

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

CHIEF EXECUTIVE ORDER

Chief Executive Order Number: 15/25
Reference Number: KA/S52496
Subject: Declaration under Part 1, Section 5, Planning and Development Act 2000-2022
Name of Applicant: Board of Management, Gilson National School
Address: C/O Mahoney Architecture
21 Denzille Lane
Dublin
D02



Nature of Application: Replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing.

Location of Development: Gilson National School, Church Street, Oldcastle, Co Meath

DECLARATION: This development is **EXEMPT** from Planning Permission.

ORDER:

Being satisfied that all requirements relating to the Application have been complied with and to consider the proper Planning and Development of the County Meath Health District, IT IS HEREBY DECIDED, in pursuance of the above Act to declare that this is **EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT**.

SIGNED: Teresa O'Reilly
On Behalf of Meath County Council
DATE: 08.01.25

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning Department

Buvinda House

Dublin Road

Navan Co Meath

046 - 9097500

Planning & Development Act 2000- 2022

DECLARATION

**To: Board of Management, Gilson National School
C/O Mahony Architecture
21 Denzille Lane
Dublin D02**



PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBER: KA/S52496

APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE: 03/12/2024

FURTHER INFORMATION DATE: N/A

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by the Planning and Development Act 2000-2022, Meath County Council has by order dated 08.01.25 decided to Declare the proposed development is EXEMPT, in accordance with the documents submitted namely:

Replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing at Gilson National School, Church Street, Oldcastle, Co Meath is development and is EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT.

Date: 08.01.25

On Behalf of Meath County Council

NOTE:

1. Any appeal against a Declaration of a Planning Authority under Section 5, sub-section 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2022 may be made to An Bord Pleanala by the applicant WITHIN FOUR WEEKS beginning on the date of issue of the Declaration.
2. Appeals should be addressed to An Bord Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. An appeal by the applicant should be accompanied by this form. The fee for an appeal against a Declaration of the Planning Authority is € 220.

For more information on Appeals you can contact An Bord Pleanala at:

Tel: 01 - 8588100 or LoCall: 1890 275 175

Fax: 01 - 8722684

E-mail: bord@pleanala.ie Web: www.pleanala.ie

Meath County Council



Planning Report

To:	Teresa O'Reilly, Senior Executive Planner
From:	Donal Farrelly, Executive Planner
Report Date:	16/12/24
File Number:	KAS52496
Applicant Name(s):	Board of Management, Gilson National School
Development Address:	Church Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath
Inspection Date:	N/a
Application Type:	Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended): Declaration on Development/Exempted Development
Development Description:	Replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing
Decision Due Date:	09/01/25

1.0 Site Location & Description

- 1.1 The application site is located Church Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath. The site is zoned 'G1 Community Infrastructure' in the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. The surrounding area is characterised by a mixture of commercial, community, and residential uses.
-



2.0 Proposed Declaration

- 2.1 The applicant describes the development in the completed application form as “replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing”. The Planning Authority is considering this question as:

Whether the replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing, is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

- 2.2 The completed application form states that no works are proposed to the Protected Structure (1826 building), with the 1977 building (subject to the works) mainly located outside the Oldcastle ACA. A small element of the front of the 1977 building extends into the ACA, however works to this part of the building include cavity wall insulation and not external insulation wrap. The works to the remainder of the building include external insulation wrap, replacement of existing windows, and render finish to match the existing building.

3.0 Planning History

3.1 History on site:

KA110406. Construct domestic garage/store and ancillary site works (within the curtilage of a protected structure MH 009-247 Laurence Gilson Centre). Significance further information/revised plans submitted on this application. granted

KA100927. Erection of a bronze statue group and stone plinth, re-siting of existing memorial stones and flagpoles, enlargement of parking area and ancillary works in the grounds to the south elevation. This application relates to a protected structure. Significant further information/revised plans submitted on this application. Granted

992100. To erect toilets, small store, exit & wheel chair access at rear of Gilson Old School.

4.0 Internal/Referrals

4.1 N/a

5.0 Relevant Legislation

In order to assess whether or not the structure described in para. 2.2 is or is not development or is or is not exempted development regard must be had to the following legislation:

5.1 **Section 2 of the Planning & Development Act (PDA) 2000 (as amended)**

“development” has the meaning assigned to it by section 3, and “develop” shall be construed accordingly;

“exempted development” has the meaning specified in section 4;

“structure” means inter alia any building, structure, excavation, or other thing constructed or made on, in or under any land, or any part of a structure so defined, and where the context so admits, includes the land on, in or under which the structure is situate;

“unauthorised development” means, in relation to land, the carrying out of any unauthorised works (including the construction, erection or making of any unauthorised structure) or the making of any unauthorised use;

“unauthorised works” means any works on, in, over or under land commenced on or after 1st October 1964, being development other than—

- (a) exempted development (within the meaning of section 4 of the Act of 1963 or section 4 PDA), or
 - (b) development which is the subject of a permission granted under Part IV of the Act of 1963 [or under section 34, 37G or 37N PDA], being a permission which has not been revoked, and which is carried out in compliance with that permission or any condition to which that permission is subject; and
-

“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.

5.2 Section 3 of the Planning & Development Act (PDA) 2000 (as amended)

Section 3(1) PDA 2000 defines “development” as follows:

“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”.

5.3 Section 4 of the Planning & Development Act (PDA) 2000 (as amended)

Section 4(1)(h) allows for works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure **or which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure** so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures to be classed as exempted development.

