



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Inspector's Report PL26.VC0102

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<b>Development</b>	Proposed electricity interconnector between Ireland and Wales from Great Island, Co. Wexford.
<b>Location</b>	Great Island, Co. Wexford via landfall at Baginbun Beach to Wales, UK.
<b>Planning Authority</b>	Wexford County Council
<b>Prospective Applicant</b>	Greenlink
<b>Type of Application</b>	SID Pre-application – whether project is or is not strategic infrastructure development.
<b>Date of Pre-Application Meetings</b>	8 December 2016, 20 September 2018, 14 May 2019, 31 January 2020 & 3 June 2020.
<b>Date of site inspection</b>	21 May 2019
<b>Inspector</b>	Una Crosse

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. This report relates to pre-application discussions held with Greenlink regarding whether or not their proposed electricity interconnector between Great Island Co. Wexford via Baginbun Beach and Pembroke in Wales, United Kingdom constitutes strategic infrastructure, as defined by the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
- 1.2. This report describes the location and nature of the proposed development, the applicant's submission, the consultations held and the legal provisions which are relevant to the proposed development.
- 1.3. It should be noted that the pre-application consultation request was originally sought by Greenwire Transmission Pembroke Limited with a request during the process that the name of the prospective applicant be amended to Greenlink.
- 1.4. This proposal has been designated as a Project of Common Interest under the provisions of European Union Regulation No. 347/2013 on guidelines for Trans-European Network for Energy (TEN-E Regulations). The Notification Process has commenced.
- 1.5. An application for a Foreshore Licence was submitted to the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government on 27 September 2019 (Ref. FS007050). The public consultation phase ran from 12 November closing on 8 January 2020. The licence application was accompanied by a NIS and an EIAR and relates to the area between the High Water Mark (HWM) at Baginbun Beach and the 12 Nautical Mile Limit.
- 1.6. The prospective applicant formally requested closure of the pre-application consultation process in a letter received on the 16 July, 2020.
- 1.7. This report recommends that the proposed development constitutes strategic infrastructure and it sets out reasons and considerations to support this conclusion.

## 2.0 Site Location and Description

- 2.1. As will be outlined below the site of the proposed development has evolved over the course of the pre-application consultation process. The original submission received in November 2016 proposed a number of potential routes between a number of

potential landfall locations and the existing Great Island Power Station, Co. Wexford. The route of the proposed development has been refined during the process such that the site location provides for a route from Baginbun Beach, where the cable landfall is proposed, to the existing Great Island Power Station. I will set out a description of the route now proposed in the following paragraphs. It should be noted, however, that the proposal comprises a cable route which extends from a proposed converter station adjacent to the Great Island Power Station in Wexford to a similar converter station at Pembroke in Wales. The two converter stations are linked by a cable which traverses onshore (underground) and subsea. It is the section of the route from the existing Great Island Power Station to the HWM at Baginbun Bay that is the subject of consideration in this report.

- 2.2. It is proposed to landfall the subsea cable at Baginbun Beach. This beach is located to the north of Carnivan Bay on the Baginbun Peninsula south of Fethard-on-Sea. It is a flat sheltered sandy beach with outcropping rock surrounded by cliffs. There is a narrow access track to the beach from the public road. Above the beach there is a Martello Tower. From the landfall location at Baginbun Beach and lands above same, the route follows the public road north of the access road to the beach and then left at the next junction to the north following the public road to a 'T' junction at the Templars Inn pub. The route turns right and follows the public road northwards along the L4045 until the junction with the R733 where it turns left and heads westwards into and through Ramsgrange village. Just west of Ramsgrange village the route veers northwards on a local road until it meets the R733. The route continues north past Dunbrody Abbey and crosses the train line within the public road under an existing bridge. It then crosses the Campile estuary and continues northwards across farmland then turning west and south west through farmland crossing the train line again under an existing bridge and into the proposed Converter station site. The converter station site adjoins Great Island Power Station which is a large industrial complex on the Estuary.

