



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Inspector's Report

ABP-323856-2025

Development

Proposed alterations to the terms of the permitted development granted under reference number ABP-310798-21.

Location

Ballyvergan west, near Youghal, Co. Cork

Planning Authority

Cork County Council

Requester

EirGrid

Type of Application

Application under Section 146B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) to alter previously approved Strategic Infrastructure Development.

Inspector

Sarah Lynch

1. Introduction

On the 16th May 2022, the Commission under ref. no. ABP-310798-21, granted permission under section 37E (or other provision as appropriate) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (the Act), to EirGrid for the following development at Various Locations in County Cork in 2022:

Proposed development of that portion of an electricity transmission interconnector (Celtic Interconnector) to be constructed onshore in Ireland to the mean high water mark, including a connection to the Irish National Grid, an electricity converter station and all associated and ancillary works.

The application for the development included an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Permission was granted subject to conditions. The subject application to the Commission is for alterations to this permission, under section 146B of the Act. The Commission should note that a previous alteration to this permission under 146B was also granted under ref ABP-318258-23.

2. Legislative Provisions

Section 146B(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (the Act), provides that, subject to subsections (2) to (8) and to section 146C, upon request of any person who is carrying out or intending to carry out a strategic infrastructure development, the Commission may alter the terms of the development the subject of planning permission, approval or other consent granted.

Under sub-section 2(a), as soon as practicable after making such a request, the Commission is required to make a decision as to whether the making of the development would constitute a material alteration to the development concerned.

Under sub-section (2)(b), before making its decision under sub-section 146B (2), the Commission may invite submissions as it considers appropriate and is required to have regard to any submission made to it on foot of the invitation.

Under sub-section (3)(a), if the Commission decide that the making of the alteration would not constitute a material alteration, it is required to alter the planning permission/approval/consent accordingly and to notify the requester and the planning authority of the alteration.

Under subsection (3)(b), if the Commission decide that the making of the alteration would constitute the making of a material alteration, the Commission is required to:

- Request the information specified in Schedule 7A, unless it or an EIAR has already been provided by the requester (sub-section (3)(b)(i)). This information is required to be accompanied by any further relevant information on the characteristics of the alteration and its likely significant effects on the environment including, where relevant, how environmental effects pertaining to EU legislation other than the EIA Directive have been taken into account (sub-section (3A)) and can include mitigation measures (sub-section (3B)).
- Following receipt of such information, determine whether to make the alteration, make an alteration of the terms of the development which differs from the proposed alteration (subject to it not representing a more significant alteration), or refuse to make the alteration (sub-section (3)(b)(ii)).

Under subsection (4), before making a determination under sub-section (3)(b)(ii), the Commission is required to determine whether the extent and character of the alteration being requested, or being considered by the Commission, would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Under subsection (5), if the Commission determine that no significant environmental effects will arise, they proceed to make a determination under subsection (3)(b)(ii). If the Commission determines that significant effects will arise, the provisions of section 146C apply. These provisions relate to the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report.

Under subsection (7)(a), in making their determination, the Commission is required to have regard to:

- The criteria for the purposes of determining which classes of development are likely to have significant effects on the environment set out in any regulations made under section 176,

- The criteria set out in Schedule 7 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001,
- The Schedule 7A submitted by the requester,
- The further relevant information, if any, referred to in subsection (3A) and the description, if any, referred to in subsection (3B) (summarised above),
- The available results, where relevant, of preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to European Union legislation other than the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, and
- Whether the development is situated in or would have potential to impact on a European site, or a recognised or protected area of natural heritage,

Under subsection (7)(b), the Commission is required to include in its determination, the main reasons and considerations, with reference to the relevant criteria listed in Schedule 7 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, on which the determination is based.

Under subsection (8)(a) before making a determination under subsection (3)(b)(ii) or (4) the Commission is required to require the requester to make information about the alteration available for inspection, notify appropriate persons that the information is available and invite submissions or observations from these persons. Further under subsection 8(b) the Commission is required to have regard to these submissions in its determination.

