



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

Limerick City
& County Council

Limerick City and County Council

Planning Department

Section 5 Application

DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

Applicant's Name: ACM Community Development Society Ltd.

Applicant's Address: ACM Shannon House, Main St,
Castletown, Co. Limerick
V94 RT61

Telephone No. [REDACTED]

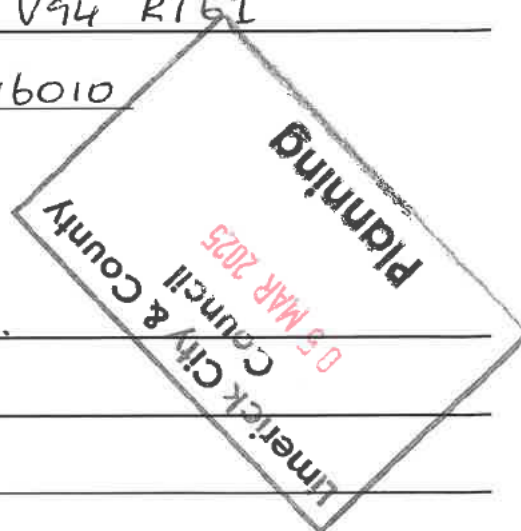
Name of Agent (if any): Jo O'Donovan (General Manager)

Address: ACM Shannon House, Main St,
Castletown, Co. Limerick
V94 RT61

Telephone No. 0892146010

Address for Correspondence:

Same as above.



Location of Proposed development (Please include Eircode):

ACM Shannon House, Main St, Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick, V94 RT61

Description of Proposed development:

PV panels to be installed on protected
structure but not visible to the street.
(NIAH Record no. 1088, RPS no. 21807012)

Section of Exempted Development Regulations and/or section of the Act
under which exemption is claimed:

SI 4928 2022 - Solar panels are exempt but querying
the protected structure situation
Is this a Protected Structure or within the curtilage of a Protected Structure.
☒ YES/☐ NO

Applicant's interest in site: PV panels

List of plans, drawings, etc. submitted with this application:

Site location, site layout, floor plans
& sections.

Have any previous extensions/structures been erected at this location YES/☒ NO

If Yes please provide floor areas of all existing structures:

Signature of Applicant (or Agent) Jo O'Donovan (General Manager)

NOTES: Application must be accompanied by:

- (a) Fee of €80
- (b) Site location map
- (c) Site layout plan
- (d) Dimensioned plans and elevations of the structure and any existing structures.
- (e) Where the declaration is in respect of a farm building, a layout identifying the use of each existing building together with floor area of each building.

Application to be forwarded to:

**Planning Department,
Limerick City & County Council,
Dooradoyle,
Limerick,
V94 XF67**

OFFICE USE ONLY

Ref. No. _____ Date Received _____

Fee Received _____ Date Due _____


**Ordnance
Survey**

CENTRE
COORDINATES:
ITM 566146,662663

PUBLISHED: 25/09/2018 **ORDER NO.:** 50026510_1

MAP SERIES: 1:2,500
MAP SHEETS: 4624-B

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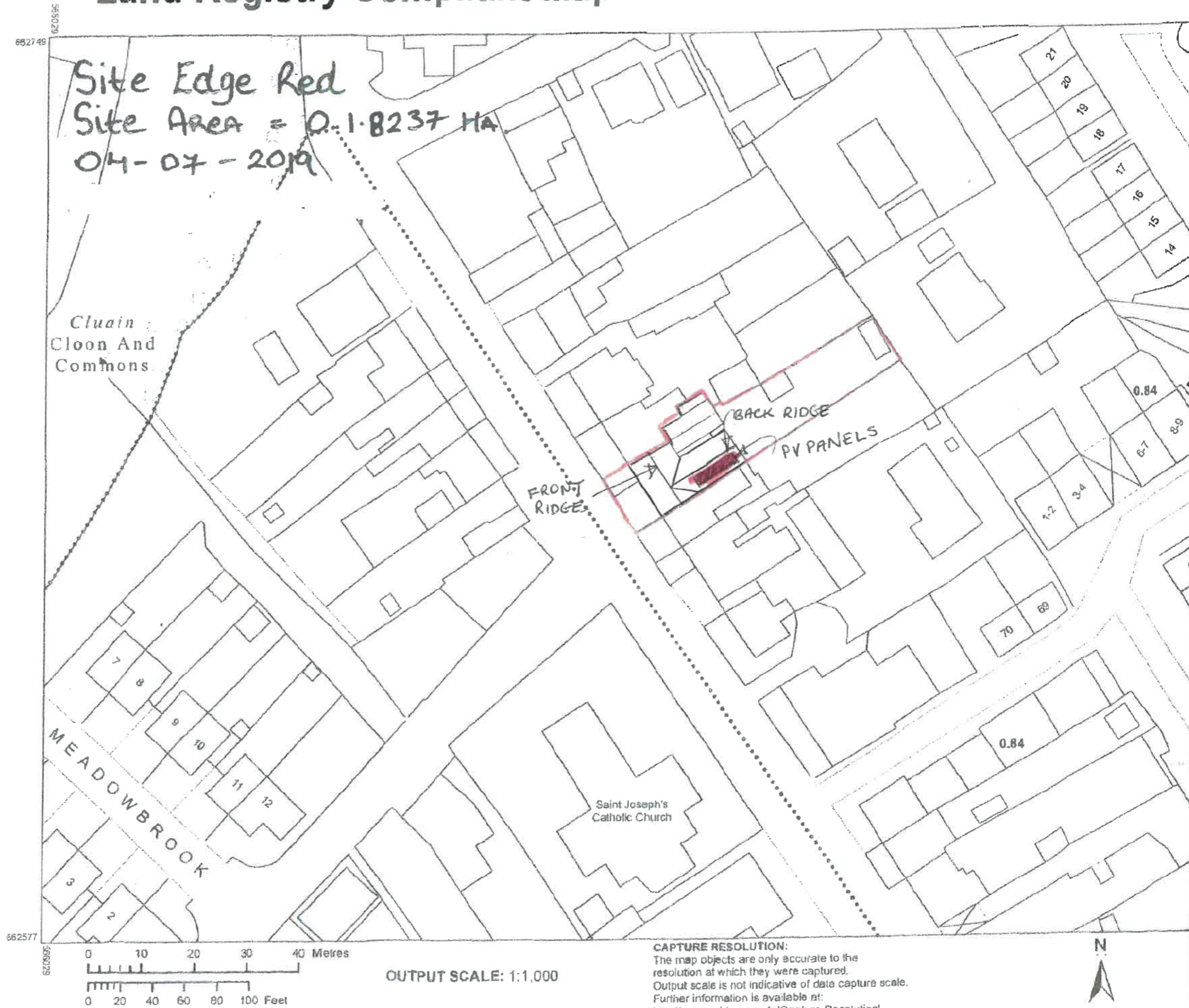
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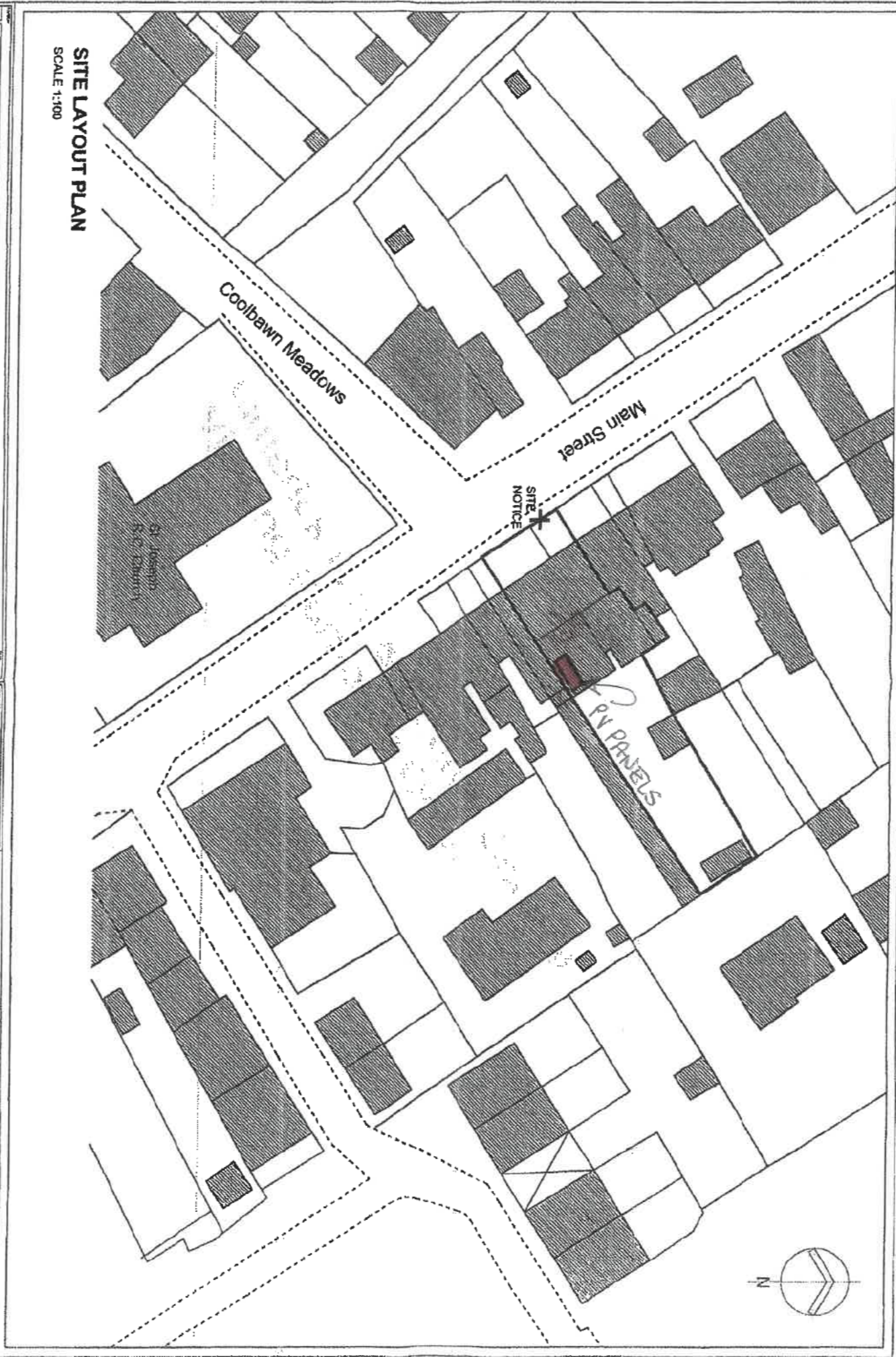
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LEGEND:
<http://www.osi.ie>:
 search 'Large Scale Legend'



