Volume 1- Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

Gortnalug 110KV Substation and Grid Connection

24/03/2026

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Contents

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1. The purpose of this report is to assess the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to be undertaken for a proposed new 110kV Air insulated substation (AIS) and grid connection with associated infrastructure to facilitate the connection of Ballydonagh (PA Ref: 23/61049) and Ballydonagh Extension (PA Ref: 24/61749) solar farms to national grid (the "Proposed Development") on lands at Ballydonagh, Kiltormer, Co. Galway, Ireland (the "Application Site").

1.2. The aim of the EIA Screening Report is to assist An Coimisiún Pleanála in determining whether the Proposed Development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment and whether an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is required, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. This assessment has been undertaken to identify the potential significant effects of the Proposed Development and to support An Coimisiún Pleanála's screening determination.

1.3. Within the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the Application Site boundary there are four Special Areas of Conservation ("SACs") and three Special Protections Areas ("SPAs") within a 15m ZoI of the Proposed Development; River Shannon Callows SAC, Redwood Bog SAC, Ardgraigue Bog SAC, Glenloughaun Esker SAC, River Suck Callows SPA, Middle Shannon Callows SPA, and River Little Brosna Callows SPA. It has been concluded that the Proposed Development will **not significantly** affect any Natura 2000 designated site. Please see the accompanying **Natura Impact Statement (NIS)** within **Volume 1** of this planning application for further information.

1.4. There are no recorded archaeological or architectural heritage sites that are within the Application Site that could be physically impacted by the Proposed Development. In addition, no confirmed features of archaeological significance were identified during the desk-based assessment of the Application Site. As such, **no direct impacts** upon known archaeological and heritage assets are anticipated and no mitigation measures are considered to be necessary in relation to this.

1.5. A Geophysical Survey and programme of test trenching was undertaken. The results of this programme showed that all trenches within the planning boundary were found to be sterile. As such, the results of the Test Trenching, in conjunction with the Geophysical Survey, does not suggest any potential for further significant archaeological remains within the Proposed Development. Therefore, no further mitigation is considered to be necessary in relation to this with the exception of ongoing monitoring. It should be noted that monitoring is already secured under Condition 5 (v) of Planning Reference 2361049, as amended under 2561903 (see condition 14(v) also), which requires archaeological supervision of all site clearance and ground disturbance works. This established requirement can be carried forward as part of any subsequent permission.

1.6. Indirect effects upon the surrounding heritage assets have been assessed as overall **Minor** in the worst case. Therefore, no specific mitigation is considered to be required for the reduction of any visual impacts.

1.7. It is considered that the Proposed Development will alter the landscape character within the confines of the site, adding an industrial character to the site and immediate site surroundings where views are possible. Within the confines of the Application Site, the magnitude of landscape change is considered to be **High to Medium**, resulting in effects of **Moderate** significance overall.

1.8. Indirect change will occur outside of the Application Site boundary, where the visibility of the Proposed Development has an influence on the perception of the character of the landscape. The indirect change in landscape character is greatest in its immediate and close surroundings where open and partial views are possible within approximately 300m radius from the Application Site boundary. The magnitude of change in these areas is considered **Medium to Low**. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Slight reducing to Not Significant** as mitigation planting matures.

1.9. Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area (between approximately 300m and 2km from the Site boundary). Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development, the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in accessible views. Therefore, the significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Not Significant**.

1.10. The majority of residential dwellings in the immediate environment of the Proposed Development are located mainly to the southwest, in Kiltormer Village.

1.11. Potential visual effects of the Proposed Development upon these local receptors existing views have been considered from representative viewpoints. The magnitude of visual effects on local residents and residential areas with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 300m are considered to range from **Low / Negligible** to **None** depending on the openness of views and intervening screening by vegetation, topography or built structures. In areas where the Proposed Development will be visible, the significance ranges from **Slight** reducing to **Not Significant** as the mitigation planting matures. In other areas, where the Proposed Development is screened by vegetation, there will be a **'No Change'** scenario.

1.12. In long-distance views ranging between approximately 1km and 2km, the effects will be Negligible. While the Proposed Development will add an industrial element to the view when seen, the change will be seen in the context of the wider landscape, where mitigation measures will help integrate the Proposed Development into its setting. The magnitude of visual change is considered **Negligible** and the significance **Not Significant.**

1.13. There will be **no additional flood risk** as a result of the Proposed Development as it is proposed to construct a network of rainwater harvesting tanks and two soakaway pit/infiltration drain

within the Application Site. The soakaway pit and rainwater harvesting tanks will be designed to hold a total volume of 177m3 with the detailed design of the structure being submitted to the council for review prior to the construction period.

1.14. In addition, there will be **no significant noise effects**, as a result of the Proposed Development.

1.15. The Proposed Development is in line with the Development Management Guidelines and Standards contained within the Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028.

1.16. As outlined in this EIA Screening Report, the Proposed Development **will not result in any significant environmental effects** at any stage of the development. Therefore, an EIA is not required. Nevertheless, comprehensive supporting documentation has been submitted in support of this Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1. This Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report forms part of a Strategic Infrastructure Development Application submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála ("the Commission") as the Planning Authority, on behalf of Ballydonagh Solar Ltd ("the Applicant"), for a proposed new 110kV Air insulated substation (AIS) and grid connection with associated infrastructure to facilitate the connection of Ballydonagh (PA Ref: 23/61049) and Ballydonagh Extension (PA Ref: 24/61749) solar farms to national grid (the "Development") on lands at Ballydonagh, Kiltormer, Co. Galway, Ireland (the "Application Site").. This purpose of this assessment is to examine any likely significant effects which could occur and to identify if an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be required for the project.

2.2. This EIA Screening Report contains the following:

- A description of the Application Site and Proposed Development;
- A brief description of the nature and purpose of the development and of its possible effects on the environment; and
- Other information that is relevant to the assessment of the project including; site surveys, records, mitigation measures, etc.

2.3. As outlined in this EIA Screening Report, the Proposed Development will not result in any significant environmental impacts at any stage of the development. Therefore, **an EIA is not required**. Nevertheless, comprehensive supporting documentation has been submitted in support of this Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

2.4. This EIA Screening Report has been prepared following best-practice processes and has had regard to the relevant criteria in both European and Irish Legislation and guidance set out in the following documents:

- EIA Directive 2014/52/EU;
- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended);
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- Draft Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EPA;2017[1]);

[1] https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EIAR_Guidelines_2022_Web.pdf

- Guidance on EIA Screening (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU), European Commission, 2017;
- Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, EPA, May 2022;
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland - Guidance for Planning Authorities, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2009;
- Draft Advice Notes for preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Coimisiún Pleanála in Carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DOHPCLG;2018);
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development, DoECLG (2003); and
- Guidance on EIA Screening, European Commission, June 2001.

2.5. This EIA Screening Report has also been prepared having regard to the specific pre-application consultation determination issued by An Coimisiún Pleanála confirming the Strategic Infrastructure Development status of the Proposed Development on 13th February 2026.

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

2.6. This Environmental Impact Screening has been undertaken by Neo Environmental. Neo Environmental have a team of highly skilled and accredited town planners, environmental consultants, ecologists, landscape architects, environmental engineers, archaeologists and project managers, who have each provided input into this statement. All work has been carried out in line with the relevant professional guidance.

3. DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION

3.1. The Proposed Development comprises a 110kV Air Insulated Substation and associated grid connection infrastructure to facilitate the connection of the permitted Ballydonagh Solar Farm under Ref 2361049, as amended under Ref 25/61903 and Ballydonagh Extension Solar Farm under Ref 2461749 , as amended under 26/60009, to the national grid, which revised the approved solar layout to accommodate the Gortnalug substation and grid connection infrastructure.

3.2. The Proposed Development comprises a 110kV Air Insulated loop in/ loop out electricity substation (11,300m2) consisting of EirGrid control building (25m x 18m), customer control building (23.1m x 10.8m),110kV bay arrangement, busbar infrastructure foundations, transformer, lightening masts, telecoms pole, CCTV, lighting columns, capacitor bank, reactor bank, harmonic filter, rural supply kiosk, house transformer, neutral earth resistor, resistor, stand by generator, compound roads, drainage, parking and hardstanding, palisade fence and gates.

3.3. The grid connection will consist of the removal of c.248m of the existing overhead line and poles from Ennis-Agannygal-Shannonbridge 110kV circuit and the erection of two new towers (16m height) and c.975m of double 110kV underground circuit and tracks into the proposed substation.

3.4. Remaining associated infrastructure consists of entrance; perimeter fencing, access tracks (1907m) (upgraded and localised widening) with water crossings, deposition areas (4,300m2), temporary construction compound; and all associated and ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works and the provision of site drainage.

SITE SELECTION

3.5. The application site is located within the townlands of Ballydonagh, Kiltormer, Co. Galway, emerges as a good area for a 110kV substation, offering an ideal balance of technical suitability, minimal constraints and alignment with broader renewable energy goals.