3. Planning History

- ABP-310798-21 – Permission granted for proposed development of that portion of an electricity transmission interconnector (Celtic Interconnector) to be constructed onshore in Ireland to the mean high water mark, including a connection to the Irish National Grid, an electricity converter station and all associated and ancillary works.
- ABP-318258-23 Permission for an alteration under 146B was deemed to be immaterial.

4. Background to the Proposed Alterations

The justification and need for the proposed alteration as set out by the applicant is as follows:

- The HVDC link as approved at the subject site will be fitted with a fibre optic cable to
- enable communications between to converter stations; one in France and one in Ireland at Ballyadam near Carrigtwohill. To maintain the signal integrity over the 575 km route, the signal requires periodic boosting via repeaters. These repeaters need a reliable power source to function effectively. The requested addition of the Power Feed Equipment (PFE) Building is essential to provide this power, ensuring the repeaters operate correctly and the Celtic Interconnector functions safely and efficiently.
- The PFE was required to be located within 5km of the Transition Joint Bay (at Claycastle beach) to reduce electromagnetic coupling within the repeater power cables. The PFE could not be located within 2km of an earthed jointing bay due to the
- issue of Ground Potential Rise in the event of a fault on the cable. This is the same reason why it could not be located within the Converter Station (at Ballyadam, by Carrigtwohill).
- The proposed PFE development is required to be located within 100m of an unearthed jointing bay with a fibre optic jointing chamber (C2 chamber). This reduces the risk of incorporating additional joints into the fibre optic system and improving the signal quality and latency and guarantees the minimum of 30Tbit/s required to maintain transmission grid stability.
- Such a jointing bay was installed in the N25 adjacent to the subject site in April 2025. The infrastructure has already been installed and therefore, this proposal should be considered an alteration to an existing development to which site selection has already been established.

In essence the applicant has argued that the proposed location is the only suitable location for the proposed alteration given the restrictions on separation distances for co-location with other infrastructure associated with the permitted development. In

addition, hardware requirements are present in close proximity to the proposed site which provides for an efficient use of existing infrastructure and is therefore the most logical site for the proposed compound.

5. Scope of Request

The applicant is seeking to alter the terms of the development, subject of the permission granted under ABP-310798-21, as follows:

- A Power Feed and Earthing compound accommodating a PFE building; bunded generator housing, a load bank and a hardstand area capable of accommodating storage of 3 No. cable drums;
- The creation of a new vehicular access from the N25 national road;
- Internal access road to PFE compound;
- Service ducts and trenches with cable troughs, tunnels and duct banks;
- A proposed new ESB pole, a new overhead power line to connect to an existing pole, and a proposed new mini pillar further east (as seen on Proposed Electrical Connection Drawing No. N389 OCSC XX XX SK C 0013);
- Security boundary fencing 3m in height and vehicular gates around entire field; and,
- All associated site development works including site clearance works, site stabilisation earthworks, site drainage, lighting, CCTV1, and landscaping.

Documents submitted in support of the alteration request are the following:

- Archaeological Assessment report
- AA Screening report
- Drawing schedule and drawings.

7. Assessment

7.1 Consideration of Materiality

As noted in the documentation that accompanied the request, the proposed alteration entails the construction of a PPE compound and building, the creation of a new entrance from the N25 in replacement of the existing agricultural entrance to the

lands, internal access road, associated service ducts, ESB pole and overhead powerline.

The original application was accompanied by a suite of documents including but not limited to a Planning Report, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and an Appropriate Assessment Screening Assessment.

It is important to note at this juncture that the applicant has considered the potential for significant effects in terms of EIA and AA and state that significant effects are not expected as a result of the proposed alterations.

