

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT, 2000 (as amended)
SECTION 5 - DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT
NOTIFICATION OF DETERMINATION

REGISTERED POST

Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited,
27 Mount Street Lower,
Dublin 2,
D02 FC43.

Reference Number: DED 981

Application Received: 2nd December, 2025

Name of Applicant: Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited

Agent: N/A

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the proposed development consisting of the following works; *the construction of a 20kV cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under Planning Ref: PD/23/60142) to the National Grid via 507m of overhead line and 985m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work at Kilcash, Co. Roscommon.,* is or is not development and is or is not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS Roscommon County Council, in considering this application, had regard particularly to:

- (a) Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, (as amended).
- (b) Schedule 2, Part 1, Class 26 and Class 27 of the of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, (as amended).
- (c) Article 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, (as amended).
- (d) The record forwarded to Roscommon County Council in accordance with subsection (6)(c) of Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).
- (e) The planning history of the site.

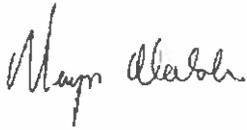
AND WHEREAS Roscommon County Council has concluded that:

- (a) The works outlined above are development.
- (b) The proposed development individually and in combination with other plans or projects would be likely to have a significant effect on European sites and that the requirement for AA does apply with respect to the current case. It is concluded that either alone or in combination with other plans/projects potential impacts on European Sites cannot be ruled out and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.
- (c) Therefore, in accordance with Section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, (as amended), the said works cannot avail of any exemptions that might otherwise be available under the Act or under the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, (as amended).

NOW THEREFORE:

By virtue of the powers vested in me by the Local Government Acts 1925 – 2024 and Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and having considered the various submissions and reports in connection with the application described above, it is hereby declared that the proposed development consisting of the *construction of a 20kV cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under Planning Ref: PD/23/60142) to the National Grid via 507m of overhead line and 985m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work at Kilcash, Co. Roscommon.,* is development and is **not exempted development** as defined within the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and associated Regulations.

Signed on behalf of the Council:



Mervyn Walsh,
Administrative Officer,
Planning.

Date: 23rd February, 2026

ADVICE NOTE

Any person issued with a Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) may, on payment to An Bord Pleanála of the prescribed fee, refer a Declaration for review within 4 weeks of the date of the issuing of the Declaration.

ADVICE NOTE

This Declaration is based on the relevant Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) at the date of issue. In the event that the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) or the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) change prior to the works being carried out this Declaration may no longer apply.

Carmel Curley

From: Carmel Curley
Sent: Monday 23 February 2026 11:56
To: Barra Scott
Subject: DED 981 - Notification of Determination
Attachments: DED 981 - Notification of Determination.pdf

A Chara,

Please find attached Notification of Determination for the Section 5 Declaration of Exempted Development Application submitted – DED 981.

Mise le meas,

Carmel

**Carmel Curley, Staff Officer,
Planning Department, Roscommon County Council,
Aras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, F42 VR98
☎: (090) 6637100**

✉: planning@roscommoncoco.ie | 🌐 www.roscommoncoco.ie

MAP LOCATION



**Planner's Report on application under Section 5 of the
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)**

Reference No: DED 981

Applicant: Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited.

Development: The construction of a 20kv cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: 23/60142 to the national grid via 507 m of overhead line and 985 m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work.

Development Location: Kilcash, Co. Roscommon

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the following works; *Whether the construction of a 20kv cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: 23/60142 to the national grid via 507 m of overhead line and 985 m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.*

I have considered this question, and I have had regard particularly to –

- (a) Sections 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended
- (b) Schedule 2 , Part 1, Class 26 and Class 27 of the of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended
- (c) Article 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended
- (d) The record forwarded to Roscommon County Council in accordance with subsection (6)(c) of Section 5 of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 as amended.
- (e) The planning history of the site.

Planning History:

PD/23/60142: Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited:

Permission granted for a development relating to the: • The construction of one Enercon E138 Wind Turbine on an 81m tower with an electrical rating of 4.2MW and an overall tip height of 149.38m • Installation of the hardstanding area for the Wind Turbine. • Installation of underground circuit cables which will run in underground cable trenches (c.1.2m deep), from the proposed Wind Energy Converter to the proposed substation building on the site. • Construction of the proposed substation building which will be located c.282m from the proposed wind turbine and surrounded by stock proof fencing. It will be a single storey building, measuring 55m² and c.5m in height; • Construction of proposed internal site access track, constructed from permeable material and which will run from the site entrance to the Wind Energy Converter hardstanding area. • All associated ancillary infrastructure and preparatory works such as provision of the site entrance The power rating associated with the proposed wind turbine will be 4.2 megawatts (MW). The proposed Project will

have a 30-year lifespan. A Natura Impact Statement has been prepared as part of this planning application.

PD/ 21/221: Permission refused for the construction of one 4.2 MW wind turbine with overall tip height of up to 150m; The construction of the wind turbine foundation, hard standing and assembly area; Provision of a site entrance and an access track within the site; Construction of an on-site 20kV substation and underground electrical cable; All associated site development and ancillary works (a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted in respect of this application at the request of the Planning Authority).

Reason: ABP was unable to ascertain if the proposed development would impact on the integrity of European Sites due to the lack of adequate bird surveys.

Relevant statutory provisions

Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended)

Section 2. -(1)

“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.

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 provision 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;

Section 3. -(1)

In this Act, “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

Section 4 (4)

Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (i), (ia) and (l) of subsection (1) and 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.

Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended

Article 6 (1)

Subject to article 9, development of a class specified in column 1 of 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 following classes of development are listed:

Article 9 (1) (a)

This sets out restrictions on exemptions for development to which Article 6 relates. The following sub-article is listed: (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.

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 nominal value of 20kV.

Assessment and recommendation:

The question to be determined in this Section 5 application is *Whether the construction of a 20kv cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: 23/60142 to the national grid via 507 m of overhead line and 985 m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work is or is not development and is or is not exempted development*

Having regard to Section 2 and 3 of the Act, I am satisfied that the proposed development constitutes works and is therefore development.

Class 26, Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Regulations provides that *the carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service or development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking is exempted development. The development clearly consists of the laying underground of cables or other apparatus.*

Class 27 Part 1, Schedule 2 of the Regulations provides that *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 nominal value of 20kV.*

It is noted that 'any undertaker authorised' is not, of itself, defined. I have regard to the definition of 'Statutory Undertaker' in Section 2 of the Act as set out above and to the definition of 'electricity undertaking' as set out in Section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act. I consider that the applicant falls under the category 'any undertaker authorised' in view of the fact that it currently has planning permission under Section 34 of the Act for the development related to the provision of electricity, namely the construction of a wind turbine and a substation. In this context I refer as precedent to ACP case 322563-25 which it determined that the applicant's granted permission for an electricity generating development fall within the scope of Class 26. In view of the above I am satisfied that the development plainly falls within the scope of Class 26 and 27 and should continue to be considered for exempted development.

Restrictions on exempted development

There are no specific conditions or limitations attached to Class 26 and 27 of the Regulations. However, Section 4 (4) of the Act precludes development being exempted development where an EIA or AA of the development is required. Article 9 (1) of the Regulations details prescribed circumstances

which would render a development not to be exempted development which also includes AA. With regard EIA, in consideration of screening for EIA, I note that by reference to the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, having regard to the limited nature and scale of works involved, the construction of a 20kv cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: 23/60142 to the national grid via 507 m of overhead line and 985 m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work is not likely to have significant effects on the environment.

As regards Appropriate Assessment, the grid connection is in relation to a permitted development (PD/23/60142). The information submitted with (PD/23/60142) includes a NIS which identifies significant effects on European Sites within the surrounding area namely, include Lough Ree SPA, River Suck Callows SPA, Four Roads Turlough SPA and Lough Croan Turlough.

In considering the nature of the development for the provision of a 20kv grid connection between the wind farm development permitted under PD/ 23/60142 and the national grid and by reason of the potential for cumulative impacts on European Sites in the vicinity it can be concluded that the proposed development would be likely to give rise to significant effects. I consider it reasonable to conclude therefore on the basis of the information provided on file and planning history which I consider adequate in order to issue a screening determination, that the proposed development, individually or in combination with other plans or projects would potentially have likely significant effects on European sites in the vicinity and a stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is therefore required. I further note that the Natura Impact Statement under PD/23/60142 related to the proposed windfarm site only and the subject grid connection site was not assessed.

On the issue of Article 9 (1) restrictions on exemption and In accordance with Section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), I am satisfied that the development falls within the scope of such restrictions development as it would require an appropriate assessment because it would be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of European sites.

AND WHEREAS I have concluded that:

- a. The works outlined above are development.
- b. The proposed development individually and in combination with other plans or projects would likely to have a significant effect on European sites and that the requirement for AA does apply with respect to the current case. It is concluded that either alone or in combination with other plans/projects potential impacts on European Sites cannot be ruled out and Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.
- c. Therefore, in accordance with Section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, (as amended), the said works cannot avail of any exemptions that might otherwise be available under the Act or under the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, (as amended).

AND WHEREAS I have concluded

Whether the *construction of a 20kv cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: PD/23/60142 to the national grid via 507 m of overhead line and 985 m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work at Kilcash Co. Roscommon* is not an exempted development. I recommend that a declaration to that effect should be issued to the applicant.

Signed



Paula Connaughton
Executive Planner

Date: 19th February 2026

Countersigned:



Senior Executive Planner



Date: 20th February 2026

**APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT
SCREENING REPORT
For
Section V: Ded 981**

Development:



**Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin**
Roscommon
County Council

Mark Keaveney

Screening for Appropriate Assessment: 2360142

Table 1: Project Details

Development Consent Type	Section V
Development Location	Kilcash, Roscommon, Roscommon
File Reference Number	Ded 981
Description of the Project	The construction of a 20kv cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: 23/60142 to the national grid via 507 m of overhead line and 985 m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work.

