



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Inspector's Addendum Report

**ABP-318258-23**

<b>Development</b>	Section 146B amendment application for proposed alterations to the previously approved Celtic Interconnector Project (ABP-310798-21)
<b>Location</b>	Knockraha, Co. Cork
<b>Planning Authority</b>	Cork County Council
<b>Requester</b>	EirGrid
<b>Type of Application</b>	Application under Section 146B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) to alter previously approved Strategic Infrastructure Development.
<b>Inspector</b>	Sarah Lynch

**NOTE:** This Addendum report should be read in conjunction with my original report on file dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1. This is an addendum report to clarify issues raised within the Board direction dated 7<sup>th</sup> June 2024. The Board sought clarification in relation to two points as follows:

- a) Whether or not there are outstanding obligations as specified in the Board Direction dated 10/01/2024 and which have yet to be formally requested from the applicant,
- b) Update report from inspector, incorporating any further circulation and response matters arising from (a) above as appropriate, and /or clarifying the recommendation on materiality or non-materiality by reference to the entirety of the documentation on file.

### Response

The Board should note that in accordance with Section 146 3(b) the applicant was notified on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024, that the Board sought to invoke the provisions of Section 146B (8).

The Board should note the wording of Section 3 (b) as outlined below

*‘by notice in writing served on the requester, require the requester to submit to the Board the information specified in Schedule 7A to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 in respect of that alteration, or in respect of the alternative alteration being considered by it under subparagraph (ii)(II), unless the requester has already provided such information....’*

It is important to note that the information submitted with the application to amend the scheme was considered to satisfy the requirement for Schedule 7a information and therefore the applicant was merely requested to advertise the proposed amendment as above.

In accordance with the Board’s request, the proposed amendment was advertised on the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024, details of which are contained within the attached file.

Submissions received were summarised within the inspector’s original recommendation dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024. For ease of reference the Board should note that two submissions were received from Transport Infrastructure Ireland and Cork County Council, both citing no objection to the proposed amendments.

Having regard to the foregoing I would therefore like to clarify for the Board in relation to item (a) of Board Direction dated 7/06/2024, that there are no outstanding obligations which have yet to be formally requested from the applicant in this regard.

By way of clarification to item (b) of said Direction, the inspector considered the information provided with the proposed 146(B) application and the documentation on file for the approved development and completed a screening determination in respect of the amendment proposed which accompanies this addendum report within Appendix 1.

Having regard to the foregoing it was clear that the proposed development would not in fact constitute a material alteration to the development as per assessment within inspector's report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

The Board should note that the use of language within the inspector's internal memo dated 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023, should have referred to a potential to be material and was misleading in its phrasing. The determination as to the materiality of the development is outlined as aforementioned within the inspectors report to the Board , 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024.

In the interest of clarity, therefore, the conclusion of the inspector's report dated 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 is not altered in any way in that the proposed modifications subject of this request do not constitute the making of a material alteration of the terms of the development as permitted under ABP 310798-21.

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Sarah Lynch

Senior Planning Inspector

7<sup>th</sup> October 2024

## Appendix 1

### EIA Screening Determination

A. CASE DETAILS		
An Bord Pleanála Case Reference (318258)		
Development Summary	Section 146B amendment application for proposed alterations to the previously approved Celtic Interconnector Project (ABP-310798-21)	
1. Was a Screening Determination carried out by the PA?	N/A	
2. Has Schedule 7A information been submitted?	Yes	
3. Has an AA screening report or NIS been submitted?	Yes	An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement were submitted with the application original application (ABP-310798-21).
5. Have any other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment which have a significant bearing on the project been carried out pursuant to other relevant Directives – for example SEA	Yes	SEA and AA were undertaken in respect of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028.

B. EXAMINATION	Where relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of impacts ( ie the nature and extent) and any Mitigation Measures proposed to avoid or prevent a significant effect  (having regard to the probability, magnitude (including population size affected), complexity, duration, frequency, intensity, and reversibility of impact)	Is this likely to result in significant effects on the environment?  Yes/ No/ Uncertain
<b>1. Characteristics of proposed development</b> (including demolition, construction, operation, or decommissioning)		
<b>1.1</b> Is the project significantly different in character or scale to the existing surrounding or environment?	The proposed development is an amendment to the approved Celtic Interconnector development and proposes to provide a realigned internal road and entrance at the existing substation site at Knockraha whereby new substation infrastructure has been permitted as part of the Interconnector development.	<b>No</b>
<b>1.2</b> Will construction, operation, decommissioning or demolition works causing physical changes to the locality (topography, land use, waterbodies)?	The proposed amendment will result in minimal change in the locality, with standard measures to address potential impacts on surface water and groundwaters in the locality which form part of the original permitted development. The amendments proposed are consistent with land uses in the site and will be unremarkable in the landscape of the area.	<b>No</b>
<b>1.3</b> Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources such as land, soil, water, materials/minerals or energy, especially resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Construction materials will be typical for a development of this nature and scale. The loss of natural resources as a result of the development are not regarded as significant in nature.	<b>No</b>