### **3.0 The Proposed Development**

#### Project Need

3.1. The project has, as outlined above, been designated as a Project of Common Interest under the provisions of European Union Regulation No. 347/2013 on guidelines for Trans-European Network for Energy. The documentation submitted to the Board outlines the strong support within Europe for additional interconnection with an interconnected European energy grid vital for energy security, and competition in the internal market. The island of Ireland is currently connected to the UK by way of two, two-way interconnectors, the Moyle interconnector in Northern Ireland and the EirGrid East West Interconnector which landfalls in North County Dublin. The proposed Interconnector seeks to connect the south of the island to the UK. While the UK is currently transitioning out of the EU, the prospective applicant has outlined that interconnection with non-Member States also forms part of the Trans-European Energy Network.

#### The Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises of an electricity interconnector connecting the existing electricity grids in Ireland and Great Britain (Wales) comprising of two converter stations, one in each jurisdiction. The Irish converter station is located close to the existing 220kV substation at Great Island in County Wexford and the Welsh converter station is located close to the existing transmission grid substation at Pembroke in Pembrokeshire. The two converter stations are proposed to be connected to each other by underground cables onshore and subsea cables offshore.

The permanent and temporary elements of the proposed development located within the Board's jurisdiction are as follows:

**Converter Station** – a converter station with a 500MW nominal capacity is proposed which will convert alternating current to direct current electricity and vice versa, situated close to the existing Great Island 220kV substation in Wexford. Two alternative converter station configurations are proposed with final configuration subject to final contract.

**Tail Station-** A 220kV substation is proposed beside the converter station. The tail station will connect the high voltage alternating current 220kV cables into the 220kV electrical transmission grid via the existing Great Island 220kV substation.

**Grid Connection via High Voltage Alternating Current (AC) Cables** – one 220 kV high voltage alternating current electricity cable circuit consisting of three cables for approximately 420m in length, installed underground connecting the converter station via the tail station to the existing spare bay in the EirGrid Great Island 220kV substation into the National Grid.

**High Voltage Onshore Direct Current (DC) Cable** – two high voltage direct current electricity cables with a nominal capacity of 500 MW are proposed for approximately 23km to be installed underground from the converter station at Great Island to the landfall at Baginbun Beach. The cable route includes jointing bays approximately 1km apart with ground level markers at intervals along the route;

**Fibre Optic Cables** – fibre optic cables, for control and communication purposes, are proposed to be laid underground with the high voltage direct current cables and high voltage alternating current cables;

#### **Temporary Compounds**

**Landfall compound** - Where the high voltage direct current subsea cables come ashore at Baginbun Beach in County Wexford a temporary landfall compound is proposed in a field inland from the beach with the cables installed underground below the beach and cliff by using the horizontal directional drilling technique;

**Converter station construction compound:** temporary compound to be used by the contractors for the construction of the converter station and tail station at Great Island;

**Cable Contractor compounds** – three temporary compounds, to be used by the contractor installing the cables, will be required at (i) the landfall site close to Baginbun Beach (ii) the proposed converter station and (iii) one along the onshore route in the townland of Lewistown;

**Horizontal Directional Drilling Contractor Compounds** – temporary compounds are required by the horizontal directional drilling contractor. One will be located close to the cable contractor compound at Baginbun Beach with another horizontal directional drilling compound located at either side of the Campile River Estuary crossing;

The proposed development also includes a number of additional elements which are proposed as the Project Community Gain Proposals as follows:

**Roadside Car Parking near Baginbun Beach** – circa 54 roadside car parking spaces to be constructed near Baginbun Beach; and

**Ramsgrange Village** – extension to existing footpaths, four new street lights and a speed activated sign at Ramsgrange.

Both projects are proposed in consultation with Wexford County Council.

## 4.0 Policy Context

### 4.1. National Planning Framework 2040

- 4.1.1. Reference is made at Section 8.4, Co-ordination of Investment in Infrastructure, to energy and to collaboration in the energy sector, driven by the single electricity market and combined with the development of interconnection such as the East West Interconnector (EWIC) in Ireland and the Moyle Interconnector in NI has reduced energy prices, enhanced energy systems resilience and diversification away from a near total reliance on fossil fuels. Reference is made to the need for a new interconnector on the island of Ireland and to the work Ireland is doing with other countries such as France to explore potential for electricity interconnection and the continued support of relationships with European neighbours to enhance our international connectivity.
- 4.1.2. National Strategic Outcome 8 relates to the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society which in terms of Green Energy includes reference to a national interconnector (sub-sea ring around Ireland) or other solutions offer the potential to connect Ireland to the EU electricity grid system.

