

**WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000 (As Amended)
SECTION 5**

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. CE/PERD/2025/1122

Reference Number: EX 109/2025

Name of Applicant: Ballinacloagh Solar DAC

Nature of Application: Section 5 Referral as to whether or not *"the construction of an Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloagh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg. County Wicklow at Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg. Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network"* is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

Location of Subject Site: Within the Townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow

Report from Chris Garde, EP & Sorcha Walsh, SP

With respect to the query under section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 as to whether *"the construction of an Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloagh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg. County Wicklow at Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg. Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network"* within the Townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow is or is not exempted development within the meaning of the Planning & Development Acts 2000 (as amended).

Having regard to:

- a) The details submitted with this application on the 19th September 2025
- b) The Planning History of the site in particular: WCC PRR25/60311 and PRR16/1380,
- c) Sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended).
- d) Sections 4 (4), 172(1) and 177U(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended).
- e) Article 3, 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)
- f) Classes 26 and 27, Part 1 Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Main Reason with respect to Section 5 Declaration:

An Bord Pleanála concluded that:

- a) The provision of a grid connection involves the carrying out of works and, therefore, constitutes development, under sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,

- b) The underground electricity grid connection involves works carried out by an electricity undertaking, and, having regard to the nature of those works, would come within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, and would, therefore, constitute exempted development,
- c) None of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under section 4 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, apply in this case, and
- d) None of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under Article 9 (1)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, apply in this case,

Recommendation:

The Planning Authority considers that "the construction of an Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloagh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg. County Wicklow at Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg. Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network" within the Townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow is development and is exempted development as recommended in the report by the SP.

Signed

Paul Newcome

Dated 14th day of October 2025

ORDER:

I HEREBY DECLARE:

That "the construction of an Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloagh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg. County Wicklow at Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg. Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network" within the Townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow is development and is exempted development within the meaning of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended).

Signed:

[Signature]

Senior Planner

Planning, Economic & Rural Development

Dated 15th day of October 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council

Pleanáil, Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Tuaithe Planning, Economic and Rural Development

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DECLARATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 5 (2) (A) OF THE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 AS AMENDED

Applicant: Ballinaclogh Solar DAC

Location: Within the Townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow

Reference Number: EX 109/2025

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. CE/PERD/2025/1122

A question has arisen as to whether “the construction of an Underground Cable (‘UGC’) grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinaclogh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow at Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network” within the Townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow is or is not exempted development.

Having regard to:

- The details submitted with this application on the 19th September 2025
- The Planning History of the site in particular: WCC PRR25/60311 and PRR16/1380,
- Sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended).
- Sections 4 (4), 172(1) and 177U(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended).
- Article 3, 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)
- Classes 26 and 27, Part 1 Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Main Reason with respect to Section 5 Declaration:

An Bord Pleanála concluded that:

- The provision of a grid connection involves the carrying out of works and, therefore, constitutes development, under sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- The underground electricity grid connection involves works carried out by an electricity undertaking, and, having regard to the nature of those works, would come within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, and would, therefore, constitute exempted development,
- None of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under section 4 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, apply in this case, and
- None of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under Article 9 (1)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, apply in this case,

The Planning Authority considers that “the construction of an Underground Cable (‘UGC’) grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinaclogh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road



near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg. County Wicklow at Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg. Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network” within the Townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow is development and is exempted development

Signed: 
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

PLANNING, ECONOMIC & RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Dated: 14 October 2025



Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin Wicklow County Council

**Pleanáil, Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Tuaithe
Planning, Economic and Rural Development**

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**Amelia Keane
Malone O'Regan Environmental
Bracken Business Park
Ground Floor, Unit 3
Bracken Road
Sandyford
Dublin
D18V32Y**

October 2025

**RE: Declaration in accordance with Section 5 of the Planning & Development Acts
2000 (As Amended) – EX109/2025**

I enclose herewith Declaration in accordance with Article 5 (2) (A) of the Planning & Development Act 2000.

Where a Declaration is used under this Section any person issued with a Declaration under subsection (2) (a) may, on payment to An Bord Pleanála of such fee as may be prescribed, refer a declaration for review by the Board within four weeks of the date of the issuing of the declaration by the Local Authority.

Is mise, le meas,

**ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
PLANNING, ECONOMIC & RURAL DEVELOPMENT**



WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning Department

Section 5 – Application for declaration of Exemption Certificate

TO: Sorcha Walsh SP
FROM: Chris Garde EP
SUBJECT REF: EX 109/2025
DECISION DUE DATE: 16/10/2023
APPLICANT: Ballinacloough Solar DAC
ADDRESS: Within the Townlands of Ballinacloough, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow
EXEMPTION QUERY: Proposed Development is for the construction of an Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloough, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloough, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow at Ballinacloough, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg. Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network.

Indication of the Sections of the Planning and Development Act or Planning Regulations applicant considers relevant to the Declaration:

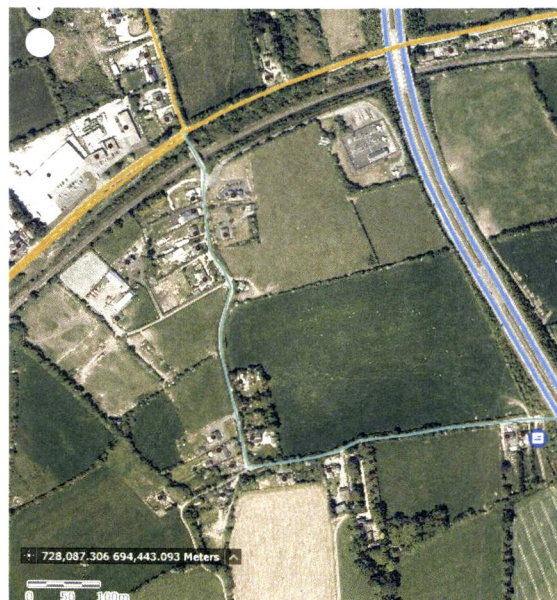
S.I. No. 600/200 1 Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 - Schedule 2, Part 1, Class 26 The carrying out by any electricity undertaking of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking.

Site description:

The subject site/route consists primarily of local roads (L-95113-0) located between the Ballybeg 110kV Substation and permitted joint slab box (25/60311) on private land near L-95113-0 road development on lands at Ballinacloough, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference:

The application refers to a run of approximately 900m of underground Medium Voltage electricity cables through the townlands of Ballinacloough, through Ballynabarney terminating at Ballybeg in Wicklow. The cables will generally run within private lands and the local road network.

Aerial imagery (site outline in cyan along Local Road(L-95113-0). Regional road orange. M1 light-blue.):



Relevant Planning History:

- 25/60311:** Applicant: Ballinaclogh Solar DAC
Development: The development of grid connection infrastructure comprising the laying of ca. 3.3 kilometres (3,300 metres) of Medium Voltage underground electricity cables and associated infrastructure substantially under public roads and private lands to connect the solar photovoltaic ('PV') energy development on lands at Ballinaclogh, Rathnew, County Wicklow (approved under Register Reference 161380) to a new Medium Voltage electricity substation and to a new joint slab box on private land near L95113 road in, or in the vicinity of the townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow
Decision: Grant
- 16/1380:** Applicant: Gaelectric Renewable Energy Developments Ltd
Development: ten year permission for the development of a solar photovoltaic (PV) energy development to include a single storey electrical substation building, electrical inverter and transformer stations, solar PV panels mounted on metal frames, upgraded and new access tracks, underground cabling, perimeter fencing with infrared CCTV and access gates, temporary construction compound spare parts container, weather station, an upgraded access point and all ancillary infrastructure and associated works within a total site area of up to 57 acres at Ballinaclogh Rathnew Co. Wicklow
Decision: Grant
- 01/4314:** Applicant: Electricity Supply Board
Development: 110kV station to include 110kv to medium voltage substation, access road & entrance, control building, two 110kv endmasts, two 110kV transformers, associated structures & equipment, septic tank "bio unit", percolation area, fence, gate & internal roadway
Decision: Grant

Question:

Whether... the construction of an Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinaclogh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg. County Wicklow at Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg. Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network... is development and if it is development, if it is exempt development?

Relevant legislation:

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Section 2:

"In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires –

'statutory undertaker' means a person, for the time being, authorised by or under any enactment or instrument under an enactment to – (b) provide or carry out works for the provisions of, gas, electricity or telecommunications services, or (c) provide services connected with, or carry out works for the purposes of the carrying on of the activities of, any public undertaking.

'structure' means any building, structure, excavation or other thing constructed or made on, in or under any land, or any part of a structure so defined and—

- (a) where the context so admits, includes the land on, in or under which the structure is situate, and
- (b) in relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, includes—
 - (i) the interior of the structure,
 - (ii) the land lying within the curtilage of the structure,
 - (iii) any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors, and
 - (iv) all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to in *subparagraph (i) or (iii)*;

‘works’ includes any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal....”

Section 3:

3.—(1) In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires, "development" means—

- (a) the carrying out of any works in, on, over or under land, or the making of any material change in the use of any land or structures situated on land, or
- (b) development within the meaning of Part XXI (inserted by section 171 of the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021).

Section 4:

(1) The following shall be exempted developments for the purposes of this Act—

(g) development consisting of the carrying out by any local authority or statutory undertaker of any works for the purpose of inspecting, repairing, renewing, altering or removing any sewers, mains, pipes, cables, overhead wires or other apparatus, including the excavation of any street or other land for that purpose.

(h) development consisting of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure or which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures.

Section 4(2) provides that:

The Minister may by regulations provide any class of development to be exempted development. The Regulations which are applicable in this case are the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Section 4(4) Notwithstanding..... any regulations under subsection (2), development shall not be exempted development if an environmental impact assessment or an appropriate assessment of the development is required”

Section 172(1) “An environmental impact assessment shall be carried out by a planning authority or the Board, as the case may be in respect of an application for consent for –

- (a) Proposed development of a class specified in Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 which exceeds a quantity area, or other limit specified in that Schedule, and
- (b) Proposed development of a class specified in Schedule 5 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in that Schedule but which the planning authority or the Board determines would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.”

Section 177U(9) "In deciding upon a declaration or a referral under section 5 of this Act a Planning Authority or the Board, as the case may be shall where appropriate, conduct a screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with the provisions of this section"

Planning and Development Regulations 2001(as amended)

Article 3(3) "electricity undertaking" means an undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service".

Article 6 (1) "Subject to Article 9, development of a class specified in column 1 part 1 of schedule 2 shall be exempted development for the purposes of the Act, provided that such development complies with the conditions and limitations specified in column 2 of the said part 1 opposite the mention of that class in the said column 1.

The relevant conditions and limitations are set out in the schedule below:

Schedule 2, Part 1 Development by Statutory Undertakers

Class 26 "the carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking."

Class 27 "the carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the construction of over-head transmission or distribution lines for conducting electricity at a voltage not exceeding a minimal value of 20kV."

Article 9(1) Restrictions on Exemption Development to which Article 6 relates shall not be exempted development for the purposes of the Act –

- (a) If the carrying out of such development would
 - (i) contravene a condition attached to a permission under the Act or be inconsistent with any use specified in a permission under the Act,
 - (ii) consist of or comprise the formation, laying out or material widening of a means of access to a public road the surfaced carriageway of which exceeds 4 metres in width,
 - (iii) endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or obstruction of road users,
 - (iiia) endanger public safety by reason of hazardous glint and/or glare for the operation of airports, aerodromes or aircraft,
- (v) consist of or comprise the carrying out under a public road of works other than a connection to a wired broadcast relay service, sewer, water main, gas main or electricity supply line or cable, or any works to which class 25, 26 or 31 (a) specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 applies,
- (vi) interfere with the character of a landscape, or a view or prospect of special amenity value or special interest, the preservation of which is an objective of a development plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan,
- (vii) consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition (other than peat extraction) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological, geological, historical, scientific or ecological interest, the preservation, conservation or protection of which is an objective of a development plan or local area plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or local area plan, or the making of a new

development plan or local area plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the local area plan or the draft development plan or draft local area plan,

- (viiA) consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of any archaeological monument included in the Record of Monuments and Places, pursuant to section 12 (1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, save that this provision shall not apply to any excavation or any works, pursuant to and in accordance with a consent granted under section 14 or a licence granted under section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (No. 2 of 1930) as amended,
- (viiB) comprise development in relation to which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority in relation to appropriate assessment and the development would require an appropriate assessment because it would be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site,
- (viiC) consist of or comprise development which would be likely to have an adverse impact on an area designated as a natural heritage area by order made under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.
- (viii) consist of or comprise the extension, alteration, repair or renewal of an unauthorised structure or a structure the use of which is an unauthorised use, (c) if it is development to which Part 10 applies, unless the development is required by or under any statutory provision (other than the Act or these regulations) to comply with the procedures for the purposes of giving effect to the Council Directive.

Relevant An Bord Pleanála Referrals:

Ref: RL 3606

Question: whether the laying of underground MV cables to link a substation in the permitted Drumroe solar farm development (Waterford City and County Council Permission Ref. 16/126 – ABP Ref. PL93.246902) to the existing ESBN Kilcloher substation, at Kilcloher and Drumroe, Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, is or is not development and is or is not exempted development;

Conclusion: An Bord Pleanála concluded that:

(a) the laying of the underground cables comes within the scope of sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, Act (as amended), and therefore constitutes development;

(b) the referrer in this case, Highfield Solar Ltd., is a statutory undertaker and an electricity undertaking, within the meaning of Article 3 (3) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended;

(c) the carrying out by the referrer of the development in question comes within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to these Regulations and is therefore exempted development;

(d) None of the restrictions on exemption set out in Section 4 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, or set out in Article 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, apply in this instance.

Note: Inspectors Report is available on line at:

(<https://www.pleanala.ie/anbordpleanala/media/abp/cases/reports/302/r302895.pdf?r=142899>)

Ref: ABP-302895-18

Question: Whether the provision of a medium voltage (20kV) underground grid connection between a permitted solar farm at Dysart, Johnstownbridge, County Kildare and the Dunfirth ESB substation at Dunfirth, Johnstownbridge, County Kildare is or is not development or is or is not exempted development.

Conclusion: An Bord Pleanála concluded that:

(a) the provision of the underground electricity connection and associated works involves the carrying out of works and, therefore, constitutes development, under sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,

(b) the underground electricity grid connection involves works carried out by an electricity undertaking, and, having regard to the nature of those works, would come within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, and would, therefore, constitute exempted development,

(c) none of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under section 4 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, apply in this case, and

(d) none of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under Article 9 (1)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, apply in this case, and in particular, having regard to the scope of the works as set out in the Outline Construction Methodology Report submitted by the referrer, the development in question would not endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard

It is also noted that earlier Section 5 applications:

- (EX70/19) submitted by SOLAS EIREANN DEVELOPMENT LTD, also for an Underground cabling and overhead line development, and
 - (EX72/23) submitted by THREECASTLES SOLAR LIMITED also for an Underground cabling line development,
- were deemed to be development but exempted development.

Information / documentation submitted in support of this application:

The project involves the construction of an Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloagh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow.

The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network.

Assessment

The first assessment must be whether or not the proposal outlined above constitutes development within the remit of Section 3 of the Planning and Development Act 2001. In this regard, Section 3 of the Planning and Development Act provides that:

"development" means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.

It should be noted that Section 2 of the Act defines works as:

“works” includes any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal and, in relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, includes any act or operation involving the application or removal of plaster, paint, wallpaper, tiles or other material to or from the surfaces of the interior or exterior of a structure.

With regard to the above, it is considered that the construction of a...

10kV Underground Cable (‘UGC’) between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloough, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloough, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow ...would fall within the definition of works and as such would constitute ‘development’ under the meaning of the Act.

The second stage of the assessment is to determine whether or not the proposed development would be exempted development under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) or it’s associated Regulations.

As regards Section 4(2)(a)(i) of the Act, and the Regulations made there under, the relevant classes of development are Class 26 and 27, Part 1 Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations, as amended (see above). I am satisfied that the proposed development would fall within the scope of classes 26 and 27.

On the requirement for the development to be carried out by an “*undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service*” I refer to Article 3(3) of the regulations which states that an electricity undertaking means an undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service. The Electricity Regulation Act 1999 provides a definition as follows:

“electricity undertaking” means any person engaged in generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity, including any holder of a licence or authorisation under this Act, or any person who has been granted a permit under Section 37 of the Principal Act.”

I note the broad definition of “statutory undertaker” provided within the Planning and development Act 2000 as follows

“statutory undertaker” means a person, from the time being, authorised by or under any enactment or instrument under an enactment to- (b) Provide, or carry out works for the provision of, gas, electricity or telecommunications services,”

In light of these definitions, I am satisfied that Ballinacloough Solar DAC falls within the category of statutory undertaker on foot of its authorisation under the Planning Act to construct a solar farm that is a project for the provision of electricity. On this basis I am satisfied that the proposed development falls within the scope of Classes 26 and 27.

Restrictions on exempted development

Section 4(4) of the Act essentially de-exempts any development which attracts a requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Appropriate Assessment (AA).

In relation to EIA, the development of a medium voltage (10kV) grid connection between... a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloough, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloough, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow... is not a prescribed class of development for the purposes of EIA.

