

# EIA Screening Report

---

Castle Gypsum Ltd.  
Dx Connection,  
Belview Port,  
Co. Kilkenny.

March 2026

Prepared for:



O'DONNELL   
ENVIRONMENTAL



## Summary

**Project:** Castle Gypsum Ltd. Distribution Network (Dx) Connection, Belview Port, Co. Kilkenny.

**Coordinates:** 52.278373, -7.042177 (WSG84).

**Report by:** Tom O' Donnell BSc (Hons) MSc CEnv MCIEEM & Claire McCarthy BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM.

**Statement of Competence:** O'Donnell Environmental is an independent environmental consultancy established by Tom O'Donnell in 2019. O'Donnell Environmental is a Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) 'Registered Practice' which demonstrates our commitment to high professional standards, accountability and the delivery of the best outcomes for biodiversity and our Clients.

---

**Project Reference: 2021/13.49A**

<b>Document Rev. No.</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Contributor</b>	<b>Date</b>
A	Final Issue	TO'D, CMC	19/03/26

# Table of Contents

Executive Summary .....	1
1 Introduction .....	2
1.1 Legislative Context .....	2
1.2 Statement of Authority .....	3
1.3 Description of the Proposal .....	3
1.3.1 <i>Do Nothing Scenario</i> .....	4
2 Methodology .....	5
2.1 Desktop Review .....	5
2.2 Site Visit .....	5
3 EIA Screening .....	6
3.1 Establishing if the Proposal is a Sub-Threshold Development .....	6
3.2 Preliminary Examination .....	8
3.3 Screening Assessment .....	11
4 EIA Screening Conclusion .....	19
5 References.....	20

# Appendices

Appendix A - Photographic Record

Appendix B - Design Drawing.

## Executive Summary

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) propose the installation of a new 250PE-100 4bar main with an equal tee, connection to an existing 315PE-100 4bar main within the Belview Science & Technology Park and installation of a new proposed skid location at Castle Gypsum Ltd. in the Belview Port area, Co. Kilkenny. The proposed is in support of a permitted development (Kilkenny County Council Ref. 2460103; ABP-321962-25) at the Castle Gypsum site. Approx 725m of pipeline will be installed within existing carriageways and approx. 535m within the Castle Gypsum greenfield site.

The installation of the new distribution pipeline will require open trenching to a standard depth of 750mm minimum cover. Any trenching works within the boundary of the permitted development site will be covered by the Customer as well as any clearance works required prior to trenching. Works are expected to take approximately six weeks.

This report presents the results of an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening assessment. This report is intended to provide the Competent Authority with the information necessary to undertake the EIA screening determination in respect of the proposed development.

It is objectively concluded that the proposed project, in combination with other plans and projects, is not likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment.

# 1 Introduction

O'Donnell Environmental Ltd. was commissioned by Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Report in relation to the installation of a new distribution (Dx) pipeline, connecting a permitted development (Kilkenny County Council Ref. 2460103; ABP-321962-25) within the Castle Gypsum site at Belview Port in Co. Kilkenny, to the local distribution network.

The pipeline will be installed within existing carriageways and partially within the Castle Gypsum Ltd. greenfield site, with connection to an existing main within the Belview Science & Technology Park and installation of a new skid within the Castle Gypsum site. Additionally, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report (O'Donnell Environmental, 2026) was commissioned and is reported elsewhere.

The works assessed in this report are required in support of a permitted development (Kilkenny County Council Ref. 2460103; ABP-321962-25) and will involve connection of the permitted within the Castle Gypsum site to the existing distribution (Dx) network locally. Castle Gypsum Ltd. is manufacturer of gypsum products for Irelands construction sector. Works will take place within existing carriageways and an area of greenfield within the Castle Gypsum site. Works are expected to take approximately six weeks.

The proposed pipeline will be installed within the L3412 that crosses over the Gorteens 16 watercourse, proximal to the connection within the Belview Science & Technology Park. This watercourse discharges to the River Suir which is designated a Special Area of Conservation (Lower River Suir SAC).

This report provides the Competent Authority, Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU), with the information necessary to undertake the EIA screening assessment in respect of the proposed development. This report establishes if the proposed pipeline works require EIA mandatorily or as a result of categorisation in a sub-threshold class of development requiring EIA.

This report presents information consistent with the requirements of Section 176 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, including the information specified in Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001.

## 1.1 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) requires assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment. The EIA Directive aims to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and human health. It requires that an assessment of the likely significant effects a project will have on the environment is carried out, where relevant, before development consent is given (OPR, 2021).

The EIA Directive is transposed into Irish legislation by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018, the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Proposed development which falls within one of the categories of development specified in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, which equals or exceeds, a limit,

quantity or threshold prescribed for that class of development must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Where a project is of a specified type but does not meet, or exceed, the applicable threshold then the likelihood of the project having significant effects (adverse and beneficial) on the environment needs to be considered.

The criteria for determining whether development listed in Part 2 of Schedule 5 should be subject to an EIA are set out under Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). The information to be provided by the applicant or developer for the purposes of screening sub-threshold development for environmental impact assessment is set out under Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended by the 2018 Regulations.