### 4.2. Regional Spatial Economic Strategy for the Southern Region

- 4.2.1. The RSES for the Southern Region came into effect in January 2020 and includes Wexford. Chapter 8 deals with Water and Energy Utilities with Section 8.2 of the document dealing with the Strategic Energy Grid. The document states that “*the Region is particularly rich in renewable energy resources and contains significant energy generation infrastructure of national and regional importance, including hydro-generation, thermal generation at Moneypoint, Tarbert, Marina, Aghada, Whitegate and Great Island*”. It continues by stating that “*even with significant energy*

*demand centres, the Region is currently generating more than demand at present Eirgrid's Grid Development Strategy, Your Grid, Your Tomorrow addresses the overall need of the system and will increase transfer capacity from the south and southwest to the Eastern and Midland Region. This signifies the strategic role of the Region's energy assets in national energy generation and transmission".*

4.2.2. It also states that *"the existing infrastructure, developed over many years, represents major and on-going capital and infrastructural investment in strategic national assets and is essential for the continued provision of a secure and reliable electricity supply"*. Reference is made to the Celtic Interconnector between Ireland and France and the benefits of the project which include increased competition and increased security of supply. It also states it will help facilitate Ireland's transition to a low carbon energy future and host fibre optics. It is stated that a safe, secure and reliable supply of energy is critical to a well-functioning region with projected increase in population and economic growth and increased demand for energy.

4.2.3. The following Regional Policy Objectives are noted:

- **RPO 219** - New Energy Infrastructure and states that *"it is an objective to support the sustainable reinforcement and provision of new energy infrastructure by infrastructure providers (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) to ensure the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the Region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs"*.
- **RPO 222** - Electricity Infrastructure states that *"it is an objective to support the development of a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity and to support and facilitate the development of enhanced electricity networks and facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects that might be brought forward in the lifetime of this plan under EirGrid's (2017) Grid Development Strategy (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) to serve the existing and future needs of the Region and strengthen all-island energy infrastructure and interconnection capacity"*.
- **RPO 223** – International Energy Interconnection Infrastructure – *"It is an objective to support the sustainable development of international energy interconnection*

*infrastructure and support the sustainable development (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) of the Celtic Interconnector project between Ireland and France from a location in the Region”.*

#### **4.3. Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019**

- 4.3.1. The subject site is located within the area of Wexford County Council where the current Development Plan is the Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019. It is noted that a new County Plan is being prepared to replace this Plan. Section 11.2.1 addresses the Electricity Network and states:

*“EirGrid’s strategy GRID 25 sets out the future requirements of the electricity network up to 2025. The Strategy states that the capacity of the bulk of the transmission system will need to be doubled by 2025 to facilitate the necessary increase in renewable generation (40% electricity to be generated from renewable energy sources by 2020), to adequately meet the demands of the electricity customer and to ensure that Ireland has the electricity supply infrastructure to ensure our economic growth and maximise our competitiveness. This will be achieved through major reinforcements to the existing network across all regions. In addition, the East-West Interconnector project, which is currently being progressed by EirGrid, will provide a 500 MW link with the UK. This will strengthen the security of supply and provide opportunities to export and/or import electricity”.*

- 4.3.2. It further states:

*“The Council will support the reinforcement of the electricity transmission grid to improve energy supply to the county. Where strategic route corridors have been identified, the Council will support the statutory providers of national grid infrastructure by safeguarding such corridors from encroachment by other developments that might compromise the provision of energy networks, provided these corridors do not have adverse impacts on residential amenity or the environment. Where proposed high voltage lines traverse existing or proposed residential areas they should be located underground where appropriate, in the interest of residential amenity”.*

- 4.3.3. Objective EN04 seeks “to facilitate the provision of and improvements to energy networks in principle, provided that it can be demonstrated that



- *The development is required in order to facilitate the provision or retention of significant economic or social infrastructure*
- *The route proposed has been identified with due consideration for social, environmental and cultural impacts*
- *The design is such that will achieve least environmental impact consistent with not incurring excessive cost*
- *Where impacts are inevitable mitigation features have been included*
- *Proposals for energy infrastructure should be assessed in accordance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive”.*

