

Addendum No.2
Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
Phase 3 Ground Investigation Works (2024)
N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project

Additional GI Locations

Date: 12th April 2024

1 Introduction

This technical note has been prepared as an Addendum, Addendum No.2, to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report (herein referred to as 'the AA Screening Report') that was prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd. on 20th April 2023 for the Phase 3 Ground Investigation (GI) Works on the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon to Dromod Project and for which Addendum number 1 (dated 19th October 2023) was also prepared in respect of newly required locations and GI methodology.

This technical note documents proposed additional Phase 3 GI works locations across the N4 study area and assesses whether any of these proposed locations have the potential to impact on any European sites. This technical note, in conjunction with the information contained within the AA Screening Report previously submitted, is intended to provide information to the competent authority in the discharge of their statutory duties in relation to AA.

The methodology followed for assessment of effects on European sites is contained within Section 2 of the original AA Screening Report. The description of proposed GI is provided in Section 3.1, the overview of the receiving environment is provided in Section 3.2, and the assessment of effects on European sites is provided in Section 3.3 of the AA Screening Report. The conclusion of the AA Screening Report was that the possibility of any significant effects on any European sites, arising from the Project on its own or in-combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded for the reasons documented in Section 3.3 of the AA Screening Report, and that the proposed additional Phase 3 GI works (2024) do not require a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

It is noted that for the purposes of clarity that the extent of the Project has previously been reduced, and that the current assessment corridor extends (east to west) from the existing N4 road, where it follows the original corridor towards the River Shannon Crossing, continuing westwards to the south of Carrick-on-Shannon before reconnecting with the existing N4 west of Carrick-on-Shannon.

It also noted that the additional GI methodology and locations are required, owing to the need for additional understanding of the ground conditions. Additional Phase 3 GI investigations (2024) (See Section 2 of this addendum) have been proposed for a number of locations (See **Appendix I**), where further information, based on the developing design e.g., major structures, and detailed understanding of the ground conditions is required to inform the detailed design for the Project.

2 Description of Proposed Additional GI Works Locations

In 2023, the contracted GI specialist completed a range of ground investigation works in support of the proposed Project. These have been previously subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment as noted in Section 1 of this Addendum. Following on from that and the refinement of proposed structural infrastructure, there is a need to understand the specific ground conditions under which the proposed infrastructure is being proposed to be located. To this end, Cone Penetrating Testing (CPT) is required.

The Cone Penetration Testing will be undertaken using a 20tonne wide tracked vehicle and is used to record geotechnical soil parameters in soft soils. A steel rod that is 36mm in diameter is temporarily pushed into the soils, no samples are taken. When the test is complete to the required depth, the rod is retracted and the 36mm hole collapses back in on itself, resulting in no discernible change to the habitat or the conditions that might support it.

The locations of the additional Phase 3 GI works (2024) across the proposed Project are shown in **Appendix I** and are assessed in **Appendix II** of this Addendum No 2 Report. The assessment has also considered access routes to the GI sites for which Additional Phase 3 GI works (2024) have been proposed.

3 Assessment of Effects of Changes on European Sites

The proposed new phase 3 GI locations (2024) are located entirely outside of the European site network, works do not traverse through any European sites and works are buffered from watercourses by existing vegetation. For these reasons, and as documented in **Appendix II**, the additional Phase 3 GI locations (2024) including the access routes to and the undertaking of the additional GI works does not have the potential to affect the Qualifying Interests (QIs), Special Conservation Interests (SCIs), or conservation objectives underpinning any European sites.