## 1.2 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

O'Donnell Environmental Ltd. is an independent environmental consultancy established by Tom O'Donnell BSc (Hons) MSc CEnv MCIEEM in 2019. Since then, O'Donnell Environmental has established itself as a provider of quality, Client-focused ecological and environmental services to public and private sector Clients nationwide. O'Donnell Environmental is a Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) 'Registered Practice' which demonstrates our commitment to high professional standards and accountability and the delivery of the best outcomes for biodiversity and our Clients.

Tom O'Donnell is a Chartered Environmentalist and a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. He was awarded a BSc in Environmental and Earth System Science [Applied Ecology] in 2007 and an MSc in Ecological Assessment in 2009, both from UCC. Tom has 19 years professional experience in the environmental industry, including working on projects such as windfarms, overhead power lines, roads, cycleways and residential developments. Tom is licensed by NPWS for roost disturbance (Ref: DER/BAT 2026-91) and to capture bats (C031/2026).

Claire McCarthy BSc (Hons) MSc is an Associate member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. She was awarded a BSc in Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences [Zoology] in 2018 and an MSc in Marine Biology in 2022, both from UCC. Claire has contributed to the preparation of EIAR and EclA reports for renewable energy developments and has experience in preliminary roost assessments and bat activity surveys. Claire is licensed by NPWS for bat roost disturbance (Ref: DER-BAT-2026-99) and to capture bats (C066/2026).

## 1.3 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSAL

The proposal is to provide Castle Gypsum Ltd. with connection to the existing distribution (Dx) network at Belview Port, Co. Kilkenny. Castle Gypsum Ltd. is manufacturer of gypsum products for Ireland's construction sector.

The proposed involves the installation of a new 250PE-100 SDR17 4bar main with an equal tee, connection to an existing 315PE-100 4bar main with a 315PE x 250PN16 branch saddle, within the Belview Science & Technology Park, to a new proposed skid location at Castle Gypsum site. The proposed SP3 skid will be installed on a 9.8m x 2.8m concrete base within the Castle Gypsum site. The proposed is in support of a permitted development (Kilkenny County Council Ref. 2460103; ABP-321962-25). Approx. 725m of pipeline will be installed within existing carriageways (N29, L3412 and unnamed road) and approx. 535m within the Castle Gypsum greenfield site.

The pipeline will be installed via an open trenching method with an excavation depth of a minimum standard 750mm and 300mm-400mm width, within existing carriageways and hard shoulders (N29, L3412 and unnamed road) and within the Customer's greenfield site. Temporary welfare facilities at existing GNI facilities nearby will be utilised. In total works are expected to take approximately six weeks.

Following installation of the new pipeline within the ground, no works, ongoing maintenance etc. are required as part of the operational phase of the proposed development.

**Appendix A** presents a photographic record on the current condition of the proposed site and **Appendix B** presents the design information.

### 1.3.1 Do Nothing Scenario

If the proposed development does not proceed, the 'do nothing' scenario is that the existing environment within the site boundary is likely to remain as described herein in the short term at least. The portion of the proposed within the permitted site boundary will likely change according to the permitted development (Kilkenny County Council Ref. 2460103; ABP-321962-25). No pipeline will be installed, and the capacity of the distribution network will remain the same.

## 2 Methodology

This EIA Screening assessment was informed by desk-based and site-based assessments. This EIA Screening Report follows guidelines and template formats provided by Office of Planning Regulator (OPR) (OPR, 2021).

### 2.1 DESKTOP REVIEW

A desktop review was carried out to collate relevant available information including the following:

- National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) (online)<sup>1</sup>.
- National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) (online)<sup>2</sup>.
- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (online)<sup>3</sup>.
- The CFRAM Flood Maps (online)<sup>4</sup>.

### 2.2 SITE VISIT

This EIA Screening assessment is informed by a site visit that was carried out by Claire McCarthy BSc (Hons) MSc ACIEEM on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February 2026. The proposed location of works and its immediate environs were assessed. Any source-receptor pathways identified during the desktop review were surveyed. Additionally, surface expressions of invasive alien plant species, specifically those listed as 'Schedule III' Alien Invasive Species (AIPS) were surveyed for within and immediately adjacent to the proposed works footprint.

---

<sup>1</sup> Accessed 12/02/2026

<sup>2</sup> Accessed 12/02/2026

<sup>3</sup> Accessed 12/02/2026

<sup>4</sup> Accessed 12/02/2026

### 3 EIA Screening

An EIA screening exercise is provided below, which is intended to inform a decision by the relevant competent authority. The EIA screening template provided by the Office of Planning Regulator in July 2021 is adopted.