3.6. The Application Site demonstrates a lack of significant environmental and planning constraints, which is a key consideration in site selection. The area has limited ecological sensitivities, avoiding impacts on protected habitats or species and is well-situated in terms of avoiding flood risks and other physical limitations.

3.7. The proposed location is contained within the previously consented lands associated with the Ballydonagh Solar Farm developments, thereby representing an efficient use of an already

permitted site. This co-location minimises the extent of additional land take and reduces the requirement for new off-site underground cabling, thereby limiting potential environmental effects. Furthermore, the site facilitates a direct and efficient connection to the existing 110kV overhead line network, enabling effective integration of renewable energy into the national grid while minimising transmission losses.

3.8. The Proposed Development, comprising the 110kV substation together with its associated grid connection and supporting infrastructure, aligns with Ireland's national and regional renewable energy targets, contributing to the decarbonisation of energy supplies and the transition to a more sustainable energy system. The substation will also form part of the National grid network. The local community also stands to benefit from the delivery of this integrated energy infrastructure, with potential opportunities for economic growth and employment during the construction phase.

4. EIA DEVELOPMENT

4.1. Projects requiring EIA are defined in Article 4 and set out in Annexes I and II of Directive 2014/52/EU. These provisions are in turn transposed into domestic Irish legislation through Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended ("The Regulations").

4.2. The Proposed Development of a 110kV substation and associated grid connection does not comprise a specific class of project specified by Directive 2014/52/EI (the 'EIA Directive') Annex 1 or II, or by the Planning Regulations, as amended, Schedule 5, Parts 1 or 2.

4.3. The most relevant energy related project type within Schedule 5 'Part 1' is as follows;

2(a) A thermal power station or other combustion installation with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more.

4.4. A 110kV substation and grid connection does not meet the definition of a thermal power station or combustible installation. Therefore, this project type is not applicable.

(20) Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kilovolts or more and a length of more than 15 kilometres.

4.5. The Proposed Development does not propose any new overhead lines of 220kV or more. The grid connection is via 110kV loop-in/ loop out connection to the existing network. Therefore, this project type is not applicable.

4.6. As evident above, there are no other project types identified in Schedule 5 'Part 1' which relate either directly or indirectly to a 110kV substation or associated grid connection. It is clear therefore that the Proposed Development is not a project type with regard to 'Part 1' and does not therefore require a mandatory EIA.

4.7. In terms of energy related projects within Schedule 5 'Part 2' the following are most relevant to the Proposed Development are as follows:

3(a) Industrial installations for the production of electricity, steam and hot water not included in Part 1 of this Schedule with a heat output of 300 megawatts or more.

3(b) Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water with a potential heat output of 300 megawatts or more, or transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables not included in Part 1 of this Schedule, where voltage would be 200 kilovolts or more

10(b)(dd) All private roads which would exceed 2000 metres in length

4.8. A 110kV substation is for the transformation and distribution of electricity and does not involve the production/generation of electricity with a heat output of 300MW or more. It does not meet the definition of an industrial installation as per the meaning of 3(a).

4.9. Furthermore, the Proposed Development operates at 110kV (below the 200kV threshold) and does not involve overhead transmission cables of 200kV or more. It does not meet the definition of an industrial installation as per the meaning of 3 (b).

4.10. The Proposed Development will include access tracks totalling approximately 2100 metres in length, comprising permeable hardcore which do not fall within the definition of "private roads" for the purposes of Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2021 (as amended), as confirmed by established planning case law including Cummins & Ors v An Coimisiún Pleanála [2025] IEHC 521. In that judgement the High Court held that rudimentary internal access tracks (such as those formed with geotextile, base stone and permeable hardcore) do not constitute "roads" under the EIA Directive and transposing legislation, as they lack the modern construction and ancillary infrastructure required. The tracks are internal and ancillary to the substation compound and do not engage 10(b)(dd) class. The Proposed Development is not a project type related to any of the above identified 'Part 2' projects and there is therefore no legal requirement to undertake a sub-threshold EIA Screening in respect of these.

4.11. On the 27th July 2023, The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage issued circular EUIPR 01/2023 advising of an amendment to Part 2 of Schedule 5 to include the following class.

4.12. 1(a) Projects for the restructuring of rural land holdings, undertaken as part of a wider proposed development, and not as an agricultural activity that must comply with the European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011, where the length of field boundary to be removed is above 4 kilometres, or where re-contouring is above 5 hectares, or where the area of lands to be restructured by removal of field boundaries is above 50 hectares.

4.13. As part of the Proposed Development, 721.5m^2 hedgerows and 18 No. trees are proposed to be removed, 204.7m^2 of hedgerows are to be trimmed. However, this is significantly below the proposed 4km threshold. No recontouring of the lands are proposed and no restructuring of the field boundaries will be undertaken as a result of the Proposed Development. While the development includes ancillary works such as deposition areas (c.4300m2) and access track construction, these are contained within the established field pattern and do not result in any material alteration to the overall field structure.

4.14. Based on the foregoing, the Proposed Development does not meet any mandatory thresholds for EIA under Schedule 5, Parts 1 or 2. However, the Applicant has provided the information required by Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations for the purpose of EIA Screening. On the basis of this screening information, the applicant respectfully submits that an EIA is not required for the Proposed Development as there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development. Please refer

to the full EIA Screening Report (this document) submitted in support of this SID application to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Table 1: Assessment of Effects of Proposed Development

The characteristics of the Proposed Development in particular:-	Construction Impacts	Operational Impacts	Decommissioning Impacts
The size and design of the proposed development.	The Proposed Development comprises a 110kV Air Insulated Substation compound containing control buildings, transformer and associated electrical plant equipment including; busbar infrastructure; capacitor; reactor banks; harmonic filter standby generator and ancillary kiosks together with internal access tracks, parking, hardstanding, lighting, CCTV, boundary and security fencing, temporary deposition areas, drainage, landscaping and all associated site development and enabling works. The substation compound and associated infrastructure will occupy a total site area of 34.80 hectares, however the deployed	The proposed footprint constitutes a relatively small percentage of the total area of the Application Site (34.80ha): • 29,079.6m^2 for infrastructure (c. 8.36% of the Application Site area); and The total ground disturbance area resulting from the Proposed Development is therefore **29,090.8m^2** or c. **8.36%** of the Application Site area.	The infrastructure is permanent grid connection assets and it isnot anticipated that it will be decommissioned with the associated solar farms.

	footprint is only 8.36% of the overall Application Site. Ground disturbance is therefore not **significant**. The Proposed Development utilises standard EirGrid-specified technology with modularised design and minimal civil works, facilitating construction within 14 months. Minimal mitigation is required as the elements are typical of similar grid connection projects.		
The cumulation with other proposed developments.	A search was conducted of relevant planning applications within the vicinity of the Site, using the An Coimisiún Pleanála and Galway County Council portals. The search was limited to the ten-year period preceding the date of issue. There are currently 2 consented solar farms (Ballydonagh Solar Farm and Ballydonagh Solar Farm extension) and two amendment applications for these solar farm applications, 1 consented Battery storage facility, 2 substations and 1 Wind Farm development,	The addition of the Proposed Development, together with noted cumulative developments will collectively have a cumulative **Moderate** effect upon the landscape character of the **Central Galway Complex Landscape Type** during the construction and operational phases. Overall, the addition of the Proposed Development is screened in its majority from the	It is anticipated that the lifespan and subsequent decommissioning phase of all developments identified in the vicinity of the Application Site will occur during different time periods. The Proposed Development is permanent grid infrastructure and it is not anticipated that it will be decommissioned.

	within 5km of the Proposed Development. It is anticipated that, while some limited overlap may occur, construction of the Proposed Development and the associated solar farms will be such that cumulative or in combination effects during the construction stage will be negligible.	immediate surrounding area. Sequential views are limited to those travelling along the Unnamed Track, Northwest of the Proposed Development due to the visibility of each development from this location.	
The nature of any associated demolition works	There are no demolition works associated with the construction of the Proposed Development.	There are no demolition works associated with the Proposed Development.	There are no demolition works associated with the Proposed Development.
The use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity.	Earthworks will be undertaken as part of the construction of the Proposed Development (see outline construction methodology) and will include excavation and cut and fill within the substation compound, excavation associated with access track construction, trenching for the underground cable route, and localised excavation for foundations associated with substation infrastructure and the grid connection masts.. The overall footprint of the development is only circa 8.36% of the	Once operational, the Proposed Development will facilitate the export of renewable electricity generated by the associated solar farm, delivering a significant positive effect for climate and energy security. The biodiversity management plan and landscape and ecology management plan will result in a **net gain for biodiversity** for the operational stage.	Decommissioning of the substation is not anticipated. The only natural resource that would be utilised in the unlikely event of future decommissioning is soil, with all excavated material reused for reinstatement within the application site.