In relation to the need for Appropriate Assessment the following is noted:

- The cover letter from MOR Environmental Ltd submitted in support of this Section 5 application includes the following note on appropriate assessment screening:

An Appropriate Assessment Screening has been carried out by the applicant (Prepared by MOR Environmental Ltd) in this case for the proposed grid connection. It is attached with this application and concludes:

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

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

- In addition to the above, it is considered that there is sufficient information available to the Planning Authority to screen this development for appropriate assessment.
- The development applied for under PRR25/60311, was the development of grid connection infrastructure comprising the laying of ca. 3.3 kilometres (3,300 metres) of Medium Voltage underground electricity cables and associated infrastructure substantially under public roads and private lands to connect the solar photovoltaic ('PV')... the NIA found that the details provided in support of PRR25/60311 had; according to the Planning Assessment, *"demonstrated beyond reasonable scientific doubt based on the best available scientific evidence that the proposed development as set out in the application which comprises of the laying of approximately 3.3 kilometres (3,330 metres) of underground electricity cables in ducts and associated infrastructure under public and private roads and lands to connect the solar photovoltaic ("PV") energy development on lands at Ballinclogh, Co. Wicklow approved under Register Reference 16/1380 (ABP27.24824) to a new electricity substation and new joint slab, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not adversely affect the integrity of the Magherabeg Dunes SAC, the Murrough Wetlands SAC and the Murrough SPA, in view of the sites conservation objectives and qualifying interests."*
- The route for the most part runs along the public road alongside improved agricultural grasslands and is unlikely to have a negative impact on flora and fauna. In addition, the Outline Construction Methodology Plan states:
 - *No more than a 100-metre section of trench will be opened at any one time. The second 100 metres will only be excavated once most reinstatement has been completed on the first;*
 - *The excavation, installation and reinstatement process will take on average of 1 day to complete a 100m section;*
 - *Where the cable is being installed in a roadway, temporary reinstatement may be provided to allow larger sections of road to be permanently reinstated together;*
 - *Works will only be conducted in normal working hours of Monday to Friday 08:00 to 19:00 and Saturday 08:00 to 18:00, with no works on Sundays or Bank Holidays except in exceptional circumstances or in the event of an emergency; and,*
 - *Following the installation of ducting, pulling the cable will take approximately 1 day between each joint bay, with the jointing of cables taking approximately 1 day.*

- The proposed development is to be carried out using best practice measures which should ensure that any significant risks to aquatic ecology are eliminated.

Having regard to the planning history of the site, the nature and scale of the proposed development as set out in the documents lodged and the location of the development outside of designated Natura 2000 sites I am satisfied that the proposed grid connection, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would be unlikely to give rise to any adverse impacts on the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of natura sites, in particular the Magherabeg Dunes SAC, the Murrough Wetlands SAC and the Murrough SPA, and therefore the proposed development would not necessitate the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

On the basis of the above I am satisfied that the development does not fall within the scope of Section 4(4) of the Act.

With respect to the de-exemptions set out under Article 9(1):

- I am satisfied that the proposed development would not endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or obstruction to road users traffic. The traffic management proposals set out in the Outline Construction Methodology Plan are noted in this regard.
- I am satisfied that the proposed development would not interfere with the character of the landscape. In this regard it is noted that the majority of the proposed grid connection is to be placed underground.
- I am satisfied that the proposed development would not impact on archaeological or other sites of interests that are subject to preservation/conservation objectives as set out in the Archaeology & Architectural Impact Assessment are noted in this regard.

As regards Article 9(1)(a)(i) and the matter of conditions attached to permission for the solar park, the only conditions relating to grid connection is Condition 6 of PRR16/1380, which states that *"This permission shall not be construed as any form of consent or agreement to a connection to the National Grid or to the routing or nature of any such connection"*. I am satisfied that the works proposed under this section 5 application would not contravene this condition.

I am therefore satisfied that the proposed development as set out in the documents lodged, (including the Outline Construction Methodology), would not fall within the scope of the de-exemptions set out under Article 9.

Conclusion:

With respect to the query under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as to whether
Whether the provision of...

c.860m of 10kV Underground Cable ('UGC') between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinaclogh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow...

is development and if it is development, if it is exempt development?

The Planning Authority considers that:

The construction of...

c.860m of 10kV Underground Cable ('UGC') between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinaclogh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinaclogh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow...

is development but is exempted development.

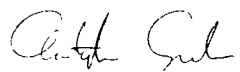
Main Considerations with respect to Section 5 Declaration:

- The details submitted with this application on the 19th September 2025
- The Planning History of the site in particular: WCC PRR25/60311 and PRR16/1380,
- Sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended).
- Sections 4 (4), 172(1) and 177U(9) of the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended).
- Article 3, 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)
- Classes 26 and 27, Part 1 Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Main Reasons with respect to Section 5 Declaration:

An Bord Pleanála concluded that:

- (a) The provision of a grid connection involves the carrying out of works and, therefore, constitutes development, under sections 2 and 3 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (b) The underground electricity grid connection involves works carried out by an electricity undertaking, and, having regard to the nature of those works, would come within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of the Second Schedule to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, and would, therefore, constitute exempted development,
- (c) None of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under section 4 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, apply in this case, and
- (d) None of the restrictions on exempted development provided for under Article 9 (1)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, apply in this case,



Chris Garde
Executive Planner
Date: 13/10/2025

Agreed *John* sp
14.10.2025



**Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council**

**Pleanáil, Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Tuaithe
Planning, Economic and Rural Development**

Áras An Chontae / County Buildings
Cill Mhantáin / Wicklow
Guthán / Tel: (0404) 20148
Faics / Fax: (0404) 69462
Rphost / Email: plandev@wicklowcoco.ie
Suíomh / Website: www.wicklow.ie

MEMORANDUM

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

**TO: Chris Garde
Executive Planner**

**FROM: Nicola Fleming
Staff Officer**

**RE:- Application for Certificate of Exemption under Section 5 of the
Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended).
EX109/2025**

I enclose herewith application for Section 5 Declaration received completed on 19th September 2025.

The due date on this declaration is 16th October 2025.

**Staff Officer
Planning, Economic & Rural Development**





Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council

Pleanáil, Forbairt Eacnamaíochta agus Tuaithe
Planning, Economic and Rural Development

Áras An Chontae / County Buildings
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Guthán / Tel (0404) 20148
Faics / Fax (0404) 69462
Rphost / Email plandev@wicklowcoco.ie
Suíomh / Website www.wicklow.ie

23rd September 2025

Amelia Keane
Malone O'Regan Environmental
Bracken Business Park
Ground Floor, Unit 3
Bracken Road
Sandyford
Dublin
D18 V32Y

RE: Application for Certificate of Exemption under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). – EX109/2025

A Chara

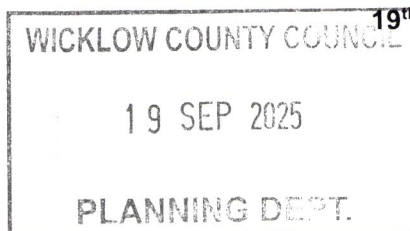
I wish to acknowledge receipt on 19/09/2025 full details supplied by you in respect of the above Section 5 application. A decision is due in respect of this application by 16/10/2025.

Mise, le meas

Nicola Fleming
Staff Officer
Planning, Economic & Rural Development



Planning Section,
Wicklow County Council
County Buildings
Whitegates
Wicklow Town
A67 FW96



19th September 2025

MOR Ref: E2309

Re: Ballinacloagh Solar DAC – Application for a Section 5 Declaration for Proposed 10Kv Underground Grid Connection at Ballybeg, Ballynabarny and Milltown South, Co. Wicklow

Dear Sir or Madam,

Malone O'Regan Environmental wish to submit this application to Wicklow County Council ('WCC') on behalf of Ballinacloagh Solar DAC for the development of a Medium Voltage Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloagh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow at Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow.

Please find enclosed the following:

- Application form for a Declaration in Accordance with Section 5 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended) duly completed;
- One copy of Landowner Letter of Consent;
- One copy of all Site Location Map and Layout Drawings;

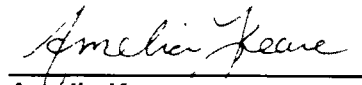
Drawing	Title	Scale
300101011-DR-141-P1	Overall Site Location	1:5000
300101011-DR-142-P1	Sheet Layout Plan	1:2500
300101011-DR-143	Site Layout Plan Sheet 1 of 3	1:500
300101011-DR-144	Site Layout Plan Sheet 2 of 3	1:500
300101011-DR-145	Site Layout Plan Sheet 3 of 3	1:500
300-101011-DR-151	Ducting through Roadway (Permanent Reinstatement)	1:10
300-101011-DR-152	Ducting through Roadway (Temporary Reinstatement)	1:10
300-101011-DR-154	Joint Bay Detail	1:50

- One copy of the Stage 1: Appropriate Assessment – Screening Report prepared by Malone O'Regan Environmental;
- One copy of the Outline Construction Methodology Report prepared by TLI Group; and,
- Cheque for €80.00.

We trust that based on the documentation submitted, the submitted that the proposal is development and exempted development by virtue of the provisions of Class 26 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

Yours sincerely,

for Malone O'Regan Environmental


Amelia Keane

Wicklow County Council
County Buildings
Wicklow
0404 20100

19/09/2025 12:33:29

Receipt No L1/0/351816
***** REPRINT *****

MALONE OREGAN ENVIRONMENTAL
GROUND FLOOR, UNIT 3
BRACKEN BUS PK
SANDYFORD

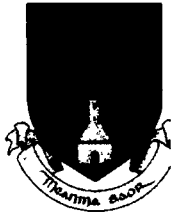
EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES	80 00
GOODS	80 00
VAT Exempt/Non vatable	

Total	80 00 EUR
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Tendered
Cheque 80 00
BALLINACLOUGH SOLAR

Change	0 00
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**APPLICATION FORM FOR A
DECLARATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 5 OF THE PLANNING &
DEVELOPMENT ACTS 2000(AS AMENDED) AS TO WHAT IS OR IS NOT
DEVELOPMENT OR IS OR IS NOT EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT**

1. Applicant Details

- (a) Name of applicant: Ballinacloough Solar DAC
Address of applicant: 86-88 Leeson Street Lower, Dublin 2, D02 A668

Note Phone number and email to be filled in on separate page.

2. Agents Details (Where Applicable)

- (b) Name of Agent (where applicable) Amelia Keane (Agent with Malone O'Regan Environmental)

Address of Agent : Malone O'Regan Environmental, Bracken Business Park,
Ground Floor - Unit 3, Bracken Rd, Sandyford, Dublin, D18
V32Y

Note Phone number and email to be filled in on separate page.

3. Declaration Details

- i. Location of Development subject of Declaration Within the Townlands of
Ballybeg, Ballynabarny and Milltown South, Co. Wicklow
- ii. Are you the owner and/or occupier of these lands at the location under i. above ?
No

- iii. If 'No' to ii above, please supply the Name and Address of the Owner, and or occupier Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow
Town, A67 FW96
Neale Woods, Leeson Neale Woods, Ballynabarney, Rathnew, Co.
Wicklow
- iv. Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act provides that : If any question arises as to what, in any particular case, is or is not development and is or is not exempted development, within the meaning of this act, any person may, on payment of the prescribed fee, request in writing from the relevant planning authority a declaration on that question. You should therefore set out the query for which you seek the Section 5 Declaration Proposed Development is for the construction of an Underground Cable ('UGC') grid connection that will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloagh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Planning Reference: 25/60311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation in, or in the vicinity the townlands of Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny and Ballybeg, County Wicklow at Ballinacloagh, Ballynabarny, & Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow. The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and located within private lands and the local road network.
Additional details may be submitted by way of separate submission.
- v. Indication of the Sections of the Planning and Development Act or Planning Regulations you consider relevant to the Declaration S.I. No. 600/2001 - Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 - Schedule 2, Part 1, Class 26 *The carrying out by any electricity undertaking of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking*
Additional details may be submitted by way of separate submission.
- vi. Does the Declaration relate to a Protected Structure or is it within the curtilage of a Protected Structure (or proposed protected structure) ? No
- vii. List of Plans, Drawings submitted with this Declaration Application
Plans and Drawings:
300101011-DR-141-P1 Overall Site Location
300101011-DR-142-P1 Sheet Layout Plan

300101011-DR-143 Site Layout Plan Sheet 1 of 3
300101011-DR-144 Site Layout Plan Sheet 2 of 3
300101011-DR-145 Site Layout Plan Sheet 3 of 3
300-101011-DR-151 Ducting through Roadway (Permanent Reinstatement)
300-101011-DR-152 Ducting through Roadway (Temporary Reinstatement)
300-101011-DR-154 Joint Bay Detail
Reports:
Cover Letter
Letter of Consent
300101011-R02-04 Construction Methodology
Stage 1: Appropriate Assessment – Screening Report

viii. Fee of € 80 Attached ? Yes

Signed : *Amelia Keane* (Agent) Dated : 18/09/2025

Additional Notes :

As a guide the minimum information requirements for the most common types of referrals under Section 5 are listed below :

A. Extension to dwelling - Class 1 Part 1 of Schedule 2

- Site Location Map
- Floor area of structure in question - whether proposed or existing.
- Floor area of all relevant structures e.g. previous extensions.
- Floor plans and elevations of relevant structures.
- Site Layout Plan showing distance to boundaries, rear garden area, adjoining dwellings/structures etc.

B. Land Reclamation -

The provisions of Article 8 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) now applies to land reclamation, other than works to wetlands which are still governed by Schedule 2, Part 3, Class 11. Note in addition to confirmation of exemption status under the Planning and Development Act 2000(as amended) there is a certification process with respect to land reclamation works as set out under the

European Communities (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Agriculture) Regulations 2011 S.I. 456 of 2011. You should therefore seek advice from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

Any Section 5 Declaration should include a location map delineating the location of and exact area of lands to be reclaimed, and an indication of the character of the land.

C. Farm Structures - Class 6 -Class 10 Part 3 of Schedule 2.

- Site layout plan showing location of structure and any adjoining farm structures and any dwellings within 100m of the farm structure.
- Gross floor area of the farm structure
- Floor plan and elevational details of Farm Structure and Full details of the gross floor area of the proposed structure.
- Details of gross floor area of structures of similar type within the same farmyard complex or within 100metres of that complex.

Leeson Neale Woods
Ballynabarney
Rathnew
Co. Wicklow

Planning Department
Wicklow County Council
County Buildings
Whitegates
Wicklow Town
A67 FW96

01/12/2024

RE: Section 5 and Planning Application by Ballinacloy Solar DAC for a section of the 20kV grid connection between Ballinacloy Solar Park and the Ballybeg 110kV Rathnew, Co. Wicklow and associated substation.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am the legal owner of the lands at Ballynabarney Co Wicklow (Folio WW7550F). included in this application for a substation and solar grid connection and hereby give my consent to Ballinacloy Solar DAC to apply for a Planning Permission for a substation and grid route ,and Section 5 exemption for a grid route on my lands.

Yours faithfully,

Leeson Neale Woods

Leeson Neale Woods

Appropriate Assessment – Stage 1: Screening Report

Proposed Underground Grid Connection

at

Ballinacclough, Co. Wicklow

**On behalf of
Ballinacclough Solar DAC**



RECEIVED 19 SEP 2025
EX 109/2025



MALONE O'REGAN

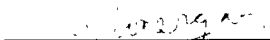


Ground Floor – Unit 3
Bracken Business Park
Bracken Road, Sandyford
Dublin 18, D18 V32Y
Tel: +353- 1- 567 76 55
Email: enviro@mores.ie

Title: Appropriate Assessment – Stage 1: Screening Report, Proposed Underground Grid Connection, Ballinacloyh Solar DAC, Ballinacloyh, Co. Wicklow

Job Number: E2309

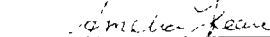
Prepared By: Stephanie Lonergan

Signed: 

Checked By: Kathryn Broderick

Signed: 

Approved By: Amelia Keane

Signed: 

Revision Record

Issue No.	Date	Description	Remark	Prepared	Checked	Approved
01	19/09/2025	AA Screening Report	Final	SL	KB	AK

Copyright and Third-Party Disclaimer

Malone O'Regan Environmental ('MOR Environmental') has prepared this report for the sole use of our client (as named on the front of the report) in accordance with the Client's instructions using all reasonable skill and competence and generally accepted consultancy principles. The report was prepared in accordance with the budget and terms of reference agreed with the Client and does not in any way constitute advice to any third party who is able to access it by any means. MOR Environmental excludes to the fullest extent lawfully permitted all liability whatsoever for any costs, liabilities or losses arising as a result of or reliance upon the contents of this report by any person or legal entity (other than the Client in accordance with the terms of reference). MOR Environmental has not verified any documents or information supplied by third parties and referred to herein in compiling this document and no warranty is provided as part of this document. No part of this report may be copied or reproduced without express written confirmation from MOR Environmental. Any methodology contained in this report is provided to the Client in confidence and must not be disclosed or copied to third parties without the prior written agreement of MOR Environmental. Disclosure of such information may constitute an actionable breach of confidence or may otherwise prejudice our commercial interests. Third parties who obtain access to this report by any means, including disclosure by the Client, will be subject to the Copyright and Third-Party Disclaimer contained herein.

Appropriate Assessment – Stage 1: Screening Report
Proposed Underground Grid Connection
Ballinacrough Solar DAC
Ballinacrough, Co. Wicklow

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Appendix A – Site Layout

1 INTRODUCTION

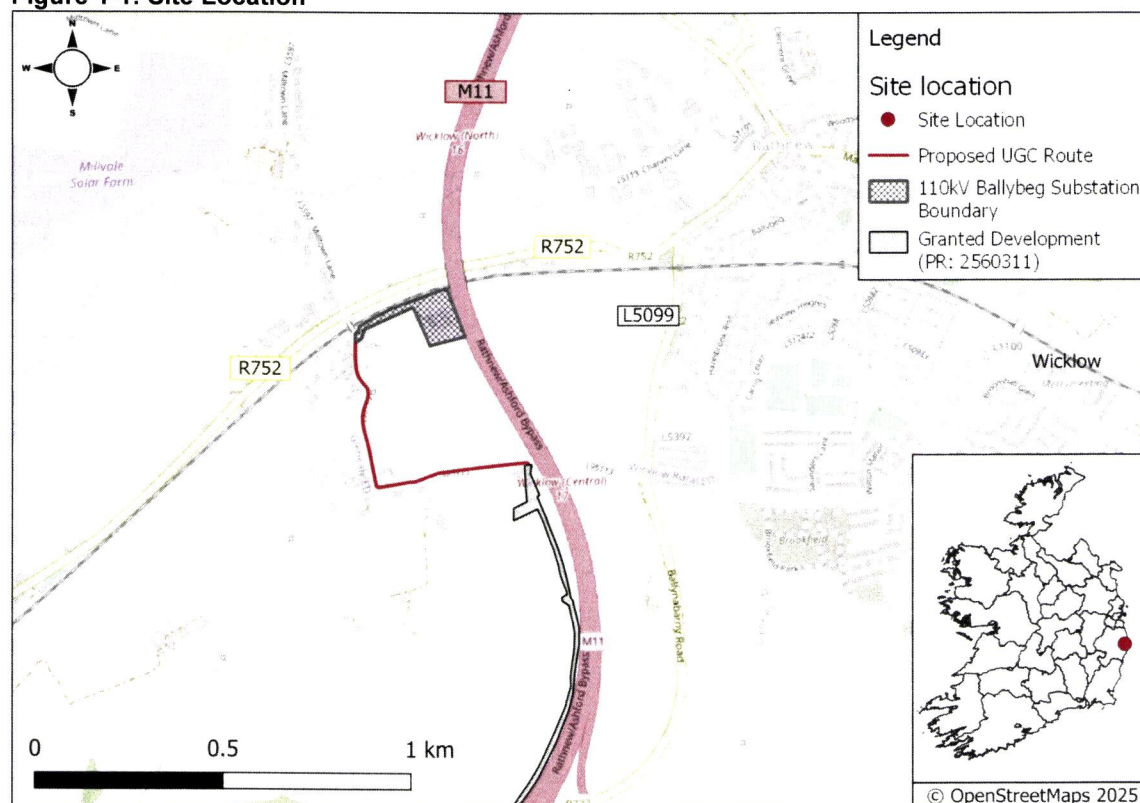
Malone O'Regan Environmental ('MOR Environmental') was commissioned by Ballinacloough Solar DAC ('the Applicant') to undertake an Appropriate Assessment Stage 1: Screening Report ('AA') to assess the potential adverse effects, if any, of the proposed 10kV underground grid connection ('UGC') cable route and associated infrastructure works ('the Proposed Development') at Ballybeg, Co. Wicklow (OS Reference ITM 327689 194759) on nearby sites with European conservation designations (i.e., Natura 2000 sites).