4.3.4. Section 11.3.4 addresses Wave and Tidal Energy where the following is noted:

*“Preliminary studies carried out by Sustainable Energy Ireland (Tidal and Current Energy Resources in Ireland, SEI, 2004) identifies the area off Tuskar Rock and Carnsore Point as the most viable tidal resource in the Republic of Ireland, taking into account technical, physical, institutional and commercial viability constraints. The East-West Interconnector has now been completed and provides a 500 MW link with the UK Grid. Grid 25 will provide for the connection of further interconnectors along the south-east or southern coast. An interconnector from Wexford could be linked into a tidal test site at Tuskar Rock which would allow developers to test tidal prototypes. The development of the SEZ at Rosslare Harbour would also provide potential for companies involved in the research and development of tidal energy”.*

#### 4.4. **European Sites**

The site is located within, adjacent to or within close proximity of a number of European Sites including the following:

- Hook Head SAC – Site Code 000764
- River Barrow and River Nore SAC – Site Code 002162
- Lower River Suir SAC – Site Code 002137
- Bannow Bay SAC – Site Code 000697
- Bannow Bay SPA – Site Code 004033
- Kerragh Island SPA – Site Code 004118

- Saltee Islands SAC – Site Code 000707
- Saltee Islands SPA – Site Code 004002
- Ballyteige Burrow SAC – Site Code 000696
- Ballyteige Burrow SPA – Site Code 004020
- Tramore Dunes and Back Strand SAC – Site Code 000671
- Tramore Back Strand SPA – Site Code 004027

## 5.0 Planning History

### 5.1. Landfall and Cable Route

- 5.1.1. For the majority of the route most applications and decisions relate to single one off dwelling houses. There are a number of decisions in Ramsgrange village including small residential development and modest commercial and community developments.

### 5.2. Great Island Power Station

- 5.2.1. There are a considerable number of planning applications within and adjoining the site of the existing Great Island Power Station. This Power Station has an IPPC licence and is a Seveso Establishment (Lower Tier). A number of applications relate to support buildings or protection for existing buildings/structures. The most recent ones include the following:

**Ref. 20180506** – Permission granted for a Grid System Services Facility within a total site area of up to 1.15ha including a TSO compound including one TSO electrical substation building and one customer substation.

**Ref. 20171117** - Permission granted for new security fencing, lighting, CCTV etc.

**Ref. 20150378** – Permission granted for a 38kV GIS Electrical Transformer Station within existing 220kV station.

## 6.0 The Applicant's Submission

- 6.1. In their first submission and in further submissions and presentations to the Board the prospective applicant has outlined the need for the proposed development and

regulatory requirements, the rationale for and process by which the final route of the cable and landfall were refined and determined. The process for the section of the proposed development within the UK jurisdiction was also outlined.

- 6.2. During the application process it was outlined that following Legal advice on the matter (correspondence dated 3 July 2019) that it was proposed to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment Report with the application. It is also stated that it is the prospective applicant's intention to subject a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) with the application. It is further noted that an EIAR and NIS were submitted with the Foreshore Licence application.
- 6.3. It is also noted that Legal Advice in respect of the jurisdiction of the Board, as it applies to the Foreshore, was provided in response to the Board's representatives request for same (correspondence dated 25 September 2019).

## 7.0 Consultations

7.1. Five pre-application meetings were held with the prospective applicant (8 December 2016, 20 September 2018, 14 May 2019, 31 January 2020 & 3 June 2020). A record of each meeting is attached to the file. Presentations made to the Board's representatives at the meetings are also attached to the file. The principal matters arising related to:

- Need for proposed development
- Implications of Brexit
- Status of Proposal in UK jurisdiction
- Refinement of the landfall location and cable route to Great Island
- Requirement for EIA and submission of EIAR
- Requirement for AA, consultation with NPWS and need for robust NIS
- Jurisdiction of the Board in respect of the Foreshore
- Foreshore Licence
- Converter Station Design
- Consultations undertaken with Stakeholders and Local Community and Community Gain

- Visual Impact and Cultural Heritage
- Disturbance to Beach Access
- Cable Route on Public Road.