#### 3.1 ESTABLISHING IF THE PROPOSAL IS A SUB-THRESHOLD DEVELOPMENT

Establishing if the proposal is a 'sub-threshold development':	
Was a Screening Determination carried out under Section 176A-C?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, no further action required  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, Proceed to <b>Part A</b>
<b>A. Schedule 5 Part 1</b> - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, <b>Part 1</b> , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, specify class _____	<b>EIA is mandatory</b>  No Screening required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No  (Schedule 5 Part 1 16 - A gas pipeline is proposed which has diameter of less than 800 millimetres and a length of less than 40 kilometres).	Proceed to <b>Part B</b>
<b>B. Schedule 5 Part 2</b> - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, <b>Part 2</b> , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) <b>and</b> does it meet/exceed the thresholds?	
<input type="checkbox"/> No, the development is not a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2	<b>No Screening required</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 <b>and</b> meets/exceeds the threshold, specify class (including threshold): _____ [specify class & threshold here] _____	<b>EIA is mandatory</b>  No Screening required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is of a type listed <b>but</b> is <i>sub-threshold</i> :  (Schedule 5 Part 2 10 (i) (ii) - A gas pipeline not included in Part 1 of this Schedule, <b>BUT</b> the design pressure does not exceed 16 bar and the length of new pipeline does not exceed 40 kilometres).	Proceed to <b>Part C</b>
<b>C. If Yes</b> , has Schedule 7A information/screening report been submitted?	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes, Schedule 7A information/screening report has been submitted by the applicant  (Schedule 7A information is provided in the current EIA Screening Report, specifically: a) a description of the proposed development (see Section 1.2) b) a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development (see Section 3.3) c) a description of any likely significant effects of the proposed development on the environment (see Section 3.3). d) information on how the available results of other relevant environmental assessments have been taken into account: The current EIA Screening	<b>Screening Determination required (see Section 3.3)</b>

Report references the Natura Impact Statement (O'Donnell Environmental, 2026) which accompanies the current application and considers the potential for effects on the NATURA 2000 network.

e) *a description of any features or measures envisaged to avoid or prevent a significant adverse effect on the environment:* (see Section 3.3).

- No, Schedule 7A information/screening report has not been submitted by the applicant

Preliminary Examination  
required

### 3.2 PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

Preliminary Examination:		
Aspect:	Comment:	Response:
<p><b>Nature of the development:</b> <i>Is the nature of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Will the development result in the production of any significant waste, or result in significant emissions or pollutants?</i></p>	<p>The site is located within an urban and industrial context with predominantly industrial land-uses bordered by public roadways. The proposed site of works is located within existing carriageways and hard shoulders of the N29, L3412 and an unnamed road and an area of greenfield in the Belview Port Area, Co. Kilkenny.</p>	<p>No.</p> <p>No.</p>
	<p>The proposed involves the installation of a new 250PE-100 SDR17 4bar main with an equal tee, connection to an existing 315PE-100 4bar main within the Belview Science &amp; Technology Park, to a new proposed skid location at Castle Gypsum Ltd. site. The proposed SP3 skid will be installed on a 9.8m x 2.8m concrete base within the Castle Gypsum site.</p> <p>The proposed is in support of a permitted development (Kilkenny County Council Ref. 2460103; ABP-321962-25). Approx. 725m of pipeline will be installed within existing carriageways (N29, L3412 and unnamed road) and approx. 535m within the Castle Gypsum greenfield site. The pipeline will be installed via an open trenching method with an excavation depth of a minimum standard 750mm and 300mm-400mm width. In total works are expected to take approximately six weeks.</p> <p>All excavation works to be completed by GNI will be completed in accordance with the Environmental Management Plan (GMC, 2022).</p>	
<p><b>Size of the development:</b> <i>Is the size of the proposed development exceptional in the context of the existing environment?</i></p> <p><i>Are there cumulative considerations having regard to other existing and/or permitted projects?</i></p>	<p>No. The proposed development will consist of 1.26km of pipeline laid in existing public carriageways and the skid location within an area of greenfield.</p> <p>Other projects are considered, including the permitted Customer's development at Castle Gypsum (Ref: 2460103; ABP-321962-25) and the proposed Drumdowney Solar Farm (Ref:</p>	<p>No.</p>

	<p>2560319) and the various permitted land developments surrounding the proposed.</p> <p>No significant cumulative effects are expected, considering the nature and scale of the proposed works and their temporary nature.</p>	
<p><b>Location:</b></p> <p><i>Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or does it have the potential to impact on an ecologically sensitive site or location?<sup>5</sup></i></p> <p><i>Does the proposed development have the potential to affect other significant environmental sensitivities in the area?</i></p>	<p>The proposed development will be installed within existing carriageways and hard shoulders of the N29 &amp; L3412. The L3412 crosses over the Gorteens 16 watercourse proximal to the connection to the existing mains near Belview Science &amp; Technology Park. This watercourse discharges to the River Suir approx. 1.3km channel length downstream from the pipeline installation. These watercourses are ecologically sensitive sites.</p> <p>The River Suir forms part of the Lower River Suir SAC (002137). This site becomes the River Barrow &amp; River Nore SAC (002162). Thus, the proposed development site is in hydrological connectivity with these ecologically sensitive sites.</p> <p>Measures are provided in the accompanying Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to avoid the likelihood of adverse effects on the Lower River Suir SAC (002137) and the River Barrow &amp; River Nore SAC (002162).</p>	<p>No.</p>

<sup>5</sup> Sensitive locations or features includes European sites, NHA/pNHA, Designated Nature Reserves, land designated as a refuge for flora and fauna, and any other ecological site which is the objective of a CDP/LAP (including draft plans).

**Preliminary Examination Conclusion:**

Based on a preliminary examination of the **nature, size or location** of the development.  
 (Tick as appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <p>There is <b>no real likelihood</b> of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p><b>EIAR is not required.</b></p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>There is <b>real likelihood of</b> significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>An EIAR is required.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> <p>There is <b>significant and realistic doubt</b> regarding the likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Request the applicant to submit the <b>Information specified in Schedule 7A</b> for the purposes of a screening determination.</p> <p>Proceed to Screening Determination.</p>
--	--	--

### 3.3 SCREENING ASSESSMENT

Preliminary examination has determined that there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment. A conservative approach was taken, and the following screening assessment is also presented.