Table 2: Identification of Natura 2000 Sites (SACs and SPAs) which may be impacted by the proposed development

Please answer the following questions in order to determine whether there are any Natura 2000 sites which could potentially be impacted by the proposed development.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Impacts on habitats

1.	Impacts on Freshwater Habitats	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include freshwater habitats, or in the catchment of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider Lough Ree SAC (Site Code: 000440) Distance from Site: 4.31 km Designated features: Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation (#3150)</p> <p>Ballinturly Turlough SAC (Site Code: 000588) Distance from Site: 5.08 km Designated features: Turloughs (#3180)</p> <p>Lough Funshinagh SAC (Site Code: 000611) Distance from Site: 5.32 km Designated features: Turloughs (#3180)</p> <p>Lisduff Turlough SAC (Site Code: 000609) Distance from Site: 5.9 km Designated features: Turloughs (#3180)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>It is considered there could potentially be in combination impacts with development permitted under PD 23/60142. Therefore, having regard to the precautionary principle significant impacts cannot be ruled out.</p>

	<p>Lough Croan Turlough SAC (Site Code: 000610) Distance from Site: 7.81 km Designated features: Turloughs (#3180)</p> <p>Four Roads Turlough SAC (Site Code: 001637) Distance from Site: 8.13 km Designated features: Turloughs (#3180)</p> <p>Fortwilliam Turlough SAC (Site Code: 000448) Distance from Site: 12.02 km Designated features: Turloughs (#3180)</p> <p>Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC (Site Code: 002339) Distance from Site: 13.72 km Designated features: Turloughs (#3180)</p>	
2.	Impacts on Bog Mires and Fens Habitats	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Bog Mires and Fens habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider Lough Ree SAC (Site Code: 000440) Distance from Site: 4.31 km Designated features: Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (#7120), Alkaline fens (#7230)</p> <p>Corbo Bog SAC (Site Code: 002349) Distance from Site: 10.37 km Designated features: Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (#7150), Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (#7120), Active raised bogs (#7110)</p> <p>Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC (Site Code: 002339) Distance from Site: 13.72 km Designated features: Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion (#7150), Active raised bogs (#7110), Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (#7120)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>It is considered there could potentially be in combination impacts with development permitted under PD 23/60142. Therefore, having regard to the precautionary principle significant impacts cannot be ruled out.</p>

3.	Impacts on Forests Habitats	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Forests habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider Lough Ree SAC (Site Code: 000440) Distance from Site: 4.31 km Designated features: Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles (#91A0), Bog woodland (#91D0)</p> <p>Ballynamona Bog and Corkip Lough SAC (Site Code: 002339) Distance from Site: 13.72 km Designated features: Bog woodland (#91D0)</p>	
4.	Impacts on Grasslands Habitats	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Grasslands habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider Lough Ree SAC (Site Code: 000440) Distance from Site: 4.31 km Designated features: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) (#6210)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>It is considered there could potentially be in combination impacts with development permitted under PD/23/60142. Therefore, having regard to the precautionary principle significant impacts cannot be ruled out.</p>
5.	Impacts on Heath and Scrub Habitats	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Heath and Scrub habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider None</p>	<p>NA</p>

6.	Impacts on Rocky Habitats	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Rocky habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider Lough Ree SAC (Site Code: 000440) Distance from Site: 4.31 km Designated features: Limestone pavements (#8240)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>It is considered there could potentially be in combination impacts with development permitted under PD 23/60142. Therefore, having regard to the precautionary principle significant impacts cannot be ruled out.</p>
7.	Impacts on Dunes Habitats	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Dunes habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider None</p>	<p>NA</p>
8.	Impacts on Coastal Habitats	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Coastal habitats, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider None</p>	<p>NA</p>

Impacts on Species

1.	Impacts on Amphibians	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Amphibians, or in the catchment of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider None</p>	<p>NA</p>
2.	Impacts on Anthropods	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying</p>	<p>NA</p>

	<p>interests include Anthropods or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider None</p>	
3.	Impacts on Fish	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Fish, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider None</p>	NA
4.	Impacts on Mammals	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Mammals, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider Lough Ree SAC (Site Code: 000440) Distance from Site: 4.31 km Designated features: Lutra lutra (Otter) (#1355)</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>It is considered there could potentially be in-combination impacts with development permitted under PD 23/60142. Therefore, having regard to the precautionary principle significant impacts cannot be ruled out.</p>
5.	Impacts on Mollucs	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Mollucs, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider None</p>	NA
6.	Impacts on Non-vascular Plants	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	<p>Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Non-vascular plants, or within 1km of same?</p> <p>Sites to consider None</p>	NA

7.	Impacts on Reptiles	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Reptiles, or within 1km of same? Sites to consider None	NA
8.	Impacts on Vascular Plants	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	Is the development within a Special Area of Conservation whose qualifying interests include Vascular Plants, or within 1km of same? Sites to consider None	NA

Special Protection Areas (SPA):

1.	Impacts on Birds	Likely Effects (direct, indirect or cumulative)
	Is the development within a Special Protection Area, or within 1km of same? Sites to consider Lough Ree SPA (Site Code: 004064) Distance from Site: 4.74 km Designated features: Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) (#A004), Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) (#A038), Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) (#A050), Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) (#A052), Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) (#A053), Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) (#A056), Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>) (#A061), Common Scoter (<i>Melanitta nigra</i>) (#A065), Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>) (#A067), Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) (#A125), Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) (#A140), Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) (#A142), Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) (#A193), Wetland and Waterbirds (#A999)	Yes It is considered there could potentially be in combination impacts with development permitted under PD 23/60142. Therefore, having regard to the precautionary principle significant impacts cannot be ruled out.

	<p>River Suck Callows SPA (Site Code: 004097) Distance from Site: 6.49 km Designated features: Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) (#A038), Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) (#A050), Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) (#A140), Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) (#A142), Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) (#A395), Wetland and Waterbirds (#A999)</p> <p>Lough Croan Turlough SPA (Site Code: 004139) Distance from Site: 7.81 km Designated features: Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) (#A056), Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) (#A140), Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) (#A395), Wetland and Waterbirds (#A999)</p>	
	<p>Four Roads Turlough SPA (Site Code: 004140) Distance from Site: 8.14 km Designated features: Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) (#A140), Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) (#A395), Wetland and Waterbirds (#A999)</p>	

All designated sites within a 15km radius of the subject site have been considered in this screening for Appropriate Assessment.

Conclusion Table 2: If the answer to all of these questions is no, significant impacts can be ruled out for Natura 2000 sites. No further assessment is required; proceed to the Habitats Directive Conclusion Statement.

Screening for Appropriate Assessment - Conclusion Statement

Development Type: Section V
Development Location: Kilcash, Roscommon, Roscommon
Natura 2000 sites within impact zone: SPA:004064, SPA:004097, SPA:004139, SPA:004140, SAC:000440, SAC:000609, SAC:000588, SAC:000610, SAC:001637, SAC:000448, SAC:000611, SAC:002339, SAC:002349, SAC:002199, SAC:002200

Planning File Reference Number: 2360142

Description of the Project:

The construction of a 20kv cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: 23/60142 to the national grid via 507 m of overhead line and 985 m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work.

Describe how the project or plan (alone or in combination) could affect Natura 2000 sites(s): Having regard to the nature of the development by reason that it is fundamentally linked to PD 23/60142 the potential exists for cumulative impacts on European Sites so significant impacts cannot be ruled out.

If there are potential negative impacts, explain whether you consider if these are likely to be significant, and if not, why not:

Having regard to potential in combination impacts with PD 23/60142 and having regard to the precautionary principle significant impacts cannot be ruled out and therefore a stage 2 AA is required .

Conclusion of Screening Assessment:

Following an assessment of the proposed development and any potential relationships with European Sites, RCC cannot at this stage rule out the potential for adverse significant impacts on European sites as a result of the proposed development either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

Documentation reviewed for making this statement:

- Roscommon County Development Plan 2022-2028,
- Documentation submitted with the planning application.
- NPWS.ie
- Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.