4 Conclusion

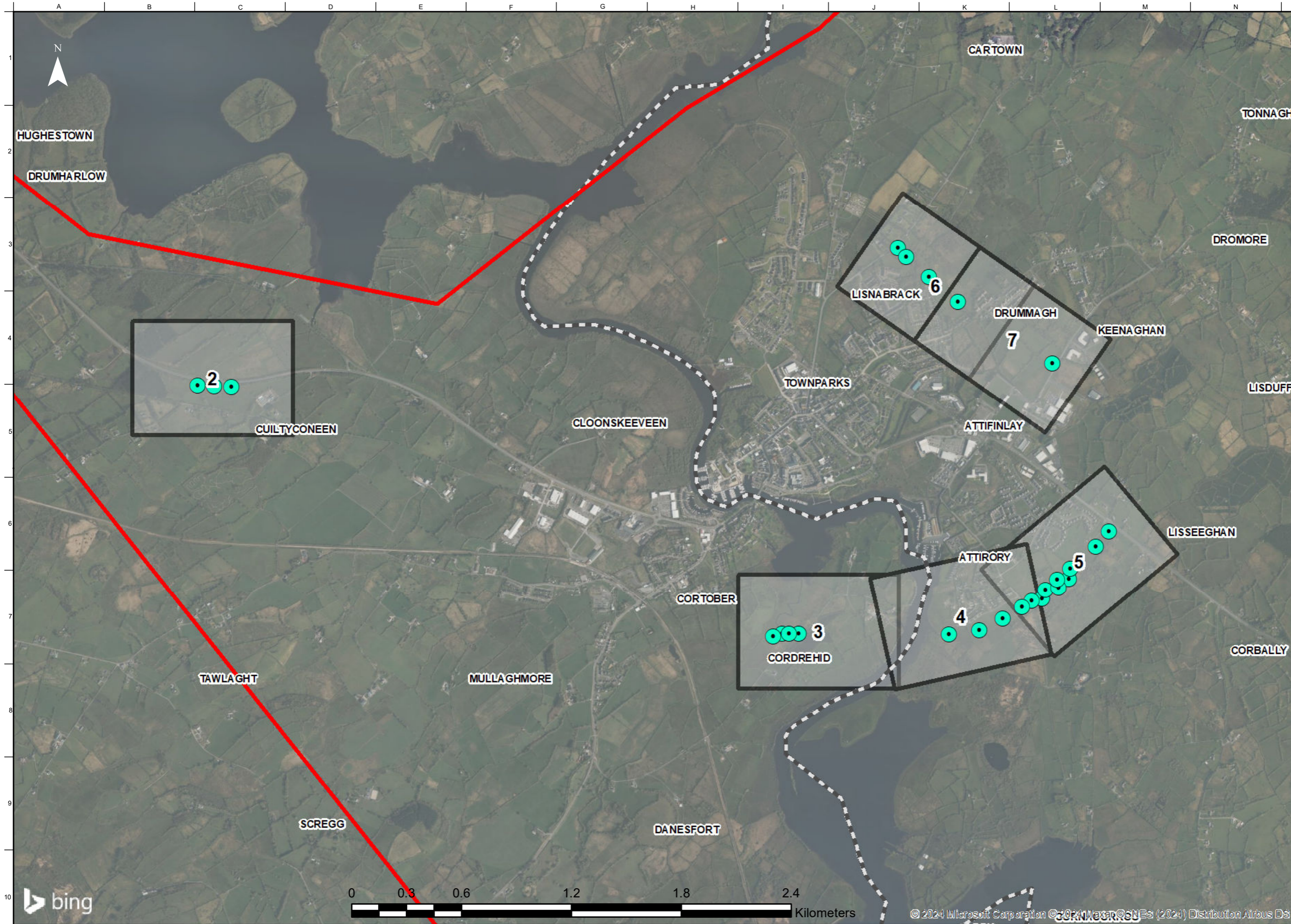
As there is no possibility of the additional Phase 3 GI locations affecting any European sites, the additional phase 3 GI works locations (2024) does not affect the conclusion of the AA Screening Report previously prepared by Scott Cawley Ltd.

Therefore, following an examination, analysis, and evaluation of the best available information, and applying the precautionary principle, it can be concluded that the likelihood of any significant effects on any European sites, whether arising from the Project alone or in combination with other plans and projects, can be excluded, for the reasons set out in Section 3.3 of the original AA Screening Report, and as set out in Section 3 of this AA Screening Addendum. In reaching this conclusion, the nature of the proposed additional Phase 3 GI works and their potential relationship with all European sites within the zone of influence, and their conservation objectives, have been fully considered.