Screening Assessment		
Does the application include information specified in Schedule 7A?	Yes	EIA Screening Report submitted.
Other relevant information submitted:	No	
Does the application include a NIS and/or other reports to enable AA screening?	Yes	AA Screening and Natura Impact Statement prepared.
Is an IED/IPC/Waste Licence or Waste Water Discharge Authorisation (or review of licence/ authorisation) required from the EPA for the subject development?		No.
If <b>YES</b> has the EPA been consulted?		n/a
Have any other relevant <sup>6</sup> assessments of the effects on the environment been carried out pursuant to other relevant Directives –for example SEA or AA?		n/a
Characteristics of proposed development (including demolition, construction, operation, or decommissioning):		
(a) The size and design of the whole of the proposed development (including any demolition works):	The project extends along approximately 725m of existing public carriageway and 535m within an area of greenfield (within permitted boundary of the Customer's application) (Ref: 2460103; ABP-321962-25). A short section of pipeline within the L3412 is not within the Customer's permitted boundary. See <b>Section 1.3</b> for the development description.	
(b) Other existing or permitted projects (including under other legislation that is subject to EIA) that could give rise to cumulative effects:	<p>Details of relevant planning applications within 1km of the proposed development is presented in the accompanying Natura Impact Statement (O'Donnell Environmental, 2026).</p> <p>The Customer's project is permitted and did not 'screen-out' for EIA or AA. The EIAR and NIS reports were submitted as part of this planning application (Kilkenny Co. Co. Ref: 2460103; ABP-321962-25).</p>	

<sup>6</sup> Relevant assessments are those which have a significant bearing on the project.

	<p>Due to the nature and scale of the current proposal, there are no characteristics that have the potential to cause adverse environmental effects that could be significant when combined with impacts from other existing or permitted developments. Following installation of the new pipeline within the ground, no additional effects are predicted as part of the operational phase of the proposed development.</p>
<p><b>(c) Use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity:</b></p> <p><i>Will construction or the operation of the proposal use natural resources such as land, soil, water, materials or energy, especially any resources which are non-renewable or are in short supply?</i></p>	<p>No significant natural resources will be used. Minor amounts of water and fuel will be used to clean and fuel machinery respectively during construction.</p>
<p><b>(d) Production of waste:</b></p> <p><i>Will the proposal produce solid wastes during construction, operation, or decommissioning?</i></p>	<p>No significant waste streams will be generated as proposed works involve trenching/earthworks and ground-breaking that is confined to a limited area. Standard control measures will be in place to ensure edible wastes are disposed of properly.</p>
<p><b>(e) Pollution and nuisances:</b></p> <p><i>Will the proposal release pollutants to ground or surface water, or air (including noise and vibrations) or water, or lead to exceeding environmental standards set out in other Directives?</i></p>	<p>There exists potential for noise and dust pollution during the construction phase, including the breaking of the existing concrete and excavation work.</p> <p>Surface water currently discharges into the into the Lower River Suir SAC and the River Barrow &amp; River Nore SAC via the existing drainage network.</p> <p>Standard control measures will be put in place to intercept potential contaminated surface water, as a result of construction, prior to entry into the drainage water network as outlined in the GMC standard EMP (2022).</p> <p>No foul water discharge is associated with the proposed development. Temporary welfare facilities are provided at nearby GNI facilities.</p> <p>The operational phase will see no significant pollution or disturbances that do not already exist within the current surrounding urban environment.</p>
<p><b>(f) Major accidents and disasters:</b></p> <p><i>In accordance with scientific knowledge, is there a risk of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to the project, including those caused by climate change?</i></p>	<p>No. There is no significant potential for the proposed development to give rise to significant adverse effects on the environment due to accidents and/or disasters. This applies to accidents/disasters arising from external factors as well as accidents arising from the development.</p>
<p><b>(g) Risks to human health, for example due to water contamination or air</b></p>	<p>No. There is no significant risks to human health as a result of this proposed development.</p>