The Proposed Development will be ca. 860m in length and will traverse the townlands of Ballybeg, Ballynabarny and Milltown South, ca. 3.5km northwest of Wicklow town ('the Site'). The location of the Site is shown in Figure 1-1. The Proposed Development will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloough, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Register Reference 2560311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation.

The purpose of this assessment was to determine the appropriateness, or otherwise, of the proposed works in the context of the conservation objectives of European Designated sites through the research and interpretation of the best scientific, geographic and engineering knowledge. This report seeks to determine whether the Proposed Development will, on its own or in combination with other plans / projects have a significant effect on the integrity of European Designated sites within a defined zone of influence of the Site. This AA has been prepared without considering measures intended to avoid or reduce an impact on a European Designated site.

This report will be submitted to WCC as part of an application for a declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Figure 1-1: Site Location



1.1 Site Context and Description

The Site is located within the townlands of Ballybeg, Ballynabarny and Milltown South. The Site is located entirely within the existing road infrastructure. Adjacent to the road is one-off residential housing, hedgerow / treeline and agricultural fields.

The Proposed Development will transmit power between a permitted joint slab box on private land near L95113 road development on lands at Ballinacloyh, Rathnew Co. Wicklow (approved under Register Reference 2560311) to a new joint slab box on L95113 road near the existing Ballybeg 110kV Substation. Refer to Figure 1-2.

Figure 1-2: Site Context



1.1.1 Watercourses within the Vicinity of the Site

The Site is situated within the Ovoca-Vartry Water Framework Directive ('WFD') Catchment [Catchment_ID: 10] and the Vartry_SC_010 subcatchment [Subcatchment_ID: 10_4] [1].

As per EPA maps, there are no hydrological features located within the Site or within the immediate vicinity of the Site.

The nearest hydrological features of note within close proximity of the Site [1] are outlined below:

- Two Unnamed Lakes

According to the Environmental Protection Agency ('EPA') Maps, there are two unnamed lakes (Segment Code 10_15 and 10_16). These lakes are ca. 185m and 210m to the northwest of the Site. However, based on a review of aerial mapping, it is considered that Lake 10_16. These no longer exist in this location as this lake is currently covered by the Burke's Homevalue Facility. In addition, it is noted that Lake 10_15 appears to be in an area dominated

by rushes and vegetation, so no clear pond area is visible, and no streams or watercourses are branching out of this pond area.

The EPA Maps website does not have any data on the Water Framework Directive water quality assessment or lake waterbody risk for these lakes.

- Rathnew Stream

The Rathnew Stream is located ca. 140m to the east of the Site at its closest point. The Rathnew Stream flows in a northeast direction and drains into the Rathnew Stream (River), which then connects into Broad Lough transitional waterbody ca. 3.4km downstream of the Site. The Broad Lough forms part of the Murrough Wetlands SAC and the Murrough SPA.

Under the WFD 2000/60/EC, the EPA classifies the status and the risk of not achieving good water quality status for all waterbodies in Ireland [1]. According to the river waterbody WFD 2016-2021, the water quality within the Rathnew Stream is considered to be 'Good,' and the status of this river is considered 'not at risk' [1].

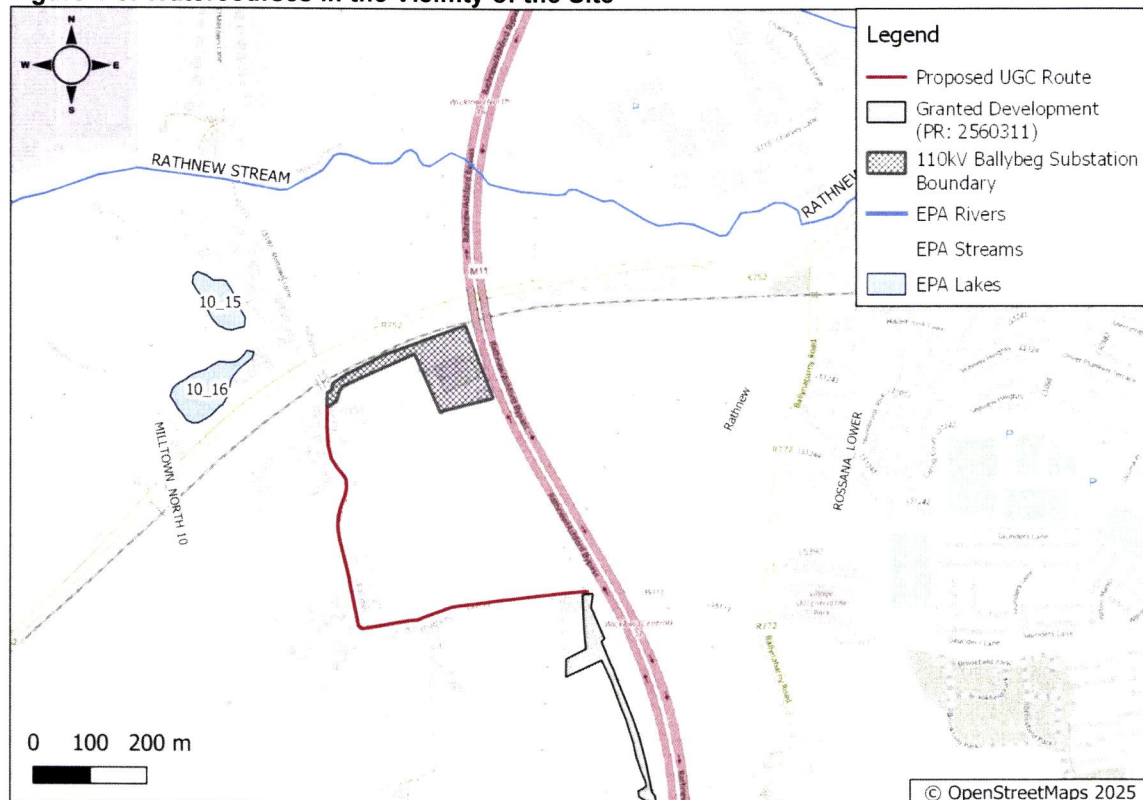
- Milltown_North Stream

The Milltown_North stream is located ca. 290m to the west of the Site at its closest point. The stream flows in a northerly direction and discharges into the Rathnew Stream, ca. 1.5km upstream [1].

According to the river waterbody WFD 2016-2021, the water quality within the Milltown_North stream is considered to be 'Good,' and the status of this river is considered 'not at risk' [1].

The location of the key surface water features in the vicinity of the Site are illustrated in Figure 1-3.

Figure 1-3: Watercourses in the Vicinity of the Site



1.1.2 Drainage Ditches

The Office of Public Works ('OPW') Flood Maps identifies Drainage Districts, Arterial Drainage Schemes and Benefited Areas [2]. Arterial Drainage Schemes were works that were carried out under the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945, to improve land for agriculture and to mitigate flooding. The Benefited land identifies land that was drained as part of the Drainage District with the aim of improving land for agriculture and to mitigate flooding.

According to the OPW, there are no Drainage Districts, Arterial Drainage Schemes and Benefited Areas onsite or within the immediate vicinity of the Site [2].

1.2 Statement of Authority

This report was reviewed and approved by Ms. Amelia Keane, Principal Consultant. Amelia is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management ('CIEEM') and has over six years' experience working in the ecological consultancy with a specialisation in ornithology. As part of her role, Amelia is required to undertake habitat surveys and appraisals as well as specialist-protected species surveys in support of Ecological Impact Assessments and Appropriate Assessments.

1.3 Regulatory Context

The following guidance documents were adhered to for the preparation of this AA report:

- Office of Public Relations ('OPR') Practice Note PN01, *Appropriate Assessment for Screening for Development Management*, The Office of the Planning Regulator [3];
- *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, European Commission [4];
- *Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland*, Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management [5];
- *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The Provision of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*, European Commission [6];
- *Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities*, DoEGLH [7]; and,
- *Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive; Guidance for Planning Authorities. Circular NPW 1/10 and PSSP 2/10*, DoEGLH [8].

This AA was prepared in accordance with and in compliance with the following legislation:

The Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, better known as "The Habitats Directive". This provides the framework for the legal protection of habitats and species of European importance. Articles 3 to 9 provide the legislative means to protect habitats and species of community interest through the establishment and conservation of an EU-wide network of sites known as Natura 2000. The Habitats Directive was transposed into Irish law by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. 477 / 2011) (as amended) [9].

For completeness, 'the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) states that a "European site" means:

- a. A candidate site of Community Importance;
- b. A site of Community Importance;
- c. A Special Area of Conservation ('SAC');

- d. A candidate Special Area of Conservation ('cSAC'); or,
- e. A Special Protection Area ('SPA').

These are Special Areas of Conservation ('SACs') designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas ('SPAs') designated under the Conservation of Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC as amended 2009/149/EC) (better known as "The Birds Directive"). The Birds Directive was also transposed into Irish law through the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and S.I 477 / 2011 [9].

Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive set out the decision-making tests for plans and projects likely to affect European sites (Annex 1.1). Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Appropriate Assessment.

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

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

1.4 Stages of Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage 1: Screening

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

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

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

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions

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

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

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

2 SCREENING FOR APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

Screening determines whether Appropriate Assessment is necessary by examining:

1. Whether a plan or project can be excluded from AA requirements because it is directly connected with, or necessary to, the management of a European Designated site; and,
2. Whether the project will have a potentially significant effect on a European Designated site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Screening involves the following:

- i) Description of a plan or project;
- ii) Identification of relevant European Designated sites and compilation of information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives;
- iii) Assessment of likely effects – direct, indirect and cumulative – undertaken on the basis of available information as a desk study or field survey or primary research as necessary; and,
- iv) Screening Statement with conclusions.

2.1 Methodology

2.1.1 Determining Zone of Influence

The starting point for this assessment was to determine the Zone of Influence. The Zone of Influence ('Zol') comprises the area in which the Proposed Development may potentially affect the conservation objectives (or qualifying interests) of a European Designated site.

Guidance in Appropriate Assessment of plans and projects in Ireland notes that a distance of 15km is recommended for the identification of relevant European sites [7]. However, guidance from the NPWS recommends that the distance should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis with reference to the nature, size and location of the project, the sensitivities of the ecological receptors, and the potential for in-combination effects (cumulative) [8]. For some projects, the distance could be greater than 15km, and in some cases, less than 100m.

The definition of the zone of influence for the proposed works includes evaluating the following:

- Identification of the European Designated sites that are situated within, in close vicinity or downstream within the zone of influence of the Proposed Development;
- Identification of the designated habitats and species and Conservation Objectives for the identified European Designated sites;
- Identification of the environmental conditions that stabilise and increase the qualifying interests of the European Designated sites towards favourable conservation status;
- Identification of the threats / impacts – actual or potential that could negatively impact the conservation objectives for the European Designated sites;
- Identifying the activities of the proposed works that could give rise to significant adverse impacts; and,
- Identification of other plans or projects for which in-combination impacts would likely have significant adverse effects.

2.1.2 Source-Pathway-Receptor Model

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

The likely effects of the Proposed Development on any European Designated site have been assessed using a source-pathway-receptor model. A source-pathway-receptor model is a standard tool used in environmental assessment [10, 11]. The model comprises:

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

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

2.1.3 Desk-Based Studies

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

- Review of aerial maps of the Site and surrounding area;
- The National Parks and Wildlife Service ('NPWS') website was consulted with regard to the most up-to-date details on conservation objectives for the European Designated sites relevant to this assessment [12];
- The National Biodiversity Data Centre ('NBDC') website was consulted with regard to species distributions [13];
- The Environmental Protection Agency ('EPA') Maps website was consulted to obtain details about watercourses in the vicinity of the Site [1];
- The Wicklow County Council Planning Portal to obtain details about existing / proposed developments in the vicinity of the Site [14]; and,
- The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's planning portal – the National Planning Application Database was reviewed to obtain details about existing / proposed developments in the vicinity of the Site [15].

2.1.4 Field Survey

A Site walkover was undertaken on 14th May 2025, by a suitably qualified and experienced MOR Environmental Ecologist to assess the extent and the quality of habitats present on the Site and to identify any potential ecological receptors associated with the European Designated sites.

The habitat survey was undertaken for the Site utilising the Heritage Council's – '*A Guide to Habitats in Ireland*' [16]. This is the standard habitat classification system used in Ireland and includes both a desk-based and field-based assessment.

The assessments were extended to also identify the potential for these habitats to support other features of nature conservation importance, such as species afforded legal protection under either Irish or European legislation.

2.1.4.1 Survey Limitations

No survey limitations were encountered during the survey.

3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

3.1 Proposed Development

The proposed UGC route will be ca. 860m in length and will begin at the permitted Joint Slab Box 01 (PR: 2560311) and end at the proposed new Joint Slab Box 03 at the entrance to the existing ESB owned Ballybeg 110kV Station.

The works will consist of the installation of one 125mm diameter uPVC power cable duct, to be installed in an excavated trench, typically 450mm wide x 1150mm deep, with variations on this design to adapt to service crossings and utility crossings where applicable.

The ducts will be installed, and the trench reinstated in accordance with the local road authority within Wicklow County Council. The installation of the electrical cabling is pulled through the installed ducts in approximately 500m sections.

Installation works will be in accordance with best practice guidelines and completed to ESB specification.

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

The proposed Site Layout is illustrated in Appendix A.

3.2 Construction Procedures

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

In support of the Road Opening Licence required for the Proposed Development, a Traffic Management Plan ('TMP') will be prepared by the appointed contractor and will be submitted to the planning authority in advance of works commencing at the Site.

The C811 - Environmental Good Practice on Site (5th edition) [17] guidance document will be referred to and will be followed during the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development to prevent any significant effects within the area.

Working hours will generally be restricted to between 08:00 to 19:00 hours Monday to Friday inclusive and between 08:00 to 18:00 hours on Saturdays, if required. Construction work will not be permitted on Sundays, public holidays or at night-time except where safety concerns necessitate it or if agreed in advance with the Planning Authority.

3.2.1 Trenching Methodology

As per the Outline Construction Methodology Report prepared by TLI Group and submitted in support of this application, the trenching methodology that will be utilised is as follows:

- *The Contractor, and their appointed Site Manager, will prepare a targeted Method Statement concisely outlining the construction methodology and incorporating all mitigation and control measures included within the planning application and accompanying reports and as required by conditions where relevant.*
- *All existing underground services shall be identified on-site prior to the commencement of construction works.*
- *Where the cable route intersects with a culvert, the culvert will remain in place and the ducting will be installed above the culvert to provide minimum separation distances. Given the substantial depth, there will be no interactions with the culvert.*

- *Traffic management measures will be implemented in accordance with those included in the Traffic Management Report, and a detailed Traffic Management Plan will be prepared and agreed with Wicklow County Council.*
- *The excavated trench will be a minimum width of 450mm and approximately 925mm deep both within the public road network and within private lands.*
- *The base of the excavated trench will be lined with sand bedding to be imported to site from a local licensed supplier. The 125mm diameter uPVC cable duct will be placed into the prepared trench, inspected, and backfilled;*
- *Excavated material will be temporarily stockpiled onsite for re-use during reinstatement. Stockpiles will be restricted to less than 2m in height. Stockpiles will be stored within the Ballinacloy Solar Farm boundary, located a minimum of 50m from surface water features. All stockpiling locations will be subject to approval by the Site Manager and Project Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).*
- *Excavated material shall be employed to backfill the trench where appropriate and any surplus material will be transported off site and disposed of at a fully authorised soil recovery site.*
- *Any earthen (sod) banks to be excavated will be carefully opened with the surface sods being stored separately and maintained for use during reinstatement.*
- *Where required, grass will be reinstated by either seeding or by replacing with grass turves.*
- *No more than a 100-metre section of trench will be opened at any one time. The second 100 metres will only be excavated once most reinstatement has been completed on the first.*
- *The excavation, installation and reinstatement process will take on average of 1 day to complete a 100m section.*
- *Where the cable is being installed in a roadway, temporary reinstatement may be provided to allow larger sections of road to be permanently reinstated together.*
- *Following the installation of ducting, pulling the cable will take approximately 1 day between each joint bay, with the jointing of cables taking approximately 1 day.*

4 IDENTIFICATION OF EUROPEAN DESIGNATED SITES

In accordance with the European Commission Methodological Guidance [18] a list of European Designated sites that can be potentially affected by the Proposed Development has been compiled. Guidance for Planning Authorities prepared by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government [7] states that defining the likely zone of impact for the screening and the approach used will depend on the nature, size, location and the likely significant effects of the project. The key variables determining whether or not a particular European Designated site is likely to be negatively affected by a project are:

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

All SPAs and SACs within 15km have been considered to assess their ecological pathways and functional links. As acknowledged in the OPR guidelines [3], few projects have a zone of influence this large; however, the identification of European Designated sites within 15km has become widely accepted as the starting point for the screening process. For this reason, all SPAs and SACs within 15km have been identified for consideration as part of the screening.