The proposal is deemed to satisfy this clause.

Section 4(2) provides for the making of regulations relating to exempted development. The Planning & Development Regulations (PDR) 2001 (as amended) give effect to section 4(2).

5.4 Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act (PDA) 2000 (as amended)

Section 5 PDA 2000 provides *inter alia*:

- (1) If any question arises as to what, in any particular case, is or is not development or is or is not exempted development within the meaning of this Act, any person may, on payment of the prescribed fee, request in writing from the relevant planning authority a declaration on that question, and that person shall provide to the planning authority any information necessary to enable the authority to make its decision on the matter.
 - (2) (a) Subject to *paragraph (b)*, a planning authority shall issue the declaration on the question that has arisen and the main reasons and considerations on which its decision is based to the person who made the request under *subsection (1)*, and, where appropriate, the owner and occupier of the land in question, within 4 weeks of the receipt of the request.
(b) A planning authority may require any person who made a request under *subsection (1)* to submit further information with regard to the request in order to enable the authority to issue the declaration on the question and, where further information is received under this paragraph, the planning authority shall issue the declaration within 3 weeks of the date of the receipt of the further information.
-

(c) A planning authority may also request persons in addition to those referred to in *paragraph (b)* to submit information in order to enable the authority to issue the declaration on the question.

5.5 Section 32 of the Planning & Development Act (PDA) 2000 (as amended)

Section 32 PDA 2000 sets out a general obligation to obtain planning permission in respect of any development of land, not being exempted development, and in the case of development which is unauthorised, for the retention of that unauthorised development.

5.6 Article 6 of the Planning & Development Regulations (PDR) 2001 (as amended)

Article 6 PDR 2001 provides (subject to the restrictions in article 9 PDR 2001-2024) for the classes of exempted development under column 1 of Parts 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 2, subject, where applicable, to the conditions and limitations imposed upon such classes as set out in column 2.

5.7 Article 9 of the Planning & Development Regulations (PDR) 2001 (as amended)

Article 9 PDR imposes specific restrictions on development of classes specified in Parts 1, 2 and 3 of Schedule 2 and in effect de-exempts certain classes of development that would be exempt under normal circumstances.

6.0 Assessment

The question has arisen as to whether the replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing is or is not development and is or is not exempted development. In this regard it is necessary to consider the question of “development” and “exempted development” as provided for in statute and summarised above.

6.1 “Development”

I consider that the replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing outlined in para. 2.2 falls within the statutory interpretation of works and therefore within the section 3(1) PDA 2000 definition of development.

6.2 “Exempted Development”

I consider that the replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing meets the conditions and limitations under Section 4(1)(h) of the PDA and is exempted development under article 6(1) PDR for the purposes of the PDA and is not restricted by virtue of article 9.

7.0 Appropriate Assessment

- 7.1 Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (as amended) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ('the Habitats Directive') requires that any plan or project that is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 site concerned but is likely to have a significant effect on it, on its own or in combination with other plans and projects, is to be authorised only if it will not adversely affect the integrity of that site. The site is c7.5km south west of the nearest Natura site, River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (SiteCode: IE002299) which is part of the Natura Network. The applicant has not submitted an AA Screening Report in respect of the possible impacts ecological impacts of the proposal on the nearest Natura site(s).
- 7.2 The Planning Authority's Screening for Appropriate Assessment has considered the potential effects including direct, indirect and in-combination effects of the proposed development, individually or in combination with the permitted developments and cumulatively with other plans or projects on European Sites. There is no obvious hydrological/S-P-R linkage between the development site and the Natura Network and the site is located within a fully serviced urban environment. The Planning Authority therefore concludes that the proposed development (entire project), by itself or in combination with other plans and developments in the vicinity, would not be likely to have a significant effect on European Site(s). In light of this, it is considered that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement) is not required in this instance.

8.0 Environmental Impact Assessment/ Flood Risk

- 8.1 The development does not fall within the categories of Schedule 5 as set out in the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024 or require a sub-threshold EIA under Schedule 7.
- 8.2 The location of the development is in a Flood Zone C with low risk of flooding.

9.0 Conclusion & Recommendation

- 9.1 **I conclude** that the replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing at Gilson National School, Church Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath is development and is exempted development.
- 9.2 **I recommended** that the application for an exempted development certificate is **GRANTED** for the following reason:

WHEREAS the question has arisen as to whether the replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing at Gilson National School, Church Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath is or is not development and is or is not exempted development.

AND WHEREAS the said question was referred to Meath County Council by the applicant, The Board of Management, Gilson National School.

AND WHEREAS Meath County Council, in considering this reference, had particular regard to:

- (a) Sections 2, 3, 4, 5 and 32 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended) and articles 6 and 9 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- (b) The definition of "development" in section 3 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended); and
- (c) The provisions under Section 4(1)(h) of the PDA 2000 (as amended).

AND WHEREAS Meath County Council has concluded that:

- (a) The replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing at Gilson National School, Church Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath comprises works and is development under section 3(1) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended); and
- (b) The replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing at Gilson National School, Church Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath is exempted development under the provisions of Section 4(1)(h) of the PDA 2000 (as amended).

NOW THEREFORE Meath County Council 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 replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing at Gilson National School, Church Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath is development and is **exempted development**.