	Application Site Area. **Significant effects are not anticipated.**		
The production of waste	It is anticipated that limited waste will be produced during the construction process, and the majority of earthworks will be backfilled or utilised in the deposition areas. There is likely to be general construction material waste which will be taken off site and disposed of in line with applicable requirements. No waste will be stored on site during construction.	There will be **no waste** generated from the operational phase.	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated. If ever required, most infrastructure would be removed, recycled or reused, with non-recyclable materials disposed of appropriately.
Pollution and nuisances	There will be very limited air pollution created from the construction stage due to the short construction timescale and limited traffic generation. Increased volumes of traffic will be generated by the Proposed Development during the construction period. However, the overall volumes of traffic generated by the Proposed Development during the construction	The operational phase of the development is anticipated to have negligible trip generation potential with approximately 10-15 Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) expected every year for scheduled maintenance checks, with additional visits required to attend to remedial issues when necessary.	Decommissioning of the substation itself is not anticipated.

	period are considered to be quite low. During the anticipated 14-month construction period, a total of 810 HGV deliveries will be made to the site. During the peak construction period there will be an estimated maximum of 20 daily HGV deliveries. All traffic movements will be carried out between the hours of 07.00 to 19.00 on Monday to Friday and 08.00 to 16.00 on Saturdays unless required for testing or an emergency. Noise will be generated during construction, from construction of the site tracks, excavation of the underground cable trenches, cut and fill activities, creation of substation hard standing and concrete foundations. The acoustic impact assessment found that these activities are unlikely to exceed the threshold values defined as part of the 'ABC method'. The construction process could result in surface water runoff	Operational noise will be limited to the grid transformer located within the substation compound. The predicted noise rating level from the Proposed Development is below the adopted daytime, evening and night-time limits at all noise sensitive receptors, predicting a **Negligible Impact** at all noise sensitive receptors. Therefore, the risk of future noise complaint is low and the requirement for further mitigation is not required.	

	and dust from earth works, however these are matters that would be managed through the adoption of best practice construction standards.		
The risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project concerned, including those caused by climate change, in accordance with scientific knowledge	There are no risks of major accidents or disasters relevant to the Proposed Development, subject to compliance with all best practice guidance and migration measures proposed. The Proposed Development is not subject to the Seveso Directives or COMAH Regulations. See OCEMP for further details in respect of storage of fuels and pollution prevention.	There are no risks of major accidents or disasters relevant to the Proposed Development, subject to compliance with all best practice guidance and mitigation measures proposed. The Proposed Development is not subject to the Seveso Directives or COMAH Regulations.	The infrastructure is permanent grid connection assets and will not be decommissioned with the associated solar farms.
The risk to human health (for example due to water contamination or air pollution)	See pollution and nuisance above. There is limited potential for contamination of water courses from the construction phase. Notwithstanding this, best practice and integral design measures have been proposed (filter drains, spill kits, buffer zones, etc.), **significant effects are not predicted.**	See pollution and nuisance above. There is no potential for contamination from the proposed development once operational, as the design measures ensure any run-off is managed through filter drains. **No significant effects** are therefore predicted.	The infrastructure is permanent grid connection assets and will not be decommissioned with the associated solar farms.
Location of Proposed Development The environmental sensitivity of	**Construction Impacts**	**Operational Impacts**	**Decommissioning Impacts**

geographical areas likely to be affected by proposed development, having regard to:			
The existing land use.	The Proposed Development is located within a typical agriculture field system and used for agricultural purposes. There are existing overhead 110kV transmission infrastructure on the site. The Proposed Development will result in limited impacts at the construction stage. The only concrete used will be for the various electrical infrastructure and building foundations.	The Proposed Development will result in permanent change from renewable energy infrastructure including a 110kV substation, grid connection and associated infrastructure as set out in para 3.3 above. This is a standard and accepted evolution supporting renewable energy infrastructure. The wider Application Site outside the compound will retain compatibility with low-intensity agricultural practice. The development will eliminate pesticide/fertiliser use within the compound and deliver hedgerow enhancement and biodiversity net gain. Overall, **negligible adverse effect** on existing land use,	Decommissioning on the substation is not anticipated it will remain as a permanent piece of infrastructure.

		with significant positive contribution to national energy objectives.	
The relative abundance, availability, quality and regenerative capacity of natural resources (including soil, land, water and biodiversity) in the area and its underground.	Apart from the foundations of the various infrastructural elements, there will be limited ground disturbance apart from Earthworks which will be undertaken as part of the construction of the Proposed Development and will include excavation and cut and fill within the substation compound, excavation associated with access track construction, trenching for the underground cable route, and localised excavation for foundations associated with substation infrastructure and the grid connection masts..	Post-construction the substation compound and associated grid connection works will be a permanent use. There will be no significant effects on soil, land, water or biodiversity. The wider site remains available for compatible agricultural use and biodiversity enhancement. In this regard it there is **not considered to be any significant effects**.	Post-construction the substation compound and associated grid connection works will be a permanent utility use. There will be no significant effects on soil, land, water or biodiversity. The wider site remains available for compatible agricultural use and biodiversity enhancement.
The absorption capacity of the natural environment, paying attention to the following areas:- a) wetlands, b) coastal zones, c) mountain and forest areas, d) nature reserves and parks, e) areas classified or	Within the 15km Zone of Influence (ZoI) surrounding the Proposed Development there are seven European Designated Sites. These consist of four Special Areas of Conservation ("SACs") and three Special Protections Areas ("SPAs") within a 15m ZoI of the Proposed Development; River Shannon Callows SAC,	The NIS has concluded that the Proposed Development will **not adversely affect** the integrity of these three European Designated sites due to suitable mitigation measures, inaugurated design measures and following best practice pollution prevention during the	The infrastructure is permanent grid connection assets and is not anticipated to be decommissioned with the associated solar farms.

protected under legislation, including special protection areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC, f) areas in which the environmental quality standards laid down in legislation of the EU have already been exceeded, g) densely populated areas, h) landscapes of historical, cultural or archaeological significance.	Redwood Bog SAC, Ardgraigue Bog SAC, Glenloughaun Esker SAC, River Suck Callows SPA, Middle Shannon Callows SPA, and River Little Brosna Callows SPA. None of these European Designated Sites were located within or directly adjacent to the Application Site. The Natura Impact Statement (NIS) Screening within this report concluded that three European Sites were identified as having potential connectivity with the Application Site; River Shannon Callows SAC, River Suck Callows SPA and Middle Shannon Callows SPA. River Shannon Callows SAC was identified as having potential ecological connectivity, while the River Suck Callows SPA and Middle Shannon Callows SPA were identified as having potential ornithological connectivity, and required further assessment. With the implementation of integral design	construction and operation phases. There are no other areas identified to be potentially impacted by the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites.	

	measures, mitigation and best practice construction methods, it can be concluded that there will be **no significant effects** for all European Designated sites within the ZoI. There are no other areas identified to be potentially impacted by the Proposed Development. The Proposed Development will not adversely affect the integrity of any European Sites.		
Characteristics of Potential Impacts **The potential significant effects of proposed development in relation to criteria set out under paragraphs 1 and 2 above, and having regard in:-**	**Construction Impacts**	**Operational Impacts**	**Decommissioning**
The magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).	The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development is limited geographically, as the footprint of the works are of limited spatial extent of 8.36% of the Application Site. The human population which will be affected by the Proposed Development is limited due to the nature of the	The magnitude of the impact of the Proposed Development is limited geographically, as the footprint of the works are of limited spatial extent of 8.36% of the Application Site. The Proposed Development has the	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated.

	development, existing and proposed screening and the separation distance between the Proposed Development and residential receptors.	potential to result in Visual Impacts. However, with the implementation of screen planting and biodiversity enhancement measures, the Proposed Development will not result in any significant impacts.	
The nature of the impact.	The Proposed Development is a type of application which is common in Ireland, and the associated solar farm applications have already been consented beside this site. There is limited potential for impacts during the construction phase. The assessments have concluded that prior to mitigation measures, the Proposed Development will not result in significant impacts on natural resources namely soil, land, water, traffic or biodiversity and will not result in significant visual impacts. Notwithstanding the limited impacts (i.e.	The assessments have concluded that prior to mitigation measures, the Proposed Development will not result in significant impacts on natural resources namely soil, land, water, traffic, or biodiversity and will not result in significant visual, and noise impacts. Notwithstanding the limited impacts, mitigations measures including screen planting and biodiversity enhancement have been included to ensure that the Proposed Development integrates appropriately within the receiving environment and	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated.

	potential impacts on Traffic & Transport, Noise, Landscape & Visual, Archaeology, Hydrology or Ecology impacts), the implementation of standard best practice construction methodologies will further ensure that there will be no impact in respect of the natural and built environment.	does not give rise to significant adverse environmental effects.	
The transboundary nature of the impact.	The development is confined to the administrative jurisdiction of Galway County Council. The Proposed Development will not result in transboundary impacts.	The Proposed Development will not result in transboundary impacts during the operational phase.	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated.
The intensity and complexity of the impact.	Potential construction impacts are not considered to be complex when appropriate environmental management techniques and best practice guidance are employed, nor intense due to the nature of the development. No significant impacts are considered.	Operational phase impacts are not assessed to be intense or complex.	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated.
The probability of the impact.	The Proposed Development is a type of development which	The Proposed Development is a type of development	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated.

	has been subject to previous assessment of impacts such that impacts can be predicted with confidence and effective mitigation can be readily implemented to ensure that significant adverse impacts are not likely. During construction, conventional construction and best practice environmental practice techniques will be readily employed. In order to minimise disruption, the CTMP and OCEMP will be implemented. These will remain 'live' documents which will be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary to ensure that the measures implemented are effective. It is concluded that significant environmental impacts would not occur during the construction phase. It is concluded that localised, temporary impacts are considered. However, the magnitude and complexity of impact is not assessed to be significant.	which has been subject to previous assessment of impacts such that impacts can be predicted with confidence and effective mitigation can be readily implemented to ensure that significant adverse impacts are not likely. The overall design of the Proposed Development has been carefully considered within the confines of the agricultural fields to ensure the effects upon the landscape and visual receptors are limited. The proposed mitigation planting will, over time, assist in softening and screening views of the development. However, within the confines of the Application Site, the magnitude of landscape change is considered to be High to Medium, resulting in effects of **Moderate** significance overall.	