Land Registry Compliant Map



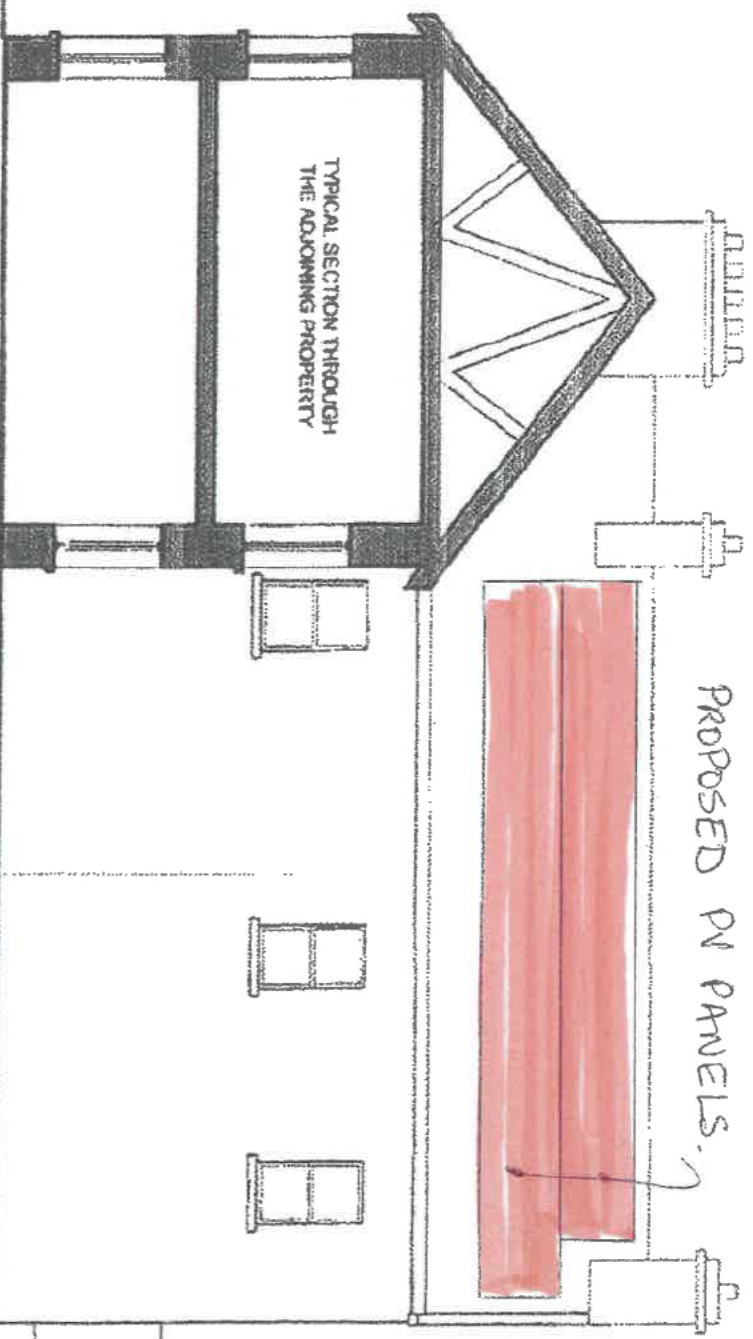


SITE LAYOUT PLAN
SCALE 1:100

<p>Quinn Architects <small>Quinn Architects is a registered architectural practice under the Architectural Act 1977 and is a member of the Irish Architectural Foundation.</small></p>			
<p>PROJECT OF SHANNON RIVER, MAIN STREET, CASTLECONNELL, CO. LAKEESHOW FOR ACU</p>			
<p>SITE LAYOUT PLAN</p>			
DATE	11-23	SCALE	P-100
BY	AS SHOWN	NO.	
PROJECT	PLANNING	NO.	20-20811
NO.		CO.	