pollution:	
<b>Location of proposed development:</b>	
(a) Generally describe the location of the site and its surroundings:	<p>The proposed development is located at Belview Port, an actively used industrial port. The proposed installation and connection works will occur within the existing carriageways between the Belview Science &amp; Technology Park and the Castle Gypsum Ltd. site and within an area of greenfield within the Castle Gypsum site. Adjoining land uses to these roads are agricultural, commercial, industrial and transport. The L3412 crosses over Gorteens 16 watercourse, proximal to the proposed connection to the existing mains at Belview Science &amp; Technology Park. This watercourse flows south to join the River Suir.</p>
(b) Is the project located within, close to or has it the potential to impact on any site specified in Article 103(3)(a)(v) of the Regulations:	<p>The proposed development will be installed within existing carriageways and hard shoulders of the N29 &amp; L3412. The L3412 crosses over the Gorteens 16 watercourse proximal to the connection to the existing mains at Belview Science &amp; Technology Park. This watercourse discharges to the River Suir approx. 1.3km channel length downstream from the pipeline installation.</p> <p>The River Suir forms part of the Lower River Suir SAC (002137). This site becomes the River Barrow &amp; River Nore SAC (002162). The proposed development site is in hydrological connectivity with these ecologically sensitive Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Given the standard and site-specific mitigation measures outlined in the accompanying NIS, there is no likelihood of significant impacts on either Natura 2000 sites relating to the construction phase of the proposed development.</p> <p>Remaining Natura 2000 sites within a 15km radius are additionally separated by buffering terrestrial and marine environments at further distance. There are no other important designated sites with significant connectivity pathways to the proposed project site.</p> <p>See accompanying Natura Impact Statement (O'Donnell Environmental, 2026).</p>
(c) Are there any other areas on or around the location that are important or sensitive for reasons of their ecology e.g. wetlands, watercourses or other waterbodies (including riparian areas and river mouths), the coastal zone and the marine environment, mountains, forests or woodlands, that could be affected by the project?	<p>The Gorteens 16 watercourse runs beneath the L3412 road within which the pipeline will be installed, proximal to the connection to the existing mains near Belview Science &amp; Technology Park. This watercourse discharges to the River Suir approx. 1.3km channel length downstream from the pipeline installation. These watercourses are ecologically sensitive sites.</p> <p>Standard control measures will be put in place to intercept potential contaminated surface water, as a result of construction, prior to entry into the drainage water network as outlined in the GMC standard EMP (2022). Additional site-specific measures are included in the Natura Impact Statement (O'Donnell Environmental, 2026). These are considered sufficient to avoid potential significant negative effects.</p>
(d) Is the proposal likely to be highly visible to many people? Are there any areas or features of high landscape or scenic	<p>Yes. The proposed pipeline connection is located partially within existing public roads in the Belview Port area. The proposed development is limited in scale and extent and would not</p>

<p>value on or around the location, or are there any routes or facilities that are used by the public for recreation or other facilities which could be affected by the proposal?</p>	<p>negatively impact the surrounding landscape scenic value and is located in an already heavily industrialized area.</p> <p>Aside from temporary construction phase disturbances to the nearby businesses, the operational phase will have no impact on these businesses.</p>
<p>(e) Are there any areas or features of historic or cultural importance on or around the location that could be affected by the project?</p>	<p>No. There exists no features of historic or cultural importance within or around the proposed development. The proposed development is contained largely within brownfield environs excluding the area of greenfield within the Castle Gypsum site which is already permitted for development as part of the Customer's application (Kilkenny Co. Co. Ref: 2460103; ABP-321962-25).</p>
<p>(f) Are there areas within or around the location which are densely populated or built-up, or occupied by sensitive land uses e.g. hospitals, schools, places of worship, community facilities that could be affected by the proposal?</p>	<p>No. The proposed development is contained within the footprint of existing road networks within the Belview Port Area, an active industrial port.</p> <p>The remaining adjoining land-uses are industrial, commercial and transport. There exists potential for temporary negative impacts as a result of noise and dust pollution for these land-uses.</p>
<p>(g) Are there any areas within or around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources e.g. groundwater, surface waters, forestry, agriculture, fisheries, tourism, minerals, that could be affected by the proposal?</p>	<p>No. The bedrock underlying the site is of deep marine, slate, shale and minor sandstone and siltstones, of no particular geological importance.</p> <p>A Shellfish production area as listed on the Irish Shellfish Regulations (S.I.200 / 1994) is present approx. 2.28km from the proposed site of works, at the closest point, within the geographical boundary of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.</p>
<p>(h) Are there any areas within or around the location which are already subject to pollution or environmental damage, and where there has already been a failure in environmental standards that could be affected by the proposal e.g. the status of water bodies under the Water Framework Directive?</p>	<p>The Lower Suir Estuary (IE_SE_100_0500) has been classified as having a 'Moderate' water quality status. Further downstream the Barrow Suir Nore Estuary has received a 'Moderate' water quality status (Transitional Waterbody WFD 2019-2024).</p> <p>The groundwater assessment for the area is 'Good' and 'Not at risk' according to the WFD Cycle 3 water quality report on the Blackwater [Kilmacow]_SC_010 Catchment.</p>
<p>(i) Is the site located in an area susceptible to subsidence, landslides, erosion, or flooding which could cause the proposal to present environmental problems?</p>	<p>No.</p>
<p>(j) Are there any additional considerations that are specific to this location?</p>	<p>No.</p>