Completed by: Paula Connaughton
Executive planner

Date: 19th Feb 2026

Signed



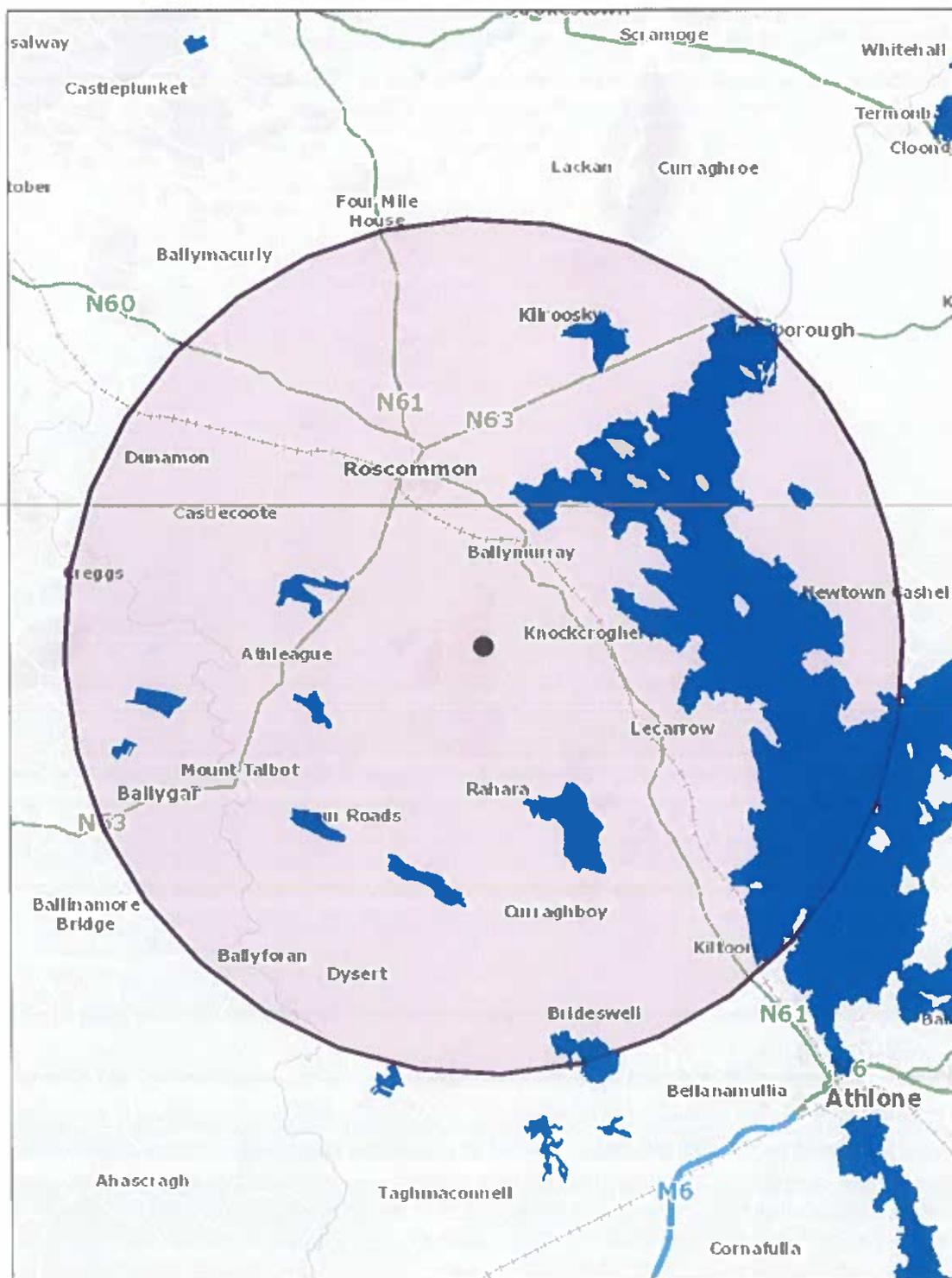
Date: 19th Feb 2026

Signed: _____

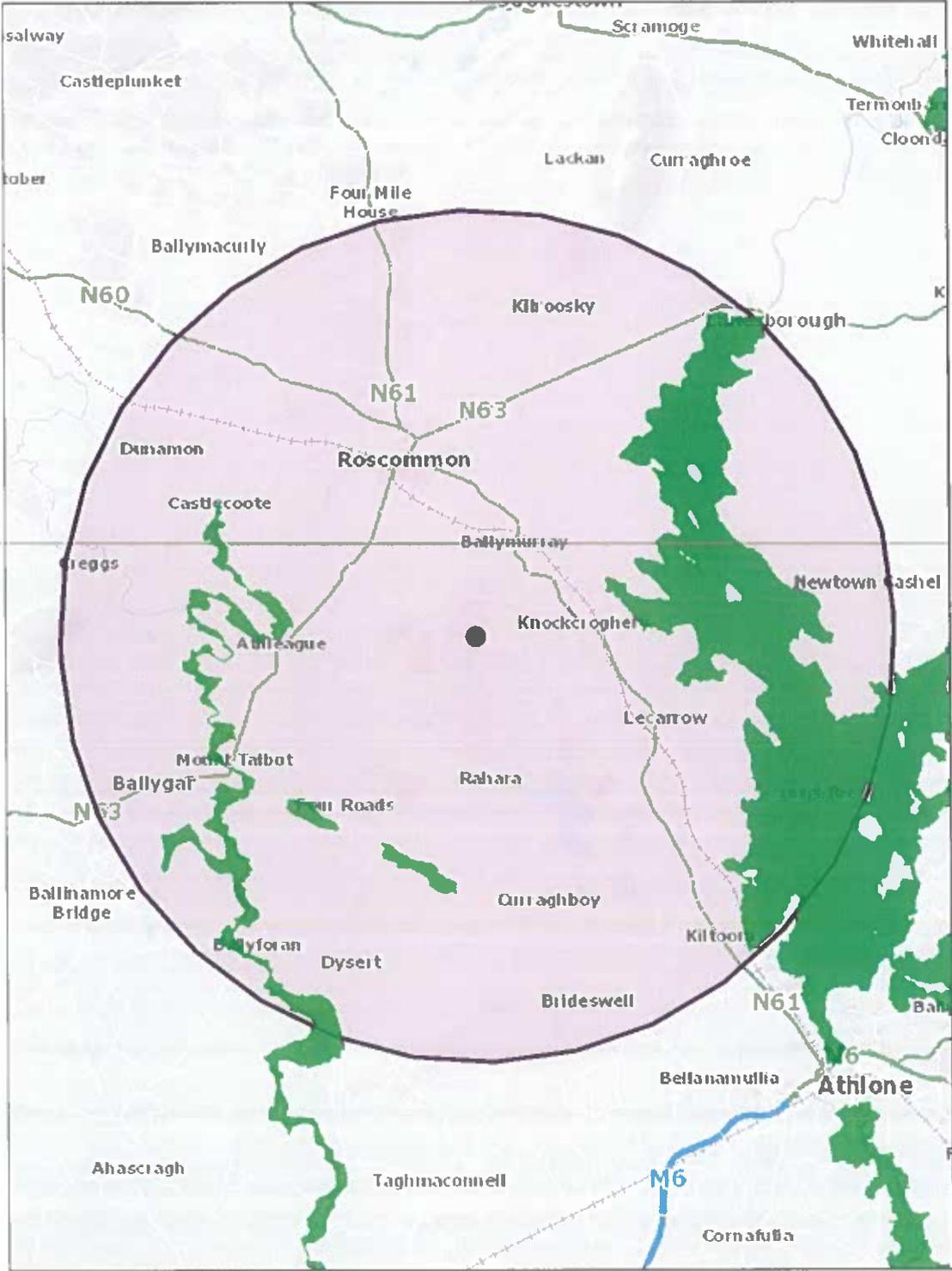


Date: 20th Feb 2026

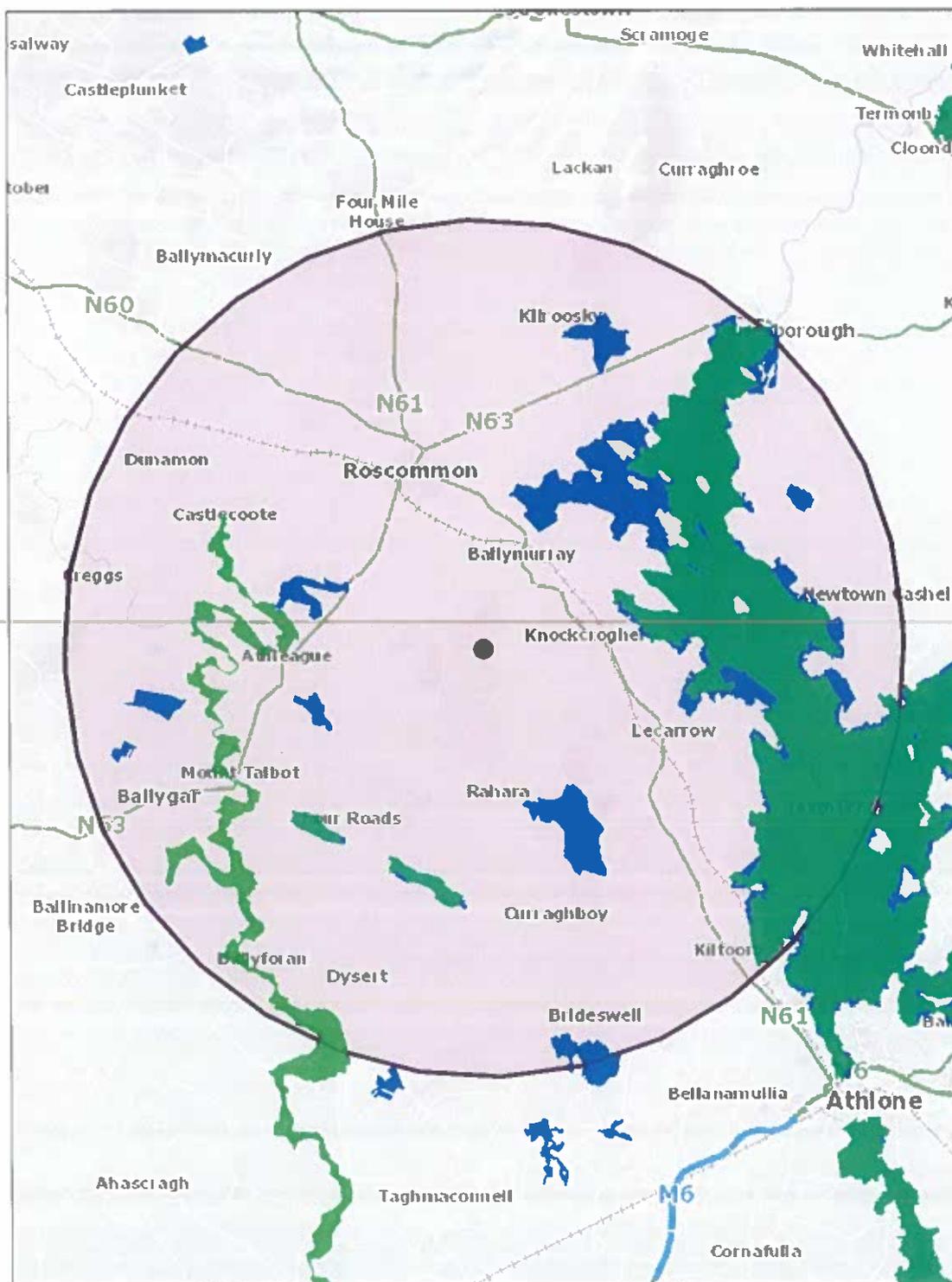
Mark Keaveney



SAC (blue) within 15km of Plan Ref. 2360142



SPA (green) within 15km of Plan Ref. 2360142



SAC & SPA within 15km of Plan Ref. 2360142



Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Via email: bscott@naturalforces.ie

Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited,
27 Mount Street Lower,
Dublin 2,
D02 FC43.

Date: 17th December, 2025
Planning Reference: DED 981

Re: Application for a Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), regarding Exempted Development.

Development: WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the construction of a 20kV cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: 2360142 to the National Grid via 507m of overhead line and 985m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work at Kilcash, Co. Roscommon., is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

A Chara,

I refer to the above application, reference number DED 981, received on 2nd December 2025.

I wish to advise, in accordance with Section 5(2)(ba) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that it will not be possible to make a determination on same within the 4 week period, due to the nature of the subject development and the complexity of the matter on which a declaration has been sought.

Mise le meas,

Administrative Officer,
Planning Department.

Carmel Curley

From: Carmel Curley
Sent: Wednesday 17 December 2025 15:03
To: Barra Scott
Subject: DED 981 - Section 5 Declaration of Exempted Development Application
Attachments: DED981 - Correspondence.pdf

A Chara,

Please see attached correspondence in relation to the Section 5 Declaration of Exempted Development Application - DED 981.

Mise le meas,

Carmel

Carmel Curley, Staff Officer,
Planning Department, Roscommon County Council,
Aras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, F42 VR98
☎: (090) 6637100

✉: planning@roscommoncoco.ie | 🌐 www.roscommoncoco.ie

[MAP LOCATION](#)



Carmel Curley

From: Carmel Curley
Sent: Wednesday 3 December 2025 16:03
To: Barra Scott
Cc: Jonathan Coffey
Subject: DED981 - Ack Letter & Receipt
Attachments: DED981 - Ack letter & Receipt.pdf

A Chara,

Please find attached Acknowledgement Letter & Receipt for the Section 5 Declaration of Exempted Development Application submitted for Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited– DED 981.

Mise le meas,

Carmel

**Carmel Curley, Staff Officer,
Planning Department, Roscommon County Council,
Aras an Chontae, Roscommon, Co. Roscommon, F42 VR98**

☎: (090) 6637100

✉: planning@roscommoncoco.ie | 🌐 www.roscommoncoco.ie

MAP LOCATION





Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited,
27 Mount Street Lower,
Dublin 2,
D02 FC43.

Via email: bscott@naturalforces.ie

Date: 3rd December, 2025
Planning Reference: DED 981

Re: Application for a Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), regarding Exempted Development.

Development: WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the construction of a 20kV cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (granted under planning ref: 2360142 to the National Grid via 507m of overhead line and 985m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work at Kilcash, Co. Roscommon., is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your application which was received on the 2nd December, 2025, for a Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), regarding Exempted Development along with the appropriate fee in the sum of €80.00, Receipt No. **L01/0/238128** dated 3rd December, 2025, receipt enclosed herewith.

Note: Please note your Planning Reference No. is **DED 981**.
This should be quoted in all correspondence and telephone queries.

Mise le meas,

Mervyn Walsh,
Administrative Officer,
Planning Department.

Roscommon County Council
Aras an Chontae
Roscommon
09068 37100

03/12/2025 10:51:15

Receipt No. : L01/0/238128

JONATHAN COFFEY
27 MOUNT STREET LOWER
DUBLIN 2
D02FC43

APPL: NATURAL FORCES RENEWABLE ENERGY

PLANNING APPLICATION FEES	80.00
GOODS	80.00
VAT Exempt/Non-vatable	
DED 991	

Total : 80 00 EUR

Tendered :
Credit/Debit Card 80 00
7915

Change : 0 00

Issued By : Louis Carroll
From : Central Cash Office

From: Barra Scott <bscott@naturalforces.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 2 December 2025 10:57
To: Planning Department
Cc: Jonathan Coffey
Subject: Section 5 Application - Natural Forces
Attachments: Section 5 submission 02.12.2025.pdf

Caution: This email originated outside the organisation and may be malicious. Report all suspicious emails immediately by using the Meta Phish button above.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited (NFRE) wish to apply for **DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT (Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)) (Section 5)**.

The proposed development consists of: A 20kV cable route between the permitted Kiltcash Wind Turbine Project IPP Substation (Granted under planning ref: 2360142 and the point of connection to the national grid. The route will comprise of 507m of overhead line and 985m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work which is considered exempt development under Class 26 and Class 27 Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended.

Please see attached 'Section 5 submission 02.12.2025' containing all requisite items detailed within the application form.