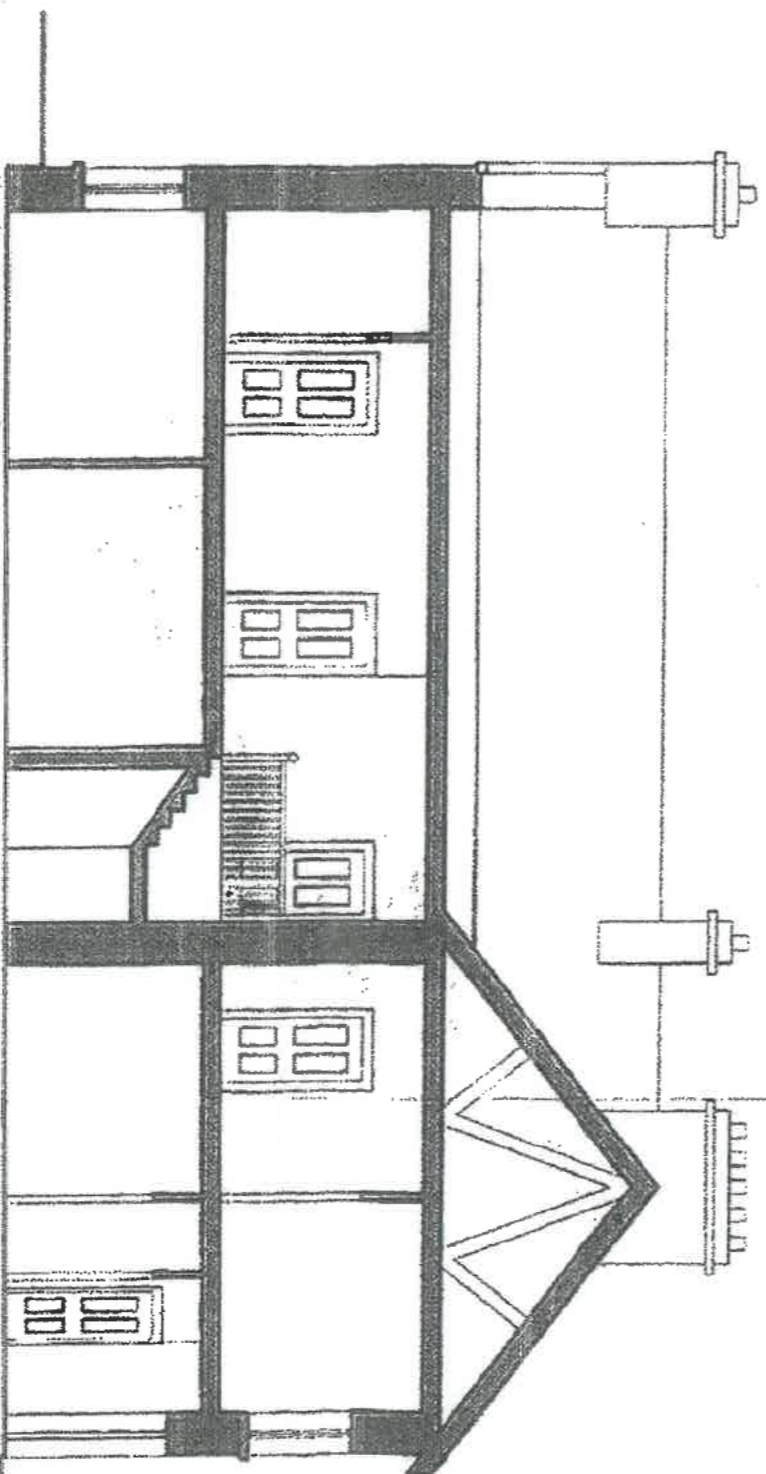
SOUTH EAST ELEVATION

SCALE 1:100



SECTION A-A

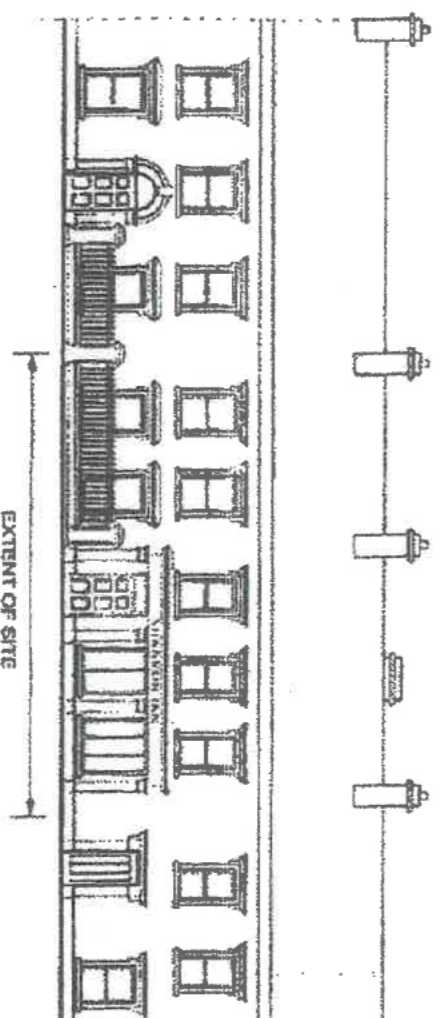
SCALE 1:100



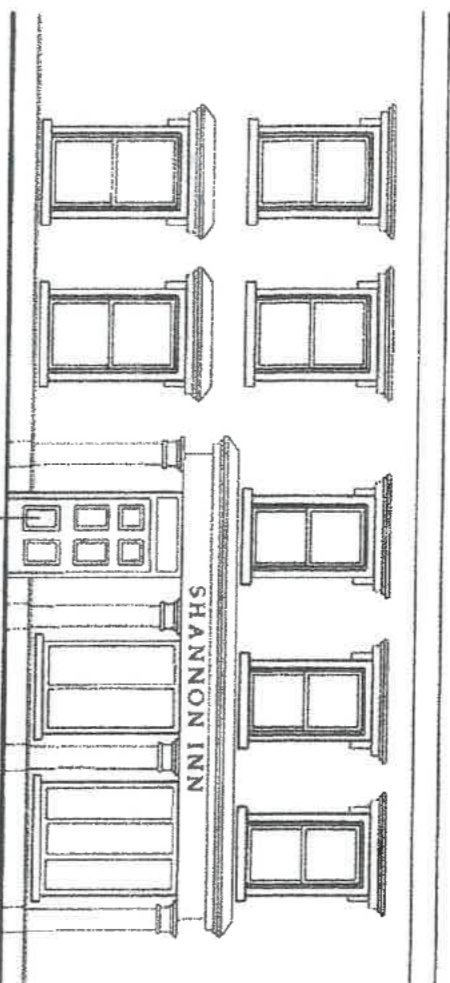
PLANNING DRAWINGS
Ref: 17726

CONTIGUOUS ELEVATION

SCALE 1:200



<p>1. I/WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE DRAWING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DRAWING AS SUBMITTED TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR COMMENT AND APPROVAL.</p> <p>2. I/WE HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE ABOVE DRAWING IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE ORIGINAL DRAWING AS SUBMITTED TO THE LOCAL AUTHORITY FOR COMMENT AND APPROVAL.</p>		<p>DATE: 11-20</p> <p>BY: [Signature]</p>	
<p>Quinn Architects</p> <p>11-20</p>		<p>NAME OF SHANNON INN, MAIN STREET, CASTLECONNELL, CO. LIMERICK FOR ACH</p>	
<p>ELEVATIONS & SECTIONS</p> <p>SHEET 2 OF 2</p>		<p>DATE: 27-3-2017</p> <p>BY: [Signature]</p>	