**Types and characteristics of potential impacts:**

If relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of the potential impacts under the headings below.	If relevant, briefly describe any mitigation measures proposed to avoid or prevent a significant effect.	Is this likely to result in significant effects on the environment?
Population and human health:		
<p>There may be possible short-term nuisances to human beings from noise and dust during the construction phase. Noise and dust or pollution will be subject to standard mitigation measures as per typical construction projects.</p>	<p>Standard control measures will be implemented to control potential dust and noise sources during construction.</p>	<p>No. The impacts from noise and dust will be temporary and are not significant.</p>
Biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive <sup>7 *</sup>		
<p>The site does not contain any habitats protected under the E.U. Habitats Directive. The Gorteens 16 watercourse provides a viable source-receptor pathway to the Lower River Suir SAC and the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.</p> <p>The proposed site is located approx. 1.05km north of the Lower River Suir SAC and 2.11km west of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC at the closest point, which encompass habitats protected under the E.U. Habitats Directive and are designated for species protected under the E.U. Birds Directive.</p> <p>In the absence of mitigation there is potential for contaminated surface water runoff during the construction of the proposed pipeline installation to reach this watercourse which ultimately discharges to the Lower River Suir SAC which meets the geographical boundary of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC downstream. Proposed works will involve excavation of existing surfaces giving rise to potential silt laden water run-off and the refuelling of necessary machinery which could result in accidental spillage of hydrocarbons contaminating the local environment.</p> <p>Measures are provided in the accompanying Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to avoid the likelihood of adverse effects on these Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>As described in the accompanying NIS, surface water will be subject to control measures during the construction phase of the proposed development following best practice guidelines and the GNI EMP (2022) to control potential impacts on qualifying interest species of these designated sites protected under the E.U. Habitats Directive and the E.U. Birds Directive.</p>	<p>No. Following the application of avoidance and mitigation measures described in the accompanying NIS, the proposed project is not likely to cause significant adverse effects on the Lower River Suir SAC or the River Barrow and River Nore SAC or any other Natura 2000 site.</p>

<sup>7</sup> And with particular regard to areas specified in Article 103(3)(a)(v) of the Regulations.

Land, soil, water, air and climate:		
<p>There will be minor loss of land as the majority of construction will take place in the footprint of existing roadways, but there will be approx. 535m of pipeline installed within the Castle Gypsum Ltd greenfield site. This area is currently under construction for the Customer's permitted development.</p> <p>There will be minor expansion of impermeable surfaces, within the boundary of the Customer's permitted development. Surface water currently is contained by drainage water networks which ultimately discharge the Lower River Suir SAC and River Barrow and river Nore SAC.</p>	<p>Standard surface water control measures will be implemented prior to the construction phase to ensure contaminated water is intercepted prior to entering the drainage water network (GMC, 2022). !</p>	<p>No.</p>
Material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape:		
<p>The nature, scale and context of the project is considered to be too small to have significant impacts on the wider landscape and cultural heritage. No locally important material assets are present in the surrounding area.</p>	<p>No mitigation measures are currently proposed due to the lack of potential impacts resulting from the proposed development.</p>	<p>No.</p>
Cumulative effects:		
<p>No cumulative effects are identified.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>No.</p>
Transboundary effects:		
<p>Surface water run-off provides potential pathway for pollution.</p>	<p>Surface water run-off and sources of contaminants during construction will be addressed via standard surface water control measures in the GMC EMP (2022).</p>	<p>No. The residual risk is low once mitigation measures are implemented.</p>
<b>1. Additional Considerations:</b>		
<p>Further relevant information, if any, relating to how the results of any other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment have been taken into account (e.g. SEA, AA screening, AA):</p>	<p>A Natura Impact Statement (O'Donnell Environmental, 2026) was carried out and concluded that the proposed project is not likely to cause significant negative effects on the Lower River Suir SAC, River Barrow and River Nore SAC or any Natura 2000 site, individually or in combination with other plans or projects.</p>	
<b>Determination:</b>		
<p>No real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p>	<p>✓</p>	<p><b>EIAR is not required</b></p>

<b>Real likelihood</b> of significant effects on the environment.		EIAR is required
---	--	------------------

**Main Reasons and Considerations:**

This EIA Screening Report has described and considered the nature and scale of the proposed works and the local environmental context in which the proposed works will occur.

Having regard to the criteria in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended and the information provided in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, it is considered that the proposed development **would not be likely** to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an environmental impact report (EIAR) is not therefore required.

## 4 EIA Screening Conclusion

This EIA Screening Report has been carried out based on the best available scientific information and data, and ecological assessment and project details provided by Gas Networks Ireland.

This report has described and considered the nature and scale of the proposed works and the local environmental context in which the proposed works will occur.

Having regard to the criteria in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, the information provided in accordance with Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, it is considered that the proposed development **would not be likely** to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is not therefore required.

## 5 References

CIRIA (2001). Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites, Good Practice Guidelines (CIRIA C532).

Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (2018). Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment.

Environmental Protection Agency (2022). Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

GMC (2022). Environmental Management Plan – Provision of Network Services & Works to Gas Networks Ireland (Lot 1 – PE & Metering Services). GMC Civil and Mechanical Engineering.

Office of Planning Regulator (OPR) (2021). Practice Note PN02 - Environmental Impact Assessment Screening.

