



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2018

Planning Authority: Roscommon County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: PD/18/320

Appeal by Michael Murray of Ballindall, Roscommon, County Roscommon against the decision made on the 22nd day of August, 2018 by Roscommon County Council to grant subject to conditions a permission to EirGrid Public Limited Company care of Tobin Consulting Engineers Limited of Block 10-4, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin in accordance with plans and particulars lodged with the said Council:

Proposed Development: Development at the existing Cloon to Lanesboro 110 kV Overhead Line which is approximately 65 kilometres long. Approximately 37 kilometres of the existing circuit is located within the functional area of Galway County Council with approximately 27 kilometres located in County Roscommon and approximately 120 metres located in County Longford. The refurbishment of the existing circuit within County Roscommon will be undertaken between structure IMP221 in the townland of Aghagower, south-east of Creggs village (County Galway) and structure IMP364 in the townland of Ballyleague. Within County Roscommon, the existing circuit extends across the townlands of Aghagower, Creemully and Aghagad Beg, Muff, Ballinlig (Baile an Loig) (ED Fuerty), Cooly (Cúil Aodha),

Lissaneaville (Lios an Neibhíligh), Lissacarrow (Lios na Leathcheathrú), Brackloon (Breac-chluain), Rathbrenan, Ballybride, Carrownabrickna, Ballindall, Bohergarve, Lisnacroggy or Gallowstown, Ranelagh, Barnhill, Roxborough, Cartron (Coote), Ballynacullia, Derryconny, Cartron (Brett), Carrowbaun, Tonlegee (Tóin le Gaoith) (ED Kiltteevan), Carrowcrin, Cloontimullan, Coolshaghtena, Clooncashel More, Anrittabeg, Cloonaddra, Moher, Ballyclare, Gortgallan and Ballyleague. The refurbishment of the existing circuit within County Galway will be undertaken between structure EM1 at Cloon Substation, south of Tuam, County Galway, and structure AM220, south-east of Creggs village near the administrative border between Counties Galway and Roscommon. Within County Galway, the existing circuit extends across the townlands of Cloonascragh, Barnacurragh, Carrowmoneen, Ballymoat, Coolpark (Gort na Sceiche), Monumentpark (Páirc an Leachta), Cartronroe, Hillswood East, Ballaghalode, Curraghreen (Ballymoe By), Corralea, Levally West, Ginnaun, Lewvally East, Meelickmore, Cloonagh (Ballymoe By), Clonkeen Eighter, Kead (An Céad), Ballinphuill (Baile an Phoill) (ED Scregg), Derrinlough (Doire an Locha), Cloonkeenleananode (Cluain Caoin Léana an Fhóid), Scregg West (An Screig Thiar), Scregg East (An Screig Thoir), High Street (An tSráid Mhór), Acres (Na hAcraí) (Tiaquin By), Marganure (Margadh an Iúir, Ballaghduff (An Bealach Dubh), Rockfield East, Newcastle (An Caisleán Nua) (ED Curraghmore), Curragh More, Newforest (An Fhorois Nua), Derrooghs, Derrynabrin, Cloonshhivna (Kelly), Boggauns (Ballymoe By), Camderry, Boleythomas, Tallavnamraher, Ballynahowna (Ballymoe By), Gorteenfadda, Cuilnacappy Park (Ballymoe By) and Creggauns (Ballymoe By). The refurbishment works within County Longford will be undertaken at structure EM365, located within the Lanesboro Substation in the townland of Aghamore (Rathcline By). The development will consist of the refurbishment of the Cloon - Lanesboro 110 kV Overhead Line which will primarily include: replacement of a large proportion of existing structures, the breaking out and reconstruction of the concrete foundation and shear blocks at the majority of end/angle mast structures, painting of mast structures, replacement of insulators, crossarms, stays and/or

fittings on existing structures; and the fitting of bird flight diverters and stay guards. No additional structures are proposed along the existing circuit. Any replacement structures will be constructed at, or immediately adjacent to the existing structures they will replace, and will be of a generally similar height and appearance. Associated site development works to gain access to the existing structures include clearance of vegetation, disassembly and reassembly of stone walls and gate posts and removal and reinstatement of existing fencing. The proposed development includes all other associated and ancillary site development works required for the refurbishment of the existing circuit including the installation of temporary silt traps, silt fences, bog mats and clear span bridges. No additional structures and no alteration to the nature, extent, alignment, character or voltage of the existing electricity infrastructure is proposed. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) forms part of this application, all at Ballyleague, County Roscommon

Decision

GRANT permission for the above proposed development in accordance with the said plans and particulars based on the reasons and considerations under and subject to the conditions set out below.

Matters Considered

In making its decision, the Board had regard to those matters to which, by virtue of the Planning and Development Acts and Regulations made thereunder, it was required to have regard. Such matters included any submissions and observations received by it in accordance with statutory provisions.