SCALE 1:100

ADJOINING PROPERTY

ADJOINING-
PROPERTY

EXISTING WINDOW OFS AT GRAND
CONVERTED TO ESCAPE TUNNELS

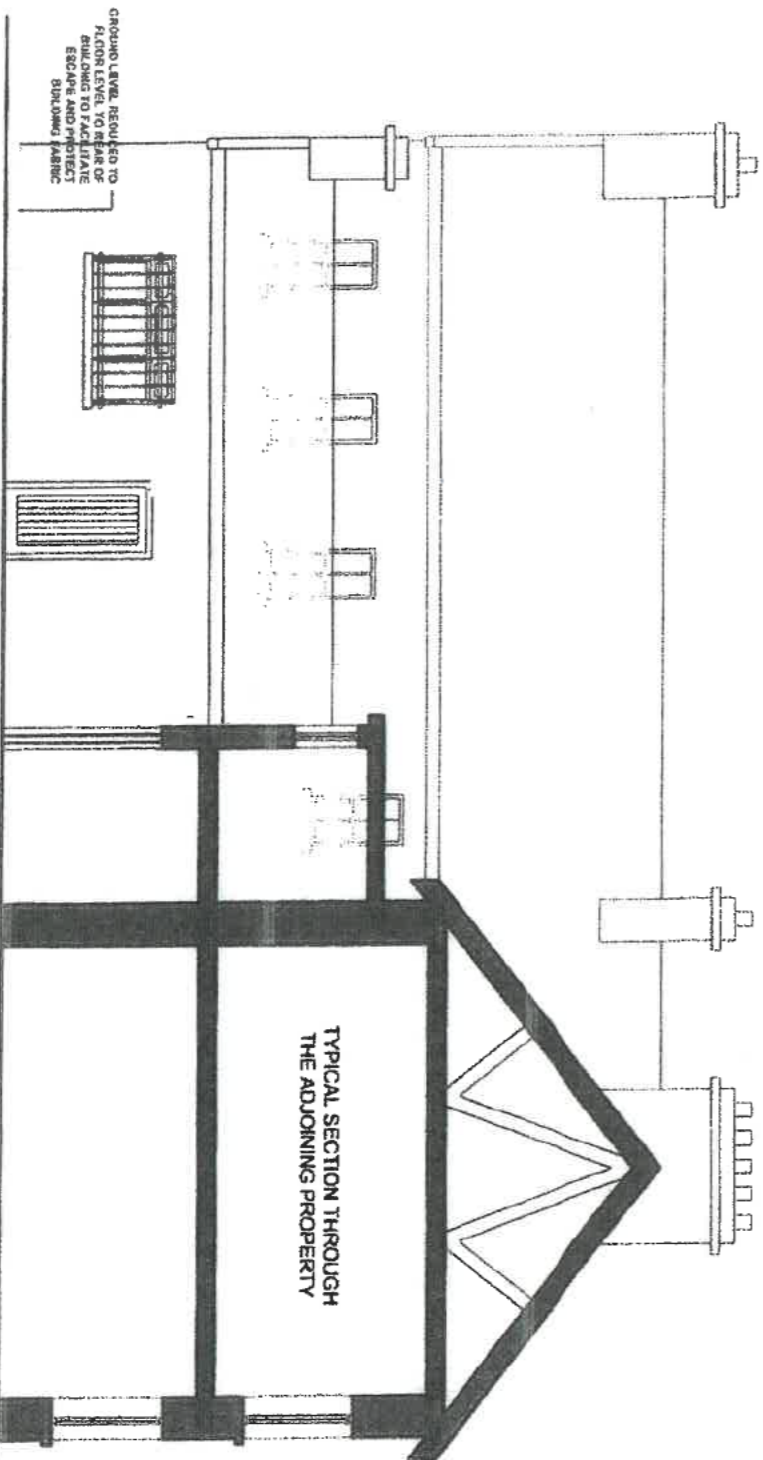
PROPOSED AMBULANT ES ARE
AVAILABLE TO ENTIRETY

SCALE 1:100

NEW ESSEX DR. AT FIRST FLOOR

EXISTING FILE

GROUND LEVEL REDUCED TO FLOOR LEVEL TO REAR OF BUILDING TO FACILITATE ESCAPE AND PROTECT BUILDING FABRIC



SCALE 1:100

EXTERNAL STAIRS PROMISALS	14/09/2020
BETTY CARROLL CONSULTING ENGINEER	15/09/2020

**TYPICAL SECTION THROUGH
THE ADJOINING PROPERTY**

[illegible]



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL
CASH OFFICE
CIVIC OFFICES
DOORADOYLE
CO LIMERICK

05/03/2025 12:34:59

Receipt No. /
Uimhir Admhála : LA25/0/25175096
***** REPRINT *****

ASM COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY
MAIN STREET
CASTLECONELL
LIMERICK

Ref: Shannon Hse Solar Panels

EXEMPTION CERTIFICATES	80.00
GOODS	80.00
VAT Exempt/Non-vatable	

Total/Iomlán : 80.00 EUR

Tendered/Tairgthe :
Credit / Debit Card 80.00
VISA
****7994

Change/Sóinseáil : 0.00

Issued By/
Eisithe ag : Gerard Ryan
From/Ó : CASH OFFICE HQ
Vat reg No./Cláruimhir CBL: 3267368TH