There are 11 European Designated sites located within 15km of the Site - these are identified in Figure 4-1 and Table 4-1.

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

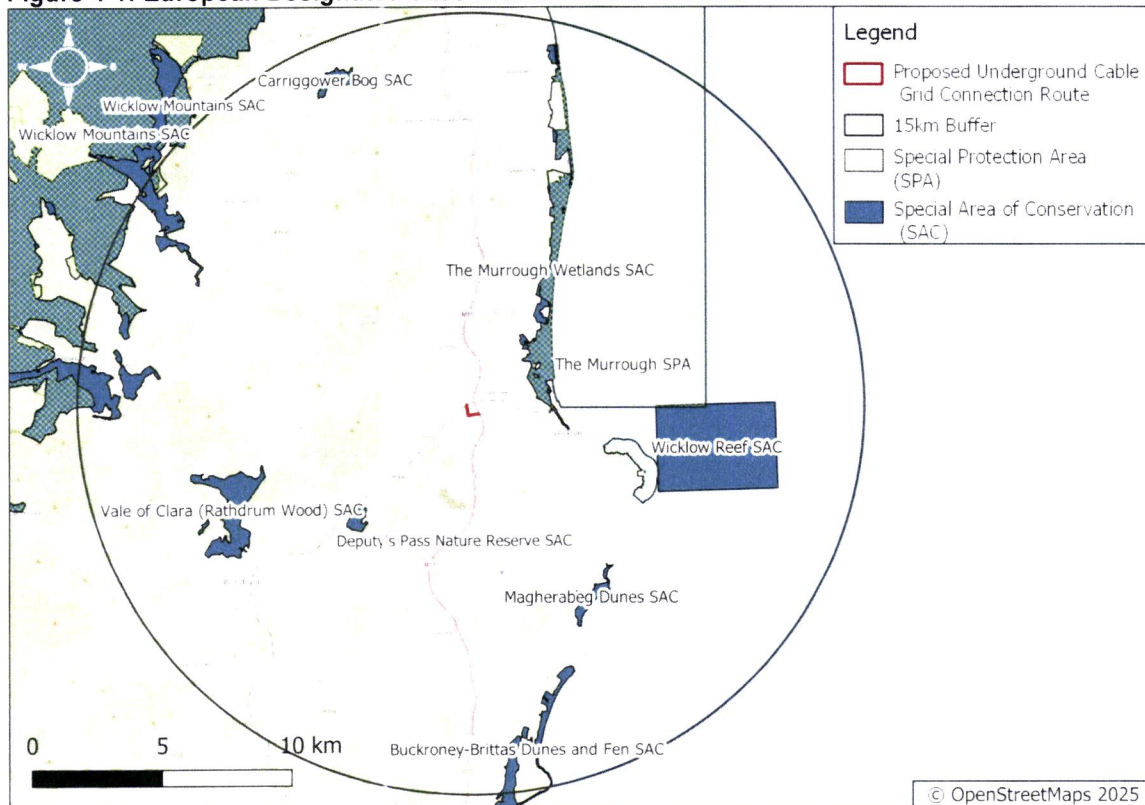


Table 4-1: European Designated Sites within 15km of the Site

Site Name	Code	Distance (km)	Direction from the Site
Special Areas of Conservation ('SAC')			
The Murrough Wetlands SAC	002249	Ca. 2.3km	NE
Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC	000717	Ca. 5.3km	SW
Wicklow Reef SAC	002274	Ca. 6.9km	E
Magherabeg Dunes SAC	001766	Ca. 7.5km	SE
Vale of Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC	000733	Ca. 8.2km	SW
Buckronev-Brittis Dunes and Fen SAC	000729	Ca. 10.3km	SE
Wicklow Mountains SAC	002122	Ca. 11.8km	NW
Carriggower Bog SAC	00716	Ca. 13.1km	NW
Special Protection Area ('SPA')			
The Murrough SPA	004186	Ca. 2.3km	NE
Wicklow Head SPA	004127	Ca. 4.9km	SE
Wicklow Mountains SPA	004040	Ca. 13km	NW

4.1 Identification of European Sites within Zol

The Zone of Influence ('Zol') comprises the area in which the Proposed Development may potentially affect the conservation objectives (or qualifying interests) of a European Designated site. The definition of Zol for the proposed works, as outlined in Section 2.1, is evaluated by multiple factors and discussed below. Please note that the extent of Zol differs for different environmental aspects, e.g. air, water, etc.

4.1.1 Habitat Loss / Degradation

The Site is not located within or directly adjacent to any European Designated sites; however, the boundaries of the 11 European Designated sites, as listed above, are located within 15km from the Site.

The Site walkover was undertaken on the 14th May 2025 by two MOR Environmental Ecologists. The Site was located entirely within the existing the L95113 local road and therefore was comprised entirely of Buildings and Artificial Surfaces - Roads (BL3). The local road is bordered by hedgerow / treelines (WL1 / WL2) associated with adjacent one-off housing properties and agricultural fields. No designated habitats were identified within the Site.

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

4.1.2 Water Quality Impairment

Potential water quality impacts would typically be associated with the release of sediment and other pollutants to surface water during the Construction Phase of the Proposed Development. Therefore, the Zol would be considered to include the receiving waterbodies adjacent to and

downstream of the Site during the Construction Phase within 5km, which is the distance used as the starting point for the assessment of waterbodies based on accepted best practice and professional expertise.

As mentioned in Section 3.2 above, there are no waterbodies located on-site nor within the immediate vicinity of the Site. The nearest waterbody is located ca. 140m from the Site. Therefore, there is no hydrological connection between the Site and any watercourses within 5km of the Site.

As there is no impact pathway between the Site and any watercourse or European site, impacts associated with water quality impairment have been screened out from further consideration.

4.1.3 Air Quality Impairment

According to the Institute of Air Quality Management ('IAQM') Guidelines, potential adverse effects from dust arising from construction to ecological receptors occur within 50m of a construction Site [19].

All European Designated sites are located at least 2.3km from the Site and therefore do not require a detailed dust assessment. Therefore, it can be concluded that no impacts associated with dust will occur as a result of the Proposed Development, given the distance separating the Site from the European sites and the small-scale nature of the development.

It is not considered that the Proposed Development will result in any significant effect on any European Designated sites as a result of construction dust.

4.1.4 Noise / Disturbance

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

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

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (formerly the National Roads Authority) has produced a series of best practice planning and construction guidelines for the treatment of certain protected mammal species (i.e. otter), which indicate that disturbance to terrestrial mammals would not extend beyond 150m [20]; and,
- Studies have noted that different types of disturbance stimuli are characterised by different avifaunal reactions; however, in general, a distance of 300m can be used to represent the maximum likely disturbance distance for waterfowl [21].

The Zol for noise / disturbance is therefore established as the Site with a 300m buffer.

The Zol for noise / disturbance is therefore established as the Site with a 300m buffer. All identified European Sites are located outside of this zone of influence. Furthermore, the Site is located entirely within the existing road network; therefore, there were no habitats on-site which are suitable for any of the designated bird species.

Therefore, no impacts associated with noise or disturbance will occur as a result of the Proposed Development, and the European Designated sites have been scoped out for further consideration in relation to potential noise impacts.

4.1.5 Invasive Species

No medium or high-impact invasive species (including those that are regulated under the European Union (Invasive Alien Species) Regulations 2024 (S.I. No. 374/2024) [22]) were recorded within the Site.

4.2 Zol Conclusion

The Site is not located within or directly adjacent to any European Designated sites; however, the boundaries of 11 are located within 15km from the Site.

Given the short duration of the construction works, the distance separating the Site from the European Designated sites, and the lack of impact pathways, it is considered that the Proposed Development will not result in adverse effects to these European Designated sites. Therefore, they have been screened out from further consideration.

4.3 Conservation Objectives

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

According to the EU Habitats Directive, favourable conservation status of a habitat is achieved when:

- Its natural range, and the area it covers within that range, is stable or increasing;
- The specific structure and functions which are necessary for its long-term maintenance exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future; and,
- The conservation status of its typical species is favourable as defined below.

The favourable conservation status of a species is achieved when:

- Population data on the species concerned indicate that it is maintaining itself;
- The natural range of the species is neither being reduced nor likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future; and,
- There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis.

Conservation objectives for all identified Natura 2000 SAC sites are as follows:

‘To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected.’

Conservation objectives for all identified Natura 2000 SPA sites are as follows:

‘To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA.’

5 SCREENING AND ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Using professional experience, guidance and judgement, the following factors have been taken into account in identifying potential significant impacts on the identified European Designated sites:

- Distance from any European Designated site;
- Qualifying Interests;
- Special Conservation Interests;
- Conservation Objectives;
- The nature of the onsite habitats;
- The location of the Site, and,
- The scale and disturbance of the Proposed Development.

Based on these factors, **no potential significant impact has been taken forward for further consideration**. This is based on the available information from field and desk-based assessments as outlined in Section 4.

Overall, the screening exercise **did not identify any other factors** that could result in any direct or indirect loss or disturbance to any of the Annex I habitats or Annex I or II species for which the European Designated sites are designated. It can be stated that the Proposed Development will not cause:

- Any reduction in the area of the habitat or European Site;
- Direct or indirect damage to the physical quality of the environment of any European Designated site;
- Any serious or ongoing disturbance to species or habitats for which any European Designated site is designated; or,
- Direct or indirect damage to the size, characteristics or reproductive ability of populations of any European Designated site.

On the basis of the Source-Pathway-Receptor ('SPR') risk assessment principle, there is no ecological or functional link between the Proposed Development and any European Designated sites.

5.1 Analysis of 'In-Combination' Effects

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

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

The Proposed Development will connect to the granted 10kV underground cable that will begin at the permitted Joint Slab Box 01 (PR: 2560311) that will be constructed as part of a granted development. During the construction works associated with the Proposed Development and the granted development (PR: 2560311), there may be some localised elevated noise levels. However, as mentioned above, the Site is not within the Zone of Influence for potential noise disturbance for designated species of any European site.

A review of the Wicklow County Council Planning ePlan website [14] was undertaken to identify any other active or granted plans and/or projects in the immediate vicinity that are

considered likely to result in in-combination significant impacts with the Proposed Development on European Designated sites.

The majority of the granted developments within the vicinity of the Site are associated with extensions to existing residential dwellings. However, the following large-scale projects listed in Table 5-1 were identified within the immediate vicinity of the Proposed Development.

Table 5-1: Granted Planning Applications within the immediate vicinity of the Site

Application Ref	Decision	Development Description	Appropriate Assessment
24/60756	Granted – 07/07/2025	<i>'Development comprising total of 15,717 square metres of light industrial and warehouse floorspace, to include ancillary office floorspace, plus a creche (271 sq. m), a cafe (175 sq. m) and 1,037 sq. metres of office floorspace and 88 dwellings – 15no. 4 bedroom, 53 no. 3 bedroom and 20no. 1 and 2 bedroom. The development includes on site car and bicycle parking, the provision of services, landscaping proposals (including SUDS), provision of roads, ancillary site development works and a new vehicular entrance to the R772. All on a site of 7.45 hectares.'</i>	A Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement was submitted as part of this planning application. The Planners Report concluded <i>'... by itself or in combination with other development in the vicinity, the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European site.'</i>
25/60010	Decision Due Date 04/09/2025	<i>'99 dwellings (8 no.1 bedroom, 18 no. 2 bedroom, 55 no. 3 bedroom and 18 no. 4 bedroom) and a creche (271 sq. m). The development includes the provision of services, visitor bicycle parking, landscaping proposals (including SUDS), provision of access and link roads, ancillary site development works and a new vehicular entrance to the R772. All on a site of 4.73 hectares.'</i>	A Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement was submitted as part of this planning application. The NIS concluded that <i>'Following the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined, the construction works would not be deemed to have a significant impact on the integrity of European sites. No significant impacts are likely on European sites, alone in combination with other plans and projects based on the implementation of standard construction phase mitigation measures.'</i> No planners report is available for this development yet.

The above developments in Table 6-1 are large-scale developments that will be located to the east of the M11. Both developments have concluded that there will be adverse effects on any European Designated sites. These developments will be localised and confined to their respective Site boundaries.

It is considered unlikely that the Proposed Development will contribute to cumulative impacts on any European Designated sites in combination with the developments in Table 6-1.

This statement is supported by:

- I. The distances separating the Site from European Designated sites;
- II. The rural setting of the local environment; and,
- III. The small-scale and localised nature of the proposed works.

Taking the above into account, it is concluded that there will not be any significant in-combination contribution by the Proposed Development to possible adverse effects on any European Designated sites.

6 SCREENING CONCLUSIONS AND STATEMENT

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

11 designated sites – the Murrough Wetlands SAC, Deputy's Pass Nature Reserve SAC, Wicklow Reef SAC, Magherabeg Dunes SAC, Vale or Clara (Rathdrum Wood) SAC, Buckroney-Brittas Dunes and Fen SAC, Wicklow Mountains SAC, Carriggower Bog SAC, the Murrough SPA, Wicklow Head SPA and Wicklow Mountains SPA are located within a 15km radius of the Site.

However, given small scale and localised nature of the Proposed Development, and the lack of impact pathways between the Site and European sites, as described in Section 4, it can be concluded that the Proposed Development will not result in any significant impacts either directly or indirectly on the conservation objectives or status of the listed European Designated sites and will not result in the direct loss or disturbance of any Annex I habitats and / or Annex II species for which the European Designated sites are designated.

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

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

7 REFERENCES

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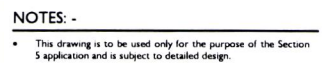
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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

LEGEND: -

Proposed 10kV Grid Connection (0.860km) 



CONSULTANTS

AOR
MALONE O'REGAN

[illegible]

PROJECT NUMBER	
300-101011	
SHEET TITLE	
Sheet Layout Plan	

SHEET NUMBER
300101011-DR-142

1:2500

50m 0 50m 100m 150m 200m 250m



OUTLINE CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY

Ballinacclough Solar Farm Project – Grid Connection

Document No: 300101011-R02-04

Ballinacclough Solar DAC

RECEIVED 19 SEP 2025
EX 109/2025

Revision:	Author:	Checked:	Date:	Notes:
00	DMB	DB	07.05.25	<i>Issued For Review</i>
01	DMB	DB	08.05.25	<i>Issued For Client Review</i>
02	DB	DM	06.08.25	<i>Reissued with updated Working Hours</i>
03	DMB	DB	21.08.25	<i>Issued for Section 5</i>
04	DMB	DB	17.09.25	<i>Issued for Section 5</i>

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1.0 Introduction

The purpose of this document is to outline and explain the construction techniques and methodologies which will be implemented during the construction of the permitted Ballinacloy Solar EGIP building (New Application Planning Ref No. 2560311) 10kV single circuit grid connection from the permitted Joint Slab Box (denoted as 'Permitted Joint Slab Box 01' in figure 1 below) under planning reference 2560311 to the new proposed Joint Slab Box (denoted as 'New Joint Slab Box 03' in figure 1 below) at the entrance to the existing ESB owned Ballybeg 110kV Substation Co. Wicklow.

The grid connection will consist entirely of underground cable (UGC) in a single circuit arrangement. The UGC works will consist of an installation with 1 no. ducts in an excavated trench to accommodate 3 no. power cables with the ducts to be installed within solar farmlands, consented third party lands and within the public road network.

This document is intended to be used as an aid to understand the methodologies to be employed during construction and should be read in conjunction with all other specialist reports, which accompany the planning application. This document will be revised and updated prior to the commencement of construction activities. Detailed method statements will be prepared in respect of each aspect of the development in advance of construction. The construction methodology and method statements will be agreed with the Planning Authority in advance of commencement of construction.

2.0 Proposed Grid connection Route

The proposed UGC grid connection is approximately 860m in length and predominantly travels in a southern direction towards the permitted Joint Slab Box 01 under planning reference 2560311 located North of Ballinacloy Solar EGIP building from the new Joint Slab box 03 outside Ballybeg 110kV substation. The UGC route traverses within the public road curtilage. The exact location of the underground cable within the public road network may be subject to minor modification following further assessments to be undertaken prior to construction and following consultation with ESB Networks, while having regard to all environmental constraints outlined in the SID application.