<b>1.4</b> Will the project involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substance which would be harmful to human health or the environment?	Construction activities will require the use of potentially harmful materials, such as fuels and other such substances. Use of such materials would be typical for construction sites. Any impacts would not be beyond that identified and mitigated for within the EIAR of the permitted development. No discernible change is therefore expected to arise in relation to the proposed amendment.	<b>No</b>
<b>1.5</b> Will the project produce solid waste, release pollutants or any hazardous / toxic / noxious substances?	Construction activities will require the use of potentially harmful materials, such as fuels and other similar substances and give rise to waste for disposal. Impacts arising from the proposed amendment will not give rise to impacts beyond that provided for within the EIAR of the permitted development.	<b>No</b>
<b>1.6</b> Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	No changes are expected to that considered and permitted under the original permission.	<b>No</b>
<b>1.7</b> Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	No operational impacts in this regard are anticipated. All such impacts have been adequately considered within original permission (ABP-310798-21). The proposed amendments will not give rise to any significant impacts in this regard.	<b>No</b>
<b>1.8</b> Will there be any risks to human health, for example due to water contamination or air pollution?	Construction activity is likely to give rise to dust emissions and surface water runoff, however none beyond that considered within the EIAR of the original permission (ABP-310798-21).	<b>No</b>
<b>1.9</b> Will there be any risk of major accidents that could affect human health or the environment?	No significant risk is predicted having regard to the nature and scale of the development. The issue of flood risk has	<b>No</b>

	been satisfactorily addressed in the submitted SFRA of the original permission (ABP-310798-21).	
<b>1.10</b> Will the project affect the social environment (population, employment)	No social environmental impacts anticipated.	<b>No</b>
<b>1.11</b> Is the project part of a wider large scale change that could result in cumulative effects on the environment?	Yes, the proposed development is an amendment to the original Interconnector development ref: 310798 and has been considered in the context of cumulative impacts, given the limited nature and scale of the development and the magnitude of associated impacts, no significant cumulative impacts are expected.	<b>No</b>
<b>2. Location of proposed development</b>		
<b>2.1</b> Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or have the potential to impact on any of the following: a) European site (SAC/ SPA/ pSAC/ pSPA) b) NHA/ pNHA c) Designated Nature Reserve d) Designated refuge for flora or fauna e) Place, site or feature of ecological interest, the preservation/conservation/ protection of which is an objective of a development plan/ LAP/ draft plan or variation of a plan	A stage 2 NIS was submitted with the original permission ref: (ABP-310798-21), the location of the proposed amendment works are significantly removed from any Natura 2000 sites and the works are not directly connected to any such designated sites. The proposed amendments will not alter in any conceivable way the conclusions of the NIS submitted with the original permitted development.	<b>No</b>
<b>2.2</b> Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, for example: for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be significantly affected by the project?	No habitats or species of conservation significance identified within the site or in the immediate environs. The proposed development would not result in significant impacts to protected, important or sensitive species	<b>No</b>
<b>2.3</b> Are there any other features of landscape, historic, archaeological, or cultural importance that could be affected?	No	<b>No</b>

<b>2.4</b> Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, for example: forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?	No	No
<b>2.5</b> Are there any water resources including surface waters, for example: rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or groundwaters which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk?	No	No
<b>2.6</b> Is the location susceptible to subsidence, landslides or erosion?	No	No
<b>2.7</b> Are there any key transport routes(eg National primary Roads) on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?	The site is served by a local road network. No significant contribution to traffic congestion is anticipated to arise from the proposed development. No significant impacts anticipated beyond that considered within the original EIAR examined under 310798.	No
<b>2.8</b> Are there existing sensitive land uses or community facilities (such as hospitals, schools etc) which could be significantly affected by the project?	The site is located within a rural area with no such facilities within the immediate vicinity of the proposed works. No significant impacts on these uses are anticipated as a result of the proposal.	No
<b>3. Any other factors that should be considered which could lead to environmental impacts</b>		
<b>3.1 Cumulative Effects:</b> Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulative effects during the construction/ operation phase?	As outlined above the proposed works will amend an extant permission in relation to the Celtic Interconnector, given the limited nature and scale of the development it is not considered that any significant cumulative effects in combination with the proposed amendments will arise.	No
<b>3.2 Transboundary Effects:</b> Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects?	The extant permission relating to ABP-310798 forms part of a transboundary project for EIA and was assessed accordingly. The proposed amendment as outlined above will not result in any	No



	significant change to the overall development as assessed within the EIAR and as such does not give rise to any transboundary impacts.	
<b>3.3</b> Are there any other relevant considerations?	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>C. CONCLUSION</b>		
<b>No real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>EIAR Not Required</b>
<b>Real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>D. MAIN REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS</b>		
<p>Having regard to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The nature and scale of the proposed development, which is below the threshold in respect of classes 10(dd) of Part 2 to Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024;</li> <li>• The nature of the existing site and the pattern of development in the surrounding area;</li> <li>• The location of the development outside of any sensitive location specified in Article 109(4)(a)(v) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as revised;</li> <li>• The guidance set out in the 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development', issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2003);</li> <li>• The criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as revised, and;</li> </ul> <p>It is considered that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an environmental impact assessment report would not, therefore, be required.</p>		

**Inspector**

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**Date**

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**Approved (DP/ADP)**

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**Date**

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