## 8.0 Legislative Context

### 8.1. Strategic Infrastructure Development

- 8.1.1. Section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) requires, where a person (referred to as the ‘undertaker’) intends to carryout development comprising or for the purposes of electricity transmission, the undertaker shall prepare an application for approval of the development to the Board.
- 8.1.2. Section 182A(9) of the Act states that the term ‘transmission’ shall be construed in accordance with section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act 1999, and for the purposes of section 182A, shall also be construed as meaning the transport of electricity by means of a high voltage line (equal to or greater than 110 kilovolts) or an interconnector (whether ownership of the interconnector will be vested in the undertaker or not).
- 8.1.3. Section 2(1) of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999 defines transmission as ‘...*the transport of electricity by means of a transmission system, ... a system which consists, wholly or mainly, of high voltage lines and electric plant and which is used for conveying of electricity from a generating station to a sub-station, from one generating station to another, from one substation to another or to or from any interconnector or to final customers but shall not include any such lines which the Board may, from time to time, ...specify as being part of the distribution system ...*’
- 8.1.4. Electric plant is defined as ‘*any plant, apparatus or appliance used for, or for purposes connected with, the generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity, other than by (a) an electric line, (b) a meter..., or (c) an electrical appliance..*’

## 8.2. Environmental Impact Assessment

- 8.2.1. Section 182A(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) requires that in respect of development referred to in section 182A(1), which belongs to a class of development for the purposes of section 176 (prescribed classes of development requiring environmental impact assessment), the undertaker shall prepare an environmental impact statement or Natura Impact Statement in respect of the proposed development.
- 8.2.2. Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended) transposes Annex I and II of the EIA Directive and sets out prescribed classes of development, for which an environmental impact assessment is required. Part 1(20) of the Schedule refers to '*Construction of overhead electrical power lines with a voltage of 220 kilovolts or more and a length of more than 15 kilometres*'. Part 2(3)(b) refers to '*Industrial installations for carrying gas, steam and hot water with a potential heat output of 300 megawatts or more, or transmission of electrical energy by overhead cables not included in Part 1 of this Schedule, where the voltage would be 200 kilovolts or more*'. Part 3(10) refers to infrastructure projects including (b)(iv) which refers to "*urban development which would involve an area greater than 2 hectares in the case of a business district, 10 hectares in the case of other parts of a built-up area and 20 hectares elsewhere*".

## 9.0 Relevant Cases

- 9.1. **PL17.VA0002 - East West HVDC Interconnector between Ireland & Great Britain**
- 9.1.1. The only existing underground subsea electricity interconnector which has been approved in the jurisdiction of the Republic of Ireland is the East West Interconnector developed by EirGrid. This was granted permission by the Board on 14 September 2009 and provided for a subsea cable from North Wales coming ashore at Rush North Beach with an underground cable in the public road to the site of the converter station adjacent to the Woodlands 400kV substation in County Meath. The development is operational.

## 9.2. **PL02.VA0017 – North South 400kV Electricity Interconnector**

- 9.2.1. Permission was granted in December 2016 for an overground electricity interconnector (approx. 138 long including 34km in NI) to link the existing electricity transmission networks of Northern Ireland, at Turleenan in County Tyrone and the Republic of Ireland, at Woodlands in County Meath.

## 10.0 **Assessment**

### 10.1. **Strategic Infrastructure**

- 10.1.1. The proposed development will comprise an electricity interconnector which comprises a converter station to be located at Great Island and an underground electricity cable from the converter station to a location at Baginbun Beach where the cable will comprise an undersea cable which will cross the Irish Sea to the converter station proposed in Pembroke, Wales.
- 10.1.2. Accordingly, the development of an interconnector falls within the definition of transmission set out in Section 182(A)(9) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and, therefore comprises strategic infrastructure development under Section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

### 10.2. **Environmental Impact Assessment**

- 10.2.1. Section 182A (2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended states that *“in the case of development referred to in subsection (1) which belongs to a class of development identified for the purposes of section 176, the undertaker shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, an environmental impact assessment report or Natura impact statement or both that report and that statement, as the case may be, in respect of the development”*.
- 10.2.2. Section 176 sets out the prescribed classes of development requiring assessment. The development of an interconnector does not constitute a “project” within either Annex I or Annex II to Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU nor is it a

class as set out in either Part 1 or Part 2 of Schedule 5 (Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended).