In the context of the assessment of the development as proposed and approved under ref. ABP 310798-21 and having regard to the information submitted with this 146B application I consider that the proposed alterations would constitute the making of a material alteration of the terms of the development approved for the following reasons:

- The proposed alterations are primarily located on lands outside of the 'red line' application site boundary for the permitted development. While landowner letters of consent were submitted, other parties may have interests in the affected lands.
- The proposed alterations includes a new entrance off a National Primary road and cable trenching under the public road, resulting in potential road safety impacts.
- Consequently, I prepared a memorandum dated 27th April 2026 to the Director of Planning recommending that the requester be notified that the proposed alterations would constitute the making of a material alteration of the terms of the development concerned. The Director of Planning, being authorised to make such a determination by resolution of the Board under the provisions of section 111(6) of the Act, agreed with my recommendation.

8.0 Assessment Stage 2: Likely Significant Effects on the Environment

8.1 Submissions

Following the determination that the proposed alterations would constitute the making of a material alteration of the terms of the development concerned, the

provisions of section 146B(8) were invoked. The requester was requested to notify the prescribed bodies previously notified under ABP 310798-21 of the proposed alterations, to erect site notices and publish newspaper notices notifying the public of the proposed alterations and inviting submissions or observations in relation to the request. Two submissions were received as follows:

Transport Infrastructure Ireland – The applicant has been in discussions with TII and there are no objections to the development subject to conditions relating to the undertaking of the development in accordance with requirements of TII Departure reference no. 36846 and post construction access limited as per said departure reference.

Department Housing, Local Government and Heritage – Reference is made to a potential Stoat den, potential impact and mitigation should be dealt with. Condition is recommended in relation to Archaeology.

8.2 Matters that the Board Shall Have Regard to

Section 146B(7)(a) of the Act states that, in making a determination under subsection (4), the Board shall have regard to:

- (i) *“the criteria for the purposes of determining which classes of development are likely to have significant effects on the environment set out in any regulations made under section 176,*
- (ii) *the criteria set out in Schedule 7 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001,*
- (iii) *the information submitted pursuant to Schedule 7A to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001,*
- (iv) *the further relevant information, if any, referred to in subsection (3A) and the description, if any, referred to in subsection (3B),*
- (v) *the available results, where relevant, of preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment carried out pursuant to European Union legislation other than the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, and*

- (vi) *in respect of an alteration under consideration which would be located on, or in, or have the potential to impact on—*
- (I) *a European site,*
 - (II) *an area the subject of a notice under section 16(2)(b) of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 (No. 38 of 2000),*
 - (III) *an area designated as a natural heritage area under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000,*
 - (IV) *land established or recognised as a nature reserve within the meaning of section 15 or 16 of the Wildlife Act 1976 (No. 39 of 1976),*
 - (V) *land designated as a refuge for flora or a refuge for fauna under section 17 of the Wildlife Act 1976,*
 - (VI) *a place, site or feature of ecological interest, the preservation, conservation or protection of which is an objective of a development plan or local area plan, draft development plan or draft local area plan, or proposed variation of a development plan, for the area in which the development is proposed, or*
 - (VII) *a place or site which has been included by the Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in a list of proposed Natural Heritage Areas published on the National Parks and Wildlife Service website,*
- the likely significant effects of such alteration on such site, area, land, place or feature, as appropriate.”*

7.3 Assessment Against Criteria set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as Amended

The prescribed classes of development for the purposes of section 176 of the Act (i.e. requiring mandatory EIA) are set out in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended ('the Regulations').

Having reviewed Schedule 5 it can be concluded that the proposed alteration is of a class of development for the purpose of EIA under Class 13 of Part 2 of Schedule 5.

The proposed development is an extension to a permitted EIA development and as such the proposed alteration has been subject to an EIA screening, see form 3 appended to this report. Given the nature and scale of the proposed alteration, it is concluded that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, and that an environmental impact assessment report is not required.