	Potential impacts on Traffic & Transport, Noise, Landscape & Visual, Archaeology, Hydrology or Ecology have been addressed within the relevant reports submitted with this Planning Application.	Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area (between approximately 300m and 2km from the Site boundary). The highest landscape and visual effects during the construction stage will be experienced in the vicinity of the Application Site from locations with open or partial views of the site, particularly along the Unnamed road, Northwest of the Proposed Development. There will also be views of the construction of the taller elements such as the lighting masts and lattice towers from the Skenageehy Road. The principal views of construction works will likely be experienced within a radius of up to approximately 300m from the boundary of the Proposed Development.	

		Therefore, the possible views from many of these locations are often glimpsed and fleeting in nature.	
The expected onset, duration, frequency and reversibility of the impact.	It is expected that construction will take approximately 14 months to complete. All traffic movements will be carried out between the hours of 07.00 to 19.00 on Monday to Friday and 08.00 to 16.00 on Saturdays unless required for decommissioning and testing or an emergency. No significant noise or other nuisance effects are predicted for the construction phase. There are no receptors in close proximity to the works that could be significantly affected. The selection and implementation of established best practice procedures, as set out within the OCEMP and the CTMP will ensure potential environmental impacts during the construction phase are offset. The OCEMP will remain a 'live' document which	The operational phase is indefinite. All works associated with the Proposed Development are reversible should decommissioning be required.	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated.

	will be reviewed regularly and revised as necessary to ensure that the measures implemented are effective. No significant impacts are considered.		
Cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects.	A search was conducted of relevant planning applications within the vicinity of the Site, using the An Coimisiún Pleanála and Galway County Council portals. The search was limited to the ten-year period preceding the date of issue. There are currently 2 consented solar farms (Ballydonagh Solar Farm and Ballydonagh Solar Farm extension) and two amendment applications for these solar farm applications, 1 consented Battery storage facility, 2 substations and 1 Wind Farm development, within 5km of the Proposed Development. It is anticipated that, while some limited overlap may occur, construction of the Proposed Development and the associated solar farms will be such that cumulative or in combination effects	The potential for cumulative views of the Proposed Development with the approved developments as noted above from viewpoints and local area was found to be limited, as many potential views are hindered by distance, localised variations in the topography and screening by natural and built elements across the local landscape. However, as this is adjacent to the solar farm consented under Planning Reference 2361049, there will be a cumulative impact from the combined Developments. There would also be a cumulative impact on 2561903 and 2660009 and the associated amendments to applications.	The infrastructure is permanent grid connection assets and will not be decommissioned with the associated solar farms.

	during the construction stage will be negligible.	The Proposed Development will result in Moderate Change cumulative views which should reduce further when mitigation planting has been implemented.	
The possibility of effectively reducing the impact.	The avoidance of impacts and the possibility of effectively reducing the impact of the Proposed Development on the environment has been a central consideration in the design and planning of the Proposed Development. Construction phase impacts have been assessed, and appropriate mitigation measures have been provided to mitigate and reduce potential impacts. No significant impacts are identified. Any minor and localised effects will be effectively managed through appropriate construction practices.	The design of the Proposed Development has been proposed to ensure that environmental impacts are minimised. As described previously, this includes limited ground/civil works, proposed screen planting. The development has been designed and located so as to ensure its absorption in the overall area. The design process has ensured that any operational phase impacts which may occur have all been reduced. Additionally, the design has been optimised to EirGrid standard with screen planting and biodiversity measures to	Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is not anticipated.

		minimise all operational impacts.	

4.15. It can be concluded that:

- The development is not of a type, scale or threshold as set down in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) where an EIAR would be mandatory; and
- The development will not give rise to impacts of a magnitude which, on their own or cumulatively, could cause a likely significant effect on the environment as assessed using the evaluation criteria set down in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

4.16. The following sections provide an overview of supporting documentation (See Volume 3) which accompanies the planning application, all of which demonstrates that there would no adverse environmental impacts.

5. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT

LANDSCAPE BASELINE

5.1. A baseline study has been undertaken through a combination of desk-based research and site appraisal in order to establish the existing conditions of the landscape and visual resources of the study area. Desk based research involved a review of mapping and aerial photography, relevant planning, and policy documents, the relevant Galway County Landscape Character Assessments and other relevant documents and publications. A study area radius of 5km from the Application Site boundary has been selected to identify potential significant landscape and visual effects (**refer to Figure 1.1, Appendix 1A**). The extent of the study area has been defined via a combination of a desktop survey, including a review of maps and aerial photographs of the Application Site and site survey data.

5.2. The study area was defined to an area where landscape and visual effects could potentially be significant rather than defining the extent of the visibility of the Proposed Development. The extent of the study area has been identified through the production of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) mapping (**refer to Figure 1.2, Appendix 1A**), a review of maps and aerial photographs and site surveys. Given the nature of the Proposed Development works and existing site context, the visual extent, in reality, is often far less than 5km, and significant effects are mainly confined to immediately adjacent locations.

5.3. A Landscape Character Assessment was carried out for Galway County Council under the Council's County Development Plan 2022-2028. The Landscape Character Assessment defines that the area the Proposed Development is located within as LCT 'A1 Lowland Pasture & Arable'. The proposed site is located in the **Eastern Plains** Landscape Region.

5.4. Within the 5km Radius Zone, there are two Landscape Character Types (LCT). These are Central Galway Complex LCT 6 and Shannon Environs LCT 8. This can be seen in **Figure 1.1 Appendix 1A**. The Central Galway Complex LCT incorporates over 80% of the 5km study area with a further 20% of the study area lying within the Shannon Environs Landscape and The Shannon Environs 8a Landscape Character Unit are mapped in **Figure 1.1 Appendix 1A.**

5.5. The application site is entirely located within the **Central Galway Complex Landscape Type** and the **Kilcrow Basin Landscape Character Unit LCU 6d**.

LANDSCAPE EFFECTS

5.6. The main landscape effects of the Proposed Development will be associated with the introduction of a 110kV loop in loop out substation and grid connection, which introduce new

built and vertical elements into fields previously used for agricultural practices. Ancillary infrastructure, such as site fencing, control buildings, lightning masts, telecom poles, CCTV and standby generator, will be small in scale and contribute little additional influence on character.

5.7. It is considered that the development will alter the landscape character within the confines of the site, adding an industrial character to the site and immediate site surroundings where views are possible.

5.8. Although the receiving landscape is of low sensitivity and is capable of accommodating development of this nature, the transformation of the Application Site from agricultural use to a Substation Development will represent a clear and noticeable change in local landscape character.

5.9. The proposed mitigation planting will, over time, assist in softening and screening views of the development. However, within the confines of the Application Site, the magnitude of landscape change is considered to be **High to Medium**, resulting in effects of **Moderate** significance overall.

5.10. Indirect change will occur outside of the Application Site boundary, where the visibility of the Proposed Development has an influence on the perception of the character of the landscape. The indirect change in landscape character is greatest in its immediate and close surroundings where open and partial views are possible within approximately 500m radius from the Application Site boundary. The magnitude of change in these areas is considered **Medium to Low**. The significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Slight reducing to Not Significant** as mitigation planting matures.

5.11. Indirect change and the significance of landscape effects will reduce with increasing distance from the Application Site in the remaining study area (between approximately 300m and 2km from the Site boundary). Given the nature, scale and setting of the Proposed Development, the change in character will not be recognised over long distances throughout the wider study area in accessible views. Therefore, the significance of landscape effects on the landscape character is therefore considered to be **Not Significant**.

VISUAL EFFECTS

5.12. The majority of residential dwellings in the immediate environment of the Proposed Development are located mainly to the southwest, in Kiltormer Village.