Table 1 – UGC Route Location Summary	
Public Roads	Private Lands
855m	5m

Table 1: Ballybeg 110kV Substation entrance to permitted MV Building – Application Planning Ref No. 2560311

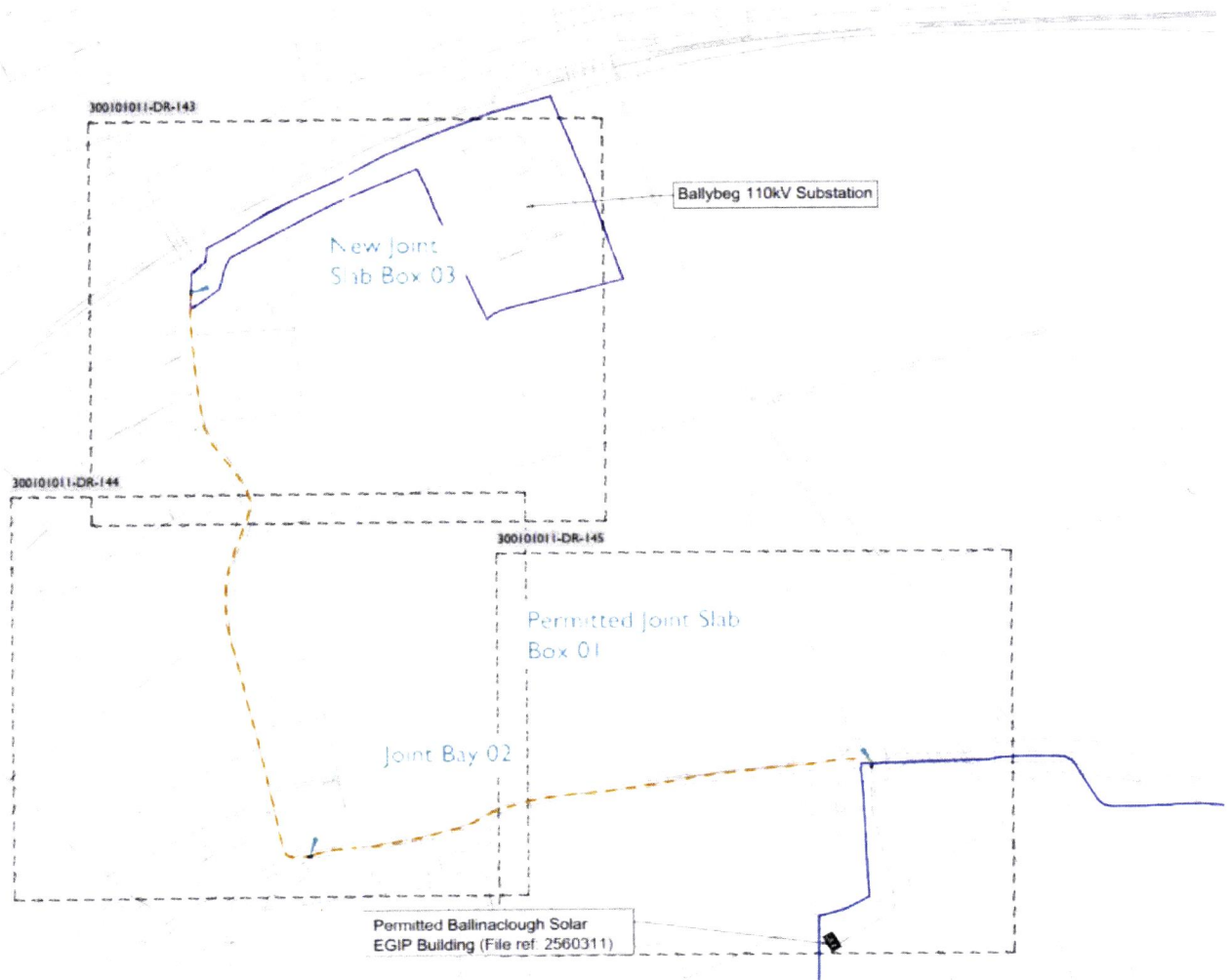


Figure 1 - Proposed Grid Connection Route

Table 2 describes the specific construction requirements and identifies access routes to the work areas. All plant and equipment employed on the proposed works will be subject to good site organisation and hygiene, particularly during construction activities.

Table 2: Summary of Proposed UGC Route

Table 2 - Summary of Proposed Grid Connection Design Route	
Section	Description
Section 1 5m UGC Route	Permitted Planning Boundary (Planning Ref No. 2560311) to Joint Bay 1 The Underground Cable (UGC) 10kV grid connection initiate from the permitted boundary to traverse a 5m section, consisting of an existing access track to arable lands
Section 2 855m UGC Route	Joint Bay 1 to Joint Bay 3 The Underground Cable (UGC) 10kV grid connection continues at the denoted point (Joint Bay 01) and carries westerly along the L-95113 local road for approx. 405m. The grid route remains within the curtilage of the public road towards the townland of Ballynabarney. The UGC will converge on a sweeping right hand bend section towards the townland of Miltown South before carrying for an additional 450m. At this point, the cable route will have reached the extents of the existing ESB owned Ballybeg 110kV Substation (Folio no. WW31592 The Electricity Supply Board). Features: The UGC Route within this section contains 3 no. joint bays. Joint Bays will be located below ground and finished/reinstated to the required Local Authorities specification. • Joint Bay 01 (JB01) will be at the extents of the local road L-95113, wherein a UGC route has been previously denoted as part of the Application (Planning Ref No. 2560311) • Joint Bay 02 (JB02) will be located approx. 450m south of Ballybeg 110kV Substation within the L-95113 local road carriageway. • Joint Bay 03 (JB03) will be located at the entrance gate to Ballybeg 110kV Substation Service Crossing: Existing utility infrastructure such as ESB, Telecoms and Community Water Pipe Infrastructure will be encountered, and the crossing schedules will be prepared at detailed design to identify under or over methods to cross these existing buried services.

3.0 Preliminary Site Investigations

It will be required to carry out preliminary site investigations along the cable route prior to construction to confirm design assumptions.

The following items may be carried out for the grid connection cable route:

- Trial holes at all joint bay positions to ascertain ground conditions and thermal resistivity of the soil.
- Slit trenches at locations of service crossings (full road/track width).
- Trial holes along the route to ascertain ground conditions and thermal resistivity of the soil.

Traffic Management – Single Lane closure with Stop/Go system in place as required.

Equipment:

- 4x4 vehicle
- Concrete vibrator
- Wheeled dumper
- Soil compactor
- 360° tracked excavator (only rubber tracked machines will be allowed on public roads)

4.0 Access Routes to Work Area

Most of the underground cable will be installed within the public road network and proposed access tracks. It will therefore be accessed via the existing road network and the designated site access. Where the cable route is located on private lands, the contractor(s) will be required to utilise the local public road network in the vicinity of the work area.

A detailed Traffic Management Plan will be prepared and agreed with Wicklow County Council prior to the commencement of construction. Some work areas will require a temporary road closure where it is not possible to safely implement a Stop/Go system. Where temporary road closures are necessary, a suitable diversion will be implemented using appropriate signage, following consultation and agreement with Wicklow County Council.

Careful and considered local consultation will be carried out, as per conditions of planning, to minimise the amount of disturbance caused during works. All plant and equipment employed during the works (e.g., diggers, tracked machines, footwear etc.) will be inspected prior to arrival and departure from site. Vehicles will be cleaned on access and egress to prevent the spread of invasive species, dust, and soil to the surrounding areas.

5.0 Traffic Management

Traffic management and road signage will be in accordance with the Department of Transport: Traffic Signs Manual - Chapter 8: Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Road Works and in agreement with Wicklow County Council. All work on public roads will be subject to the approval of a road opening license application. The contractor will prepare detailed traffic management plans for inclusion as part of the road opening applications. Where road widths allow, the UGC installation works will allow for one side of the road to be always open to traffic by means of a 'Stop/Go' type traffic management system, where a minimum 2.5m roadway will be maintained at all times. Where it is not possible to implement a 'Stop/Go' system a temporary road closure will be required. Suitable traffic diversions will be implanted. The UGC will be usually installed in 100m sections, and no more than 100m will be excavated without most of the previous section being reinstated. Temporary traffic signals will be implemented to allow road users safely pass through the works area by channelling them onto the open side of the road.

All construction vehicles will be parked within a designated works area so as not to cause additional obstruction or inconvenience to road users or residents. Temporary traffic signals will be in place prior to the works commencing and will remain in place until after the works are completed. The public road will be checked regularly and maintained free of mud and debris. Road sweeping will be carried out as appropriate to ensure construction traffic does not adversely affect the local road condition.

In the event of emergency, steel plates will be put in place across the excavation to allow traffic to flow on both sides of the road.

All traffic management measures will comply with those outlined in the construction stage Traffic Management Plan. This will be compiled prior to construction by the main contractor in consultation with Wicklow County Council in advance of UGC construction.

6.0 Road Opening Licence

The grid connection works will require a road opening licence under Section 254 of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2015 from Wicklow County Council. A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be agreed with Wicklow County Council prior to the commencement of the development. The TMP will outline the location of traffic management signage, together with the location of any necessary road closures and the routing of appropriate diversions. Where diversions are required, these will be agreed with Wicklow County Council in advance of the preparation of the TMP.

7.0 Construction Hours

Standard working hours will be determined as a condition of planning. The proposed working hours for construction will be 8:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday and 8:00 to 18:00 on Saturday (if required), with no works on Sundays or Bank Holidays except in exceptional circumstances or in the event of an emergency. All site personnel will be required to wear project notification labelling on high visibility vests and head protection so that they can be easily identified by all workers on site and the public.

8.0 UGC Construction Methodology

The UGC Route begins at the permitted Joint Slab Box 01 under planning reference 2560311 and ends at the proposed new Joint Slab Box 03 at the entrance to the existing ESB owned Ballybeg 110kV Station.

The UGC route will consist of 1 no. 125mm diameter uPVC power cable duct, to be installed in an excavated trench, typically 450mm wide x 1150mm deep, with variations on this design to adapt to service crossings and utility crossings where applicable. The ducts will be installed, the trench reinstated in accordance with the local road's authority within Wicklow County Council. The installation of the electrical cabling is pulled through the installed ducts in approximately 500m sections. Construction methodologies to be implemented and materials to be used will ensure that the UGC is installed in accordance with the requirements.

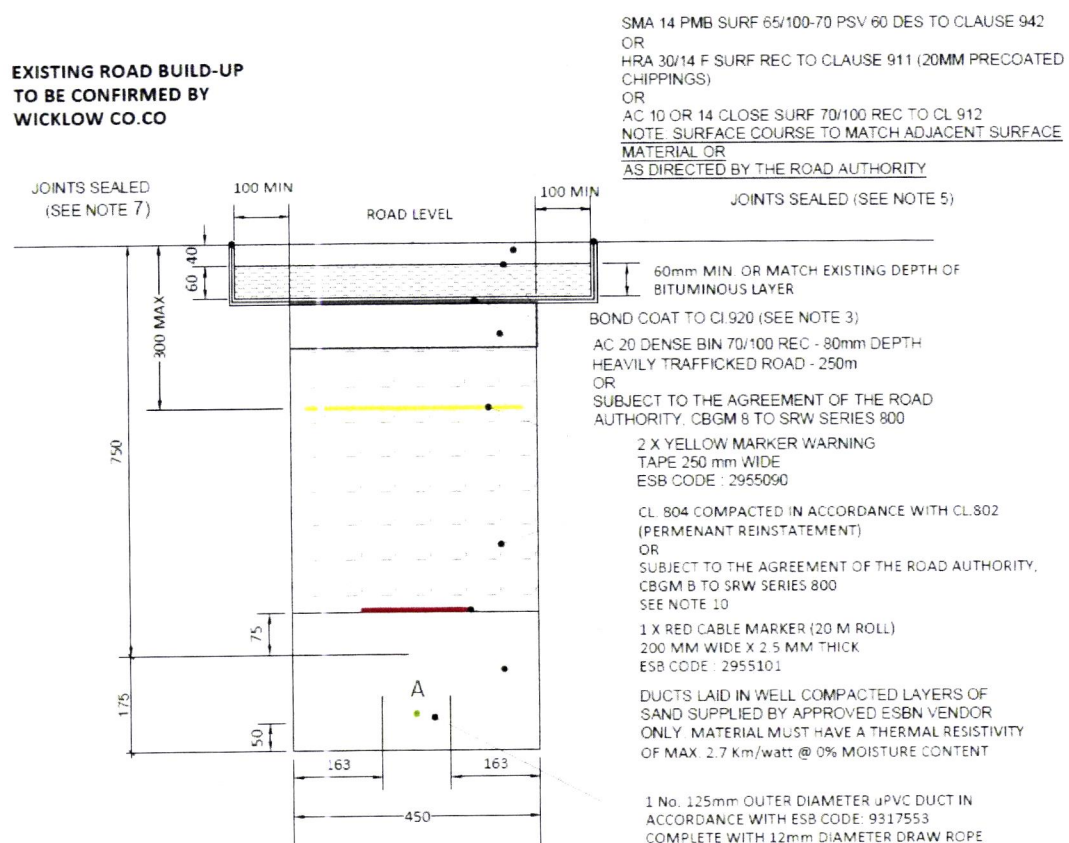


Figure 2 - Typical Duct Installation in Local Roadway

8.1 Trenching Methodology

The following section outlines the methodology to be followed during trenching works: -

- The Contractor, and their appointed Site Manager, will prepare a targeted Method Statement concisely outlining the construction methodology and incorporating all mitigation and control measures included within the planning application and accompanying reports and as required by conditions where relevant.
- All existing underground services shall be identified on site prior to the commencement of construction works.
- Where the cable route intersects with a culvert, the culvert will remain in place and the ducting will be installed above the culvert to provide minimum separation distances. Given the substantial depth, there will be no interactions with the culvert.

- Traffic management measures will be implemented in accordance with those included in the Traffic Management Report, and a detailed Traffic Management Plan will be prepared and agreed with Wicklow County Council.
- The excavated trench will be a minimum width of 450mm and approximately 925mm deep both within the public road network and within private lands.
- The base of the excavated trench will be lined with sand bedding to be imported to site from a local licensed supplier. The 125mm diameter uPVC cable duct will be placed into the prepared trench, inspected, and backfilled as per Figure 2;
- Excavated material will be temporarily stockpiled onsite for re-use during reinstatement. Stockpiles will be restricted to less than 2m in height. Stockpiles will be stored within the Ballinacloy Solar Farm boundary, located a minimum of 50m from surface water features. All stockpiling locations will be subject to approval by the Site Manager and Project Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW).
- Excavated material shall be employed to backfill the trench where appropriate and any surplus material will be transported off site and disposed of at a fully authorised soil recovery site.
- Any earthen (sod) banks to be excavated will be carefully opened with the surface sods being stored separately and maintained for use during reinstatement.
- Where required, grass will be reinstated by either seeding or by replacing with grass turves.
- No more than a 100-metre section of trench will be opened at any one time. The second 100 metres will only be excavated once most reinstatement has been completed on the first.
- The excavation, installation and reinstatement process will take on average of 1 day to complete a 100m section.
- Where the cable is being installed in a roadway, temporary reinstatement may be provided to allow larger sections of road to be permanently reinstated together.
- Works will only be conducted in normal working hours of Monday to Friday 08:00 to 19:00 and Saturday 08:00 to 18:00, with no works on Sundays or Bank Holidays except in exceptional circumstances or in the event of an emergency.
- Following the installation of ducting, pulling the cable will take approximately 1 day between each joint bay, with the jointing of cables taking approximately 1 day.

8.2 Storage of Plant and Machinery

All plant, machinery and equipment will be stored on site within the works area or within the temporary construction compound to be located within the permitted Ballinacloy Solar Farm. Oils and fuels will not be stored on site and will be stored in an appropriately bunded area within the temporary storage compound.

8.3 Joint Bays

Joints Bays are to be provided approximately every 470m – 490m along the UGC route to facilitate the jointing of 2 no. lengths of UGC. Joint Bays are typically 2.m x 1.6m x 1.56m precast concrete structure installed 1.885m below finished ground level to facilitate the jointing of the cable. Where installed in public roads joint bays will be located in the non-wheel bearing strip of the carriageway.

Marker posts will be used on non-roadway routes to delineate the duct route and joint slab positions. The marker posts will consist of a corrosion proof aluminium triangular danger sign, with 750mm base, and with centred lightning symbol, on engineering grade fluorescent yellow background. They will be installed in adequately sized concrete foundations and will also be placed where the cable has not been buried to the standard depth, due to existing road conditions.

Equipment:

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

Materials:

- Sand for pipe bedding.
- Ready-mix Concrete where necessary (delivered to site).
- Trench backfilling material (excavated material and aggregates) to relevant specifications.
- 125mm diameter uPVC ducting.
- Precast Chamber Structures.

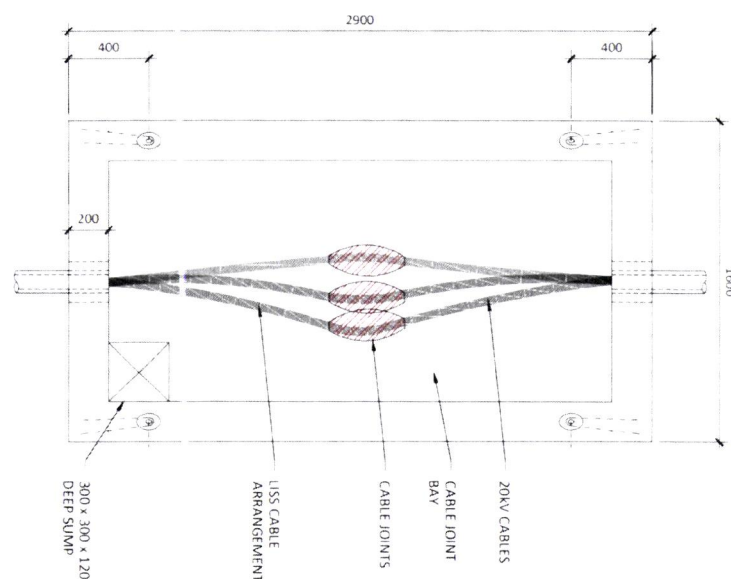


Figure 3 - Typical MV Joint Slab Plan Details

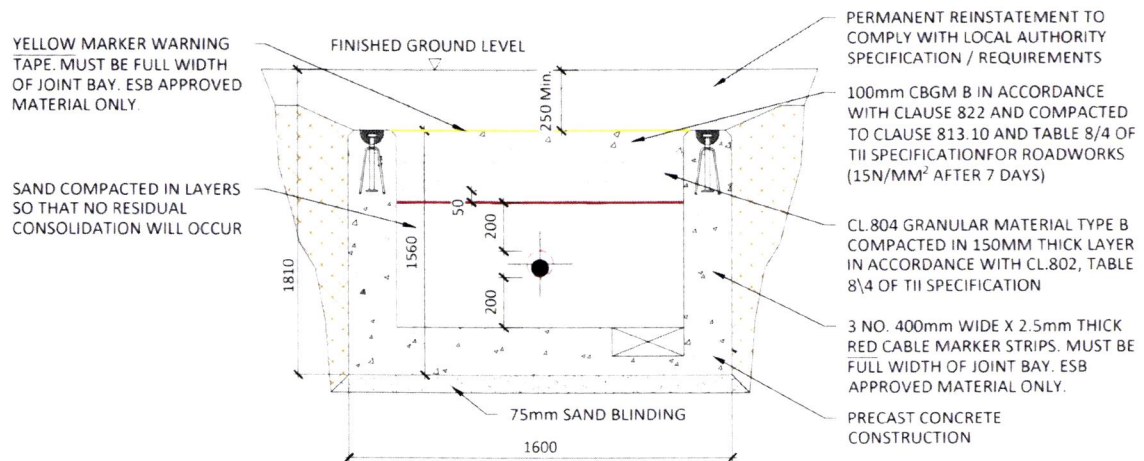


Figure 4 - Typical Elevation of Joint Bay installed in Roadway

8.4 UGC Installation within the public road

The minority of the MV route is located within public road and where applicable the trench will be installed in the non-trafficked strip between the typical vehicular wheel locations on the road. The cable will be micro-sited based on the presence of existing utilities and the nature of the road and the adjoining terrain.