Donal Farrelly

Donal Farrelly
Executive Planner
Date: 16/12/24

<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION ACCEPTED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">8 JAN 2025 <i>Teresa O'Reilly</i></p> <p>Signed: _____</p>

Teresa O' Reilly
Senior Executive Planner
07/01/2025

GRANT

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

Roimn Pleanáil,
Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath,
An Uainh, Contae na Mí, C15 Y291
Fón: 046 – 9097500/Fax: 046 – 9097001
R-phost: planning@meathcoco.ie
Web: www.meath.ie



Meath County Council

Planning Department
Buvinda House, Dublin Road,
Navan, Co. Meath, C15 Y291
Tel: 046 – 9097500/Fax: 046 – 9097001
E-mail: planning@meathcoco.ie
Web: www.meath.ie

APPLICATION FORM – DECLARATION ON DEVELOPMENT & EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT

Part 1 Section 5 of Planning and Development Act 2000-2021, as amended

1. Name: _____ Board of Management , Gilson National School

Contact details: to be supplied at the end of this form (Question 13)

2. Name of person/ agent acting on behalf of the applicant, if applicable

_____ Mahoney Architecture _____

Contact details: to be supplied at the end of this form (Question 14)

3. Location of Development and/or Subject Site: _____ Gilson National School , Church Street, Oldcastle , Co. Meath _____

4. Description of Development: _____ Replacement of existing windows and application of external insulation with render finish to match existing. _____

5. Will the development take place within the curtilage of a dwelling house?

Please tick as appropriate: YES _____ NO

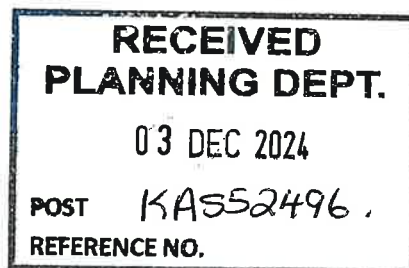
6. Will / does development take place in / on a Protected Structure or within the curtilage of a Protected Structure?

Please tick as appropriate: YES NO _____

6(b) If "YES", has a Declaration under Section 57 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 – 2014, as amended, been requested or issued for the property by the Planning Authority?

Please tick as appropriate: YES _____ NO

7. State overall height of structure if applicable: _____ Existing structure is 4.6m high



8. State in square metres the floor area of the proposed development:

Zero

9. List of plans / drawings etc. submitted: OS Map 1:2,500 , Site Layout Map 1:500 , Floor Plan 1: 200, Elevations (existing and proposed) 1:200

10. Please state applicants interest in this site Owner

If applicant is not the owner of site, please provide name & address of owner:

11. Are you aware of any enforcement proceedings connected to this site?

Please tick as appropriate: YES NO

11 (b), If "YES" please supply details:

12. Are you aware of any previous planning application/s on this site?

Please tick as appropriate: YES NO

12 (b), If "YES" please supply details:

KA110540 single storey extension comprising 1 No. classroom and 4 No. resource rooms to rear of existing national school - granted 25.07.2011

SIGNED:

Pamela Mahony

DATE:

3/12/2024

NOTES

1. Application Fee of €80

2. Application shall be accompanied by:

- 2 copies of site location map to scale 1:2500 clearly showing the site outlined in red and the extent of the site boundaries, the position of existing structures, etc., and the proposed work.
- 2 drawings to scale (1:200) of the proposed development (including floor plan and elevations), if appropriate.
- Two site layout plans to scale 1:500 if appropriate. Please submit 2 copies of any additional plans/reports etc. you may wish to include as part of the application.

Comhairle Chontae na Mí

*Roimn Pleanáil,
Teach Buvinda, Bóthar Átha Cliath,
An Uaimh, Contae na Mí, C15 Y291
Fón: 046 – 9097500/Fax: 046 – 9097001
R-phost: planning@meathcoco.ie
Web: www.meath.ie*



Meath County Council

*Planning Department
Buvinda House, Dublin Road,
Navan, Co. Meath, C15 Y291
Tel: 046 – 9097500/Fax: 046 – 9097001
E-mail: planning@meathcoco.ie
Web: www.meath.ie*

Application shall be forwarded to: Meath County Council, Planning Department, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath.