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to:

- (a) the nature of the proposed development which comprises the refurbishment of an existing 110kv overhead electricity line,
- (b) national policy with regard to the development of sustainable energy sources, and energy infrastructure including the transmission system,
- (c) Ireland's Grid Development Strategy published by EirGrid in 2017,
- (d) the provisions of the Roscommon County Development Plan 2014-2020,
- (e) the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report and other application documents, and
- (f) the Natura Impact Statement,

it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not give rise to significant adverse impacts on the environment including the landscape and visual amenities of the area, its architectural and archaeological heritage and its natural heritage, would be acceptable in terms of human health and safety and in terms of traffic safety and convenience of road users and would not seriously injure the amenities of the area. The proposed development would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Appropriate Assessment

The applicant submitted a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) which considers the likely or possible significant effects of the entire project on European sites across three county boundaries comprising Galway, Roscommon and Longford, on European sites. The applicant's screening for appropriate assessment considered eleven European sites, and concluded that potential significant impacts on Camderry Bog Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002347) could not be ruled out and accordingly this site was brought forward for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and a NIS. This site is located in County Galway and has been assessed by Galway County Council which issued a decision to grant permission (planning register reference number 18/896) for that part of the development within its administrative boundaries.

Stage 1 Screening

In completing the screening for Appropriate Assessment for the proposed development, the Board accepted and adopted the screening assessment and conclusions carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the identification of the European sites which would potentially be affected, and the identification and assessment of the potential likely significant effects of the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, on these European sites in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives. The Cloon to Lanesboro 110kv Line passes through two European sites within County Roscommon comprising Corbo Bog Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002349) and River Suck Callows Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004097) and oversails the Lough Ree Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004064) and Lough Ree Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000440). The Board was satisfied that the proposed development, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be

likely to have a significant effect on European Sites Corbo Bog Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002349), River Suck Callows Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004097), Lough Ree Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004064) and Lough Ree Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000440) or any other European site, in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives.

Conditions

1. (a) The development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the plans and particulars lodged with the application except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions. Where such conditions require details to be agreed with the planning authority, the developer shall agree such details with the planning authority prior to commencement of development and the development shall be carried out and completed in accordance with the agreed particulars.
- (b) All environmental mitigation measures set out in the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report shall be implemented in full, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the following conditions.

Reason: In the interests of clarity and environmental protection.

2. (a) A suitably qualified and experienced person with expertise in ecology shall prepare a Construction Management Plan (including further survey work and setting out timescale for construction) shall be submitted to, and agreed in writing with, the planning authority prior to commencement of development. The plan shall have regard to the mitigation measures set out in the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report.

- (b) The Ecologist shall monitor all site investigation and construction work near sensitive sites and ensure that all works are carried out in accordance with the agreed Construction Management Plan and the mitigation measures set out in the Planning and Environmental Considerations Report. On completion of the development, a final report setting out all the monitoring, findings and measures so carried out shall be submitted to the planning authority.

Reason: To ensure the protection of the ecological heritage of the area.

- 3. The developer shall facilitate the protection of archaeological materials or features which may exist within the site. In this regard:
 - (a) the developer shall employ a suitably qualified archaeologist to oversee all the required archaeological mitigation strategies, and
 - (b) all construction works associated with the development shall be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist prior to the commencement of development. The monitoring shall be undertaken in agreement with the National Monuments Section of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Should archaeological material be uncovered during the course of monitoring, the archaeologist shall have work on the site stopped pending a decision on how best to deal with the archaeology. The developer shall prepare to be advised by the National Monuments Section of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with regard to any necessary mitigation action and should facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found.

The planning authority and the National Monuments Section of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht shall be furnished with a report describing the results of the monitoring.

Reason: In order to conserve the archaeological heritage of the site and to secure the preservation and protection of any remains that may exist within the site.

4. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall submit a detailed Traffic Management Plan to the planning authority in advance of any works commencing on site. The Traffic Management Plan shall contain the following details:
 - (a) All proposed site access locations off the road network and the signage proposed at each location in accordance with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual 2010.
 - (b) Loading/unloading of construction materials and plant. The proposed source of all construction material shall be specified.
 - (c) Parking locations - parking of all site operatives and construction vehicles shall not be permitted on the national and regional road network.
 - (d) The location of site compounds.
 - (e) Proposals to phase deliveries to minimise traffic disruption.

Reason: In the interest of traffic safety.

5. The developer shall undertake a survey at all site locations off the public road network in advance of any works taking place and a further inspection when all works have been completed and the access points have been reinstated to their original condition. Any damage caused to the road pavement at access point locations shall be repaired at the developer's expense, to the satisfaction of the planning authority. Existing roadside drainage shall be maintained at all site access locations.

Reason: In the interest of traffic safety.

Maria FitzGerald
Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.

Dated this day of 2019.