It should be noted that the application fee of €80 has not yet been paid. Can you kindly contact Jonathan Coffey on [REDACTED] for card payment. Should you have any further clarifications or required further information regarding the application, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Barra Scott | Project Developer



27 Mount Street Lower | Dublin 2 | Ireland | D02 FC43
t: +353 87 3256023
www.naturalforces.ie



Natural Forces Renewables Ireland Limited
27 Mount St Lower
Dublin 2
D02 FC43
Ireland
+353 87 635 2172

Planning Section
Áras an Chontae,
Co. Roscommon

Date: 02/12/2025

Application for DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT (Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended))(Section 5)

Dear Sir/Madam,

Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited (NFRE) wish to apply for **DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT (Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended)) (Section 5)**.

The proposed development consists of: A 20kV cable route between the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project IPP Substation (Granted under planning ref: 2360142 and the point of connection to the national grid. The route will comprise of 507m of overhead line and 985m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work which is considered exempt development under Class 26 and Class 27 Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended.

The IPP substation location and point of connection to the national grid are detailed below.

		ITM Coordinates
A	Permitted IPP Substation location	X590018, Y757788
B	Point of Connection to the National Grid	X588708, Y757959

Sections:

1. Application Form
2. Site Location Map
3. Site Layout plan

Appendix:

- A. Detailed specification of the proposed development

It should be noted that the application fee of €80 has not yet been paid. Can you kindly contact Jonathan Coffey on [REDACTED] for card payment. Should you have any further clarifications or required further information regarding the application, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Jonathan Coffey
jcoffey@naturalforces.ie



Natural Forces Renewables Ireland Limited
27 Mount St Lower
Dublin 2
D02 FC43
Ireland
+353 87 635 2172

Section 1: Application Form





Comhairle Contae
Ros Comáin
Roscommon
County Council



Áras an Chontae,
Roscommon,
Co. Roscommon.

Phone: (090) 6637100

Email: planning@roscommoncoco.ie

Roscommon County Council

Application for a Declaration under Section 5 of the

Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), regarding Exempted Development

Name of Applicant(s)	Natural Forces Renewable Energy Limited
Name of Agent	N/A
Nature of Proposed Works	The construction of a 20kV cable route to connect the permitted Kilcash Wind Turbine Project (Granted under planning ref: 2360142 to the national grid via 507m of overhead line and 985m of underground cable, ducting and associated connection work.
Location & Address of Subject Property to include, Eircode (where applicable), Townland & O.S No.	Kilcash, Co. Roscommon OSI Ref: 57,88-90
Floor Area: a) Existing Structure b) Proposed Structure	a) <u>N/A</u> b) <u>N/A</u>
Height above ground level:	N/A
Total area of private open space remaining after completion of this development	N/A
Roofing Material (Slates, Tiles, other) (Specify)	N/A

Roscommon County Council

Application for a Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), regarding Exempted Development

Proposed external walling (plaster, stonework, brick or other finish, giving colour)	N/A
Is proposed works located at front/rear/side of existing house.	N/A
Has an application been made previously for this site	Yes, Planning has been secured for a wind turbine on this site
If yes give ref. number (include full details of existing extension, if any)	2360142
Existing use of land or structure	Agriculture / Public Road
Proposed use of land or structure	It is proposed to construct a 20kV cable route consisting of Overhead lines and underground cabling between the granted wind turbine IPP Substation and the National Grid which is considered exempt development under Class 26 and Class 27 Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended.
Distance of proposed building line from edge of roadway	N/A
Does the proposed development involve the provision of a piped water supply	N/A
Does the proposed development involve the provision of sanitary facilities	N/A

Signature: _____

Date: _____

02/12/2025



Note: This application must be accompanied by: -

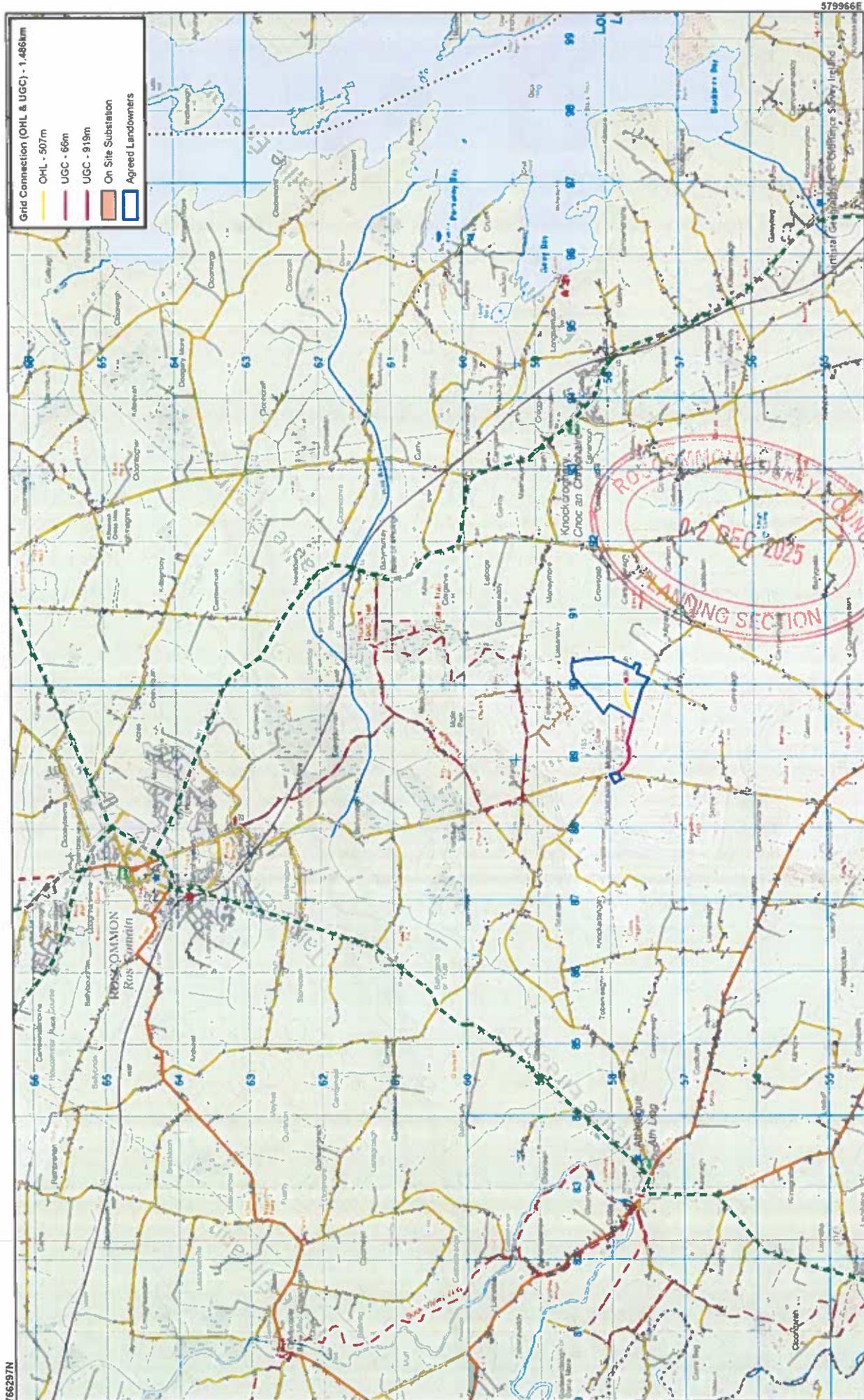
- (a) €80 fee
- (b) Site Location map to a scale of 1:2500 clearly identifying the location
- (c) Site Layout plan to the scale of 1:500 indicating exact location of proposed development
- (d) Detailed specification of the proposed development

Kilcash Renewable Energy Project

Scale 1:50,000

766257N

579966E



Scale 1:50,000

24/10/2025 - 11:25 - Michael Nolan

Kilcash Renewable Energy Project



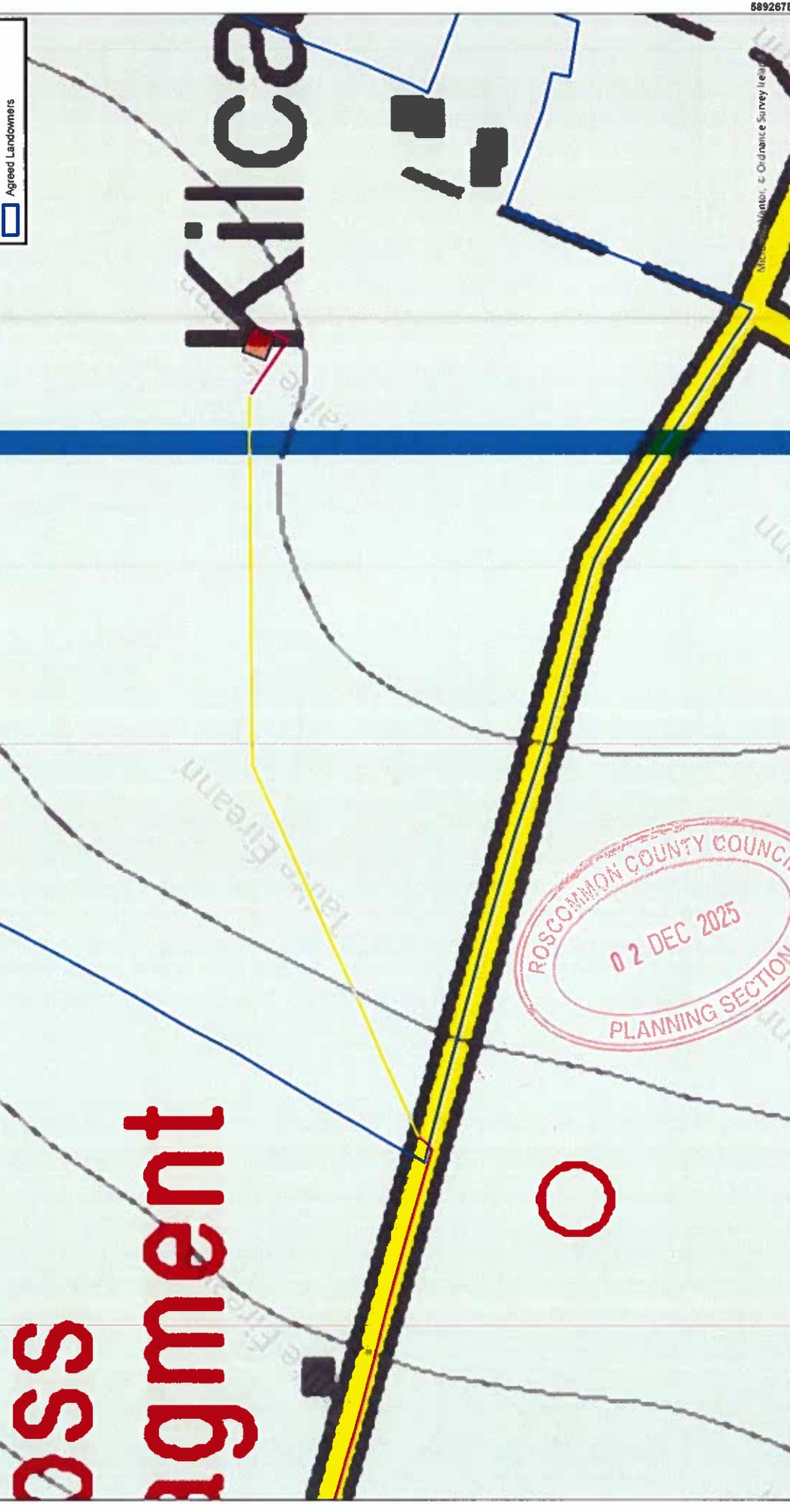
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758034N