Contact Details: Phone: 046 9097500 Fax: 046 9097001

Email: planning@meathcoco.ie

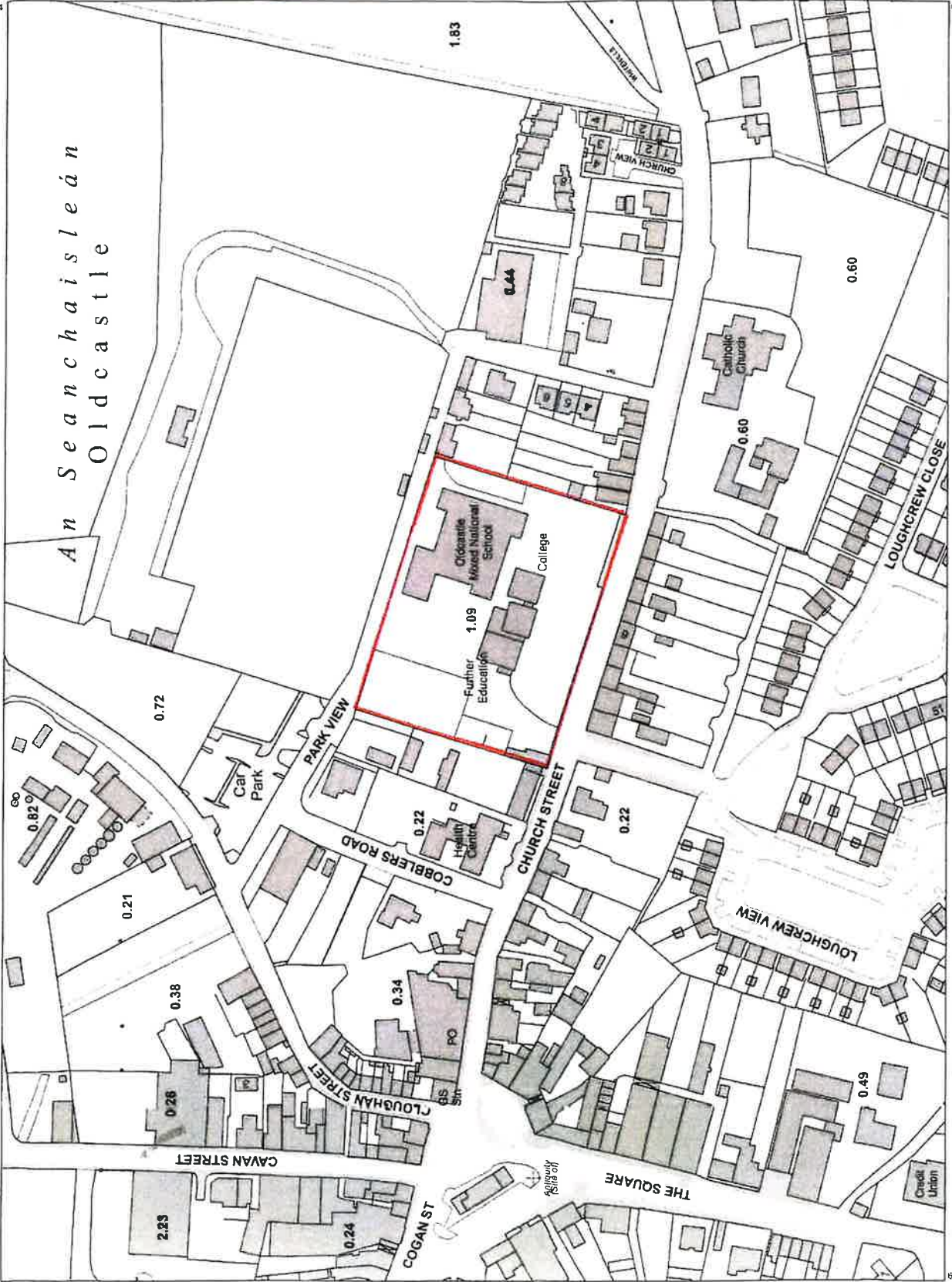
OSI PLACE Map



Tailte
Éireann

760494

655744



760494

655744

655161

655161



LEGEND:
To view the legend visit
www.tailte.ie and search for

CAPTURE RESOLUTION:
The map objects are only accurate to the
resolution at which they were captured.

OUTPUT SCALE: 1:2,500



RECEIVED
PLANNING DEPT.
03 DEC 2024
POST KAS52496
POWER GENERATED BY:
Tailte Éireann

CENTRE COORDINATES:
ITM 655453,780279
PUBLISHED: 03/12/2024
ORDER NO.: 50437469_1
MAP SERIES: MAP SHEETS:
1:2,500 2479.D

Phoenix Park,
Dublin 8,
Ireland.
D08F6E4

www.tailte.ie

Any unauthorised reproduction
infringes Tailte Éireann copyright.
No part of this publication may
be copied, reproduced or transmitted
in any form or by any means without
the prior written permission of the
copyright owner.
The representation on this map
of a road, track or footpath
is not evidence of the existence
of a right of way.
This topographic map
does not show
legal property boundaries,
nor does it show
ownership of physical features.

