

An
Bord
Pleanála

Board Order
ABP-316191-23

Planning and Development Acts, 2000 to 2021

Planning Authority: Cork County Council

(Associated application reference number: ABP-310798-21)

REQUEST received by An Bord Pleanála on the 3rd day of April 2023, from EirGrid plc, care of Mott MacDonald, South Block, Rockfield, Dundrum, Dublin under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, to alter the terms of a strategic infrastructure development described as proposed alterations to the previously approved electricity transmission Celtic Interconnector Project and associated works, the subject of an approval under An Bord Pleanála reference number ABP-310798-21.

WHEREAS the Board made a decision to approve the proposed development, subject to conditions, for the above-mentioned development by Order dated the 19th day of May, 2022,

AND WHEREAS the Board has received a request to alter the terms of the development, the subject of the approval,

AND WHEREAS the proposed alteration is described as follows:

- A cable sealing end (CSE) compound adjacent to the existing substation covering an area of approximately 0.75 hectares, which comprises the following:

- A single 400kV bay with electrical air insulated switchgear (approximately 60 metres in length x 30 metres wide).
 - A control and protection building (approx. 19 metres in length x 8metres wide x 7.5 metres in height).
 - 400kV and 220kV voltage transformers and voltage auxiliary supply transformer.
 - A bunded back-up diesel generator.
 - An interface kiosk (1.0 metre in length x .0.5 metres wide x 2.0 metres in height).
 - Five lightning masts (approximately 20 metres in height).
 - An access road within the CSE compound is proposed to be a paved road, approximately 4.5 metres wide and 148 meters long.
 - A security palisade fence approximately 2.4 metres high surrounding the extension, located within the existing boundary hedgerow (which will be retained), site lighting and drainage.
- Minor repositioning of approved structures within the area of the approved Celtic Interconnector component of the existing Knockraha 220kV substation to accommodate the reorientation of the approved bay and high voltage equipment from a north-south alignment to an east-west alignment, and an increase in the height of the 220kV fly over conductor by approximately 2 metres.
 - The addition of a second control kiosk (5.0 metres in length x 3.0 metres wide x 2.5 metres in height).
 - Minor change in the routing of the approved HVAC cable route at Knockraha substation from the approved substation extension to the subject section 146B extension.
 - An associated internal access road between the existing substation compound and the proposed CSE compound, approximately 6 metres wide and 275 metres long.

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- The approved lightning masts design and layout will be altered within the existing substation compound.

AND WHEREAS the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, not to invite submissions or observations from the public in relation to whether the proposed alteration would constitute the making of a material alteration to the terms of the development concerned,

AND WHEREAS the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the proposed alterations would not result in a material alteration to the terms of the development, the subject of the approval,

AND WHEREAS having considered all of the documents on file and the Inspector's report, the Board considered that the making of the proposed alteration would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment or on any European Site,

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby alters the abovementioned decision so that the approved development shall be altered in accordance with the plans and particulars received by An Bord Pleanála on the 3rd day of April, 2023, for the reasons and considerations set out below.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

- the nature and scale of the Celtic Interconnector Project and specifically the substation element works at Knockraha permitted under An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP-310798-21 for this site, which includes 400kV and 220kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) equipment, 400/220kV transformer, lightning protection poles (max height of 20 metres), a small relay room, access track and associated works,

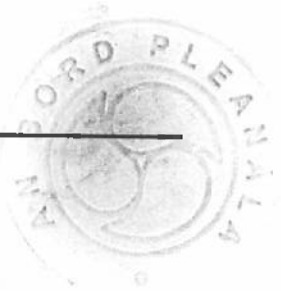
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- the limited nature and scale of the alterations when considered in relation to the overall permitted development,
- the absence of any significant new or additional environmental concerns arising as a result of the proposed alterations, and
- the report of the Board's Inspector, which is adopted,

it is considered that the proposed alterations would not be material. In accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning & Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby makes the said alterations.



Peter Mullan
Member of An Bord Pleanála
duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Board.



Dated this *3rd* day of *July*, 2023