7.4 Appropriate Assessment - Screening

It is important to clarify at the outset that under ABP 310798-21 the Board completed an appropriate assessment screening exercise in relation to Natura 2000 sites within the zone of influence of the application site. The Board concluded that on the basis of the information on file, which was considered adequate in order to issue a screening determination, that likely significant effects could not be ruled out for the Great Island Channel SAC, Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC, Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC, Cork Harbour SPA, Ballymacoda Bay SPA, Blackwater Estuary SPA, Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA.

A Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment accompanied this application in relation to the above European designated sites which included a detailed assessment of all of the sites listed above and the associated qualifying interests. The NIS examined the potential for likely adverse effects to these sites and proposed mitigation measures to prevent any such adverse effects from arising. The NIS concluded that following the implementation of the mitigation measures proposed, the proposed development individually, or in combination with other plans or projects would not adversely affect the integrity of the European site Nos. 001058, 000077, 002170, 004030, 004028, 004162, 004023 in view of these sites Conservation Objectives.

The applicant has submitted an Appropriate Assessment Screening report for the proposed alteration and has included 3 additional sites to a number that were included within the Screening for the parent permission.

I have reviewed all of the sites as listed below in relation to the appropriate Assessment Screening.

European Site Name & Code	Distance	Qualifying Interest	Source-pathway-receptor	Considered further in screening
Great Island Channel SAC (001058)	15.2km from SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	No surface water connectivity, this site is within the same Ground Water Body of the proposed alteration.	No, Having regard to the separation distance from the proposed alteration site there is no meaningful connectivity which would give rise to any likely adverse affects.
Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (000077)	2.1km from SAC	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	As above	As Above
Blackwater River SAC (002170)	3.9km	Estuaries [1130] Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310]	As Above	As Above

		Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330] Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion alba) [91E0] Margaritifera margaritifera (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] Austropotamobius pallipes (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] Petromyzon marinus (Sea Lamprey) [1095] Lampetra planeri (Brook Lamprey) [1096] Lampetra fluviatilis (River Lamprey) [1099] Alosa fallax fallax (Twait Shad) [1103] Salmo salar (Salmon) [1106] Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355] Trichomanes speciosum (Killarney Fern) [1421]		
Cork Harbour SPA (004030)	19.2km	Little Grebe (Tachybaptus ruficollis) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus) [A005] Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017]	As Above	As Above, in addition no ex situ effects are expected.

		Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		
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Ballymacoda Bay SPA (004023)	2.1km	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]	As Above	As Above.
Blackwater Estuary SPA (004028)	3.9km	Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149]	As above	As above

		Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] Wetland and Waterbirds [A999]		
Ardmore Head SAC(002123)	Approx. 12.9 km	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts [1230] • European dry heaths [4030]	Hydrogeological connectivity	No, No meaningful connection to the site.
Ballycotton Bay SPA (004022)	10.7km	Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] Lesser Black-backed Gull	Hydrogeological connectivity	No, No meaningful connection to the site.

		(Larus fuscus) [A183] Wetlands [A999]		
Helvick head to Ballyquin Bay (004192)	15.2km	Cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo) [A017] Peregrine (Falco peregrinus) [A103] Herring Gull (Larus argentatus) [A184] Kittiwake (Rissa tridactyla) [A188] Chough (Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax) [A346]	Hydrogeological connectivity	No, No meaningful connection to the site.

I have considered the development in the context of the Appropriate Assessment Screening which accompanied the original application and the Appropriate Assessment Screening that accompanies the proposed alteration application and am satisfied that the proposed alterations are not material to the Appropriate Assessment conclusions as considered under the overall development or the Appropriate Assessment Screening that accompanies the alteration application.

Having regard to the foregoing, I consider it reasonable to conclude that the alterations proposed, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, would not be likely to have a significant effect on the European sites located within the zone of influence in view of the sites' conservation objectives.