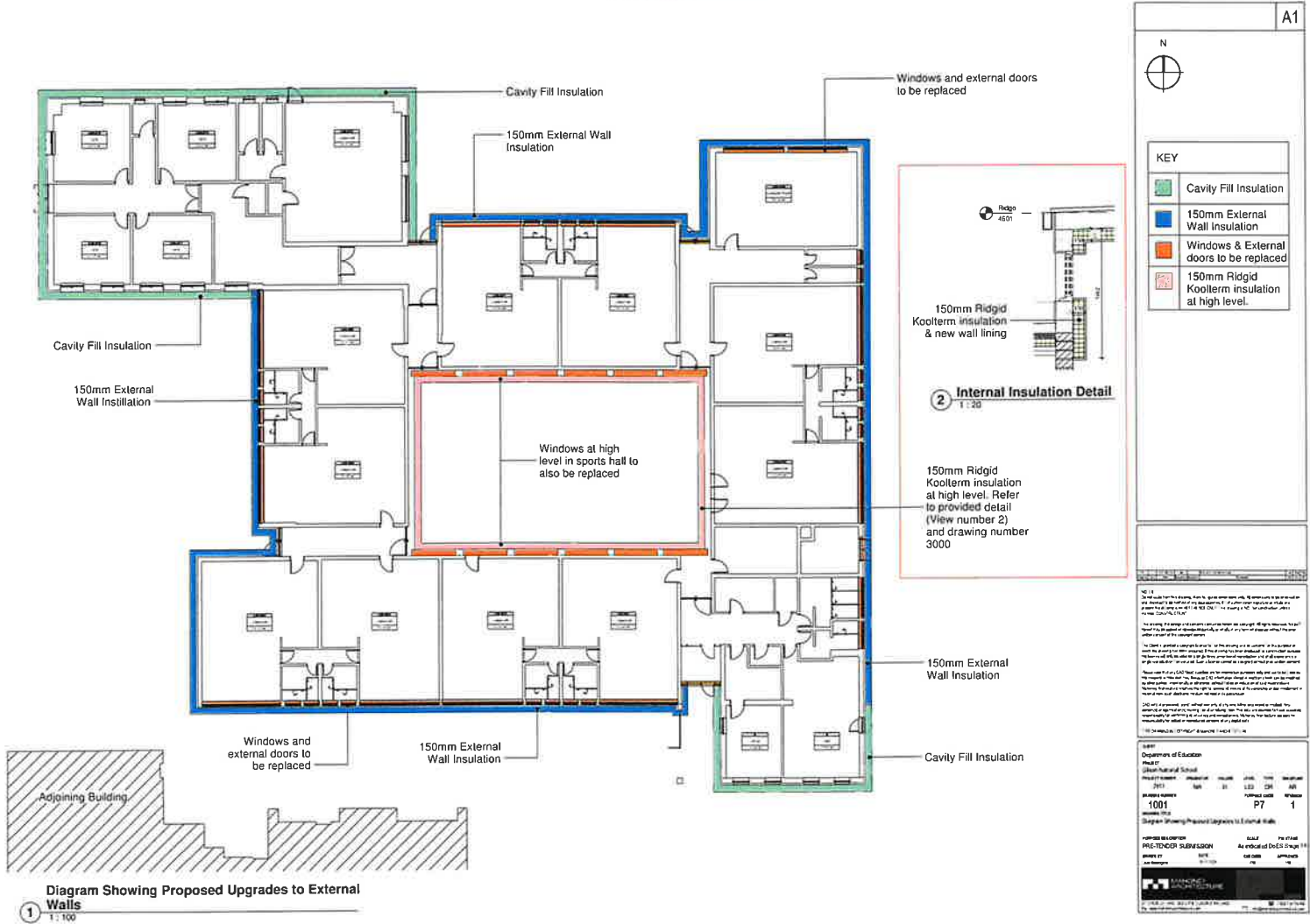
©Tailte Éireann, 2024.
All rights reserved.

**RECEIVED
PLANNING DEPT.**

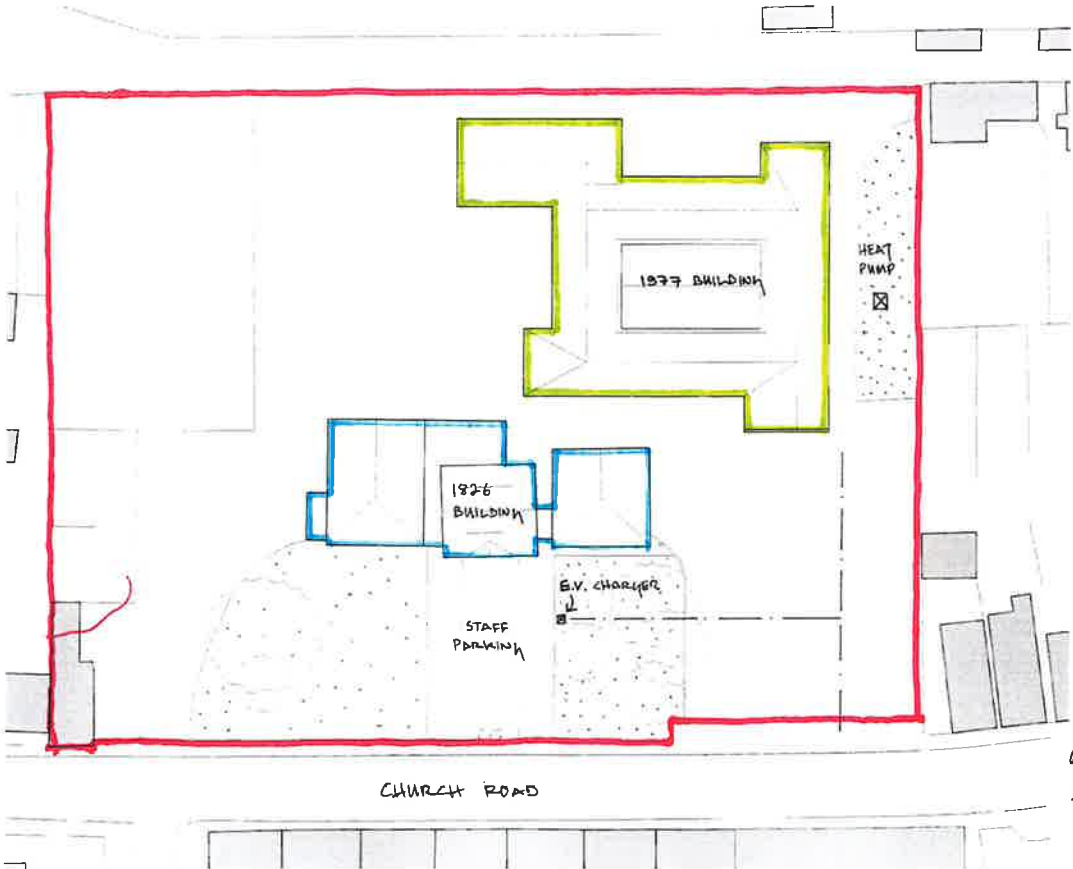
03 DEC 2024

POST **KASS2496**

REFERENCE NO.