8.5 Managing Excess Material from Trench

All excavated material will be temporarily stored adjacent to the trench prior to re-use in the trench reinstatement (where applicable). Stockpiles will be restricted to less than 2m in height. Excess material and excavated tar, etc. will be transported off site by an appropriately authorised waste collector and disposed of at an appropriately licenced waste facility.

8.6 Storage of Plant and Machinery

All plant, machinery and equipment will be stored on site within the UGC works area or within the temporary construction compound to be located at the permitted Ballinacloy Solar Farm Project. Oils and fuels will be stored in an appropriately bunded area within the temporary construction compounds.

9.0 Relocation of Existing Services

To facilitate the installation of the underground cable, it may be necessary to relocate existing underground services such as water mains or existing cables. In advance of any construction activity, the contractor will undertake detailed surveys and scans of the route to confirm the presence or otherwise of any services. If found to be present, the relevant service provider will be consulted to determine the requirement for specific excavation or relocation methods and to schedule a suitable time to carry out works.

9.1 Underground Cables

If existing underground cables are found to be present, a trench will be excavated, and new ducting and cabling will be installed along the new alignment and connected to the network on either end. The trench will be backfilled with suitable material to the required specification. Warning strip and marking tape will be laid at various depths over the cables as required. Marker posts and plates will be installed at surface level to identify the new alignment of the underground cable, with the underground cables will then be re-energised.

9.2 Water Mains

Uisce Eireann will need to be consulted and advised on details of the project proposals in the form of a completed Building-over or Near an Irish Water Asset Application Form and associated technical information largely comprising drawings and schedules with details of proposed crossings etc with as much available information as possible. Uisce Eireann will be involved in the early engagement on projects that may involve any infrastructure which may be located near their assets with the intention of identifying as early as possible, if bespoke design measures or diversions are necessary.

The water supply will be turned off by the utility so work can commence on diverting or crossing the service. The section of the existing pipe will be removed and will be replaced with a new pipe along the new alignment of the service. The works will be carried out in accordance with the utility standards.

10.0 Service Crossings

Minor watercourse crossings could be encountered in the form of culverts; pipe drains and minor field drains. Crossing of these existing culverts will be as per undercrossing or overcrossing methods, depending on the depth of the culvert or using open trenching. A detailed site survey of all culverts will need to be completed as part of the next phase of the project prior to construction. The culvert crossing methods are detailed in Figure 5.

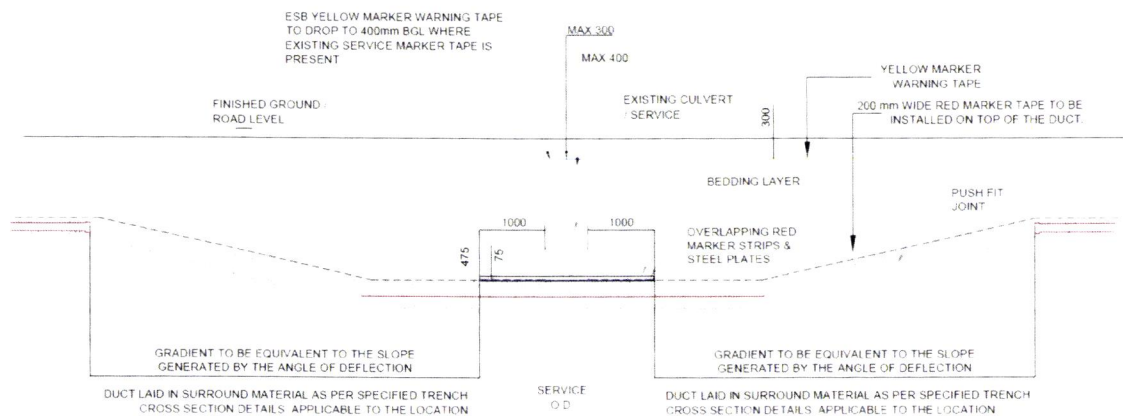


Figure 5 - MV UGC Culvert Undercrossing

12.0 Cable pulling

Once the ducting is installed the electrical cables (situated on a drum) are pulled through the ducting by a specialised mechanical winch. The winch will also monitor the tension on the cables being pulled so as not to damage the cables. A guide rope is installed with the ducting to assist in the cable pulling process. The guide rope also is used for proving the ducts by attaching a mandrel, a sponge or brush, for cleaning the duct installed. Cable lubricant is applied to the outside of the cables being pulled through the duct. The lubricant assists in the pulling process by removing friction between the cable and the rollers. This not only speeds up the process but also prevents snagging and therefore damage to the cable.

13.0 Best Practice Design and Construction Methodology

Prior to commencement of construction works the contractor will draw up a detailed Method Statement/Environmental Operating Plan which will be based on best practice measures. This method statement will be adhered to by the contractors and will be overseen by the project representative/foreman.

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

- If required, an ecological clerk of works shall be engaged to periodically inspect all elements of the works for their entire duration;
- All materials shall be stored at the main contractor compound and transported to the works zone immediately prior to construction;
- During the construction period appropriate containment measures, sandbag or similar, shall be installed on site where material is required to be stored temporarily, thus ensuring adequate protection in silt-laden runoff draining off site;
- Weather conditions will be considered when planning construction activities to minimise risk of run off from site;
- If dewatering is required as part of the proposed works e.g. in trenches for underground cabling or in wet areas, water must be treated prior to discharge. The Contractor shall employ best practice settling systems to ensure maximum removal of suspended solids prior to discharge of any surface water or groundwater from excavations to receiving waterbodies. This may include treatment via settlement tanks. There will be no direct pumping of water from the works to watercourses at any time.
- If very wet ground must be accessed during the construction process bog mats will be used to enable access to these areas by machinery. Temporary roads/access tracks will not be constructed;
- The Contractor shall ensure that all personnel working on site are trained in pollution incident control response. A regular review of weather forecasts of heavy rainfall is required and the Contractor is required to prepare a contingency plan for before and after such events;
- Excavations will be left open for minimal periods to avoid acting as a conduit for surface water flows.
- No storage of hydrocarbons or any polluting chemicals will occur within 50m of watercourses or surface water features. Any diesel or fuel oils stored on site will be bunded to 110% of the capacity of the storage tank. Re-fuelling of plant will not occur within 50m of any watercourse or surface water feature and only in bunded refuelling areas. Design and installation of fuel tanks to be in accordance with best practice guidelines BPGCS005, oil storage guidelines. Drip trays and spill kits will be kept available on site.
- Only emergency breakdown maintenance will be carried out on site. Emergency procedures and spillage kits will be available and construction staff will be familiar with emergency procedures.
- Appropriate containment facilities will be provided to ensure that any spills from the vehicle are contained and removed off site. Adequate stocks of absorbent materials, such as sand or commercially available spill kits shall be available;
- Concrete or potential concrete contaminated water run-off cannot enter watercourses. Any pouring of concrete will only be carried out in dry weather. There will be no washout of concrete trucks onsite;
- Where dust suppression is considered to be required by the Contractor, such requirements and methodology shall be subject to the agreement with the Ecological Clerk of Works;
- Entry by plant equipment, machinery, vehicles and construction personnel into watercourses or wet drainage ditches shall not be permitted. All routes used for construction traffic shall be in accordance with standard best practice;
- Cabins, containers, workshops, plant, materials storage and storage tanks shall not be located near the surface water channels;

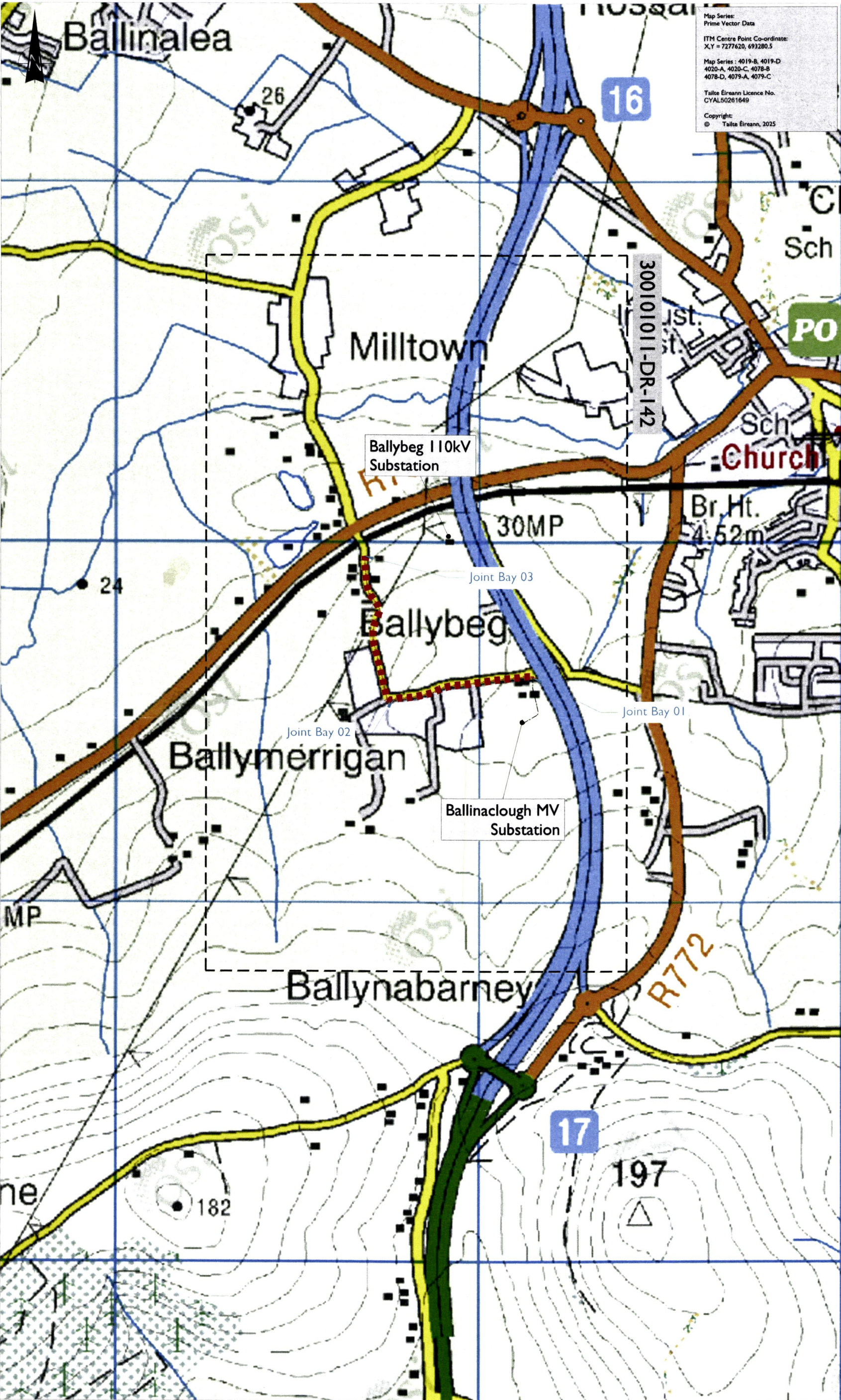
14.0 Invasive Species Best Practice Measures

Invasive species can be introduced into a location by contaminated vehicles and equipment, in particular tracked vehicles, which were previously used in locations that contained invasive species. Good site organisation and hygiene shall be maintained at all times on a site, particularly during construction activities. The following best practice measures form part of the construction methodology and will help to contain and/or prevent the introduction of invasive species on the site as follows:

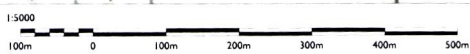
- When deemed necessary, all plant and equipment employed on the proposed works (e.g. diggers, tracked machines, footwear etc.) will be thoroughly cleaned down using a power washer unit, and washed into a dedicated and contained area prior to arrival on site and on leaving site to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic / riparian species such as Japanese knotweed *Fallopia japonica* and Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*. A sign off sheet will be maintained by the contractor to confirm cleaning.
- Material gathered in the dedicated and contained clean down area will need to be appropriately treated as contaminated material on site.
- For any material entering the site, the supplier must provide an assurance that it is free of invasive species.
- Ensure all site users are aware of invasive species management plan and treatment methodologies. This can be achieved through “toolbox talks” before works begin on the site.
- Adequate site hygiene signage should be erected in relation to the management of non-native invasive material.

15.0 Waste Management

All waste arising during the construction phase will be managed and disposed of in a way that ensures compliance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act 1996 and associated amendments and regulations and the Waste Management Plan. Soil will be reinstated into trenches where possible. In the event there is excess material with no defined purpose, it will be transported to an authorised soil recovery site using a licensed waste haulage contractor.



Overall Site Location Map
Scale: 1:5000



Map Series:
Prime Vector Data
ITM Centre Point Co-ordinate:
X,Y = 7277620, 693280.5
Map Series : 4019-B, 4019-D
4020-A, 4020-C, 4078-B
4078-D, 4079-A, 4079-C
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LEGEND: -
Proposed 10kV Grid Connection (0.858km)

NOTES: -
• This drawing is to be used only for the purpose of the planning application and is subject to detailed design.

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PROJECT
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CLIENT
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ISSUE/REVISION

PI 08.05.25 Issued for Section 5
I/R DATE DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER
300-101011
SHEET TITLE
Site Location Map Overview

SHEET NUMBER
300101011-DR-141



Map Series:
Prime Vector Data

ITM Centre Point Co-ordinate:
X,Y = 727872.541, 694072.334

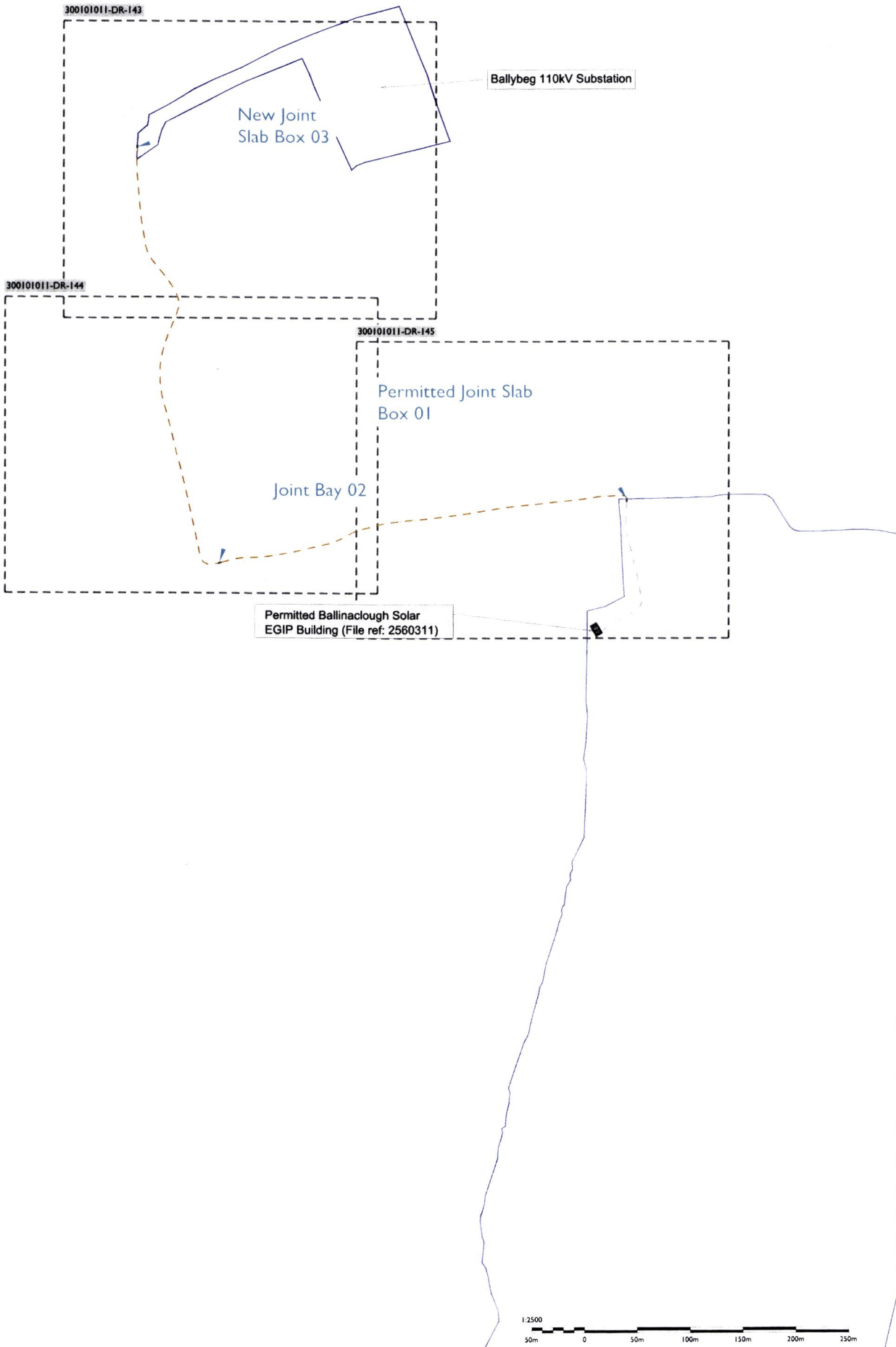
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4020-A, 4020-C, 4078-B
4078-D, 4079-A, 4079-C

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LEGEND: -

Proposed 10kV Grid Connection (0.860km)



NOTES: -

- This drawing is to be used only for the purpose of the Section 5 application and is subject to detailed design.

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PROJECT

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PI	08.05.25	Issued for Section 5
I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER

300-101011

SHEET TITLE

Sheet Layout Plan

SHEET NUMBER

300101011-DR-142



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PROJECT

Ballinacclough Solar Farm

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BallinacloUGH Solar DAC

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NOTES: -

- This drawing is to be used only for the purpose of the section 5 application and is subject to detailed design.

