.6 hectares (58 acres) with an export capacity of approximately 8MW, comprising photovoltaic panels on ground mounted frames; 4 no. inverter stations; 1 no. interface substation; ducting and underground electrical cabling; perimeter fencing; pole mounted CCTV cameras; screen planting/landscaping; closing up of existing vehicular entrance and creation of a new vehicular entrance on the local road (L6215); new internal access track from the new vehicular entrance to connect with existing internal farm tracks, and all ancillary works necessary to facilitate the development. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application.	01/06/2018	c. 4.70km southwest