**RECEIVED
PLANNING DEPT.**
03 DEC 2024
POST KAS52496
REFERENCE NO.



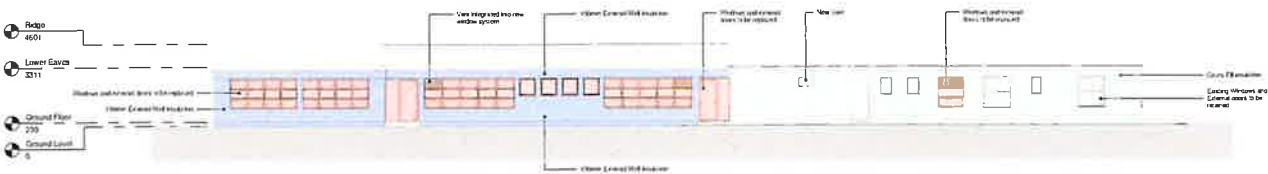
GILSON NATIONAL SCHOOL
SITE LAYOUT MAP
SCALE 1:500 @ A3



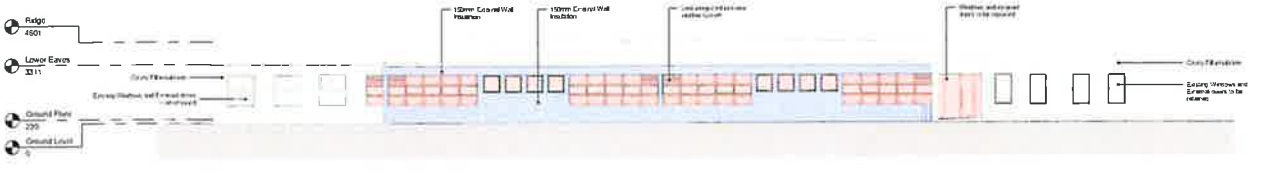
**RECEIVED
PLANNING DEPT.**

03 DEC 2024

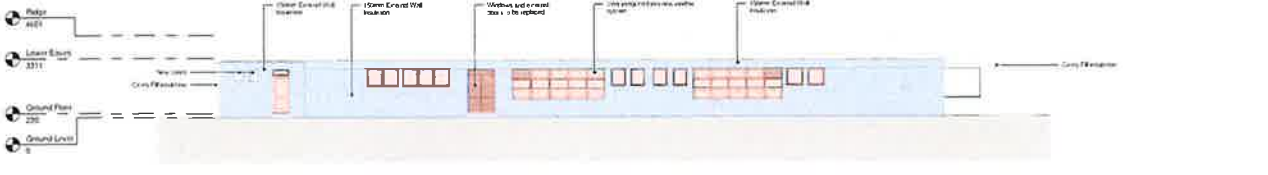
POST KAS52496
REFERENCE NO.



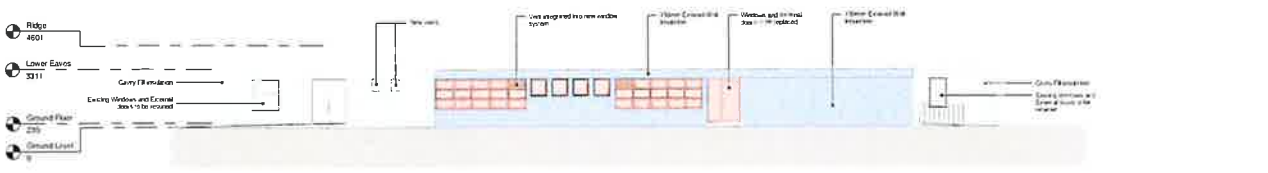
1 North Elevation - Proposed Works
1:100



2 South Elevation - Proposed Works
1:100



3 East Elevation - Proposed Works
1:100



4 West Elevation - Proposed Works
1:100

A1																								
<p>KEY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavity Fill Insulation 150mm External Insulation Windows & External doors to be replaced 																								
<p>NOTES</p> <p>1. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with the approved drawings of the proposed works and the Planning Department's 'Guidelines for the Submission of Planning Applications'.</p> <p>2. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>3. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>4. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>5. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>6. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>7. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>8. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>9. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p> <p>10. The proposed works are subject to the approval of the Planning Department and the relevant statutory authorities.</p>																								
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td colspan="2">Department of Education</td> <td colspan="2">Project</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Client Name</td> <td>Address</td> <td>Unit</td> <td>Phase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2000</td> <td></td> <td>P7</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Proposed Works to Be Retained</td> <td colspan="2"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Author</td> <td>Check</td> <td>Drawn</td> <td>Approved</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Department of Education		Project		Client Name	Address	Unit	Phase	2000		P7	1	Proposed Works to Be Retained				Author	Check	Drawn	Approved				
Department of Education		Project																						
Client Name	Address	Unit	Phase																					
2000		P7	1																					
Proposed Works to Be Retained																								
Author	Check	Drawn	Approved																					

Gilson National School

Architectural Heritage Assessment for Works proposed
as part of the RePower Extended Pathfinder Programme

3rd December 2024

03 DEC 2024

POST KAS52496
REFERENCE NO.

CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Protection Status
- 1.2 Meath County Council Development Plan Zoning
- 1.3 Purpose of Report

2.0 Summary Description and History

- 2.1 Setting
- 2.2 History

3.0 Architectural & Social Heritage Significance

- 3.1 Architectural and Artistic Interest
- 3.2 Social & Historic Interest
- 3.3 Archaeological Interest

4.0 Conservation Methodology

- 4.1 Conservation Principles
- 4.2 Conservation Philosophy
- 4.3 Building Materials
- 4.4 Structural Interventions

5.0 Description of the Building

- 5.1 General

6.0 Impact of Proposed Alterations

- 6.1 External render and replacement of windows and doors, 1977 building.
- 6.2 EV charger and heat pump.