5.13. The main visual receptor groups are local residents, road users and pedestrians. Residents and pedestrians will have a higher sensitivity to change than the road users. Vehicle travellers will focus primarily on traffic and not on available views, however, if looked upon, the Proposed Development will be seen in transit making the views fleeting in nature.

5.14. The highest visual effects will be experienced within an approximate 300m radius of the Application Site boundary, particularly along the Unnamed road, Northwest of the Proposed Development. There will also be views of the Lighting Masts from the Skenageehy Road. Beyond this, areas experiencing visibility have been found to be extremely limited given the level of existing vegetation screening the majority of views. Therefore, the possible views from many of these locations are often glimpsed and fleeting in nature.

5.15. The magnitude of visual effects on local residents and residential areas with views of the Proposed Development within approximately 500m are considered to range from **Low / Negligible** to **None** depending on the openness of views and intervening screening by vegetation, topography or built structures. In areas where the Proposed Development will be visible, the significance ranges from **Slight** reducing to **Not Significant** .as the mitigation planting matures. In other areas, where the Proposed Development is screened by vegetation, there will be a **'No Change**' scenario.

5.16. The Proposed Development will add an industrial character to accessible views. Distance will become a mitigating factor, and the Proposed Development will be seen in the context of the wider landscape.

5.17. In long-distance views ranging between approximately 1km and 2km, the effects will be Negligible. While the Proposed Development will add an industrial element to the view when seen, the change will be seen in the context of the wider landscape, where mitigation measures will help integrate the Proposed Development into its setting. The magnitude of visual change is considered **Negligible** and the significance **Not Significant.**

MITIGATION & ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

5.18. Mitigation is a term used to describe the measures or actions that may be taken to minimise environmental effects. The purpose of mitigation is to avoid, reduce and where possible remedy or offset, any significant adverse direct and indirect effects on the environment arising from the Proposed Development.

5.19. A Landscape and Ecology Management Plan outlining the mitigation planting proposals has been included within **Figure 1.18a – Figure 1.18b**: **Appendix 1A**. The following main landscape and visual mitigation categories have been outlined below:

5.20. Mitigation planting will broadly include;

- Proposed Infill Hedgerow Planting: 350.2m

5.21. Proposed Ecological measures will include;

- Proposed Bird Box – 4 no.
- Proposed Bat Box – 5 no.

- Proposed Herptile Hibernacula – 1 no.
- Proposed Invertebrate Hotel – 1 no.

5.22. Vegetation Removal will broadly include;

- Existing Hedgerow to be Removed: 481.3m²
- Trees to be removed: 14 no.
- Vegetation and Hedgerow to be trimmed to achieve vision lines: 230.0m

6. ECOLOGY

BASELINE

6.1. The Proposed Development does not lie within or directly adjacent to any statutory or non-statutory designated environmental sites.

6.2. There are four Special Areas of Conservation ("SACs") and three Special Protections Areas ("SPAs") within a 15m ZoI of the Proposed Development; River Shannon Callows SAC, Redwood Bog SAC, Ardgraigue Bog SAC, Glenloughaun Esker SAC, River Suck Callows SPA, Middle Shannon Callows SPA, and River Little Brosna Callows SPA.

6.3. Of the above European Designated Sites, three were identified as having potential connectivity with the Application Site; River Shannon Callows SAC, River Suck Callows SPA, Middle Shannon Callows SPA and River Little Brosna Callows SPA. River Shannon Callows SAC was identified as having potential ecological connectivity, while the River Suck Callows SPA, Middle Shannon Callows SPA and River Little Brosna Callows SPA were identified as having potential ornithological connectivity, and required further assessment. No hydrological connectivity was identified between the Application Site and the above European Designated Sites. All other European Designated Sites were screened out for further assessment due to lack of connectivity.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

6.4. These designated sites have been fully assessed within this document and the accompanying Natura Impact Statement (NIS) (See Volume 1).

6.5. The NIS concluded that without mitigation, the Proposed Development – both on its own and in combination with other plans and projects – could not rule out potential adverse ex-situ effects. Due to this, mitigation measures were proposed which will prevent and mitigate any negative effects which may occur as a result of the Proposed Development. With the proper implementation of these mitigation measures, it is considered that the Proposed Development **will not have a significant effect upon any qualifying features, and therefore the integrity, of the European Designated sites** with potential connectivity to the Application Site.

MITIGATION AND ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

6.6. In the absence of mitigation measures, the Proposed Development has the potential to have adverse effects on the River Shannon Callows SAC, River Suck Callows SPA, Middle Shannon Callows SPA and River Little Brosna Callows SPA. Considering the ecological and ornithological connectivity there have been mitigation measures outlined to limit potential impacts for the qualifying features of this European designated site. These are outlined in Table 2 below.

Table 2: Design, best practice and mitigation measures

FEATURE	POTENTIAL IMPACT	PHASE OF DEVELOPMENT	MEASURES IMPLEMENTED
INTEGRAL DESIGN MEASURES AND STANDARD BEST PRACTICE MEASURES			
Badger	Disturbance, destruction of sett, accidental trapping, and the restriction of movement through the site (foraging habitat)	Construction	All excavations should be securely covered, or a suitable means of escape provided at the end of each working day. Security fencing will prevent badgers from entering the substation or other areas and becoming trapped.
Otter	Disturbance and the restriction of movement through the site. Contamination of drainage ditches.	Construction	All excavations should be securely covered, or a suitable means of escape provided at the end of each working day. Mammal gates will prevent Otter from becoming trapped and decrease fragmentation Pollution prevention measures will be implemented in areas works are to occur near drainage ditches. This will preserve migratory corridors and avoid disturbance of migrating Otter.
Water birds	Disturbance and impact on water quality	Construction	Installation of silt fences, silt traps and check dams to control sediment run-off into surface waters and pollution.

			Installation of box culverts, where required.
MITIGATION MEASURES			
Badger	Disturbance, destruction of sett, accidental trapping, and the restriction of movement through the site (foraging habitat)	Pre-construction	Pre-construction badger survey (Measures dependant on survey findings).
Breeding birds	Disturbance / damage to nest	Pre-construction	Pre-construction breeding bird survey (if works are to commence between March and August inclusive)
Bats	Disturbance, destruction of roosts	Construction	Pre-commencement survey (Only where works directly affecting trees are required)

6.7. The measures outlined above will be implemented prior to or during the construction phase of the development. It is proposed that pre-construction badger surveys are undertaken before works are to occur near any hedgerows or treelines as these are important for badgers.

6.8. Appointment of a suitable qualified Ecological Clerk of Works should be adhered to during construction in proximity to watercourses present within and adjacent to the site to oversee and ensure the integrity of the aquatic habitats. As set out in the EcIA mitigation measures have been proposed to prevent disturbance of protected species. These measures include:

- The use of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) throughout construction to ensure that appropriate levels of supervision are implemented;

- Management of existing habitats to create additional foraging habitat;
- Exclusion zones implemented along all important linear features throughout the Application Site (hedgerows, treelines, drainage ditches);
- Creation of habitat interest features for protected species (e.g., herptile hibernacula, invertebrate hotels, etc.).
- Drainage management measures to ensure protection of surface waters including the use of temporary and permanent treatment ponds, swales or drains, use of silt traps, restrictions to refuelling and appropriate storage of fuel, monitoring of drainage and sediment management, as required.
- Pre-construction bird surveys to ensure that any changes in respect of protected species are appropriately identified and addressed (birds, bats, badgers etc.);

6.9. Furthermore, relevant guidance will be adhered to prior to and throughout the construction phase to prevent contaminants entering the aquatic environment.

7. ARCHAEOLOGY & ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE

BASELINE

7.1. The full list of assets identified within their respective study zones is presented within **Table 1: Appendix 3B**. A total of 8 HGDLs were identified within the 5km study zone (**Figure 3.1: Appendix 3A**), while seven sites within the RPS, seven historic building within the NIAH and 70 sites within the RMP were identified within the 2km study zone (**Figure 3.2: Appendix 3A**). These assets have therefore been assessed for potential indirect effects within this report. However, no ACAs or World Heritage Sites were identified within their respective study zones.