LEGEND: -

Proposed 10kV Grid Cable (0.860km)	
Existing levels shown thus	+ 44.85
Landowner Boundary	
Existing ESB LV OHL shown thus	

ISSUE/REVISION

PI	08.05.25	Issued for Section 5
I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER

300-101011

SHEET TITLE

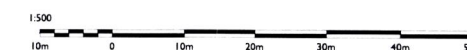
Site Layout Plan
Sheet 1 of 3

SHEET NUMBER

300101011-DR-143

Site Layout Plan - Sheet 1 of 3
Scale: 1:500

MATCHLINE 300101011-DR-144





MATCHLINE 300101011-DR-144



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RG24 8UP, UK
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PROJECT

Ballinacclough Solar Farm

CLIENT

Ballinacclough Solar DAC

CONSULTANTS



NOTES: -

- This drawing is to be used only for the purpose of the section 5 application and is subject to detailed design.

LEGEND: -

Proposed 10kV Grid Cable (0.860km)	
Existing levels shown thus	+ 44.85
Existing ESB LV OHL shown thus	  
Existing ESB HV OHL shown thus	  

ISSUE/REVISION

[illegible]

PROJECT NUMBER

300-101011

SHEET TITLE

Site Layout Plan
Sheet 2 of 3

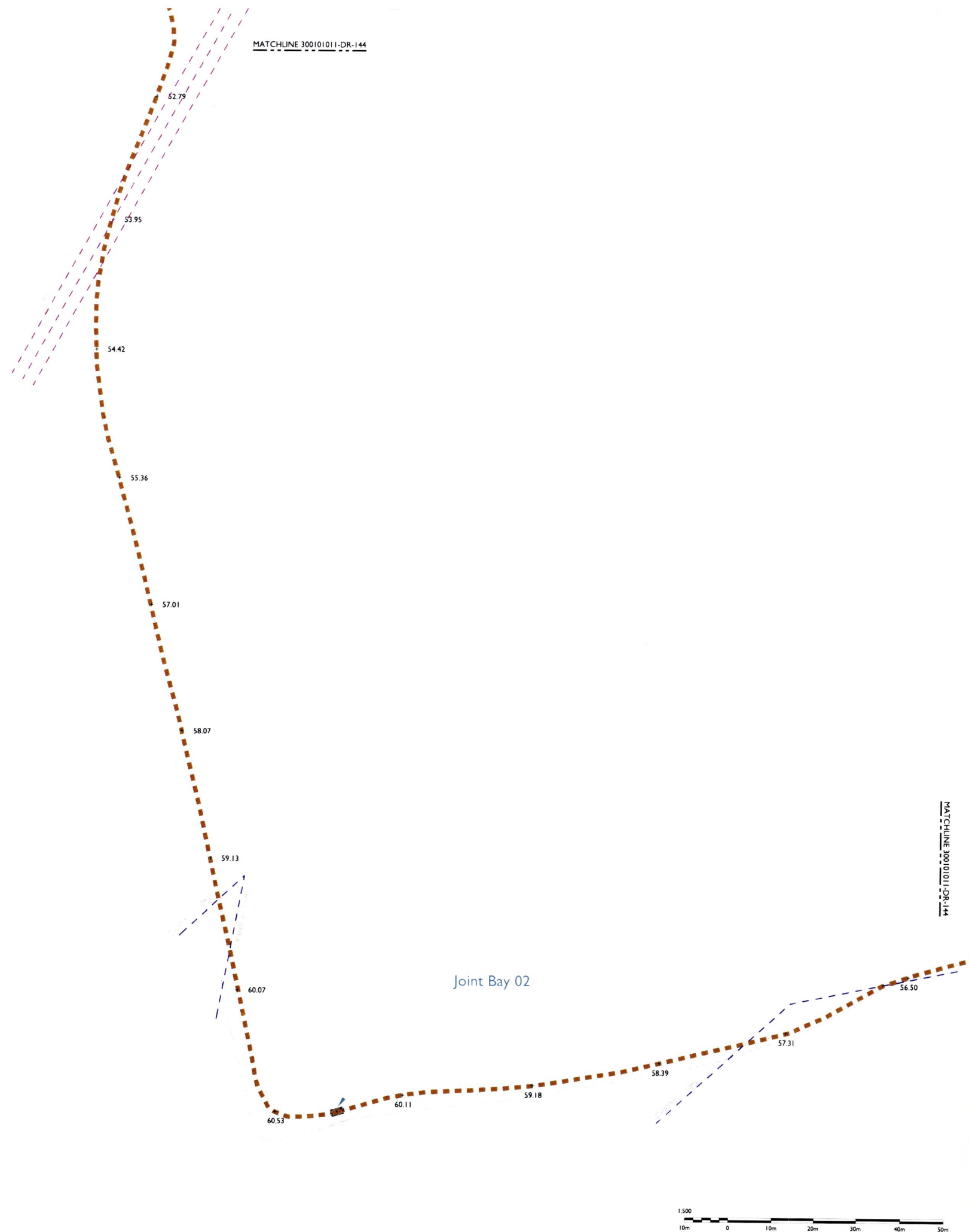
SHEET NUMBER

300101011-DR-144

Site Layout Plan - Sheet 2 of 3

Scale: 1:500

Project Management Initials: Designer: CH Checked: GC Approved: DB



ISO A1 594mm x 841mm

Project Management Initials: Designer: CH Checked: GC Approved: DB

Map Series:
Prime Vector Data

ITM Centre Point Co-ordinate:
X,Y = 728090.126, 693838.603

Map Series : 4019-B, 4019-D
4020-A, 4020-C, 4078-B
4078-D, 4079-A, 4079-C

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PROJECT

Ballinacloough Solar Farm

CLIENT

Ballinacloough Solar DAC

CONSULTANTS

MDR
MALONE O'REGAN

NOTES: -

- This drawing is to be used only for the purpose of the section 5 application and is subject to detailed design.

LEGEND: -

Proposed 10kV Grid Cable (0.860km) ————

Existing levels shown thus + 44.85

Existing ESB LV OHL shown thus - - - -

Existing ESB MV OHL shown thus - - - -

ISSUE/REVISION

PI	08.05.25	Issued for Section 5
I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION

PROJECT NUMBER

300-101011

SHEET TITLE

Site Layout Plan
Sheet 3 of 3

SHEET NUMBER

300101011-DR-145

Permitted Joint Slab Box 01

Permitted Ballinacloough Solar EGIP
Building (File Ref: 2560311)

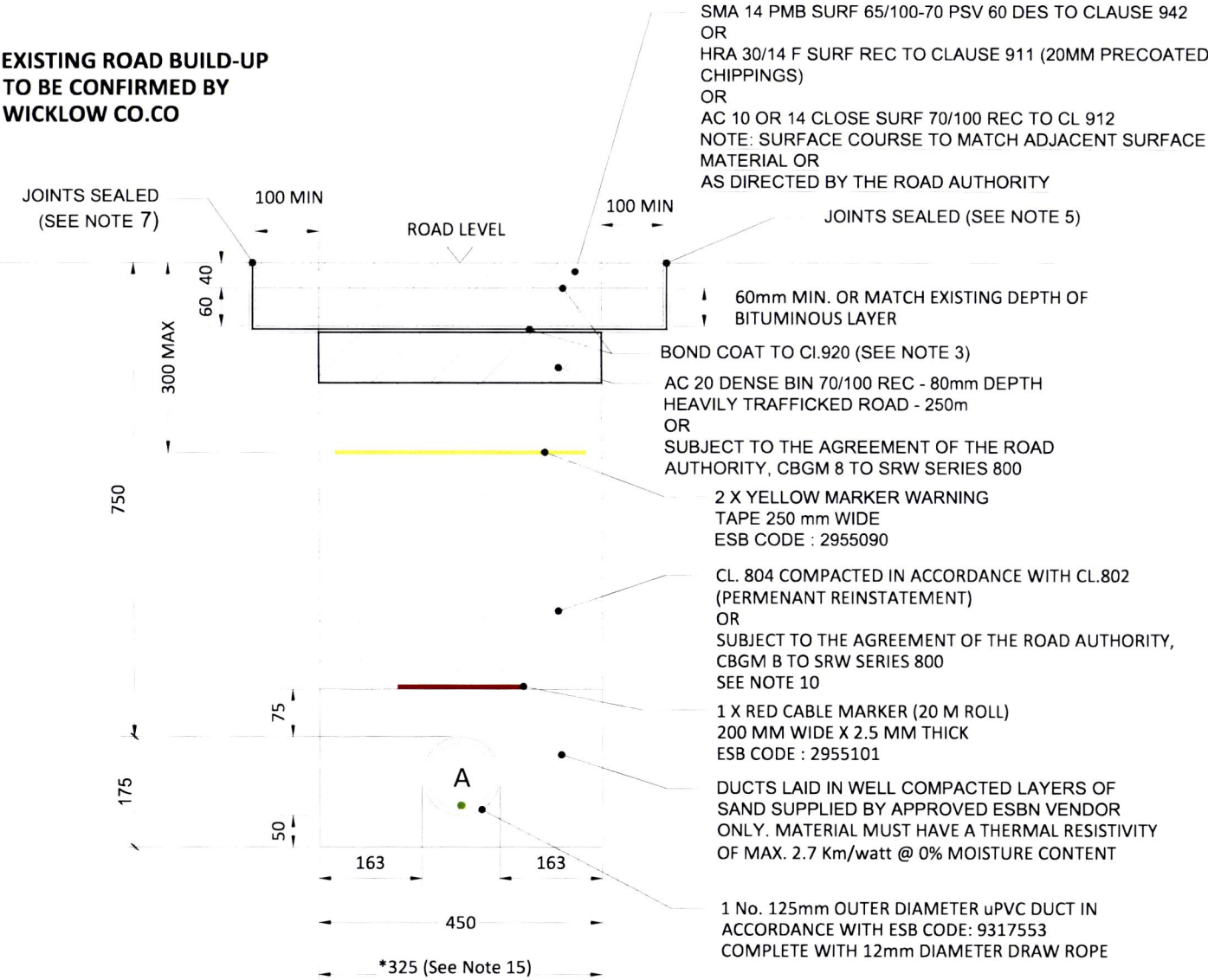
MATCHLINE 300101011-DR-144

Site Layout Plan - Sheet 3 of 3

Scale: 1:500



Reinstatement details based on Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads - SD4



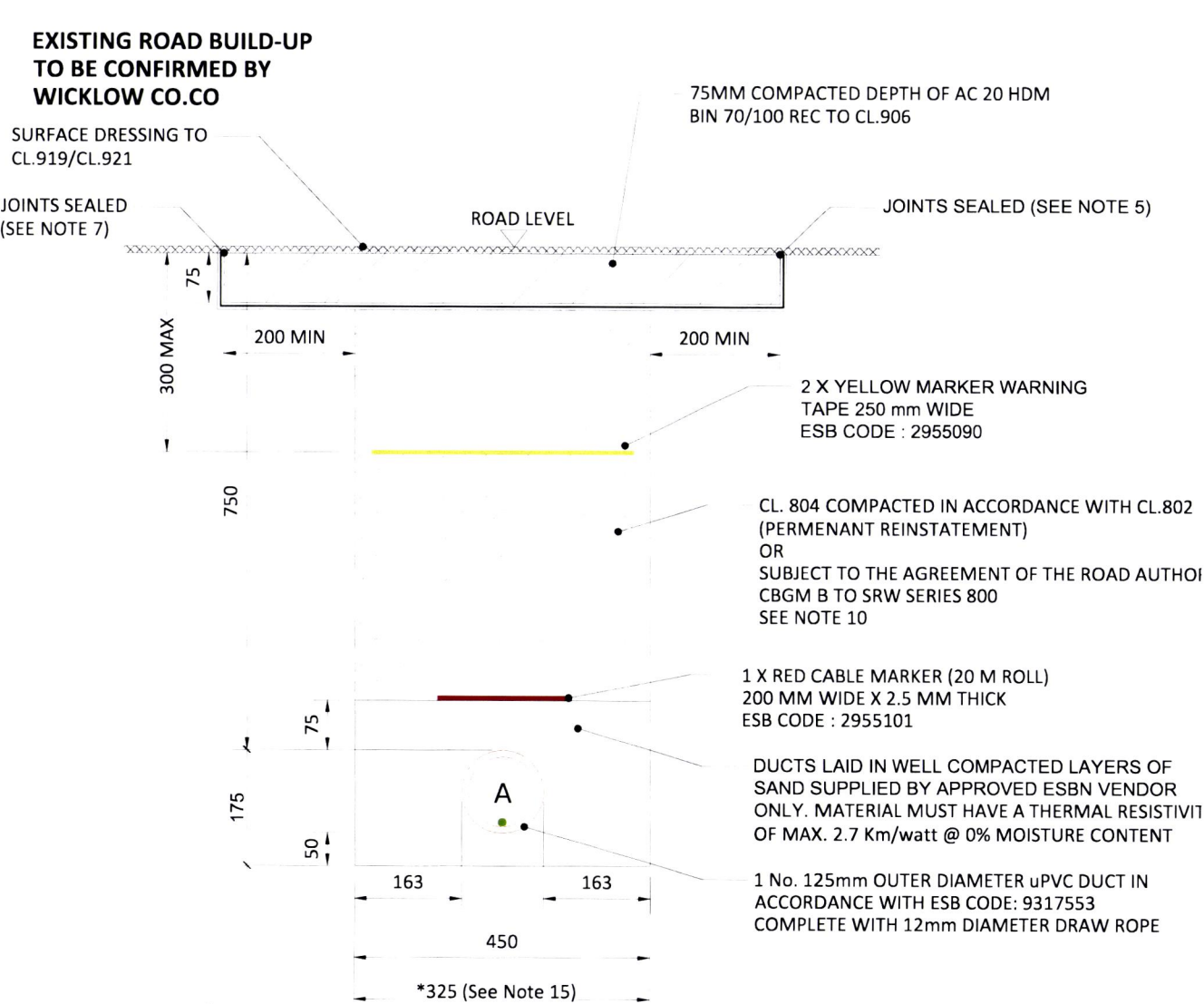
Typical Section Through Permanent Reinstatement of Longitudinal Opening in Roadway

SCALE 1:10

Note:

- Refer to Guidelines for managing Openings in Public Roads (Purple Book - April 2017), Chapter 6 'Specifications' for guidance on Duct type / colour and Marker Tape type / colour.
- All bound edges shall be saw cut to expose the full vertical thickness of each layer prior to excavation. All edges shall be essentially straight, smooth and vertical.
- Where a temporary surface has been used, material shall be planed out to the depth specified in this drawing. The new permanent surface shall be machined laid and mechanically compacted with a vibrating roller.
- Where the trimmed edge of excavation is within 400mm* of a joint / edge, ironwork or other reinstatement, this trimmed edge shall be extended to include same and the area of reinstatement shall be extended accordingly (* increase to 800mm where this is pre-existing practice).
- Any damaged area adjacent to the opening and resulting from the excavation operation shall be included within the area to be reinstated.
- Clause 808 or Cement Bound Granular Material surface to be sprayed per clause 920 prior to application of Asphalt Concrete Layer.
- Joint sealer shall be a hot 50 pen bitumen binder or cold thixotropic bitumen 50 -70 pen to be applied to all vertical cuts in accordance with B.S.594987 prior to application of bituminous materials.
- For roads without asphalt concrete surface (e.g. may be CL.804 with double surface dressing), the road authority may as its discretion permit the temporary reinstatement surface of asphalt concrete to be regulated in lieu of excavation and reinstatement; and subsequently surface dressed.
- On highly trafficked roads services must have a minimum cover of 750mm.
- Where required by the Road authority the trench may be reinstated with a Cement Bound Granular Material.
- All reinstatement works are to be in accordance with local area engineers requirements and guidelines for managing openings in public roads
- This drawing is to be read in conjunction with relevant drawings, specifications and reports.
- Dimensions are in millimeters, unless noted otherwise.
- Drawings are not to be scaled use figured dimensions only.
- 325 mm trench width is also acceptable to ESNB provided trench compaction measures are in accordance with the DDTAS Purple Book Section 6.3.5 requirements (guidelines for managing openings in public roads) or TII specification CC-PAV 04-007 (2019) guidelines for reinstatement of openings in National roads, as appropriate.