7.0 Conservation Methodology

- 7.1 General

8.0 Photographic Record

1.0 INTRODUCTION



Mahoney Architecture have been commissioned by the Department of Education to prepare an Architectural Heritage Report relating to works within the curtilage of a Protected Structure at Gilson National School.

The site is located at Church Street, Oldcastle, Co. Meath..

The subject site was inspected on 21.10.2024 by Paschal Mahoney of Mahoney Architecture, who has prepared this report. Mahoney Architecture are an RIAI Grade II conservation practice.

This report is based on this inspection and available historical record.

The report has been prepared in accordance with the DoEHLG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities. This report should be read in conjunction with Mahoney Architecture drawings and photographic record.

The proposed works relate to upgrades to non-historic buildings and no works are proposed to the historic structures.



1.1 Protection Status

Protected Structure:

The property is a Protected Structure, recorded in the Meath County Council Development Plan 2021-2027, Record of Protected Structures – RPS number 90300.

The listing is described as a ' detached five-bay two-storey over raised basement Palladian style school, built 1826, with links and wings to east and west, including gates and piers. .

It is recorded on the National Inventory Architectural Heritage -NIAH – reference no.14306041 as follows

Description

Detached five-bay two-storey over raised basement Palladian style school, built 1826, with links and wings to east and west. Three-bay pedimented breakfront, with projecting porch having carved detailing, approached by stone steps and railings. Ashlar limestone to front façade, with string courses and quoins. Hipped tile roofs with ashlar chimneys and moulded eaves cornice. Segmental-arched openings to basement, round-headed openings to entrance level, and square-headed openings to first floor. Tripartite segmental-arched windows and round-headed door openings with petal fanlights to links and wings. Site is enclosed at rear by rubble boundary wall.

Appraisal

This distinctly architectural purpose-built school, designed by C. R. Cockerell in the early nineteenth century, is one of the finest buildings in Oldcastle. The Palladian formula of a large central house with lower links and wings are expressed in crisp grey limestone ashlar. Quality craftsmanship is clearly apparent in the finish and dressing of the stonework.



1.2 DEVELOPMENT PLAN ZONING

The site is zoned G1, Community Infrastructure.

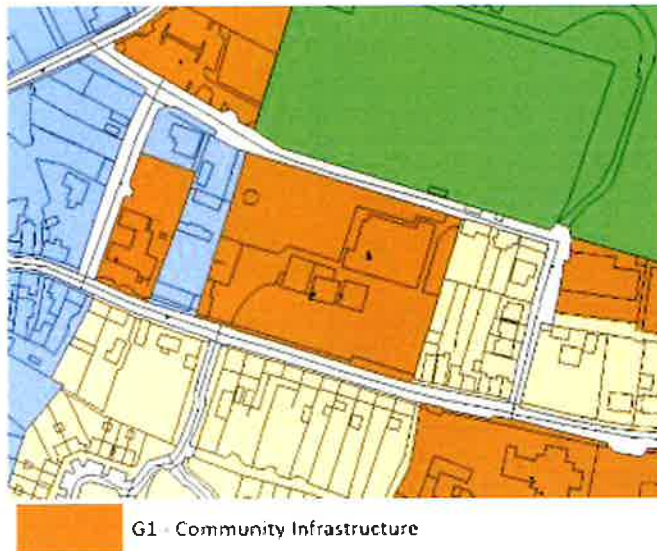


Figure 1 Meath County Council Development Plan Map 2021-2027

1.3 Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to outline how the proposed works have no impact on the Protected Structure, are minimal in nature and should be deemed exempt from the requirement for Planning Permission.

Proposed Works:

The proposed works are limited to

1. Fabric upgrade works to the standalone 1977 school building
2. Provision of a free-standing EV charger in the existing parking area.
3. Provision of an external heat pump unit

The works are being carried out as part of the Power EU Schools Energy Pathfinder Programme – 2024/25. This programme is a critical part the EU’s plan to rapidly reduce dependence on Russian fossil fuels, to boost the independence and security of the Union’s energy supply and accelerate the green transition. The schools (primary, post primary and special schools) Energy pathfinder Programme aims to deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation works to existing schools, to achieve a Building Energy Rating (BER) of at least B1 and a 50% saving in primary energy.

2. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY

2.1 Setting

The site is located on Church Street , Oldcastle, Co. Meath.