Table 3: Heritage Assets within the Study Zones

Neo Ref.	Database No.	Name	Distance (km)	Indirect Impact
Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes (to 5km)				
NA01	GA-47-M-812208	Eyreville	2.39km	Negligible
NA02	GA-47-M-837218	Gortnamona	1.10km	Negligible
NA03	GA-47-M-848223	Somerset House	1.58km	Not in ZTV
NA04	GA-47-M-866203	Belview	2.65km	Not in ZTV
NA05	GA-53-M-841188	Newpark	1.83km	Not in ZTV
NA06	GA-53-M-843177	Raheen, Kilquain	2.96km	Not in ZTV
NA07	GA-53-M-848191	Huntly	1.88km	Not in ZTV
NA08	GA-53-M-879199	Ballymore Castle	3.93km	Not in ZTV
Historic Buildings within the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (to 2km)				
NA09	30409908	Eyreville: mill (wind)	2.00km	Negligible
NA10	30409909	Saint Patrick's Church	1.92km	Not in ZTV
NA11	30409910	Saint Thomas' Church of Ireland Kiltormer	1.85km	Not in ZTV
NA12	30409912	Gortnamona: country house	1.10km	Negligible

NA13	30409913	Gortnamona: **outbuilding**	1.10km	**Negligible**
NA14	30410017	Volunteer Arch	1.22km	**Not in ZTV**
NA15	30410701	Skycur House	1.83km	**Negligible**
Protected Structures (to 2km)				
NA16	-	Kiltormer Church of Ireland Church	1.85km	**Not in ZTV**
NA17	-	Kiltormer Catholic Church	1.92km	**Not in ZTV**
NA18	-	Volunteer Arch	1.22km	**Not in ZTV**
NA19	-	Skycur House	1.83km	**Negligible**
NA20	-	**Eyreville: mill (wind)**	2.00km	**Negligible**
NA21	-	Gortnamona: **outbuilding**	1.10km	**Negligible**
NA22	-	Gortnamona: **country house**	1.10km	**Negligible**
Sites within the Record of Monuments and Places (to 2km)				
NA23	GA099-022----	Ringfort - rath	0.15km	**Minor**
NA24	GA099-022001-	Ringfort - rath	0.11km	**Minor**
NA25	GA099-022002-	Ringfort - rath	0.11km	**Minor**
NA26	GA099-023----	Enclosure	0.53km	**Negligible**
NA27	GA099-024----	Quarry	1.00km	**Negligible**
NA28	GA099-025----	Monumental structure	0.77km	**Negligible**
NA29	GA099-026----	Ringfort - rath	0.86km	**Negligible**
NA30	GA099-027----	Ringfort - rath	0.95km	**Negligible**
NA31	GA099-028----	Enclosure	1.37km	**Not in ZTV**
NA32	GA099-029----	House - 18th/19th century	1.13km	**Negligible**
NA33	GA099-042----	Ringfort - unclassified	1.64km	**Negligible**
NA34	GA099-061----	Ringfort - rath	1.38km	**Not in ZTV**
NA35	GA099-062----	House - 18th/19th century	1.53km	**Negligible**
NA36	GA099-063----	House - 18th/19th century	1.25km	**Not in ZTV**
NA37	GA099-100----	Ringfort - unclassified	1.82km	**Not in ZTV**
NA38	GA099-101----	Kiln - lime	1.52km	**Negligible**
NA39	GA099-102----	Ringfort - rath	1.41km	**Negligible**
NA40	GA099-103----	Ringfort - rath	1.11km	**Negligible**
NA41	GA099-104----	Ringfort - rath	1.12km	**Negligible**
NA42	GA099-105----	House - 18th/19th century	1.10km	**Negligible**
NA43	GA099-109001-	Castle - unclassified	0.80km	**Negligible**
NA44	GA099-109002-	Enclosure	0.82km	**Negligible**
NA45	GA099-110----	Designed landscape - tree-ring	0.63km	**Not in ZTV**
NA46	GA099-122----	Enclosure	1.33km	**Negligible**

NA47	GA099-123----	Ritual site - holy well	1.51km	Not in ZTV
NA48	GA099-124----	Ringfort - rath	0.77km	Negligible
NA49	GA099-126----	Quarry	1.83km	Not in ZTV
NA50	GA099-127----	Graveyard	1.78km	Not in ZTV
NA51	GA099-127001-	Cross	1.78km	Not in ZTV
NA52	GA099-127002-	Church	1.78km	Not in ZTV
NA53	GA099-128----	Church	1.92km	Not in ZTV
NA54	GA099-155----	Windmill	2.00km	Negligible
NA55	GA099-156----	Ringfort - rath	2.00km	Negligible
NA56	GA099-160001-	Church	2.00km	Not in ZTV
NA57	GA099-160002-	Graveyard	2.00km	Not in ZTV
NA58	GA099-163----	Designed landscape feature	2.00km	Not in ZTV
NA59	GA099-165----	Designed landscape feature	2.10km	Not in ZTV
NA60	GA099-171----	Quarry	1.87km	Not in ZTV
NA61	GA099-172----	Ringfort - rath	1.63km	Negligible
NA62	GA099-173----	Children's burial ground	1.64km	Not in ZTV
NA63	GA099-174001-	Ringfort - rath	1.45km	Negligible
NA64	GA099-174002-	Field system	1.76km	Negligible
NA65	GA099-178----	Ringfort - rath	1.86km	Not in ZTV
NA66	GA099-178001-	House - indeterminate date	1.86km	Not in ZTV
NA67	GA099-179----	Ringfort - rath	1.83km	Not in ZTV
NA68	GA099-180----	Designed landscape feature	1.12km	Negligible
NA69	GA099-181----	House - indeterminate date	1.95km	Not in ZTV
NA70	GA099-200----	Earthwork	1.78km	Not in ZTV
NA71	GA100-007----	Redundant record	1.60km	Not in ZTV
NA72	GA100-028----	Ringfort - rath	1.81km	Not in ZTV
NA73	GA100-034----	Designed landscape feature	1.73km	Not in ZTV
NA74	GA100-035----	Designed landscape - tree-ring	1.57km	Not in ZTV
NA75	GA100-045----	Designed landscape - tree-ring	1.10km	Not in ZTV
NA76	GA100-046----	Designed landscape - tree-ring	1.14km	Not in ZTV
NA77	GA100-047----	Designed landscape - tree-ring	1.55km	Not in ZTV
NA78	GA100-051----	Cenotaph	1.25km	Not in ZTV
NA79	GA100-052----	Designed landscape - tree-ring	1.15km	Not in ZTV
NA80	GA100-083----	House - 18th/19th century	1.86km	Not in ZTV
NA81	GA100-097----	Ringfort - rath	0.68km	Not in ZTV
NA82	GA100-098----	Redundant record	1.17km	Not in ZTV

NA83	GA100-099----	Ringfort - rath	1.10km	Not in ZTV
NA84	GA100-100----	Children's burial ground	1.95km	Not in ZTV
NA85	GA100-149----	Ringfort - rath	0.81km	Negligible
NA86	GA100-150----	Quarry	1.15km	Not in ZTV
NA87	GA100-153----	Designed landscape feature	1.75km	Not in ZTV
NA88	GA100-154----	Barrow - mound barrow	1.23km	Not in ZTV
NA89	GA100-155----	Country house	1.58km	Not in ZTV
NA90	GA107-174----	Enclosure	1.76km	Negligible
NA91	GA107-182----	Quarry	1.83km	Negligible
NA92	GA107-183----	Enclosure	1.70km	Not in ZTV

DIRECT IMPACTS

Known Archaeological and Heritage Assets

7.2. There are no recorded sites within the RMP, RPS and NIAH that are within or near to the Application Site that could be physically impacted by the Proposed Development. In addition, no features of archaeological significance were identified during the site visit or analysis of aerial photographs. As such, **no direct impacts** upon known archaeological and heritage assets are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

Archaeological Potential

7.3. Due to the absence of any recorded archaeological or architectural features within the Application Site, there are no confirmed internal indicators for archaeological potential. However, the surrounding archaeology within the SMR/RMP includes enclosures, ringforts, and some quarry's, indicating that the site lies within a landscape with known archaeological activity. Furthermore, the Geophysical Survey found a number of anomalies within fields 13, 16, 18 and 22. A such, the Application Sites archaeological potential is most likely **Moderate** for Prehistoric and Early Medieval remains throughout its extent.

7.4. A programme of test trenching, under licence numbers (24E0385 & 24R0280), was undertaken between the 4th and 14th of June 2024, the purpose of which was to target Geophysical anomalies within Fields 13, 16, 18 & 22 that were detected in order to ascertain if these anomalies pertained to hitherto unknown archaeological features (see **Appendix 3C– Test Trenching Report (Consented Solar Farm)**). A total of 36 trenches were excavated across the Application Site. All trenches were excavated in full, and metal detected with no archaeological objects recovered. The results of this programme showed that all trenches within the RLB were found to be sterile.

7.5. As such, the results of the Test Trenching, in conjunction with the Geophysical Survey, does not suggest any potential for further significant archaeological remains within the Proposed Development. Therefore, no further mitigation is considered to be necessary in relation to this with the exception of ongoing monitoring. It should be noted that monitoring is already secured under Condition 5 (v) of Planning Reference 2361049, as amended under 2561903 (see condition 14(v) also), which requires archaeological supervision of all site clearance and ground disturbance works. This established requirement can be carried forward as part of any subsequent permission.

Ground Disturbance from Construction Methods

7.6. Different levels of intrusion and disturbance are anticipated for different construction elements. As such, the potential for impacting upon sub-surface remains is dependent on the type and scale of each construction element. The following information is provided in line with NMS guidance and presents quantitative detail on each aspect of construction that is expected to have potential direct impacts upon archaeology.

7.7. Potential impacts resulting from each element of construction depends on their ground disturbance, both overall and relative to the overall Application Site area, as well as the archaeological potential of the land.