8. Conditions of the Permission

I note that section 146B makes no provision for the making of alterations subject to conditions. Notwithstanding this, I am satisfied that the subject alterations, if approved, will be subject to the conditions associated with the parent permission and which will address matters, including construction management (which includes all

environmental commitments), protection of archaeological heritage, surface water and implementation of all mitigation measures.

9. Recommendation

I recommend that the Commission decides that (a) the making of the alterations subject of this request constitute the making of a material alteration of the terms of the development as approved under ABP 310798-21, and (b) the proposed modifications will not give rise to significant environmental effects or significant effects on the integrity of any European site.

Draft Order

REQUEST received by An Bord Pleanála on the 7th November 2025 from EirGrid 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 Celtic Interconnector Project and associated works, subject of a permission under An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP 310798-21

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

AND WHEREAS the proposed alteration is described as follows:

- A PFE compound accommodating a PFE building; banded generator housing, a load bank and a hardstand area capable of accommodating storage of 3 No. cable drums;
- The creation of a new vehicular access from the N25 national road;
- Internal access road to PFE compound;
- Service ducts and trenches with cable troughs, tunnels and duct banks;
- A proposed new ESB pole, a new overhead power line to connect to an existing pole, and a proposed new mini pillar further east (as seen on Proposed Electrical Connection Drawing No. N389 OCSC XX XX SK C 0013);
- Security boundary fencing 3m in height and vehicular gates around entire field; and,

- All associated site development works including site clearance works, site stabilisation earthworks, site drainage, lighting, CCTV1, and landscaping.

AND WHEREAS the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(8) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, 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 considered the submissions received.

AND WHEREAS the Board decided, in accordance with section 146B(3)(b)(ii) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the proposed alterations would 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)(b)(ii) 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 7th November 2025, for the reasons and considerations 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.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

Having regard to:

- the nature and scale of the Celtic Interconnector Project and specifically the cable element works at Ballyvergan West permitted under An Bord Pleanála Reference Number ABP 310798-21 for this site and the proposed alterations

which include the provision of a new entrance and PFE compound and building and associated works,

- 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,
- the submissions received in relation to the proposed amendments.

It is considered that the proposed alterations would be material. In accordance with section 146B(3)(b)(ii) of the Planning & Development Act, as amended, the Board hereby makes the said alterations.

Sarah Lynch

Planning Inspector

26th August 2026

EIA – Screening Determination

Form 3 - EIA Screening Determination Sample Form

A. CASE DETAILS		
An Bord Pleanála Case Reference	323856	
Development Summary	Proposed alterations to the terms of the permitted development granted under reference number ABP-310798-21.	
	Yes / No / N/A	Comment (if relevant)
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	
4. Is a IED/ IPC or Waste Licence (or review of licence) required from the EPA? If YES has the EPA commented on the need for an EIAR?	N/A	
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	N/A	

EIA – Screening Determination

B. EXAMINATION	Yes/ No/ Uncertain	Briefly describe the nature and extent and Mitigation Measures (where relevant) (having regard to the probability, magnitude (including population size affected), complexity, duration, frequency, intensity, and reversibility of impact) Mitigation measures –Where relevant specify features or measures proposed by the applicant to avoid or prevent a significant effect.	Is this likely to result in significant effects on the environment? Yes/ No/ Uncertain
This screening examination should be read with, and in light of, the rest of the Inspector's Report attached herewith			
1. Characteristics of proposed development (including demolition, construction, operation, or decommissioning)			
1.1 Is the project significantly different in character or scale to the existing surrounding or environment?	No	The proposed development includes: • A PFE compound accommodating a PFE building; banded generator housing, a load bank and a hardstand area capable of accommodating storage of 3 No. cable drums; • The creation of a new vehicular access from the N25 national road; • Internal access road to PFE compound; • And associated site development works and ESB pole. This type of development is not uncommon within the general vicinity of the proposed development site.	