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

Reference no. EC-039/25

Name and Address of Applicant: ACM Shannon House,
Main St.,
Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick,
V94 RT61

Agent: Jo O Donovan
Main St.,
Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick,
V94 RT61

Location: Main St.,
Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick,
V94 RT61

Description of Site and Surroundings:

The site is located in the village of Castleconnell. It is within an Architectural Conservation Area The mid-terrace buildings is a protected structure – RPS 1088:Shannon Hotel, Cloon and Commons, Castleconnell Urban structure – commercial, built c. 1800. The property has been extended in the past. It is currently in use as a community centre/facility.

Zoning:

The site is zoned Village Centre in the Castletroy Local Area Plan 2023-2029.

Proposal:

This is an application requesting a Section 5 Declaration on whether the following works are or are not development or are or not exempted development:

- PV panels on new build rear extension of Protected Structure.

This Section 5 declaration includes the following:

- Application Form
- 2 no. Site location Maps
- Site Layout Plan
- Elevation Drawings

Planning History:

Enforcement History

None

Assessment

Consideration as to whether a development constitutes exempted development or not is governed by Sections 4 and 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Is the proposal development?

Section 2(1) in this Act, except where otherwise requires –

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

‘structure’ as any building, structure, excavation, or other thing constructed or made on, in or under any land, or part of a structure so defined, and –

(a) Where the context so admits, includes the land on, in or under which the structure is situated.

Section 3(1) defines ‘development’ as ‘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’.

The proposed development on site, comprising the installation of solar PV panels on an existing building constitutes ‘works’ and ‘development’.

Is the proposal exempted development?

The proposal for the installation of Solar PV Panels on an the roof of a community centre building will be assessed under Class 61 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Class 61

The placing or erection on a roof, or within the curtilage, or on a roof of any ancillary buildings within the curtilage, of the following buildings or sites of a solar photo-voltaic and/or solar thermal collector installation: (i) an educational building, (ii) health centre or hospital, (iii) recreational or sports facility, (iv) place of worship, (v) community facility or centre, (vi) library, (vii) sites for the provision of gas, electricity, telecommunications services or water supplies or wastewater services operated by a statutory undertaker.

The proposal includes for the installation of PV panels (18sq.m) to be placed on the southern roof plane of the rear return of the building in use as a community facility or centre.

1. Where such development is located within a solar safeguarding zone, the total aperture area of any solar photovoltaic and/or solar thermal collector panels, taken together with any other such panels previously placed on a roof, shall not exceed 300 square metres.

The site is not within a solar safeguarding zone.

2. Where such development is located within a solar safeguarding zone, the planning authority for the area shall be notified in writing no later than 4 weeks after the commencement of such development and such notification shall include details regarding the location and scale of the development.

The site is not within a solar safeguarding zone.

3. The distance between the plane of the roof and the solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector panels shall not exceed 1.2 metres in the case of a flat roof or 15cm in any other case.

It is not clear from the drawings or method statement submitted what the distance is between the plane of the roof and the solar panels

4. The solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector panels shall be a minimum of 2 metres in the case of a flat roof or 50cm in any other case from the edge of the roof on which it is mounted.

The proposed distance between the solar panels and the roof edge on the return is 20cm. The distance between the solar panels and the edge of the rear roof is above the required 50cm.

5. Any ancillary equipment associated with solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector panels shall not be placed or erected on a wall or any roof that is not a flat roof.

No any ancillary equipment associated with the photo-voltaic panels has been identified.

6. The height of any ancillary equipment associated with solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector panels on a flat roof shall not exceed 1.6 metres above roof level

It is not a flat roof.

7. Any ancillary equipment associated with solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector panels on a flat roof shall be a minimum of 2 metres from the edge of the roof on which it is mounted.

No ancillary equipment is proposed.

8. Any free-standing solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector installation shall not be placed or erected forward of the front wall of the building or site.

Panels proposed to be erected on roof plane.

N/A

9. The total aperture area of any freestanding solar photo-voltaic and solar thermal collector panels taken together with any other such existing free-standing panels shall not exceed 75 square metres.

N/A

10. The height of any free-standing solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector installation shall not exceed 2.5 metres at its highest point above ground level.

N/A

11. The placing or erection of a solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector installation on any wall shall not be exempted development.

N/A

12. The placing or erection of any freestanding solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector installation within an Architectural Conservation Area shall only be exempted development if those works would not materially affect the character of the area.

The PV panels are not free standing

13. No sign, advertisement or object not required for the functioning or safety of the solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector installation shall be attached to or exhibited on such installation.

No signs or advertisements are proposed.

14. Development under this Class shall only be exempted development where the solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector installation is primarily used for the provision of electricity or heating for use within the curtilage of the building or site, and shall not be considered a change of use for the purposes of the Act.

The applicant should be advised of this requirement.

15. Development under this Class which causes hazardous glint and/or glare shall not be exempted development and any solar photo-voltaic or solar thermal collector panels which are causing hazardous glint and/or glare shall either be removed or be covered until such time as a mitigation plan to address the hazardous glint and/or glare is agreed and implemented to the satisfaction of the Planning Authority.