589267E

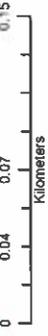
Grid Connection (OHL & UGC) - 1.488km

- OHL - 507m
- UGC - 66m
- UGC - 919m
- On Site Substation
- Agreed Landowners



589267E

757443N



Kilometers

Scale: 1:2,500

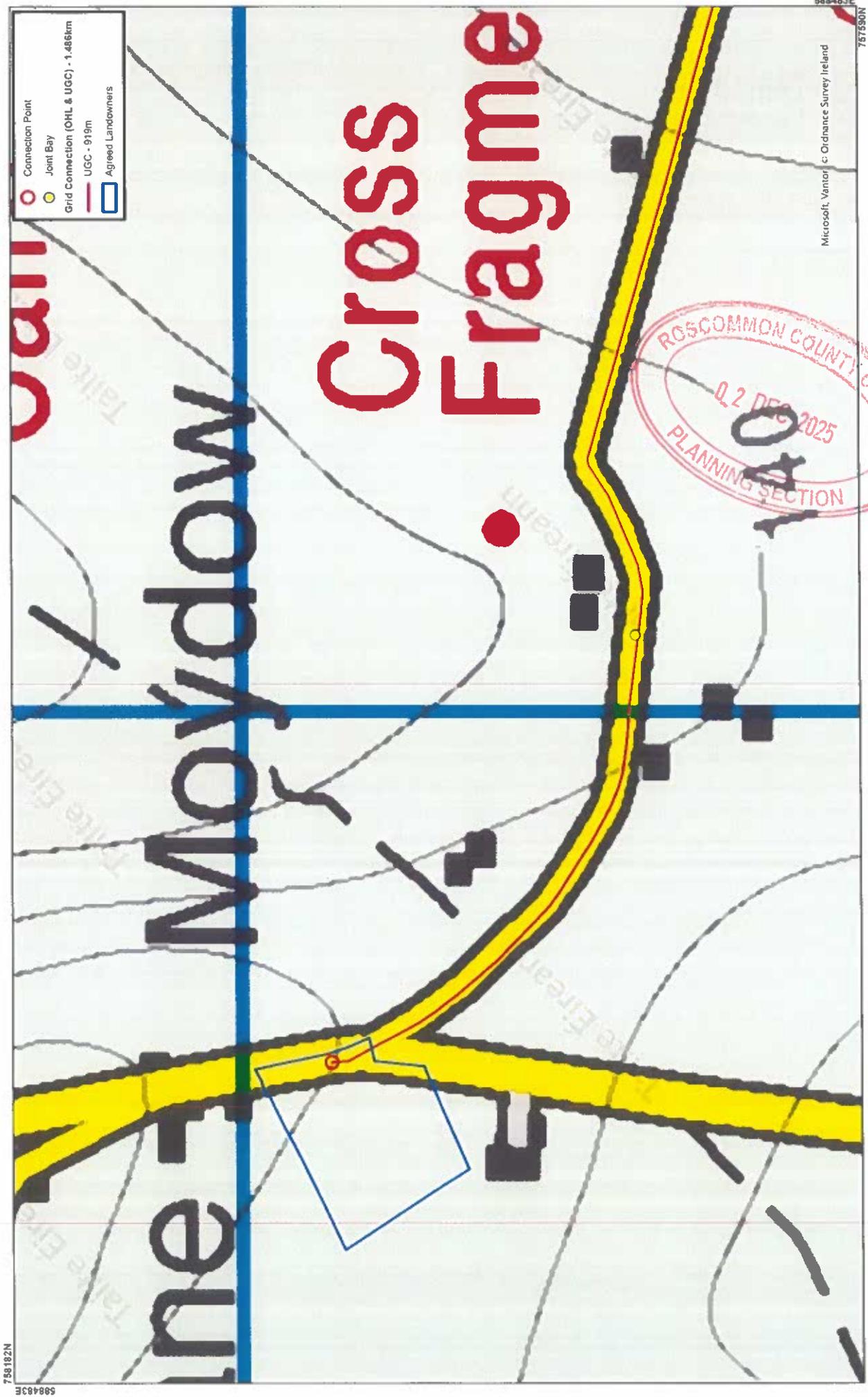
24/10/2025 - 11:23 - MichaelNolan

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
02 DEC 2025
PLANNING SECTION

Map CRS: GCS IRENET95
Coordinate Units: Meters
Scale: 1:2,500
Project Name: Kilcash Renewable Energy Project
Made With: ArcGIS Pro 3.5.2 on Windows

Kilcass Renewable Energy Project

Scale: 1:2,500



- Connection Point
- Joint Bay
- Grid Connection (OHL & UGC) - 1.486km
- UGC - 919m
- Agreed Landowners



Scale: 1:2,500

24/10/2025 - 11.22 - Michael Nolan

Map CRS: GCS IRENET95
Coordinate Units: Meters
Scale: 1:2,500
Project Name: Kilcass Renewable Energy Project
Made With: ArcGIS Pro 3.5.2 on Windows

Map CRS: GCS IRENET95

Coordinate Units: Meters

Scale: 1:2,500

Project Name: Kilcass Renewable Energy Project

Made With: ArcGIS Pro 3.5.2 on Windows



588483E
787590N
Microsoft, Vantari © Ordnance Survey Ireland

788182N
588483E



Natural Forces Renewables Ireland Limited
27 Mount St Lower
Dublin 2
D02 FC43
Ireland
+353 87 635 2172

Section 3: Site Layout Plan



GENERAL NOTES

1. UNLESS NOTED OTHERWISE, ALL CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2024 CALIFORNIA ELECTRICAL CODE (CEC) AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE CODES AND REGULATIONS.
2. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES.
3. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES.
5. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES.

DRAWING NOTES

1. ALL UTILITIES AND OBSTRUCTIONS SHALL BE MAINTAINED OR RELOCATED AS SHOWN ON THIS DRAWING.
2. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR VERIFYING THE LOCATION AND DEPTH OF ALL UTILITIES AND OBSTRUCTIONS.
3. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES.
5. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING ALL NECESSARY PERMITS AND APPROVALS FROM ALL APPLICABLE AGENCIES.

LEGEND

[Symbol]	NEW 15KV OVERHEAD LINE (15KV)
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV OVERHEAD LINE (15KV)
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV UNDERGROUND CABLE (15KV)
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV UNDERGROUND CABLE (15KV)
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV TOWER
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV TOWER
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV PULL BOX
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV PULL BOX
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV JUNCTION BOX
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV JUNCTION BOX
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV MOUNTING BRACKET
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV MOUNTING BRACKET
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV CONDUIT
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV CONDUIT
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV TRAY
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV TRAY
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV CABLE
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV CABLE
[Symbol]	NEW 15KV GROUNDING
[Symbol]	EXISTING 15KV GROUNDING

PL	GRID ROUTE	A.A.	B.P.	PLA 001.001
PI	GRID ROUTE	A.A.	B.P.	PI 001.001
PL	GRID ROUTE	A.A.	B.P.	PL 001.001
PI	GRID ROUTE	A.A.	B.P.	PI 001.001