EIA – Screening Determination

1.2 Will construction, operation, decommissioning or demolition works cause physical changes to the locality (topography, land use, waterbodies)?	Yes	The lands were used for agricultural purposes and were later utilised as a construction compound for the permitted Celtic Interconnector. The proposal seeks to permanently alter the use of the lands to a PPE compound.	
1.3 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?	Yes	The proposed development will utilise lands, include the removal of soils to facilitate the development of the compound and its building and will include the use of concrete and other such materials.	
1.4 Will the project involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substance which would be harmful to human health or the environment?	No		
1.5 Will the project produce solid waste, release pollutants or any hazardous / toxic / noxious substances?	No		
1.6 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		
1.7 Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	No		
1.8 Will there be any risks to human health, for example due to water contamination or air pollution?	No		

EIA – Screening Determination

1.9 Will there be any risk of major accidents that could affect human health or the environment?	No		
1.10 Will the project affect the social environment (population, employment)	No		
1.11 Is the project part of a wider large scale change that could result in cumulative effects on the environment?	Yes	The proposed alteration is part of the permitted Celtic Interconnector development which was subject to EIA, no significant impacts were predicted in relation to this project. Cumulative effects are not considered to be significant in the context of the proposed alteration given the scale and scope of the alteration.	
2. Location of proposed development			
2.1 Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or have the potential to impact on any of the following: - European site (SAC/ SPA/ pSAC/ pSPA) - NHA/ pNHA - Designated Nature Reserve - Designated refuge for flora or fauna - 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	No		
2.2 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 affected by the project?	No		

EIA – Screening Determination

2.3 Are there any other features of landscape, historic, archaeological, or cultural importance that could be affected?	No	The site was subject to excavation works in 2024 to accommodate the approved cable and also topsoil stripping to accommodate a construction storage area. As required by conditions of the permitted Celtic Interconnector these works were undertaken under archaeological and ecological monitoring. No features of archaeological or ecological significance were identified.	
2.4 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	The site is located adjacent to the N25	
2.5 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		
2.6 Is the location susceptible to subsidence, landslides or erosion?	No		
2.7 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?	Yes	The site is located adjacent to the N25 and will include a new entrance onto this route. The applicant has been in consultations with TII in relation to the new entrance and the blocking up of the existing entrance, TII have made a submission to the proposed alteration application and state they have no objection to the proposal.	

EIA – Screening Determination

2.8 Are there existing sensitive land uses or community facilities (such as hospitals, schools etc) which could be affected by the project?	No	The site is at a removed distance from the nearest settlement. No facilities will be affected.	
3. Any other factors that should be considered which could lead to environmental impacts			
3.1 Cumulative Effects: Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulative effects during the construction/ operation phase?	No	Construction works in relation to the permitted Celtic Interconnector are largely completed at this location. The proposed development would therefore not result in any significant cumulative impacts in relation to construction. The operational phase of the Celtic Interconnector at this location may require maintenance inspections at junction boxes which are largely off-carriage way and are carried out very infrequently. No operational cumulative impacts are expected.	
3.2 Transboundary Effects: Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects?	No		
3.3 Are there any other relevant considerations?	No		
C. CONCLUSION			
No real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.	x	EIAR Not Required	
Real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.		EIAR Required	
D. MAIN REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS			

EIA – Screening Determination

EG - EIAR not Required

Having regard to: -

1. the criteria set out in Schedule 7, in particular
 - (a) the limited nature and scale of the proposed development, in an area at a remove from any sensitive receptors
 - (b) the absence of any significant environmental sensitivity in the vicinity,
 - (c) the location of the development outside of any sensitive location specified in article 109(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended)
2. the results of other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment submitted by the applicant
 - AA Screening report.
3. the features and measures proposed by applicant envisaged to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant effects on the environment within the permitted Celtic Interconnector EIA report.

The Board concluded that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment, and that an environmental impact assessment report is not required.

Inspector _____

Date _____

Approved (DP/ADP) _____

Date _____