Article 9 Restrictions

The building is located within an Architectural Conservation Area. Per discussions with LCCC Conservation Officer the installation of solar panels to the rear and return would materially affect the character of the protected structure.

Based on the information provided, I am not satisfied the construction of PV panels on the roof plane to be exempted development under Class 61 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of Exempted Development, Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Development to which article 6 relates shall not be exempted development for the purposes of the Act if the carrying out of such development would '*further to the provisions of section 82 of the Act, consist of or comprise the carrying out of works to the exterior of a structure, where the structure concerned is located within an architectural conservation area or an area specified as an architectural conservation area in a development plan for the area or, pending the variation of a development plan or the making of a new development plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the draft development plan and the development would materially affect the character of the area*'.

As set out above, per discussions with LCCC's Conservation Officer the proposed solar panels are considered to affect the exterior of a protected structure, which is within an ACA, therefore, the proposed development is considered restricted by xii of Article 9(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Appropriate Assessment

An AA Screening examination was carried out by Limerick City & County Council (see appendix 1). Overall it is considered that the development as proposed should not exercise a significant effect on the conservation status of any SAC or SPA as there are no source-pathway-receptors and the site does not directly encroach on any Natura 2000 European Sites. Therefore, an Appropriate Assessment is not necessary (See appendix 1 for AA Screening Form).

Environmental Impact Assessment

Based on a preliminary examination of the proposal there is no real likelihood of significant effects on the environment and EIA is not required.

Conclusion/Recommendation

The installation of PV panels to the southern elevation of the rear return roof the existing building detailed on the application and plans submitted is not considered to be within the scope of Class 61 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2000 (as amended).

Regard has been had to –

- (a) Section 2, 3 and 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)
- (b) Class 61 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)
- (c) Article 9(1)(xii) Restrictions
- (d) The plans & particulars submitted with the application received on 5th March 2025

It is therefore considered that the said works are development and not exempted development under Class 61 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 and Article 9(1)(xii) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)

Mary O'Malley

Mary O'Malley
Executive Planner
Date 31/03/2024

B. Henn

Agreed
Barry Henn, S.E.P

Date: 31/03/2025

Appendix 1- AA Screening examination

AA PN01 Screening Form

STEP 1: Description of the project/proposal and local site characteristics:	
(a) File Reference No:	EC/039/25
(b) Brief description of the project or plan:	PV panels on roof plane of Protected Structure.
(c) Brief description of site characteristics:	Brownfield suburban location within the zoned lands of Castleconnell
(d) Relevant prescribed bodies consulted: e.g. DHLGH (NPWS), EPA, OPW	None
(e) Response to consultation:	N/A

STEP 2: Identification of relevant Natura 2000 sites using Source-Pathway-Receptor model and compilation of information on Qualifying Interests and conservation objectives.				
European Site (code)	List of Qualifying Interest/Special Conservation Interest ¹	Distance from proposed development ² (km)	Connections (Source-Pathway-Receptors)	Considered further in screening Y/N
002165	Lower River Shannon SAC	85m(West)	None	No
004165	Slieve Felim to Silvermines Mountains SPA	7.5km(East)	None	No

¹ Short paraphrasing and/or cross reference to NPWS is acceptable – it is not necessary to reproduce the full text on the QI/SCI.

² if the site or part thereof is within the European site or adjacent to the European site, state here

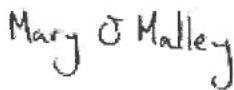
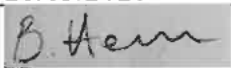
STEP 3: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	
(a) Identify all potential direct and indirect impacts that may have an effect on the conservation objectives of a European site, taking into account the size and scale of the project under the following headings:	
Impacts:	Possible Significance of Impacts: (duration/Magnitude etc)
Construction phase e.g <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vegetation clearance - Demolition - Surface water runoff from soil excavation/infill/landscaping (including borrow pits) - Dust, noise, vibration 	None. No direct encroachment or hydrological connection.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lighting disturbance - Impact on ground water/dewatering - Storage of excavated/construction materials - Access to site - Pests 	
Operation phase e.g. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Direct emission to air and water - Surface water runoff containing contaminant or sediment - Lighting disturbance - Noise/vibration - Changes to water/groundwater due to drainage or abstraction - Presence of people, vehicles and activities - Physical presence of structures (e.g. collision risk) - Potential for accidents or incidents 	None. No direct encroachment or hydrological connection.
In-combination/Other	None, given the level of development in the area. Brownfield site within a suburban area in a village setting.
(b) Describe any likely changes to the European site:	
<p>Examples of the type of changes to give consideration to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reduction or fragmentation of habitat area - Disturbance to QI species - Habitat or species fragmentation - Reduction or fragmentation in species density - Changes in key indicators of conservation status value (water or air quality etc) - Changes to areas of sensitivity or threats to QI - Interference with the key relationships that define the structure or ecological function of the site 	None. No direct encroachment or hydrological connection.
(c) (Are 'mitigation' measures necessary to reach a conclusion that likely significant effects can be ruled out at screening?)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

STEP 4: Screening Determination Statement
The assessment of significance of effects: Describe how the proposed development (alone or in-combination is/is not likely to have significant effects on European site (s) in view of its conservation objectives
Conclusion: On the basis of the information on file, which is considered adequate to undertake a screening determination and having regard to:

- the nature and scale of the development,
- the intervening urban land uses and distance from European sites,
- the lack of direct connections with regard to the Source-Pathway-Receptor model,

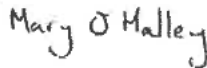
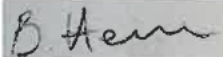
it is concluded that the proposed development, individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the above listed European site or any other European site, in view of the said site conservation objectives. An appropriate assessment is not, therefore, required.