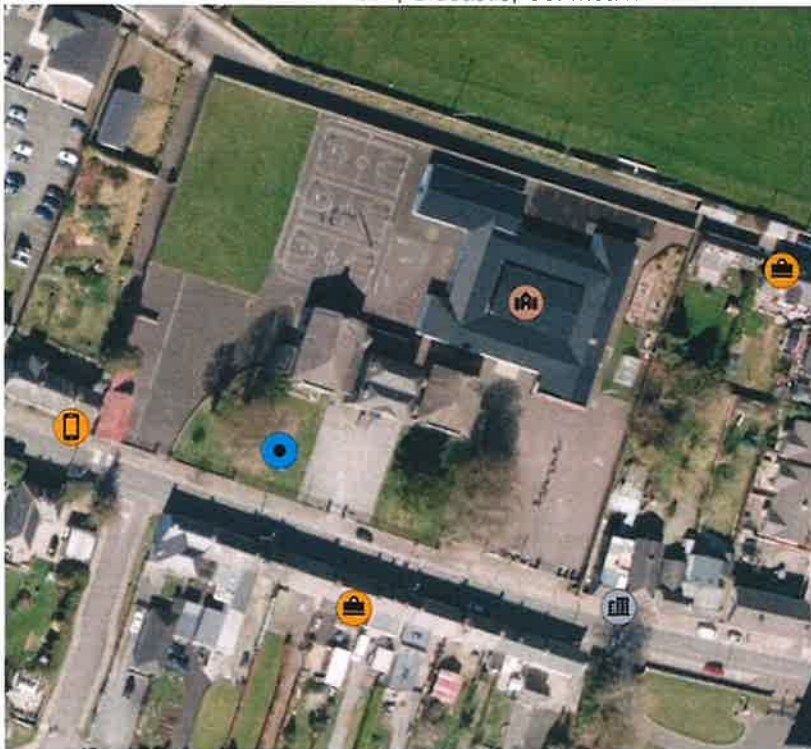


Figure 2 Aerial view, Church Street , Oldcastle, Co. Meath .

2.2 History

Gilson National School derives its name from Laurence Gilson, a native of Oldcastle, who having amassed a fortune in England in the late 19th century, bequeathed his money for the education of the children of the parish of Oldcastle. He died on Valentine's Day in 1810, leaving £25,400 for the erection of a school, which was completed in 1832.

The Gilson Secondary School was amalgamated with the local VEC School in 1969 and the present National School, built in 1977, replaced the old Gilson boys', girls' and infant schools.

3. ARCHITECTURAL, ARTISTIC, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

3.1 Architectural & Artistic Interest

This distinctly architectural purpose-built school, designed by C. R. Cockerell in the early nineteenth century, is one of the finest buildings in Oldcastle. The building follows the Palladian composition of a large central element with wings to each side which are expressed in finely crafted grey limestone ashlar.

The 1977 building is a standalone structure and does not connect or interfere with the historic structures. The 1977 building has no significant architectural features.

3.2 Social and Historical Interest

The building is of historic and social interest due to its continued use as a school from 1826 onwards. Whilst the original building no longer functions as a school, the grounds remain in school usage with all school accommodation contained in the 1977 building.

3.4 Archaeological Interest

No excavation or below ground works proposed as part of this development.

4.0 CONSERVATION METHODOLOGY

4.1 Conservation Principles

All works to the building to be carried out in accordance with best conservation practice, as defined by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) in the Venice Charter of 1964, and in subsequent Charters. The following basic principles will be adhered to at all times.

- Conservation work to be based on an understanding of the building and its historical development. The primary aim to be to retain and recover the significance of the building.
- Alterations to be carried out in accordance with the principles of 'minimum intervention'.
- Repairs to original fabric to be favoured over replacement. Where replacement of an original element is unavoidable, this is to be historically accurate in form and materials.
- Where lost elements must be reconstructed, these are to aim for historic authenticity and avoid conjecture.
- Modern interventions to be reversible and where appropriate visually identifiable. New work to be recorded.
- Works to be carried out by suitably skilled craftspeople with proven expertise in their trade working with historic buildings.

4.2 Conservation Philosophy

The proposed works are isolated from the historic structures and will have no negative impact on the existing fabric or ancillary elements.

4.3 Building Materials

The proposed works are isolated from the historic structures and will have no negative impact on the existing historic building materials.

4.4 Structural Interventions

There will be no structural alterations or interventions to the existing building fabric.

5.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE WORKS

5.1 General

The original school sits centrally within the site and retains much of the original structure. Some of the rear portion of the original wings has been removed in the past.



The 1977 single storey school was constructed to the rear (western) side of the 1826 school. The 1977 school was extended in 2008.

The attached maps (and below) identify the various buildings and site features.



The 1977 building is outlined in green below, with the 1826 building outlined in blue.

All works proposed under the **Schools Energy Pathfinder Programme** are limited to the upgrading of the **1977 building**.

These are

1. The application of new external insulation with a render finish to match the current finish and colour.
2. The replacement of existing windows and external doors.
3. The provision an EV charger
4. The provision of an external heat pump unit.

6.0 IMPACT OF PROPOSED ALTERATIONS

This application relates to works to the 1977 building only and will have no impact on the 1826 building or other historic elements such as railings, boundary wall, landscaping etc.

6.1 External render and replacement of windows and doors, 1977 building.

Justification:

The works are necessary to **deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation to existing schools, to achieve a Building Energy Rating (BER) of at least B1 and a 50% saving in primary energy.**

Impact:

The works will have no impact on the historic fabric or significance of the structures.

6.2 EV charger and heat pump.

Justification:

The works are necessary in order to **deliver energy efficiency and decarbonisation to existing schools, to achieve a Building Energy Rating (BER) of at least B1 and a 50% saving in primary energy.**

Impact:

The works will have no impact on the historic fabric or significance of the structures. These works are entirely reversible. Trenching for services will be routed to avoid any impact on existing walls, railings and tree roots.

7.0 CONSERVATION METHOD STATEMENT

7.1 General Conservation Best Practice

Reference to 'Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht (formerly Dept of Environment Heritage and Local Government), Advise Series which provide detailed guidance to conservation best practice in the relevant area.

Not applicable to works proposed

8.0 PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORD



View of east wing elevation 1826 building with 1977 building to right.



View of existing car park to front of 1826 building – proposed location of EV charger located approximately behind red car.



View of entrance to the 1977 building with east wing of 1826 building to left.



View of site from west on Church Road (1977 building visible behind).



View of south faced of 1977 building to left and rear of 1826 building to right.



View of south façade 1977 building (entrance) with east wing of 1826 to left behind tree.