Therefore, it is the professional opinion of the authors of this report that the proposed additional Phase 3 GI works does not require a Stage Two Appropriate Assessment or the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

Appendix I

Additional Phase 3 GI Locations Overview (2024)



FOR CONSTRUCTION

Legend

- Study Area Boundary
- Roscommon/Leitrim County Boundary
- Cone Penetration Test with Pore Water Pressure Measurement (CPTU)

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Scale: 1 : 20000 @A3
Role: Soils and Geology
Date: February 2024

Issue	Date	By	Chkd	Appd
P03	05/04/2024	AG	MMcE	AD
P02	20/02/2024	AG	MMcE	AD
P01	01/02/2024	AG	MMcE	EMC

Drawing Title
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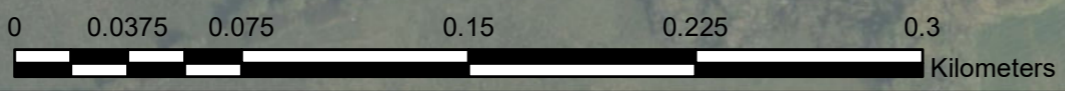
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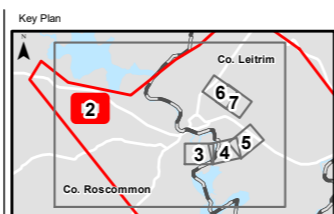


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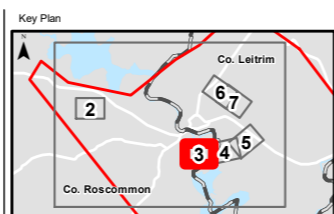
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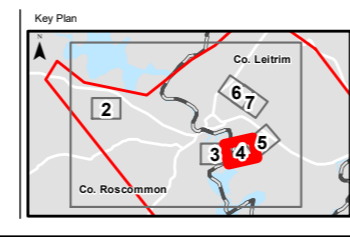
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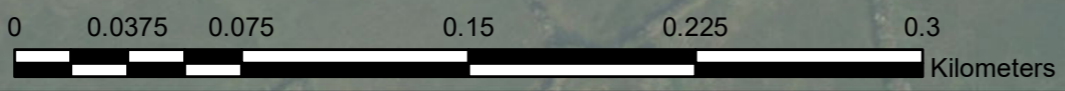
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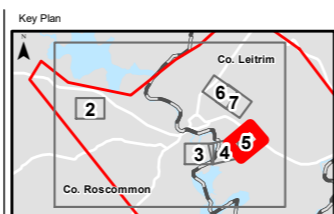


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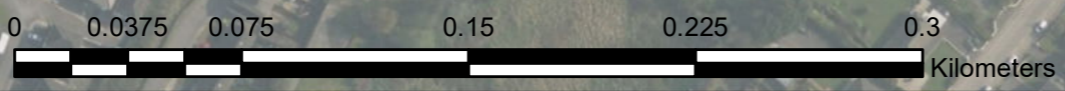
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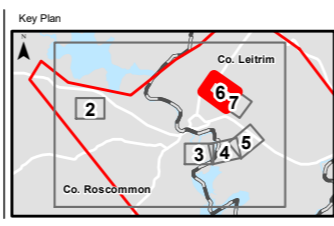