	Tick as appropriate:	Recommendation:
(i) It is clear that there is no likelihood of significant effects on a European Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The proposal can be screened out: Appropriate Assessment not required.
(ii) It is uncertain whether the proposal will have a significant effect on a European Site	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request further information to complete screening <input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
(iii) Significant effects are likely	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Request NIS <input type="checkbox"/> Refuse planning permission
Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:	 <hr/> Mary O Malley Executive Planner 28/03/2025	
Signature and Date of the Decision Maker:	 31/03/2025	

Appendix 1- EIA Screening examination

Establishing if the proposal is a ' <i>sub-threshold development</i> ':	
Planning Register Reference:	EC/038/25
Development Summary:	Erection of PV panels on a roof
Was a Screening Determination carried out under Section 176A-C?	Yes, no further actions required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, proceed to Part A
A. Schedule 5 Part 1 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 1 , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)? (Tick as appropriate)	
Yes specify class here:	EIA is mandatory No Screening required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Proceed to Part B
B. Schedule 5 Part 2 - Does the development comprise a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 , of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and does it meet/exceed the thresholds? (Tick as appropriate)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the development is not a project listed in Schedule 5, Part 2	No Screening required
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes the project is listed in Schedule 5, Part 2 and meets/exceeds the threshold, specify class (including threshold): _[specify class & threshold here]	EIA is mandatory No Screening required

Yes the project is of a type listed but is <i>sub-threshold</i> :	Proceed to Part C
C. If Yes , has Schedule 7A information/screening report been submitted?	
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, Schedule 7A information/screening report has been submitted by the applicant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, Schedule 7A information/screening report has not been submitted by the applicant	Screening Determination required Preliminary Examination required

Signature and Date of Recommending Officer:	 <hr/> Mary O'Malley, EP 31/03/2025
Signature and Date of the Decision Maker:	 <hr/> Barry Henn, SEP 31/03/2025

APPENDIX 3 – Site Photographs



PLANNING & PLACE-MAKING

REG POST:

**ACM Shannon House,
c/o Jo O Donovan
Main Street
Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick,
V94 RT61**

EC/039/25

1st April 2025

Re: Declaration under Section 5

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above application for Section 5 Declaration on Development and Exempted Development.

Please find herewith a copy of Council's decision on same.

Yours faithfully,

**(for) Senior Planner,
Development Management**

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

APPROVED OFFICER'S ORDER

SECTION 5 – DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

No. AOO/DC/2025/319

File Ref No. EC/039/25

SUBJECT: Declaration under Section 5.
Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended
Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended

RE: **The installation of PV panels on new build rear extension of Protected Structure at Main Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, V94 RT61**

ORDER: Whereas by Director General's Order No. DG/2024/123 dated 27th November 2024, Dr. Pat Daly, Director General, Limerick City & County Council did, pursuant to the powers conferred on him by Section 154 of the Local Government Act, 2001, (as amended by the Local Government Reform Act, 2014 and the Local Government (Mayor of Limerick) and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 2024), delegate unto Barry Henn, Senior Executive Planner the functions as defined in the Local Government Acts, 1925 to 2024.

Now therefore pursuant to the delegation of the functions aforesaid, I, Barry Henn, Senior Executive Planner, having considered the report and recommendation of Mary O'Malley, Executive Planner dated 31/03/2025, hereby order that a Declaration under Section 5 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) be issued to ACM Shannon House, c/o Jo O Donovan, Main Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, V94 RT61 to state that the works as described above is

Development and is NOT Exempt Development. *ye*

Signed *B. Henn*
SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER, PLANNING & PLACE-MAKING

Date *01/04/2025*

Certified to be a true copy of Approved Officer's Order, Planning & Development Order No. AOO/DC/2025/319 dated *1/4/2025*, pursuant to Section 151(7) of the Local Government Act 2001

Signed: *B. Henn*
SENIOR EXECUTIVE PLANNER, PLANNING & PLACE-MAKING



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City
& County Council

Pleanáil, agus Cruthú Áite
Comhairle Cathrach agus Contae Luimnigh
Bothar Thuar an Daill
Tuair an Daill, Luimneach
V94 WV78

Planning and Place-Making
Limerick City and County Council
Dooradoyle Road
Dooradoyle, Limerick
V94 WV78

SECTION 5 – DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT AND EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

DECLARATION NO.

EC/039/25

Name and Address of Applicant: ACM Shannon House, Main Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick,
V94 RT61

Agent: Jo O Donovan, Main Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, V94 RT61

Whether the installation of PV panels on new build rear extension of Protected Structure at Main Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, V94 RT61 is or is not Development or is or is not Exempted Development. The works as described on the plans submitted with the application on the 5th of March 2025.

AND WHEREAS the Planning Authority has concluded that the installation of PV panels on new build rear extension of Protected Structure at Main Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, V94 RT61 **DOES NOT** come within the scope of exempted development under Class 61 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 and Article 9(1)(xii) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). See Report attached.

NOW THEREFORE the Planning Authority in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2) (a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) hereby decides that the said development as described above is **Development and is NOT Exempt Development.**

Signed on behalf of the said Council Karen Corlen

Date: 01/04/2025

NOTE: A Declaration on Development or Exemption issued by Limerick City & County Council may be referred to An Bord Pleanála on payment of €220 for review within 4 weeks after the issuing of the declaration.