PLANNING

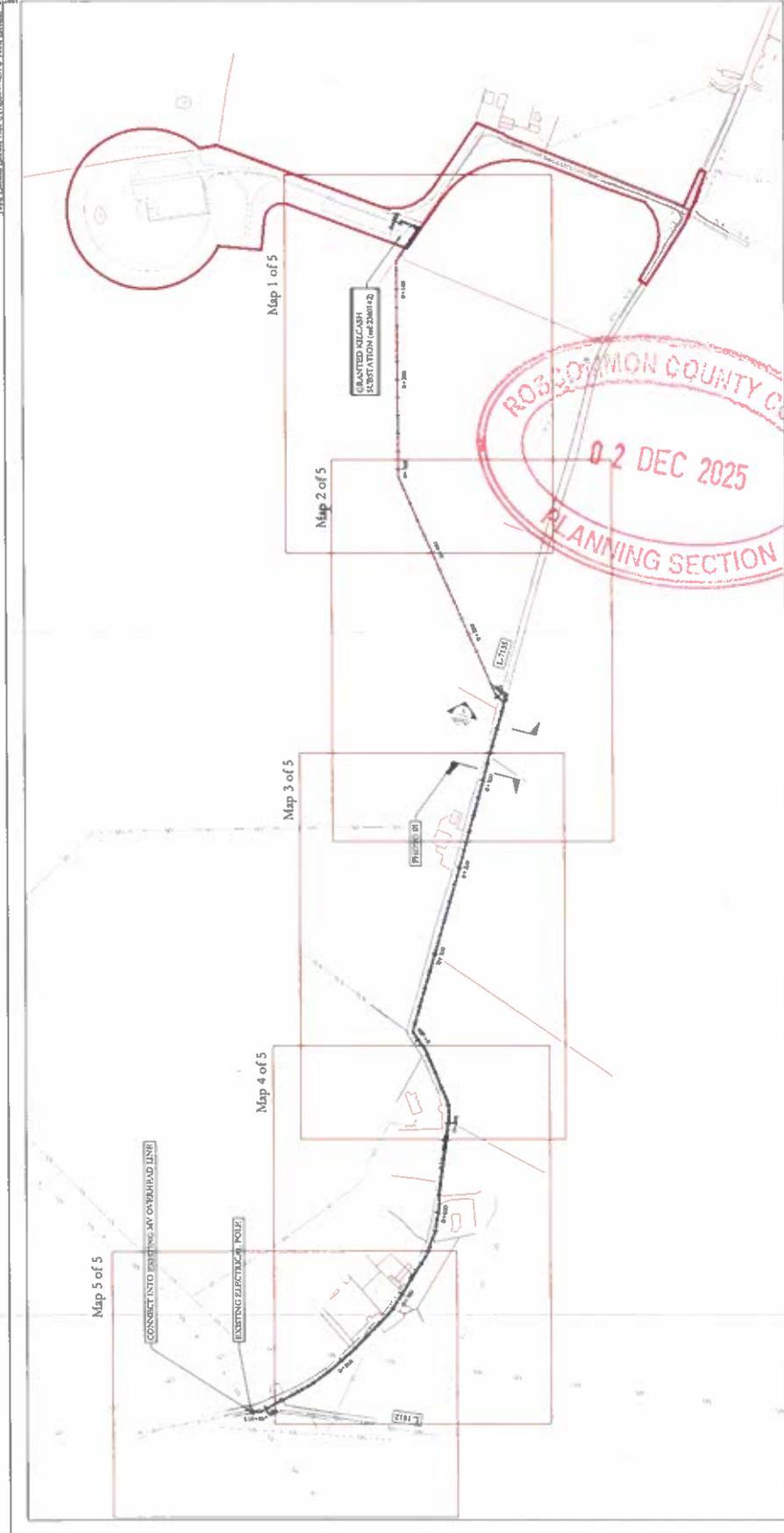
Client: NATURAL POWER

Job No: NU-CASH WIND FARM

Drawing No: GRID CONNECTION SUBTR SITE LAYOUT - SHEET 1

Scale: AS SHOWN

Sheet: 11 of 11



PLAN VIEW
Scale: 1:2500

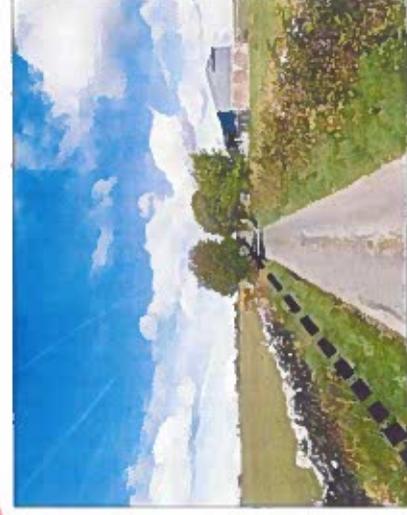
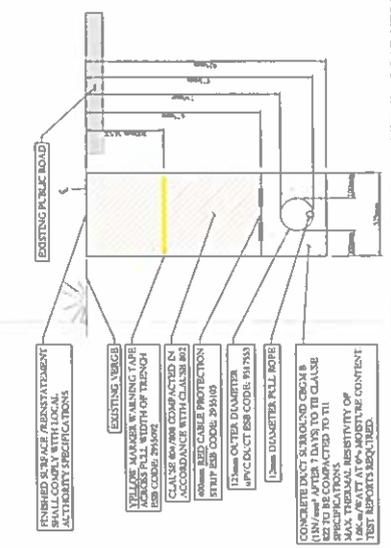
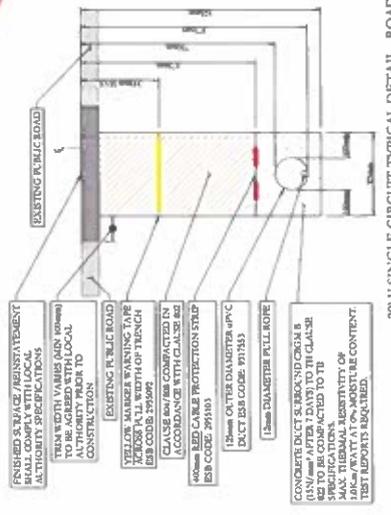


PHOTO 1 - PUBLIC ROAD



GRANTED KILCASH
SUBSTATION (ref:2360142)

0+100

0+200

0+300

400



IFM

MIV ——— MIV

O 01



0+100

L-7135

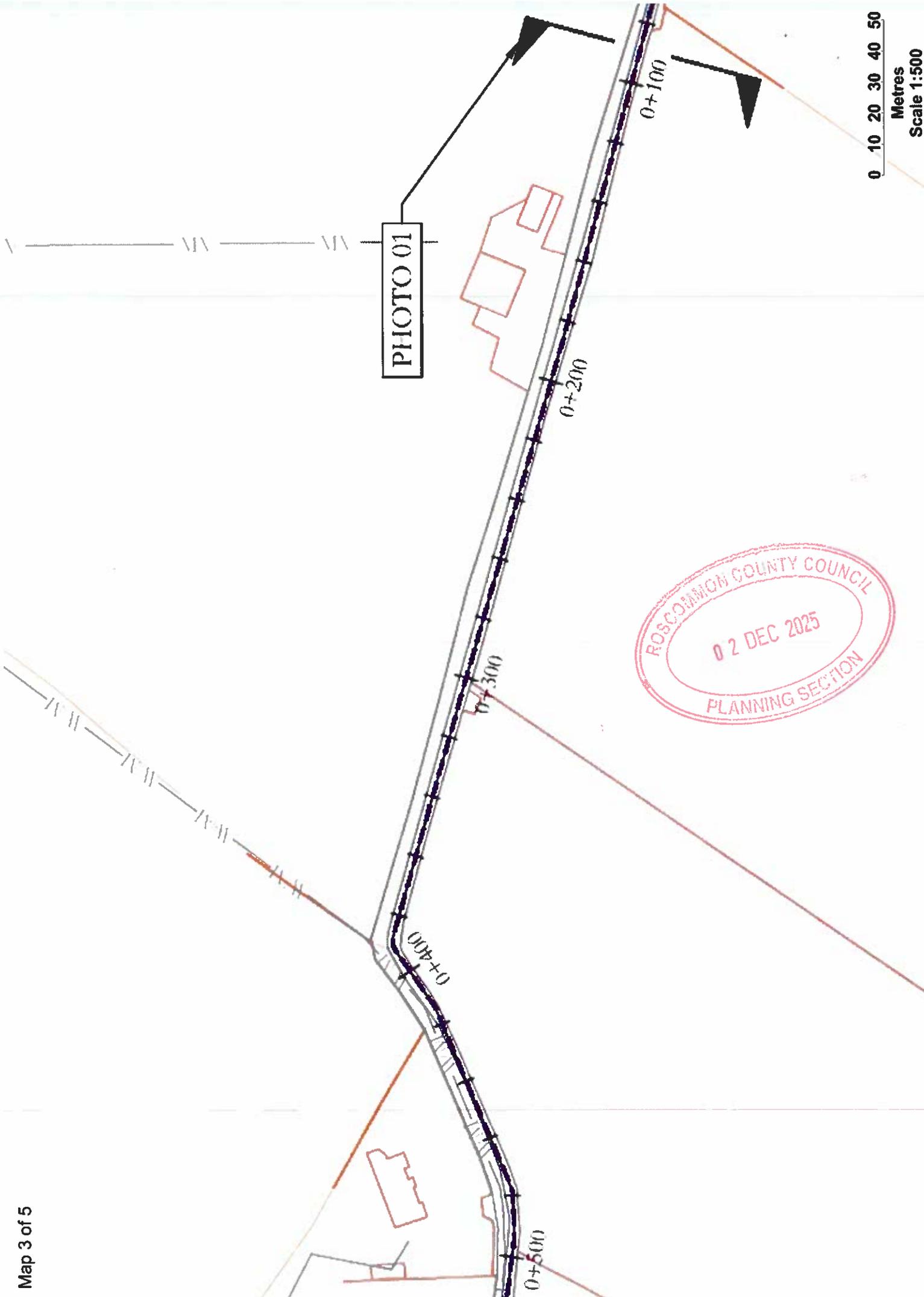


0+300

0+400

0+500

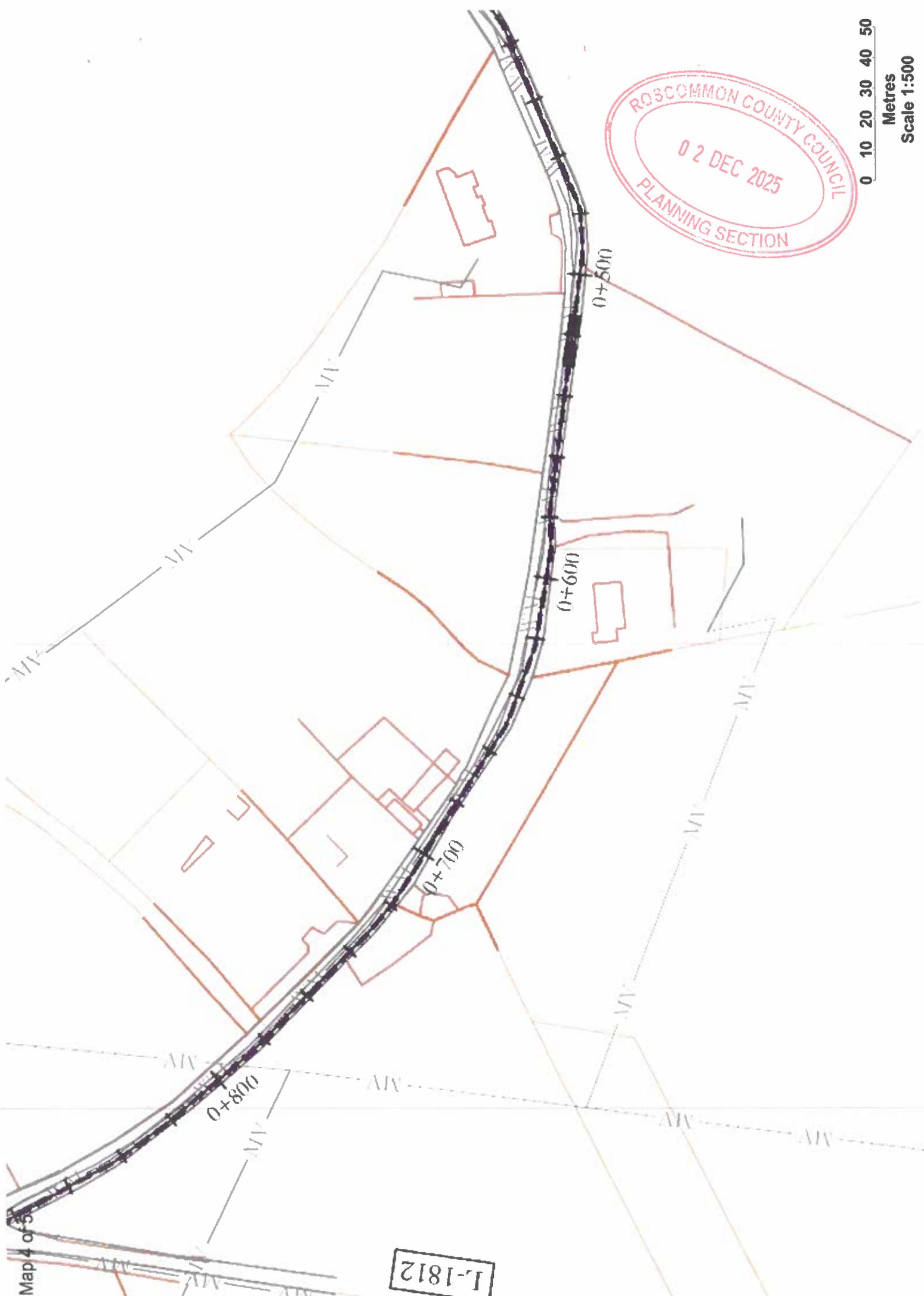




0 10 20 30 40 50
Metres
Scale 1:500

PHOTO 01

ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
02 DEC 2025
PLANNING SECTION



ROSCOMMON COUNTY COUNCIL
02 DEC 2025
PLANNING SECTION

0 10 20 30 40 50
Metres
Scale 1:500

L-1812

Map 4 of 5



Natural Forces Renewables Ireland Limited
27 Mount St Lower
Dublin 2
D02 FC43
Ireland
+353 87 635 2172

Appendix A: Detailed specification of the proposed development



Kilcash Wind Turbine

Detailed specification of the proposed development of a 20 kV Grid Connection

Date 02/12/2025



Natural Forces
27 Mount Street Lower
Dublin 2, Ireland |
D02 FC43
T: +353 087 635 2172
www.naturalforces.ie



Document History

Doc Name	Rev	Details	Author	Approved
Grid Construction Methodology Report	01	27/11/2025	BS	JC



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Addressee

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Disclaimer

Natural Forces has performed the consultancy services as described in this report in accordance with a standard of best practice available within the industry. Natural Forces do not make any representations or warranty, expressed or otherwise as to the accuracy or completeness of the source data used in this report, and nothing contained herein is, or shall be relied upon, as a promise or representation, whether as to the past or the future in respect of that source data.

