



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting ABP-308655-20 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	ABP-308655-20 Construction of two number grid connections from permitted substation and new grid connection works on lands at Grange Castle Business Park, Lucan, Dublin.		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	11/01/21	<b>Start Time</b>	10 a.m.
<b>Location</b>	N/A	<b>End Time</b>	10.35 a.m.

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>
<b>Staff Members</b>
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Mairead Kenny, Senior Planning Inspector
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer
<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Anthony Marston
Ronan Geoghegan
Jordan Vos

**Presentation by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant provided the Board with an overview of the proposed development which is designed to support the power demand of data centres on the Edgeconnex site. The prospective applicant referred to the fact that a 110kV substation is currently under construction on lands to the north-east of the site in question; it added that the application for the substation was the subject of an EIA Report and that all applications have cumulatively assessed the overall development of the lands.

The prospective applicant referred to permitted development on the site and said that the proposed development will facilitate the de-commissioning of the temporary power plant which is currently being employed to power a data centre. The temporary power plant was initially granted a permission for a duration of three years and this was extended by a further period of two years from February 2020.

The scope of the instant project involves a 110kV connection between the permitted and under-construction 110kV substation and the existing Grange Castle 110kV substation which is located some 400 metres to the east. The permitted substation is due to be completed sometime in 2021; ESB Networks will be the asset owner of the proposed development and Eirgrid will be responsible for operating the substation and the transmission lines. The proposed development will include the installation of two underground 110kV transmission lines from the existing Grange Castle substation to the permitted substation on the Edgeconnex site. The prospective applicant said that, upon completion of the development, the substation and transmission lines will be handed over to Eirgrid who will be responsible for operation; the transmission lines will form part of the ESN infrastructure.

With respect to the route options between the existing Grange Castle substation and the permitted substation, the prospective applicant said that such options are quite limited due to the fact that the Griffeen River and the Grange Castle – Maynooth 110kV Circuit both cross any potential route between the two substations. The prospective applicant said that the preferred route would be from joint bays to tie into existing circuits close to the Grange Castle substation and will then pass along identified wayleaves parallel to the Griffeen River; the route will then pass under the

Other route options which have been considered. The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant of the fact that a difficulty would arise if any subsequent application included a proposed cable route which was not the subject of consideration of the pre-application consultation process. With regard to such alternative routes, the Board's representatives said that the prospective applicant could either forward such details or else request a further pre-application consultation meeting. The prospective applicant noted this point and said that its preferred route will most likely be the route proposed as part of the subsequent planning application. It also undertook to provide details of options considered if such is required.

With respect to the preferred route, as currently indicated, the Board's representatives enquired as to why the route is proposed to go under the Griffeen River. The prospective applicant replied that a final decision on this matter has not yet been taken and that site investigations are still on-going. It said that the proposal to go under the river is predicated on the considerable volume of services in the vicinity and added that an above-ground structure will be considered if it is feasible. The Board's representatives noted this and also noted the close proximity to the site of a Dublin Bus Terminus.

The Board's representatives enquired as to the nature and extent of consultations undertaken by the prospective applicant to date. The prospective applicant replied that it has engaged with the ESB and representatives of South Dublin County Council. It added that it has also engaged with Dublin Bus with regard to any potential impacts on the aforementioned Dublin Bus Terminus.

In response to the Board's representatives query on the matter, the prospective applicant said that EIA will be undertaken with respect to the proposed development; it noted that EIA has previously been conducted in relation to other permissions on the overall landholding. The prospective applicant said that it felt that this would be the more robust approach with regard also to cumulative issues which apply to the subject site.

The Board's representatives advised that an approximate period of four to six weeks can be expected from the time the prospective applicant requests formal closure of the pre-application consultation process to the time of the SID determination of the Board.

The meeting concluded at 10.35 a.m.

*PP. Nichola Murray*

**Ciara Kellett**

**Assistant Director of Planning**