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underground high voltage cables we are dealing with, as this is a fairly new development in County Clare.

These are planned under \pm 25 km mostly narrow country roads.

In Belgium and the Netherlands with new projects they are observing a free zone on both sides of the cable.

As advised by the G.G.D. (municipal Health Service) who's motivation is the higher incidence of leukemia and brain-tumors.

This zone is between 5-15 meter on either side of cable depending on strength of EMF's.

In France, who is the leading country in Europe working towards 30% underground high voltage cable structure network, they apply similar distances.

Interesting is their policy to create a sterile zone of 2 to 5 meters (depending on strength) on either side of the cable.

Tree removal or management is required within this designated easement zone to protect the infrastructure of deep roots and deep rooted trees are prohibited.
So how would this work out for.

our narrow country roads, often build on soft boggy soil? Traditional and vernacular building and shed are often in very close approximately to those roads.

Our hedgerows are of extreme bio-diversity importance. They make up for the disappointing low of Irish natural and native forests, about 1% left. These are crucial for the Irish eco-system and support hundreds of our indigenous species and they form essential wildlife corridors.

Even if work would be planned in the non-breeding season of our birds and other species, damage would be enormous and irreversible.

The high costs of this project reeks to future planning of industrial size energy generating projects along the route and further. West Clare is saturated with windfarms, creating a high risk for extinction of hen-harrier and more.

Enough is enough, clare has done its share!

Brigitte Sikkes

signed: BMSikkes