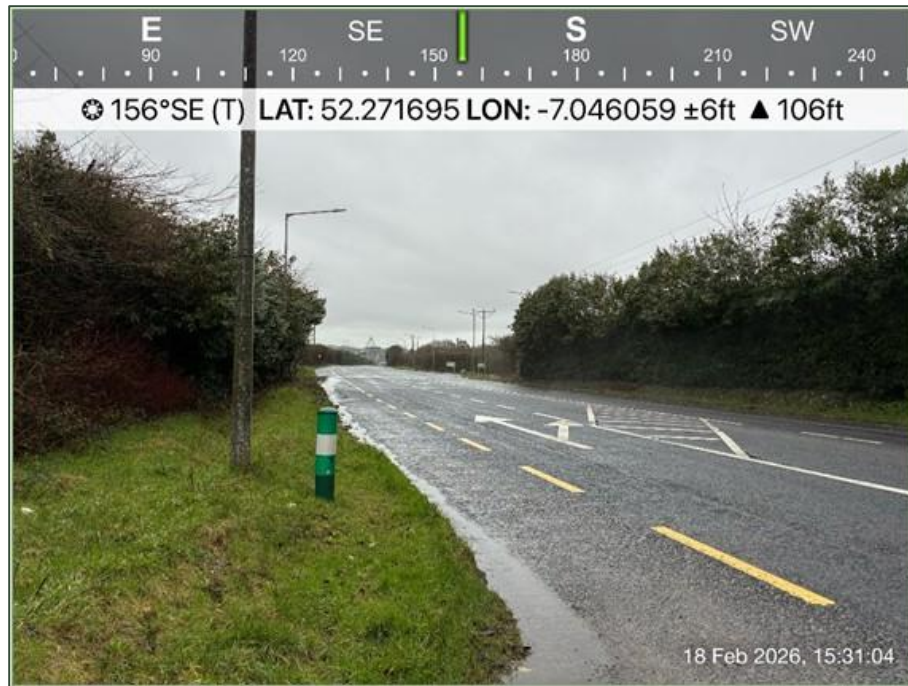
# Appendix A - Photographic Record



**A1:** Fenced off grassland area within which the proposed skid location will be installed.



**A2:** View of the greenfield site currently under construction within which the pipeline will be installed.



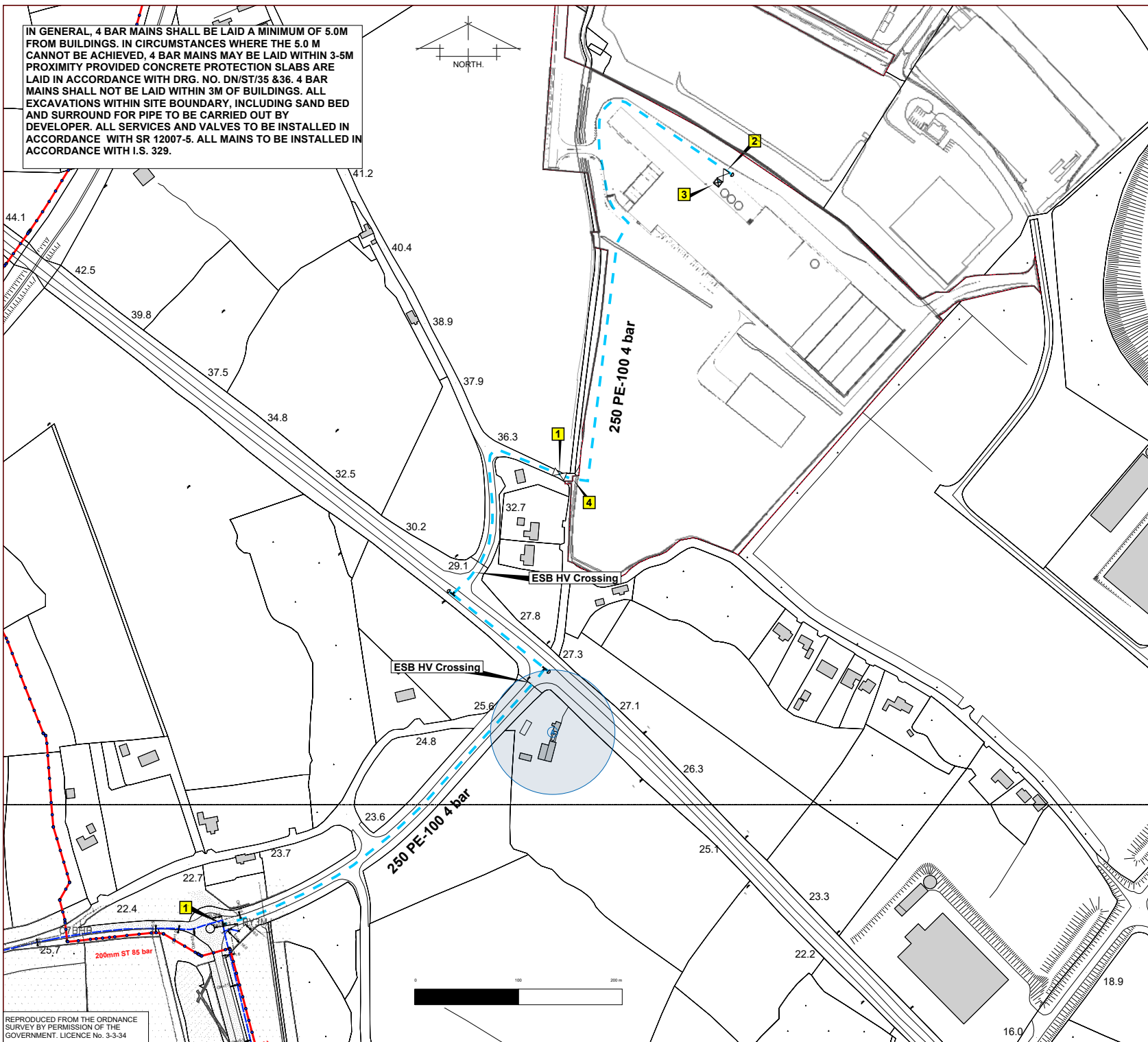
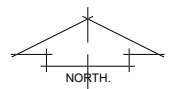
**A3.** View along the N29 leading along which the pipeline will be installed.