- 10.2.3. The Board received correspondence from the prospective applicants Legal Advisers (dated 3 July 2019) which considers the imprecise nature of project types and the wide scope and broad purpose of the Directive. It then references possible EIA Project Types for consideration of the proposed development these being – electrical power lines, transmission of electrical energy and urban development which are considered in turn. The correspondence advises that an EIAR should be prepared and submitted.
- 10.2.4. While noting the legal advice provided, the proposal is not a class of development for the purposes of EIA, as noted above, the prospective applicant have indicated their intention to include an EIAR with the application. It should also be noted that an EIAR accompanied the Foreshore licence application. I would refer the Board to Article 102 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended which states that “*where a planning application for sub-threshold development is accompanied by an EIAR, the application shall be dealt with as if the EIAR had been submitted in accordance with section 172(1) of the Act*”. While this Article refers to sub-threshold development thereby implying that the project is a ‘class’, it is considered that it can also be applied to projects where it is considered that the project is not a class. In this regard, given the prospective applicants proposal to submit an EIAR, it is recommended that Article 102 should be applied.
- 10.2.5. If it is proposed to submit an EIAR, the prospective applicant is referred to the European Commission document *Guidance on the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large Scale Trans-boundary Projects* (2013). This Guidance requires that the entirety of environmental effects of the Interconnector project is assessed and dealt with in the application documentation and requires the production of a Joint Environmental Report (see section 5 of the aforementioned Guidance).

### 10.3. **Appropriate Assessment**

- 10.3.1. The proposed development adjoins and proposes to traverse European sites, Hook Head SAC – Site Code 000764 at Baginbun Beach and the River Barrow and River

Nore SAC – Site Code 002162 at Campile. There are a number of other Natura 2000 sites within the wider area. The applicant has indicated that it is their intention to include a NIS with the application which is considered to be appropriate.

#### **10.4. Prescribed Bodies**

10.4.1. In view of the scale, nature and location of the proposed development, as described in this report, it is recommended that the prospective applicant should consult with the prescribed bodies listed in the attached Appendix in respect of any future application for approval.

#### **10.5. Jurisdiction of the Board in the Foreshore**

10.5.1. As outlined above, the matter of the Boards jurisdiction in the foreshore was the subject of discussion during the pre-application process. The Board had previously determined in their consideration of the East-West Interconnector that their jurisdiction extended to the 12 Nautical Mile Limit. The prospective applicant was requested to provide their Legal position on the matter and following receipt of same, an Inspectorate Memo was sent to the Board, dated 6 February 2020, outlining the position held by the Board in respect of the previous Interconnector and the Legal Advice from the prospective applicant. A Direction from the Board was sought on the matter.

10.5.2. By way of memo dated 21 May 2020, the Board provided a view on the matter as follows:

1. That the provisions of section 225 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, apply to applications for approval under section 182A of the Act so that the proposed development of an electricity interconnector in the foreshore (as defined by the Foreshore Acts 1933 as amended) fall within the jurisdiction of the Board.
2. In respect of any application or appeal that may come before it, the Board will consider that part of the development that falls within the High Water Mark and all on-shore elements, and will not be assessing that part of the development that is subject of a foreshore licence (i.e. up to the 12 Nautical Mile Limit).



## 11.0 Conclusion

11.1. Having regard to the above, I recommend that the Board serve a notice on the prospective applicant under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, stating that it is of the opinion that the proposed development constitutes strategic infrastructure development.

## 12.0 Recommendation

12.1. Having regard to the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, and the nature of the development as set out in the plans and particulars submitted, which comprises the construction of an electricity interconnector, it is considered that the proposed development falls within the scope of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Accordingly, the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of the Act and any application for approval must therefore be made directly to the Board and should be accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which it is proposed to submit with the planning application.

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Una Crosse  
Senior Planning Inspector  
22 July 2020

## Appendix

The following is a schedule of prescribed bodies considered relevant for the purposes of Section 37E (3) (c) of the Principal Act.

### Prescribed Bodies

\*Minister for the Housing, Planning and Local Government

\*Minister for the Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

\*Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment

\*Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Environmental Protection Agency

Irish Water

Commission for Regulation of Utilities

Fáilte Ireland

An Taisce

The Heritage Council

An Chomhairle Ealaíon

Health Service Executive (Seveso sites)

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Waterways Ireland

The Southern Regional Assembly

Coras Iompair Éireann

Commission for Railway Regulation

Railway Safety Commission

Wexford County Council

\* Please note that Department responsibilities may alter following recent Government formation.