This document has been prepared by

Barra Scott

.....
Natural Forces

This report has been approved by

Jonathan Coffey

.....
Natural Forces

DETAILED SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

DATE : 02/12/2025

Contents

1. INTRODUCTION..... 4

2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION..... 4

3. PROGRAMME / WORKS SCHEDULE 4

4. CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY 4

4.1 OVERHEAD LINE CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY..... 4

4.1.1 Installation Process:..... 4

4.1.2 Pole Erection:..... 5

4.1.3 Stay Wires:..... 5

4.1.4 Conductor Stringing:..... 5

4.2 UNDERGROUND CABLE CONSTRUCTION METHODOLOGY 7

4.2.1 Excavation Methodology..... 7

4.2.2 Duct Laying Methodology..... 8

4.2.3 Joint Bays 11

5. DESIGN MEASURES..... 13

6. MONITORING 13

7. CONCLUSION 14





1. Introduction

Natural Forces Construction Ireland Limited (NFC) on the behalf of Natural Forces Renewable Energy limited (NFRE) have prepared this report to outline the detailed specification of the proposed development.

The proposed development: A 20kV grid connection cable route was assessed as a part of the granted planning application (Granted under planning ref: 2360142).

The planning application outlined at the time of application that the final connection route and point of connection to the national grid were subject to ESB approval and the project securing a grid connection through the enduring connection policy grid connection application process. This process could only be entered once a final grant of planning was secured.

The project has been successful in securing a connection agreement in which ESB have confirmed that the Kilcash Wind Turbine will be connected as envisaged (when planning was applied for) to the national grid via a T-Connection into an existing overhead line.

The purpose of this document is to outline and explain the construction techniques and methodologies which will be implemented during construction of the grid connection route, from the IPP (Independent Power Producer) 20kV substation to the point of connection to the national grid (T-Connection).

2. Proposed Development Description

The proposed development will consist of a 20kV grid connection route consisting of 507m of overhead line (OHL) and 985m of underground cabling (UGC) ducting and associated connection works which will connect the Kilcash Wind Turbine IPP (Independent Power Producer) 20kV substation with the national grid via a T - Connection into an existing overhead line.

With understanding that the proposed development involves a 20kV cable, it is thereby to be considered as exempt development under Class 26 and Class 27 Schedule 2, Part 1 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended.

3. Programme / Works Schedule

It is estimated that the construction of the electrical grid connection will take approximately 2-3 weeks to complete. Where possible, construction works should take place during the summer months when the land will be drier and there is less likelihood of prolonged heavy rainfall.

4. Construction Methodology

4.1 Overhead Line Construction Methodology

The Overhead Line (OHL) sections of the grid connection route is planned to traverse 507m of private lands. The route will necessitate the placement of c. 7 wooden pole-sets each ranging from 12 to 16 meters in height.

4.1.1 Installation Process:

The installation works for both poles and lines will adhere to standard procedures for a 20kV ESB overhead line.

DETAILED SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

DATE : 02/12/2025

4.1.2 Pole Erection:

Poles will be transported from adjacent roadways to designated erection sites. Using a wheeled or tracked excavator equipped with a pole grab attachment, poles will be placed into excavated holes. Manual backfilling and tamping of the pole hole will be carried out to a minimum depth of 1.0m, ensuring adequate support for the pole.

4.1.3 Stay Wires:

At locations where the line changes direction, drops from OHL to UGC and at pole set locations with unfavourable ground conditions, stay wires will be necessary. Stay wires will be supported by stay blocks made of wooden sleepers, buried underground for stability.

4.1.4 Conductor Stringing:

Conductor stringing involves the manual pulling of polypropylene rope along the route. The conductors are attached to the rope, and a stringing machine is employed to pull them into the desired position.

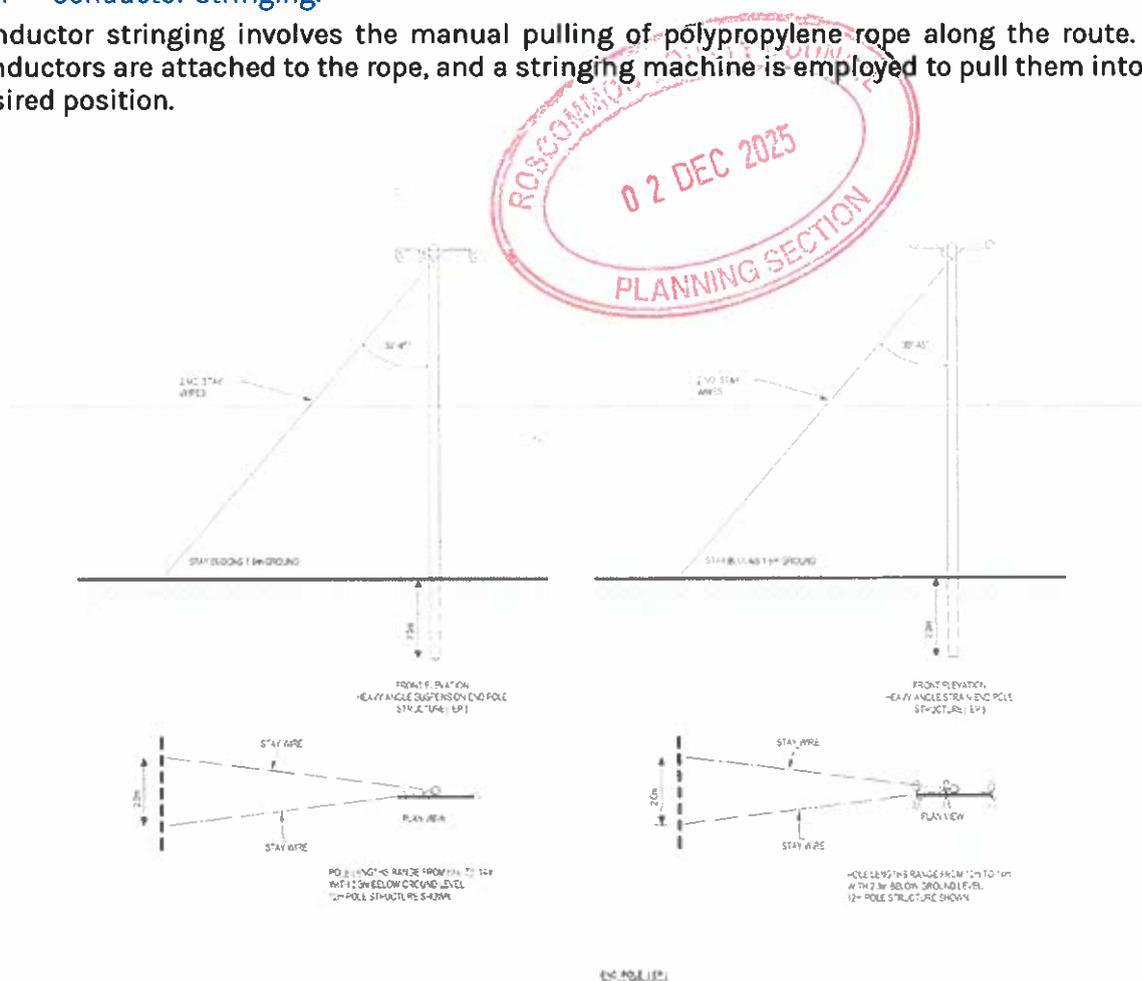


Figure 01 - Standard 20kV End Pole/Pole with Stays

DETAILED SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
DATE : 02/12/2025

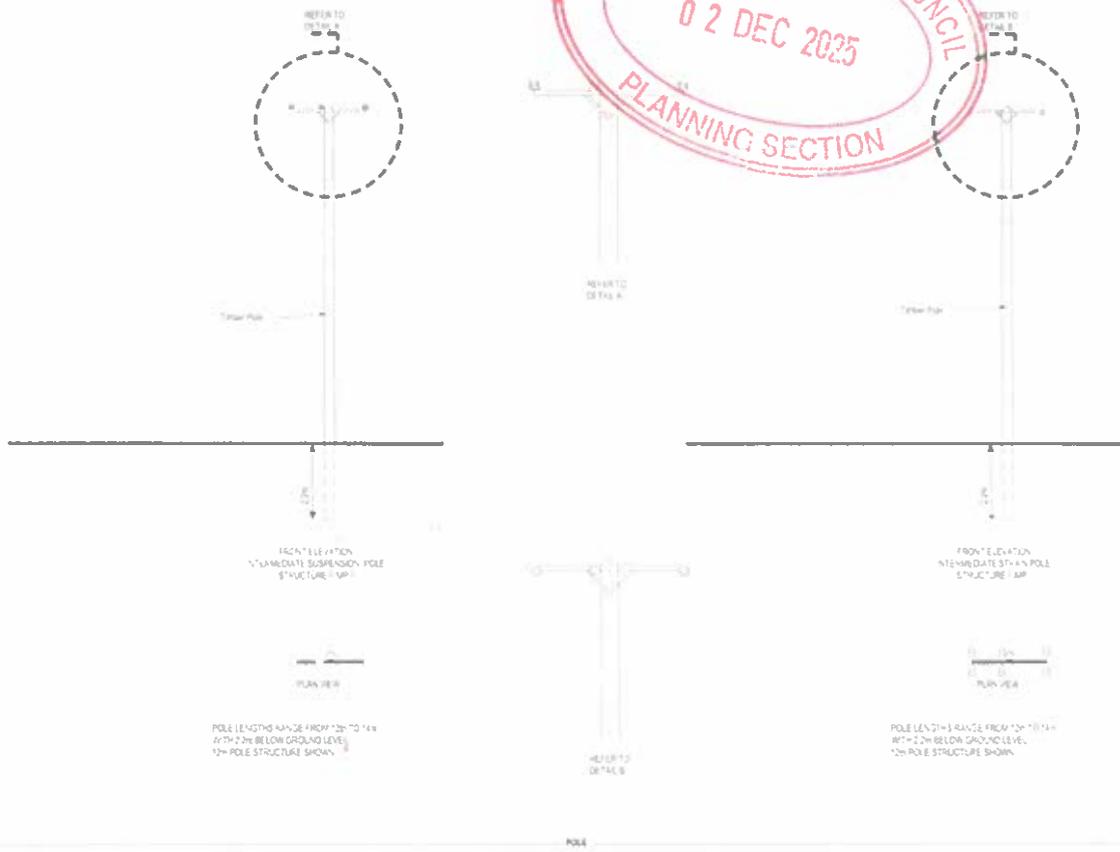
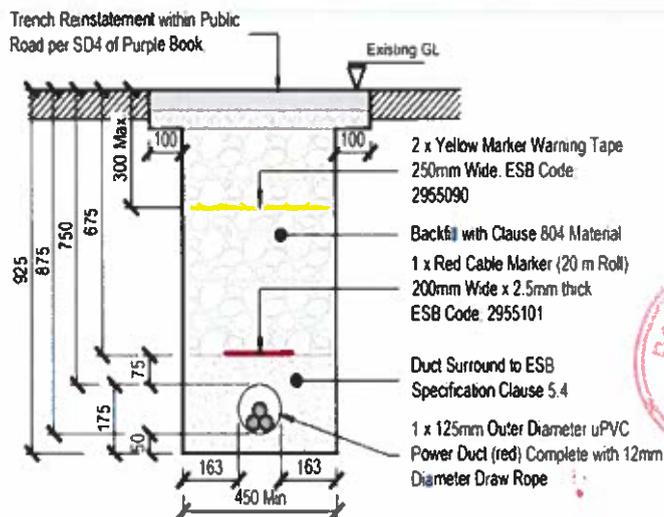


Figure 02 - Standard 20kV Intermediary pole design

4.2 Underground Cable Construction Methodology

985m of underground cabling (UGC) will be located in the public road as per the ESB Networks UGC specifications (SPEC-231213-AXUU) the works will require a single trench for the entire length of the cable route, located within the centre of the public road. The trench will be typically excavated 450mm wide by 1000mm deep and contain 1 No. 125mm diameter HDPE duct to accommodate power cables as detailed below. Figure 03 below illustration a cross section of the standard ESB Networks design detail.