INDIRECT IMPACTS

7.8. There were no NMSCs identified within the 5km study zone around the Proposed Development. As such, this heritage resource will not be impacted by the Proposed Development.

7.9. There is one HGDLs identified within the 5km study zone that is within the ZTV of the Proposed Development. **Negligible** indirect effects are anticipated for Gortnamona (NA02).

7.10. There were four historic structures within the RPS/NIAH that are within the 2km study zone and the ZTV of the Proposed Development. **Negligible** indirect effects are anticipated for all of these assets.

7.11. There were 29 archaeological sites identified in the RMP that are within the 2km study zone and the ZTV of the Proposed Development. **Minor** indirect effects are anticipated for 'Ringfort-raths' (NA23/NA24/NA25), while **Negligible** indirect effects are anticipated for the remaining 26 assets.

7.12. There were no ACAs or World Heritage Sites identified in their respective study zones.

7.13. Although nearby consented developments may result in cumulative views from third points in the landscape, no instances were identified where cumulative indirect effects resulting from this upon any specific heritage asset increased the overall indirect effects anticipated

upon them. As such, overall cumulative indirect effects upon the heritage resource are anticipated to be **Minor / Adverse** in the worst case during the operational phase, in line with the overall indirect effects previously assessed. Consented developments identified within the surrounding area and considered for cumulative impacts are contained within **Table 1** below.

MITIGATION MEASURES

Direct Effects upon Known Assets

7.14. There are no recorded sites within the RMP, RPS and NIAH that are within or near to the Application Site that could be physically impacted by the Proposed Development. In addition, no features of archaeological significance were identified during the site visit or analysis of aerial photographs. As such, **no direct impacts** upon known archaeological and heritage assets are anticipated and no mitigation is required.

Archaeological Potential

7.15. The results of the Test Trenching, in conjunction with the Geophysical Survey, does not suggest any potential for further significant archaeological remains within the Proposed Development. Therefore, no further mitigation is considered to be necessary in relation to this with the exception of ongoing monitoring. It should be noted that monitoring is already secured under Condition 5 (v) of Planning Reference 2361049, as amended under 2561903 (see condition 14(v) also), which requires archaeological supervision of all site clearance and ground disturbance works. This established requirement can be carried forward as part of any subsequent permission.

Indirect Effects

7.16. Indirect effects upon the surrounding heritage assets have been assessed as overall **Low**. Therefore, no specific mitigation is considered to be required for the reduction of any visual impacts.

8. HYDROLOGY

BASELINE

8.1. Flood planning guidance for Ireland has been produced by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (now the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government) in 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities[2]' (the "FRM Guidelines") document. The FRA and DIA has been undertaken in accordance with these guidelines.

8.2. Flood planning policy aims to avoid inappropriate development in flood zones and instead direct it to areas of low risk by adopting a *sequential approach.* A developments vulnerability classification will define which flood zone it is permitted within, with only flood compatible development permitted in areas with a high probability of flooding, unless the development passes a justification test. This is to ensure that residual risks can be successfully managed and that there are no unacceptable impacts on adjacent land. The following indicators are typically used in assessing flood risk and are appropriate for site FRAs:

- Flood probability;
- Flood depth;
- Flood velocity;
- Rate and onset of flooding; and
- Development vulnerability.

8.3. Flood Risk Assessments are required to "*assess all types of flood risk for a new development. FRAs identify the sources of flood risk, the effects of climate change on this, the impact of the development, the effectiveness of flood mitigation and management measures and the residual risks that remain after those measures are put in place. Must be carried out in all areas where flood risk have been identified but level of detail will differ if SFRA at development plan level has been carried out."*[3]

[2] Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management.* Available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7db50-the-planning-system-and-flood-risk-management-guidelines-for-planning-authorities-nov-09/

[3] Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) The Planning System and Flood Risk Management. Available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7db50-the-planning-system-and-flood-risk-management-guidelines-for-planning-authorities-nov-09/

8.4. An assessment of how surface water runoff will be managed should also be addressed within any FRA. Drainage is a material consideration at the planning stage of a development and due consideration must be given to the impact of the Proposed Development on the catchment area. This includes an assessment of potential for both flood risk and pollution. Surface water runoff may need to be assessed in all flood zones. The FRA should demonstrate that the surface water drainage system takes account of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) principles.

Flooding Mechanisms

8.5. The FRM Guidelines state that the sequential approach is a key tool "*in ensuring that development, particularly new development, is first and foremost directed towards land that is at low risk of flooding.*"

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Fluvial and Coastal Flood Risk

8.6. The PFRA (**Figure 4.3: Appendix 4A**), NIFM and CFRAM flood maps flood maps present no areas within the Application Site identified as being at risk of flooding from fluvial or coastal events and therefore the Application Site is **wholly** situated in 'Flood Zone C'.

8.7. The proposed type of development is specified as Highly Vulnerable Development category outlined in The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines. The access track can be classed as 'Water Compatible Development', the substation has been classed as 'Highly Vulnerable Development' and the grid connection infrastructure can be classed as 'Essential Infrastructure'. Using the matrix of vulnerability versus flood zone in **Table 4-2**, this type of development in this location is deemed appropriate.

Pluvial Flood Risk

8.8. The FRA Guidelines further state the planning implications of development in each flood zone. For Flood Zone C, it states:

"Development in this zone is appropriate from a flood risk perspective (subject to assessment of flood hazard from sources other than rivers and the coast) but would need to meet the normal range of other proper planning and sustainable development considerations".

8.9. In addition to fluvial and coastal flood risk, the PFRA map (**Figure 4.3: Appendix 4A**) also indicates areas of flood risk due to pluvial sources, the topographical survey (**Figure 4.2: Appendix 4A**) has also been used to determine pluvial flood risk depth. The topographical survey and the PFRA map indicated a number of locations where surface water flooding was predicted. Where the PFRA map has indicated areas within the Application Site at risk of

pluvial flooding, there will only be 'Water Compatible Development' located within those areas, such as access tracks.

8.10. Additionally, the substation compound portion of the Proposed Development is to be levelled out to 84.76m AOD. Naturally, the levelling across the substation compound will not be perfect, so there will be some minor deviations across this re-laid surface, but it is expected that there will not be larger deviations than +/- 0.1m. The pluvial flood risk to the substation compound will be mitigated through the drainage strategy which is highlighted within the Drainage Impact Assessment below.

Groundwater Flood Risk

8.11. Groundwater flooding is a "hidden" risk that is often difficult to distinguish from other types of flooding. For example, rising groundwater often forms in low-lying areas which are also susceptible to the accumulation of surface water.

8.12. The PFRA maps consider groundwater flooding and GSI developed groundwater flood maps for Ireland as part of the 2016-2019 GWFlood project[4]. This mapping does not show any groundwater flooding close to or within the Application Site.

8.13. Based on the above, the risk of flooding from groundwater for the part of the Application Site outside the predicted floodplain is likely to be low.

Sequential Approach Summary

8.14. The FRM Guidelines state that the sequential approach is a key tool "*in ensuring that development, particularly new development, is first and foremost directed towards land that is at low risk of flooding.*"

8.15. All essential infrastructure lies outside the flood extent, i.e. within the Flood Zone C area and therefore, the Proposed Development does not require a justification test. A Drainage Impact Assessment has been undertaken to propose a surface water management plan as per the sequential approach.

MITIGATION MEASURES

8.16. Following the results from the FRA and DIA, it is proposed to implement the following appropriate design measures.

[4] GSI Groundwater Flood maps. Available at: https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/floodmaps/#

Proposed Drainage Strategy

8.17. It is proposed to construct a network of rainwater harvesting tanks and two soakaway pits/infiltration drains within the Application Site. The idea is to capture any overland flow in the SuDS device before infiltrating into the surrounding soils.

8.18. The proposed soakaway pits/infiltration drains will have an overall length of approximately 93m, with a base width of 2.0m, a 2.0m design depth and a 0.15m freeboard. It will be filled with crushed rock with a void ratio of 20% and will provide a total storage volume of approximately 74.4m^3.

8.19. The underground piped system will separately connect the Eirgrid Control building and Customer Control Building to separate rainwater harvesting tanks, which discharge into soakaway pits . As the transformer will hold a volume of oil, the system will include a class 1 full retention separator. The soakaway pit and rainwater harvesting tanks will be designed to hold a total volume of 177m^3 with the detailed design of the structure being submitted to the council for review prior to the construction period.

8.20. A permanent toilet is proposed within the Eirgrid Control building and Customer Control Building and will be utilised by maintenance staff of substation. Each toilet will be off grid toilet with a foul holding tank which will be emptied when required by an approved contractor.

8.21. Additional drainage measures to be implemented on-site include the following:

- Access Tracks and laydown areas: access tracks are to be unpaved and constructed from local stone. Temporary swales or similar shall be utilised to collect runoff from access tracks with discharge to ground through percolation areas. Where swales are utilised, frequent checks of dams formed from gravels and other excavated material should be undertaken.