**A4.** View of the L3421 towards the Belview Science & Technology Park along which the proposed pipeline will be installed.

# Appendix B - Design Drawing

IN GENERAL, 4 BAR MAINS SHALL BE LAID A MINIMUM OF 5.0M FROM BUILDINGS. IN CIRCUMSTANCES WHERE THE 5.0 M CANNOT BE ACHIEVED, 4 BAR MAINS MAY BE LAID WITHIN 3-5M PROXIMITY PROVIDED CONCRETE PROTECTION SLABS ARE LAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH DRG. NO. DN/ST/35 & 36. 4 BAR MAINS SHALL NOT BE LAID WITHIN 3M OF BUILDINGS. ALL EXCAVATIONS WITHIN SITE BOUNDARY, INCLUDING SAND BED AND SURROUND FOR PIPE TO BE CARRIED OUT BY DEVELOPER. ALL SERVICES AND VALVES TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SR 12007-5. ALL MAINS TO BE INSTALLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH I.S. 329.



**Important Safety Notice:**

Damage to gas pipelines can result in serious injury or death. Gas network information is provided as a general guide. The exact location and depth of medium or low pressure distribution gas pipes must be verified on site by carrying out necessary investigations, including, for example, hand digging trial holes along the route of the pipe. Service pipes are not generally shown but their presence should always be anticipated.

High pressure transmission pipelines are shown in red. If a transmission pipeline is identified within 10m of any intended excavations then work must not proceed before GNI has been consulted. The true location and depth of a transmission pipeline must be verified on site by a representative of GNI. Contact can be made through 1800 427 747.

All work in the vicinity of the gas network must be completed in accordance with the current edition of the Health & Safety Authority publication, Code of Practice For Avoiding Danger From Underground Services which is available from the Health and Safety Authority (01 614 7000) or can be downloaded at [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie).

**Legal Notice:**

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) and its affiliates, accept no responsibility for the accuracy of any information contained in this document including data concerning location and technical designation of the gas distribution and transmission network (the Information). The Information should not be relied on for accurate distance or depth of cover measurements.

Any representations and warranties, express or implied, are excluded to the fullest extent permitted by law. No liability shall be accepted for any loss or damage including, without limitation, direct, indirect or consequential loss, arising out of or in connection with the use or re-use of the Information.

- Connect to existing 315PE-100 4bar main with a 315PE x 250PN16 branch saddle, install Donkin 158 and lay 250PE-100 SDR17 4bar mains to end cap. Install valve in public carriageway on entry to client site as per DN/ST/111.
- Connect to proposed 250PE-100 4bar main with an equal tee and lay 1 no. 250PE-100 4bar valved service as per DN/ST/111 and install 1 no. SP3 MP T/S skid located externally as per DN/ST/161 with palisade fence as per DN/ST/125. GNI shall install concrete base as per DN/ST/124. Install daily metering and BMS equipment as per DN/ST/220 Sheet 1 of 2.

Stream A: Outlet 400mbar, Relief 592mbar, Slam 643mbar.  
Stream B: Outlet 360mbar, Relief 592mbar, Slam 693mbar.

- Customer shall provide a 220v power supply to the edge of the skid base to facilitate daily metering as per DN/ST/220 Sht 1 of 2.

- Install ATEX "Zone 2" sign per DN/ST/167 and safety sign per DN/ST/168. There shall be no window / door / vent openings or potential sources of ignition permitted within 2.5m from the vent tip per DN/ST/184 - Sheet 1 of 3. Relief valve to be vented to 3m above ground level as per DN/ST/160. NOTE: if mechanical air handling units exist in vicinity of meter location then the distance from the vent tip needs to be increased by 1m.
- Client shall provide pre-ex trench from site boundary.

- ESB HV supervision may be required for 38kV (O/H) line along N29. Contact Sinead O'Donnell (087-1972169).  
- Archaeological monitoring required. Contact Declan Moore (091-875749).  
- Section 39A Consent required prior to construction.

**Approx. Pipe Length:**  
250PE-100 SDR17 = 1280m

1	Construction Issue	LG	TK	DB
		30/10/25	30/10/25	30/10/25
ISSUE	REVISION	DATE	DATE	DATE
WAYLEAVE REQD:	No	O.S. REF. NO'S:	N/A	
MATRLS. DELIVERY:	N/A	SURVEYED BY:	N/A	
METER SIZE:	SP3	SUPPLY PRESS:	4bar	OUTLET PRESS: 400mbar
<b>Design Department - DUBLIN</b>				
PROJECT:	<b>Castle Gypsum Ltd.</b>	DATE:	30/10/2025	SCALE: 1:2500
		DRAWN:	LG	APPR.: DB
TITLE:	<b>Design Drawing</b>	DRG. NO.	48517068	PROJ. NO. 48517068
				SH. 1 of 3

REPRODUCED FROM THE ORDNANCE SURVEY BY PERMISSION OF THE GOVERNMENT. LICENCE No. 3-3-34

**O'DONNELL**   
ENVIRONMENTAL

[info@odonnellenviro.ie](mailto:info@odonnellenviro.ie)