20kV CABLE TRENCH IN PUBLIC ROAD END VIEW SCALE 1:20



Figure 03 - Standard 20kv Trench Detail in a Public Road (SPEC-231213-AXUU)

The underground cable ducts will be installed in the trench and reinstated in accordance with the requirement and specifications of the ESB i.e. SPEC-231213-AXUU. At the point where the underground cable duct installation works are completed, the electrical cables are pulled through the installed duct, via a pre-installed draw wire.

4.2.1 Excavation Methodology

The most onerous aspect of the underground cable installation works is deemed to be the excavation works. As the per the ESB Networks specification, the works contractor (NFC) will be required to prepare a specific Method Statement (MS) prior to carrying any works. This MS will be reviewed and agreed with the assigned ESB Networks project team, including their environmental specialists.

Similarly, the contractor is required to outline the construction methodology, and have specific reference to the incorporation of all mitigation and control measures, which were included within the relevant planning conditions and the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the project.

The underground component of the proposed Kilcash grid connection route is contained entirely within the public road network. Prior to the commencement of the works, the Roscommon Roads Engineer will be consulted in relation to a specific requirement around public roads traffic management.

The contractor will apply to Roscommon County Council for a road opening licensing in order to facilitate the works. The Engineer will liaise and agree with the contractor to set up and to maintain a lane/road closures, where applicable, for the duration of the works in accordance with the relevant road opening licencing conditions.

During the road opening licence application, the contractor will identify any existing underground services along the proposed routing prior to the commencement of construction works.

All excavated material shall be removed from the works area on an on-going basis. As the trenches are excavated, the spoil material is loaded to an adjacent truck and off site and disposed of at a fully authorised soil recovery site. This means that there is no build up or storage of material in or around the work area.

No more than a 100m section of trench will be opened at any one-time, further excavation will only commence once most of the reinstatement has been completed on the first section. The sections are then immediately back filled by clean material sourced from licenced facility in line with the ESB Networks specifications. Figure 04 below illustrates a section of excavated 20kV trenching in a public road, with the duct laid and ready for backfilling.



Figure 04 - Photographic Example 20Kv Duct Laying in a public road, ready for back filling

4.2.2 Duct Laying Methodology

The 20kV UGC duct laying is to be carried out in line with the detailed ESB Networks installation methodologies. The specific methodologies follow the below sequencing:

1. Grade, smooth and trim trench floor when the required depth and width have been obtained
2. Place a layer of bedding material in accordance with the specification and compact it so that the compacted thickness is as per the drawings
3. Lay the single duct in the centre of the trench, use spacers / templates to maintain the correct position, place a bung on each end of the duct run to prevent the ingress of dirt or water (Figure 04)

4. Carefully surround and cover ducts with CBGM B / ESB Sand in accordance with the design drawings and specifications and thoroughly compact without damaging ducts
5. Place cable protection strips on compacted backfill directly over the ducts
6. Place and thoroughly compact Clause 804 backfill, or soil backfill as specified and place warning tape at the depth shown on the drawings (Figure 05)
7. For public roads carry out immediate permanent reinstatement in accordance with the specification and to the approval of the local authority and/or private landowners
8. In open ground backfill with suitable excavated material leaving at least 100 mm for topsoil at the top of the trench to allow for grass seeding
9. Clean and test the ducts in accordance with the specification by pulling through a brush and mandrel. Install 12 mm polypropylene draw rope in each duct and seal all ducts using duct end seals.



Figure 05 - Typical 20Kv Trench Profile & Back fill



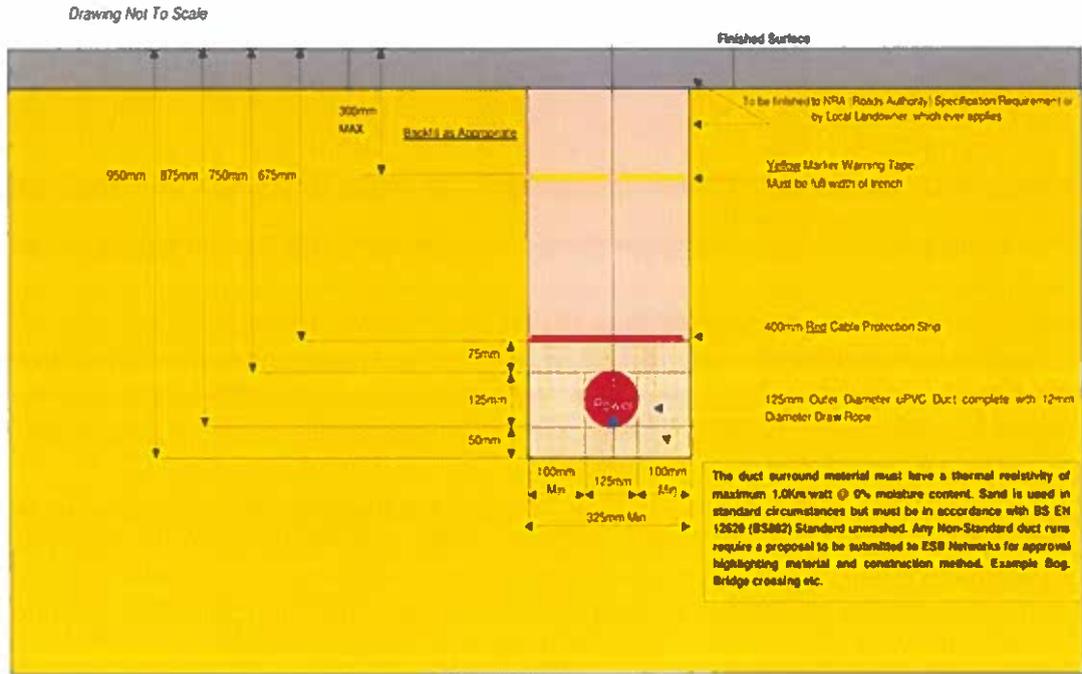


Figure 06 - Drawings for 10/20 kV ducting specifications



4.2.3 Joint Bays

Where Joint Bays (JBs) are to be installed, they are to be spaced approximately every 500m along the grid route to facilitate the jointing of cables. Joint Bays are typically pre-cast concrete structures installed below finished ground level (Figure 07) for installation the following methodology would apply:

1. The contractor will excavate a pit for each joint bay at an agreed location with the Engineer
2. All excavated material removed from the location to an approved facility
3. Grade and smooth floor; then lay sand on a layer of well compacted Clause 804 granular material
4. Place pre-cast concrete sections on sand bedding and backfill the perimeter with well compacted Clause 804 granular material
5. Where joint bays are located under the road surface the joint bay will be backfilled with compacted layers of Clause 804 and the road surface temporarily reinstated as specified by the Engineer
6. Prior to cabling to facilitate cable installation and jointing each pit will be re excavated once traffic management is in place and the works area secured
7. Following the completion of jointing works each joint bay is backfilled with CBGM B which is compacted in layers, cable protection strip and warning tape is installed at the correct depth below the finished surface level
8. Permanent reinstatement is carried out above the joint bay in accordance with the landowner/Roscommon County Council specifications



Figure 07 - Typical example of a 20kv Joint Bay in a public road.

1.3: Joint Bay Layout 10/20kV Ducting – One Power Duct

Drawing Not To Scale

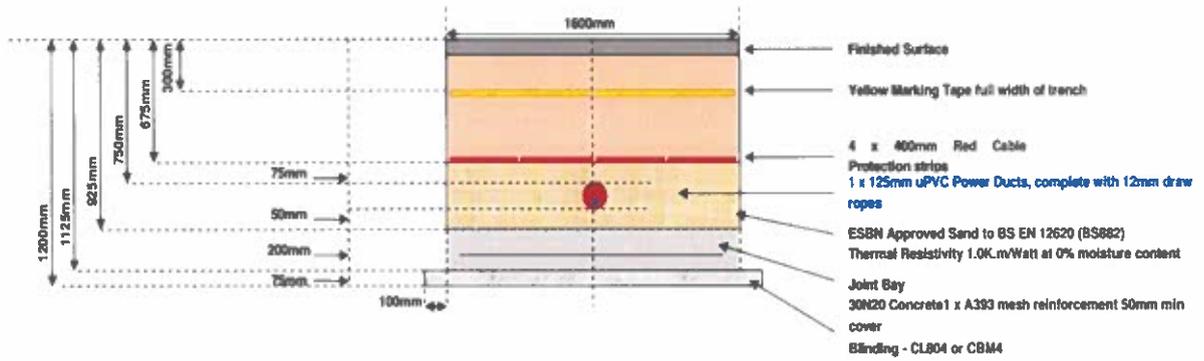


Figure 08 – Joint bay specifications for 20kV ducting



5. Design measures

The following design measures will be implemented during the electrical connection works:

- A working wayleave of 4 metres will be maintained along the existing roadway.
 1. No in stream works required
- Trenching works shall not take place at periods of high rainfall, and shall be scaled back or suspended if heavy rain is forecast.
- A floating hydrocarbon boom and spill kit will be employed.
 2. Prior to works commencing the access route will be walked.
 3. Plant will travel slowly across bare ground at a maximum of 5km/hr.
 4. As required: Silt fencing will be erected along the river's banks, the aim of seeing that no sediment is released into the river.
 5. As required: Silt Traps will be installed in the arterial drain and will remain in place until the project is complete.
- Any excess construction material shall be removed from the works areas and disposed of in a fully licensed landfill. No re-fuelling of machinery will take place on site or within 50 metres of any watercourse.
- Machinery will be checked and cleaned before going on site to ensure there is no introduction of alien invasive plant species (e.g. Japanese knotweed) to the site.
- All construction workers will be given a tool box talk addressing the environmental topics prior to commencement of construction.
- Where plant is required to track across vegetated areas a 4 metre wide access corridor will be marked with timber posts and all plant and machinery will remain within this to reduce impacts on vegetation and habitats.
- Locally excavated material will be reinstated immediately following construction to allow recovery of any potential groundwater level change as quickly as possible.
 6. As required: Temporary Stockpiles will be restricted to less than 2m in height. Stockpiles will be located as far as possible from drainage ditches, mature trees, hedgerows, surface water drains and water courses.
- Re-fuelling of construction equipment and the addition of hydraulic oil or lubricants to vehicles/ equipment will take place in designated bunded areas within the main construction compound located on the wind farm site where possible, and not on-site.
- If it is not possible to bring machinery to the refuelling point, fuel will be delivered in a double-skinned mobile fuel bowser.
- A drip tray will be used beneath the fill point during refuelling operations in order to contain any spillages that may occur.

6. Monitoring

All works undertaken including preparatory works will be carried out under supervision of a suitably qualified Ecologist.

ESB Networks will monitor the construction phase of the project and ensure works are being carried out in accordance with the agreed method statement, safety procedures, pollution control etc.

All pole locations will be checked for underground services such as cables, water pipes etc. and will be set out and pegged prior to excavation proceeding.

Once all works are complete, the access route and the construction areas shall be restored to their original condition or better.

7. Conclusion

As there are clear and defined specifications set out by ESB Networks, with both the ESB Network and the Roscommon County Council Road Engineer required to review and sign off upon the design and implementation of the works, NFC are confident that the works can be completed without any adverse impacts.