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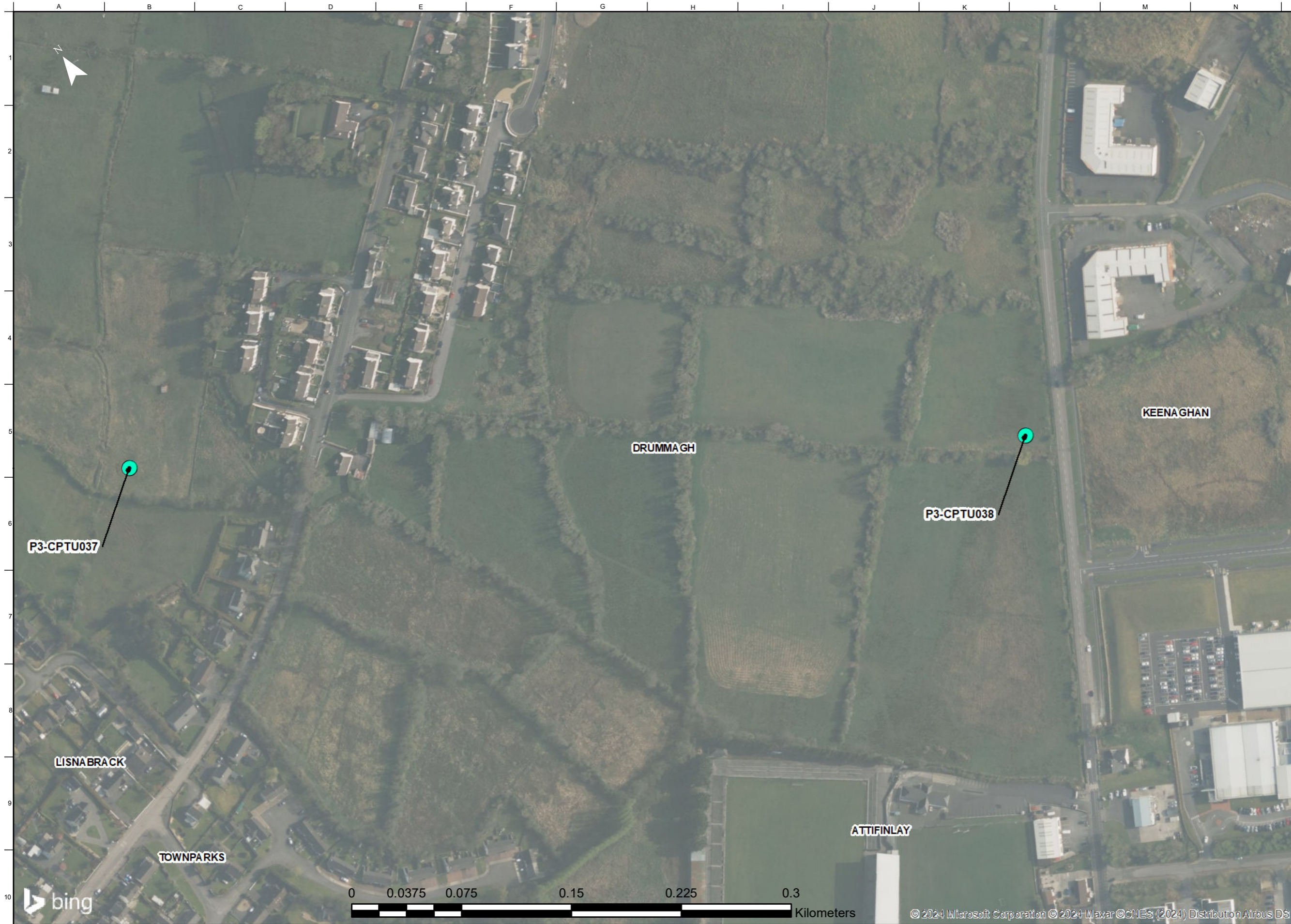
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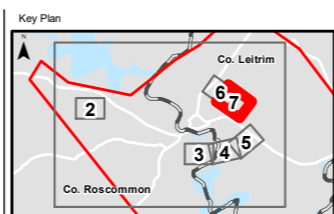
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Appendix II

Details of Phase 3 GI Works (2024) and Assessment of Likely Significant Effect on European sites

GI Works Hole Reference number	Scheduled Depth/ metres	Habitat	Potential for Likely Significant Effect on European site and QIs/SCIs
P3-CPTU001	0	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU002	0	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU003	0	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU005	5	GM1 Marsh	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU012	10	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU013	10	GM1 Marsh	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU014	5	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU015	5	GA1 Improved agricultural grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU016	10	GM1 Marsh	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.

P3-CPTU020	10	GS2 Dry meadows and grassy verges	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU023	10	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU024	10	GS2 Dry meadows and grassy verges/ GM1 marsh	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU025	10	GA1 Improved agricultural grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU026	10	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU027	10	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU028	10	GM1 Marsh	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU031	10	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU032	10	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU033	5	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU034	5	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU035	5	GS4 Wet grassland	No.

			Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU037	5	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU038	5	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU039	0	GS4 Wet grassland	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.
P3-CPTU041	0	GM1 - Marsh	No. Absence of cause-effect linkage between proposed GI works and the integrity of European sites.