Reinstatement details based on Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads - SD5



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

SCALE 1:10

ISSUED FOR DESIGN APPROVAL
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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CLIENT
Balinacloagh Solar DAC

PROJECT
Ballinacloagh Solar Farm
10kV Grid Connection

PROJECT NUMBER
300-101011

SHEET NUMBER
300101011-DR-151

SHEET TITLE
10kV Ducting through Roadway
Permanent Reinstatement

DRAWING STATUS
For Section 5

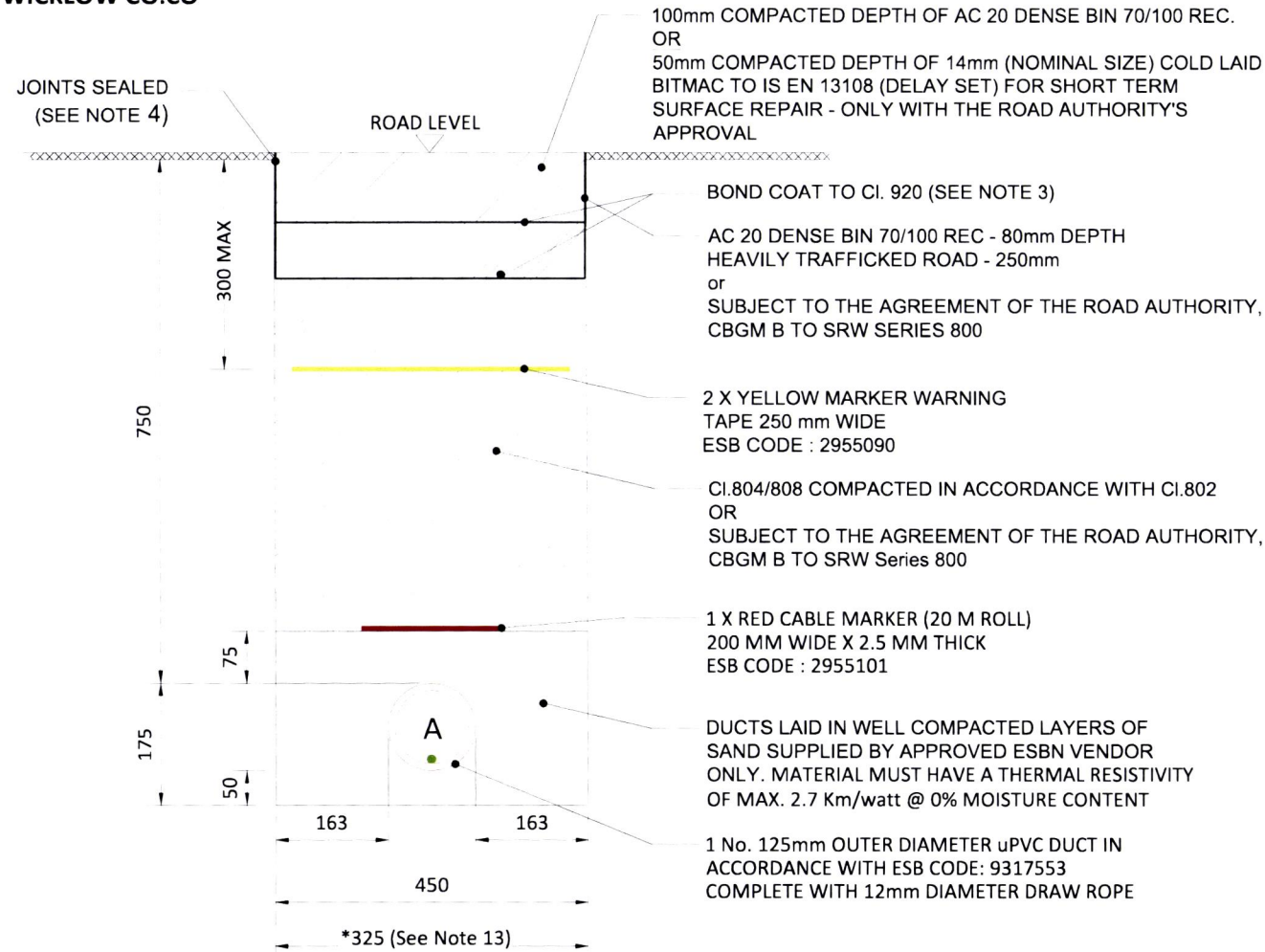
ISSUE/REVISION

I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION
P1	08.05.25	Issued for Section 5

Reinstatement details based on Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads - SD1

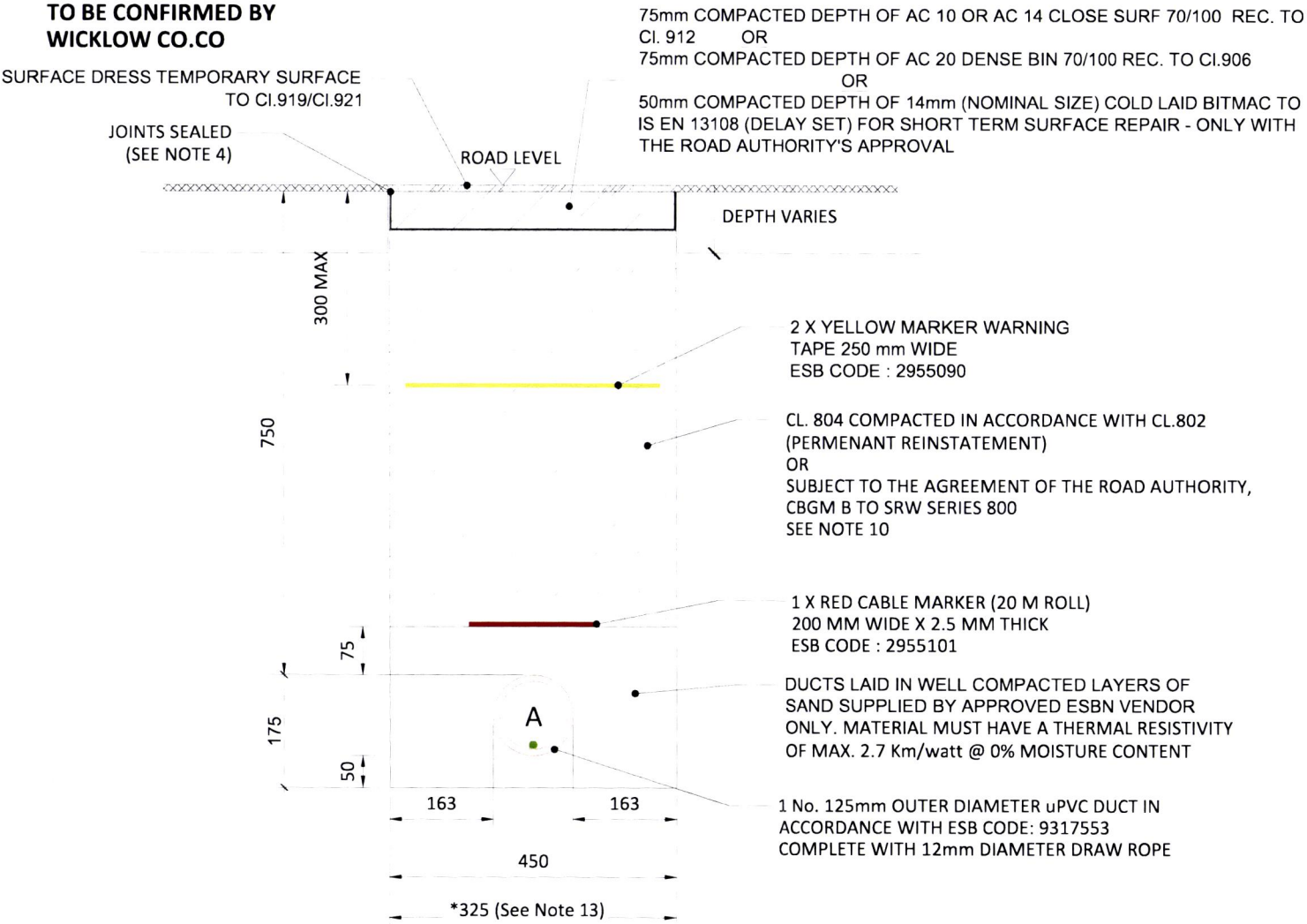
Reinstatement details based on Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads - SD2

EXISTING ROAD BUILD-UP
TO BE CONFIRMED BY
WICKLOW CO.CO



Typical Section Through Temporary Reinstatement of Longitudinal Opening in Roadway
SCALE 1:10

EXISTING ROAD BUILD-UP
TO BE CONFIRMED BY
WICKLOW CO.CO



Typical Section Through Temporary Reinstatement of Longitudinal Opening in Dressed Rural Unbound Roadway
SCALE 1:10

Note:

1. Refer to 'Guidelines for managing Openings in Public Roads (Purple Book - April 2017)', Chapter 6 'Specifications' for guidance on Duct type / colour and Marker Tape type / colour.
2. All bound edges shall be saw cut to expose the full vertical thickness of each layer prior to excavation. All edges shall be essentially straight, smooth and vertical.
3. Clause 808 surface to be sprayed per clause 920 prior to application of Asphalt Concrete Layer.
4. Joint sealer shall be a hot 50 pen bitumen binder or cold thixotropic bitumen 50-70 pen to be applied to all vertical cuts in accordance with B.S. 594987 prior to application of bituminous materials.
5. Licence holder must maintain temporary reinstatement to a safe and acceptable standard.
6. Any damaged area adjacent to the opening and resulting from the excavation operation shall be included within the area to be reinstated.
7. Temporary Road Surface warning signs must be used in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual (Chaper 8 - Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks).
8. Refer to detail Permanent Reinstatement of Road for advice on permanent reinstatement - all permanent reinstatement shall be carried out when adequate settlement has occurred as determined by the Road Authority.
9. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with relevant drawings, specifications and reports.
10. Dimensions are in millimeters, unless noted otherwise.
11. Drawings are not to be scaled use figured dimensions only.
12. All reinstatement works are to be in accordance with local area engineers requirements and guidelines for managing openings in public roads.
13. 325 mm trench width is also acceptable to ESNB provided trench compaction measures are in accordance with the DDTAS Purple Book Section 6.3.5 requirements (guidelines for managing openings in public roads) or TII specification CC-PAV 04-007 (2019) guidelines for reinstatement of openings in National roads, as appropriate.

ISSUED FOR DESIGN APPROVAL
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



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CLIENT
Balinaclough Solar DAC

PROJECT
Ballinaclough Solar Farm
10kV Grid Connection

PROJECT NUMBER
300-101011

SHEET NUMBER
300101011-DR-152

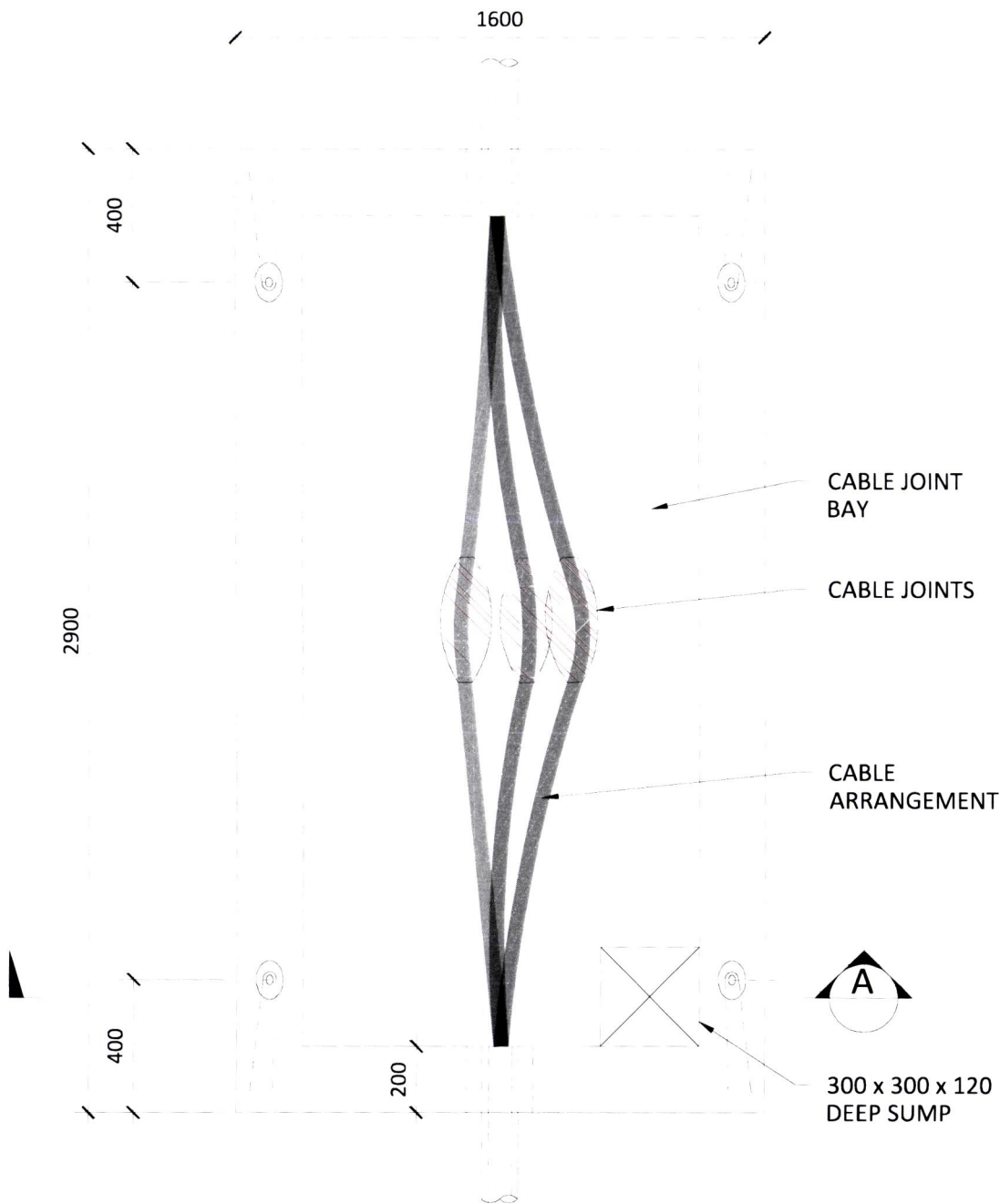
SHEET TITLE
10kV Ducting through Roadway
Permanent Reinstatement

DRAWING STATUS
For Section 5

ISSUE/REVISION

ISSUE/REVISION		
P1	08.05.25	Issued for Section 5
I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION

TYPICAL PRECAST CONCRETE JOINT BAY DETAILS

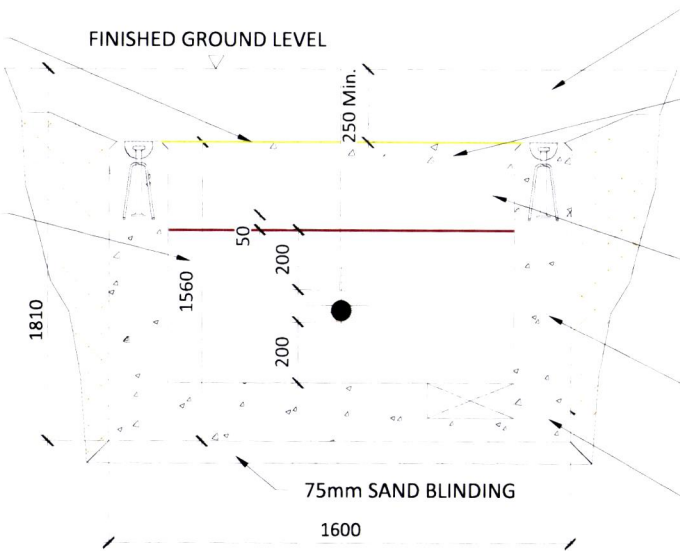


Plan View
SCALE: 1:20

- NOTES:
1. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with relevant drawings, specifications and reports.
 2. Dimensions are in millimetres, unless noted otherwise.
 3. Drawings are not to be scaled use figured dimensions only.
 4. Precast Joint Bay to be sourced from ESB approved supplier.

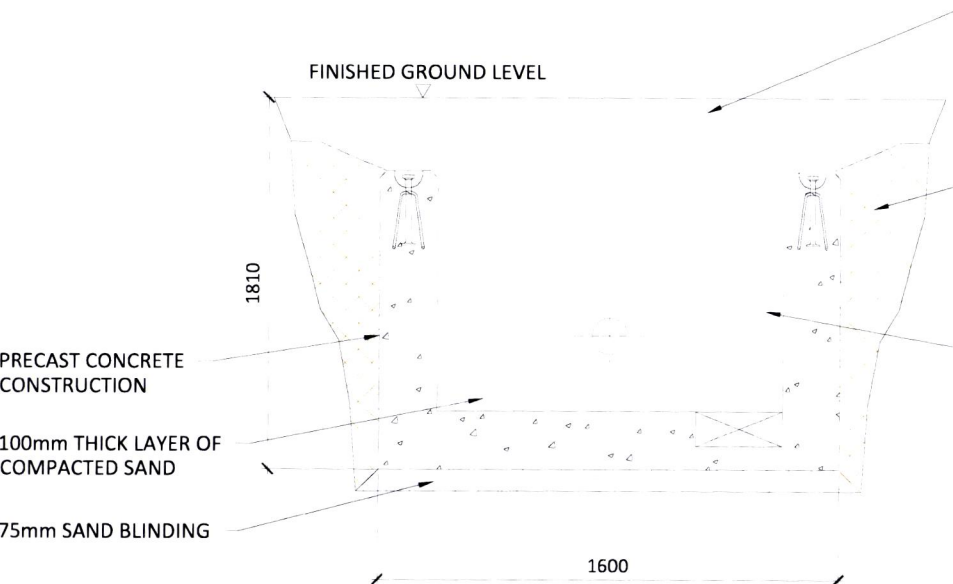
YELLOW MARKER WARNING TAPE. MUST BE FULL WIDTH OF JOINT BAY. ESB APPROVED MATERIAL ONLY.

SAND COMPACTED IN LAYERS SO THAT NO RESIDUAL CONSOLIDATION WILL OCCUR



Section A-A Permanent Reinstatement
SCALE: 1:50

- PERMANENT REINSTATEMENT TO COMPLY WITH LOCAL AUTHORITY SPECIFICATION / REQUIREMENTS
- 100mm CBGM B IN ACCORDANCE WITH CLAUSE 822 AND COMPACTED TO CLAUSE 813.10 AND TABLE 8/4 OF TII SPECIFICATION FOR ROADWORKS (15N/MM² AFTER 7 DAYS)
- CL.804 GRANULAR MATERIAL TYPE B COMPACTED IN 150MM THICK LAYER IN ACCORDANCE WITH CL.802, TABLE 8/4 OF TII SPECIFICATION
- 3 NO. 400mm WIDE X 2.5mm THICK RED CABLE MARKER STRIPS. MUST BE FULL WIDTH OF JOINT BAY. ESB APPROVED MATERIAL ONLY.
- PRECAST CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION



Section A-A Temporary Reinstatement
SCALE: 1:50

- DENSE BITUMEN MACADAM OR CONCRETE TO MATCH THE THICKNESS OF ADJACENT PAVED SURFACE OR TOPSOIL TO SUIT LOCATION
- GRANULAR BACKFILL TO CL.610 CLASSES 6N OR 6P COMPACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH CL.612 AND TABLE 6/1 OF TII SPECIFICATION
- CL.804 GRANULAR MATERIAL TYPE B. COMPACTED IN LAYERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH CL.802, TABLE 8/4 OF TII SPECIFICATION OR SUITABLE BACKFILL MATERIAL COMPACTED IN 150MM THICK LAYERS, IN GRASSED AREAS



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CLIENT
Ballinacloy Solar DAC

PROJECT
Ballinacloy Solar Farm
10kV Grid Connection

PROJECT NUMBER
300-101011

SHEET NUMBER
300101011-DR-107

SHEET TITLE
Joint Bay Details

DRAWING STATUS
Section 5 Planning

ISSUE/REVISION

ISSUE/REVISION		
P1	09.05.25	Issued for Section 5 Planning
I/R	DATE	DESCRIPTION