9. TRAFFIC

BASELINE

9.1. The CTMP outlines the overall framework for managing the movement of construction and delivery traffic to and from the Proposed Development, as well as considering the type of traffic it will generate. The traffic assessment for the operational phase was also considered.

9.2. The CTMP considered parts of the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Guidance which are suitable for this project, namely to include details of the existing conditions and issues relating to the Proposed Development.

9.3. Traffic associated with the operational phase of the development, consisting of between 10-15 Light Goods Vehicles (LGVs) per year, is below the threshold for a Traffic Impact Assessment, as stated in the TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

9.4. The overall volumes of traffic generated by the Proposed Development during the construction period are considered to be quite low. During the anticipated 14 month construction period, a total of 810 HGV deliveries will be made to the Application Site. During the peak construction period, it is anticipated that there will be an approximate maximum of 20 daily HGV deliveries.

9.5. The Application Site will be accessed from an existing entrance point off the L4301 to the south of the Application Site. Speed signs of 60mk/h were noted on this road. It was observed that vehicles were likely to travel at speeds up to this statutory speed limit due to the road being straight and having good visibility. At the site entrance point, the L4031 contains no carriageway edge or centre markings and is not lit by public lighting. The road is approximately 4.9 metres wide and there are no pedestrian facilities along this section of road, whilst the carriageway appears to be in good condition.

9.6. The County Development Plan outlines standard visibility splay dimensions for Local Roads at 90m x 2.4m, however visibility splays of 160m x 2.4m were agreed as part of the adjacent solar development (**Planning Ref: 2361049**). Therefore, for completeness, these have been retained for this application. The visibility splay requires remedial works that is under previous consent for the adjacent solar farm, see **Figure 106: Site Entrance Visibility Splay of Volume 2.** These visibility splays required 227m of hedgerow to be trimmed.

9.7. Swept path analysis shows that the existing access requires 23m of hedgerow removal, as well as the removal of three trees and relocation of an existing telegraph pole and associated cabling, in order to be suitable for the largest construction vehicles to access the Proposed Development, see **Figure 107: Site Entrance SPA of Volume 2.**

9.8. The Applicant will conduct a pre- and post-construction condition survey on the L4031, 200m either side of the access point (see **Figure 5.1: Appendix 5A**), with the Applicant liable to repair any damage to the public roads attributed to the construction of the Proposed Development. This should be conditioned as part of any planning consent.

MITIGATION MEASURES

9.9. The impact of the construction of the Proposed Development has been identified as **temporary** in nature and associated with a short construction stage only. It is still important that any impact is minimised as far as possible and, in light of this, the following mitigation measures have been considered:

- A dedicated person will be appointed for the management of the delivery booking system during the construction stage. It will also be this person's duty to make sure haulage companies use the chosen haul route (See **Figure 5.1 Appendix 5A**), without fail.
- The Applicant will conduct a pre- and post-construction condition survey on the L4031, 200m either side of the access point (see **Figure 5.1: Appendix 5A**), with the Applicant liable to repair any damage to the public roads attributed to the construction of the Proposed Development. This should be conditioned as part of any planning consent.
- Traffic movements will be limited to 07:00 - 19:00 on Monday to Friday and 08:00 – 16:00 on Saturdays, unless otherwise agreed in writing with Galway County Council. Deliveries will be scheduled to avoid morning and evening peak hours. This will avoid HGV traffic arriving during the morning peak hours, creating conflict with local residents' commute or school run. Construction personnel will be encouraged to car-pool, or to travel to site in minibuses.
- During the construction phase, clear construction warning signs will be placed on the approach to the access point, in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual. The site entrance point will also be appropriately signed. Access to the construction site will be controlled by onsite personnel and all visitors will be asked to sign in and

out of the site by security/site personnel. Site visitors will receive a suitable Health and Safety site induction and Personal Protective Equipment ("PPE") will be worn.

- To control, prevent and minimise dirt on the access route and emissions of dust and other airborne contaminants during the construction works, the following mitigation measures will also be implemented:
  - Wheel washing equipment will be available and used onsite within the construction compound, as required, to prevent the transfer of dirt and stones onto the public highway. All drivers will be required to check that their vehicle is free of dirt, stones and dust prior to departing from the site;
    - Wheel washing facilities should consist of a water bowser with pressure washer.
    - The bowser will contain water only and no other additives.
    - Run-off from this activity will be directed to the drainage situated on the lower boundary of the construction compound.
  - Damping down site roads to minimise dust emissions;
  - Any soil stockpiles will be covered when left for extended periods of time;
  - Drivers will adopt driving practices that minimise dust generation including a 30km/h internal access road speed limit; and,
  - Any dust generating activities will be avoided or minimised, wherever practical, during windy conditions.
- Once construction of the Proposed Development is completed, all portacabins, machinery and equipment will be removed and hard standing excavated. The area will be regraded with the stockpiled topsoil to a natural profile, unless the hardstanding is part of the Proposed Development.

10. NOISE

BASELINE

10.1. A Noise Impact Assessment has been produced to identify and describe any likely significant noise impact effects on key receptors during the construction phase and operational phase of the Proposed Development. The operational assessment was undertaken in accordance with generalised guidance applicable in the Republic of Ireland (RoI) and that provided by the World Health Organisation (WHO). The construction assessment has been undertaken in accordance with BS 5228-1:2009.

10.2. In order to assess the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development, the current baseline characteristics of the Application Site and the surrounding area have been identified as well as the predicted impacts of the Proposed Development.

10.3. As part of the assessment to determine the potential noise impacts of the Proposed Development, a low background noise level of 30dB is assumed to be appropriate for a typical low noise rural night-time setting. The day-time background noise levels are assumed to be higher than 30dB and therefore the night-time assessment is considered a worst-case scenario.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

10.4. A detailed noise model of the Proposed Development was produced using CadnaA1 modelling software to predict noise levels utilising the method set out in ISO9613-2 assessment.

10.5. The noise impact assessment found that the predicted specific sound levels caused by the Proposed Development at neighbouring residences are no more than 29 dB LAeq, T and therefore no more than a predicted rating sound level of 34 dB LAr, T.

10.6. When considered in a cumulative setting with the neighbouring revised amended Ballydonagh Solar Farm and Ballydonagh Extension Solar farm, the predicted rating sound levels at neighbouring residences are no more than 44 dB LAr, T during the daytime/evening and 35 dB LAr, T during the night-time.

10.7. The proposed limits of 50 dB LAr, T during the daytime, 45 dB LAr, T during the evening and 40 dB LAr, T at night time are therefore met both cumulatively and in isolation, predicting a **Negligible Impact** at all noise sensitive receptors.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1. It has been concluded from the assessments of the Proposed Development, located within the townland of Ballydonagh, Kiltormer, Co. Galway, that the environmental impacts will **not be significant**. Therefore, it can be concluded that with mitigation there will be **no significant effects** from the Proposed Development.

11.2. The Natura Impact Statement has concluded that impacts upon Natura 2000 sites will also **not be significant**.

11.3. The location of the Proposed Development has been carefully chosen to reduce any potential impacts by being sited at a significant distance from any landscape, environmental or ecological designations. In addition, the proposed recommended planting will further assimilate the development into the local landscape.

11.4. The landscape and ecology mitigation measures will have beneficial effects in the form of hedgerow as well as habitat creation, all which help strengthen the rural character and biodiversity. Indirect impacts upon heritage are **minor,** while impacts from traffic have been assessed as **low**. Flood Risk impacts are considered **not significant.** Landscape impacts are considered **Slight** reducing to **Not Significant** as mitigation planting matures and visual impacts are considered **Slight** reducing to **Not Significant** as the mitigation planting matures.

11.5. It is expected that there is sufficient information contained within this report to allow An Coimisiún Pleanála to make a decision. In order for An Coimisiún Pleanála, Galway County Council, statutory consultees and other interested bodies to properly assess the Proposed Development, the following documents have been prepared to accompany this Strategic Infrastructure Development application to An Coimisiún Pleanála:

- Planning Statement
- Natura Impact Statement;
- Technical Appendix 1: Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (including LEMP);
- Technical Appendix 2: Ecological Impact Assessment (including BMP);
- Technical Appendix 3: Archaeological & Architectural Heritage Impact Assessment (including geophysical survey);
- Technical Appendix 4: Flood Risk and Drainage Impact Assessment;
- Technical Appendix 5: Construction Traffic Management Plan;
- Technical Appendix 6: Assessment of Acoustic Impact (RES) and;

- Technical Appendix 7: Outline Construction Environment Management Plan.
- Outline Construction Methodology (TLI Group)
- Abnormal Indivisible Load Route Survey (Pell Firschmann)
- Acoustic Impact Assessment (Renewable Energy Systems)

11.6. As outlined in this EIA Screening Report and taking account of the relevant mitigation, it is concluded that the Proposed Development will **not result in any significant environmental impacts** at any stage of the development. Therefore, **an EIA is not required**. Nevertheless, comprehensive supporting documentation has been submitted in support of this Strategic Infrastructure Development application to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

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