

OBSERVATION/SUBMISSION TO PLANNING APPLICATION

Case Reference: 324162

Oliver Freeney

Castlelambert

Athenry

Galway

H65 RX77

To: An Coimisiún Pleanála

64 Marlborough Street

Dublin 1

D01 V902

Date: 26 May 2026

Re: Observation to the proposed development of a 220kV substation, telecommunications mast and underground electricity cable infrastructure with associated works.

Location: Rathmorrissey, Pollnagroagh, Moanbaun, Castlelambert, Knocknacreeva, Caraunduff, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East, Barrettspark and Cashla (Townlands), Athenry, Co. Galway

Applicant: Bord Gáis Energy Limited

Dear Sir/Madam,

As a home and landowner on the route of this proposed cable, I have huge concerns with this proposed construction along the roads concerned. The road itself is totally unsuitable due to the width of this road and hints the only option is to close the road for an extended period, 6 months and possibly more. This disruption will cause a major concern for me, my wife and our young family. This road is a busy road with close to 700 vehicles using it on an average weekday during the national school calendar. Closing this road will have a major disruption for all locals accessing this road and there does not appear to have been any considerations for additional route options, like land crossing perhaps. My other concerns is the lack of consultation for the company for the houses living in the area. There has been no consultation or effort to meet with locals regarding these road closures. There appears to be an effort to piggyback on the Peaker Plant application (Case Reference: 324113)

Why would this be acceptable when they have been submitted as separate SID's? Why can the company think this is acceptable to not engage with locals when the local community is most effected? I own 2 folios along this route and the company have not sought permission or engagement with me or made any effort to discuss the disruption along this route. Both folio numbers cover half the road, why not engage with us?

Having reviewed the application documentation, I have outlined my concerns regarding the proposed development

Disruption to Rural and Residential Communities Along Route

The proposed 8.1km underground cable route would pass through a number of established rural and residential communities, including Rathmorrissey, Castletambert, Knocknacreeva, Caherbriskaun, Lisheenkyle East and Cashla. These are active farming and residential areas with homes, schools, farms and local businesses located along narrow rural roads. I am concerned about the level of disruption the proposed works would cause to residents, farms, local roads and daily community life.

Prolonged Trenching, Road Closures and HGV Traffic

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the impact prolonged trenching works, excavation, road occupation, traffic management systems and heavy construction traffic would have on narrow rural roads and the communities that rely on them daily. The application documentation confirms significant road closures, stop/go traffic systems and substantial HGV movements during construction, which could result in serious disruption and ongoing inconvenience for local residents and road users.

Long-Term Road Reinstatement Concerns

I am also concerned regarding the long-term standard of road reinstatement following completion of the proposed works. Similar utility infrastructure works in nearby areas have resulted in uneven road surfaces, raised utility covers and poor reinstatement quality. Given the scale and duration of the proposed trenching works, I believe binding commitments should be provided regarding full road restoration, ongoing maintenance responsibility and reinstatement to an appropriate long-term standard for local communities.

Emergency Services and Limited Alternative Routes

I am concerned about the impact the proposed cable and construction works could have on emergency access and daily movement throughout the area. The affected rural roads are used daily by ambulances, emergency services, carers, school transport, farmers, local businesses and residents, and many of these roads have limited alternative access routes available.

Inadequate Assessment of Disruption to Communities

I believe insufficient consideration has been given to the effect prolonged trenching works, stop/go traffic systems, temporary road closures and traffic diversions would have on the normal functioning of local communities. I do not believe adequate assessment has been provided regarding the likely impact of prolonged disruption on residents, emergency access, school transport, farms and daily community movement, particularly given the scale of the proposed construction activity and associated HGV traffic on local roads including the L3103.

Cumulative Impact on Community Access Routes

The roads affected by the proposed cable route are important community access routes serving homes, farms, schools and businesses across the wider Athenry area. In my view, the cumulative impact of prolonged construction activity, HGV traffic, road closures and disruption on daily community movement has not been adequately addressed within the application documentation.

Conclusion

For the reasons outlined above, I believe the proposed development would have significant adverse impacts on the local community, rural environment, farms, roads, groundwater conditions and surrounding residential areas. In my view, the application has not adequately demonstrated that the proposed development can proceed without unacceptable impacts on rural amenity, traffic safety, environmental protection and community wellbeing. I do not believe the proposal represents proper planning and sustainable development, and I respectfully request that permission be refused.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to be 'Oliver Freeney' written in a cursive, stylized manner. The first part 'Oliver' is written with a large 'O' and 'l', followed by 'iver'. The second part 'Freeney' starts with a capital 'F' and continues with 'reeney'. The signature is written above a horizontal line.

Name: Oliver Freeney

Date: 26 May 2026