



Energy for
generations

ESB Boyhill 110 kV/38kV & 110 kV/MV Substation

Presentation to An Coimisiún Pleanála

5th June 2026

Townland of Boyhill, County Galway

Agenda

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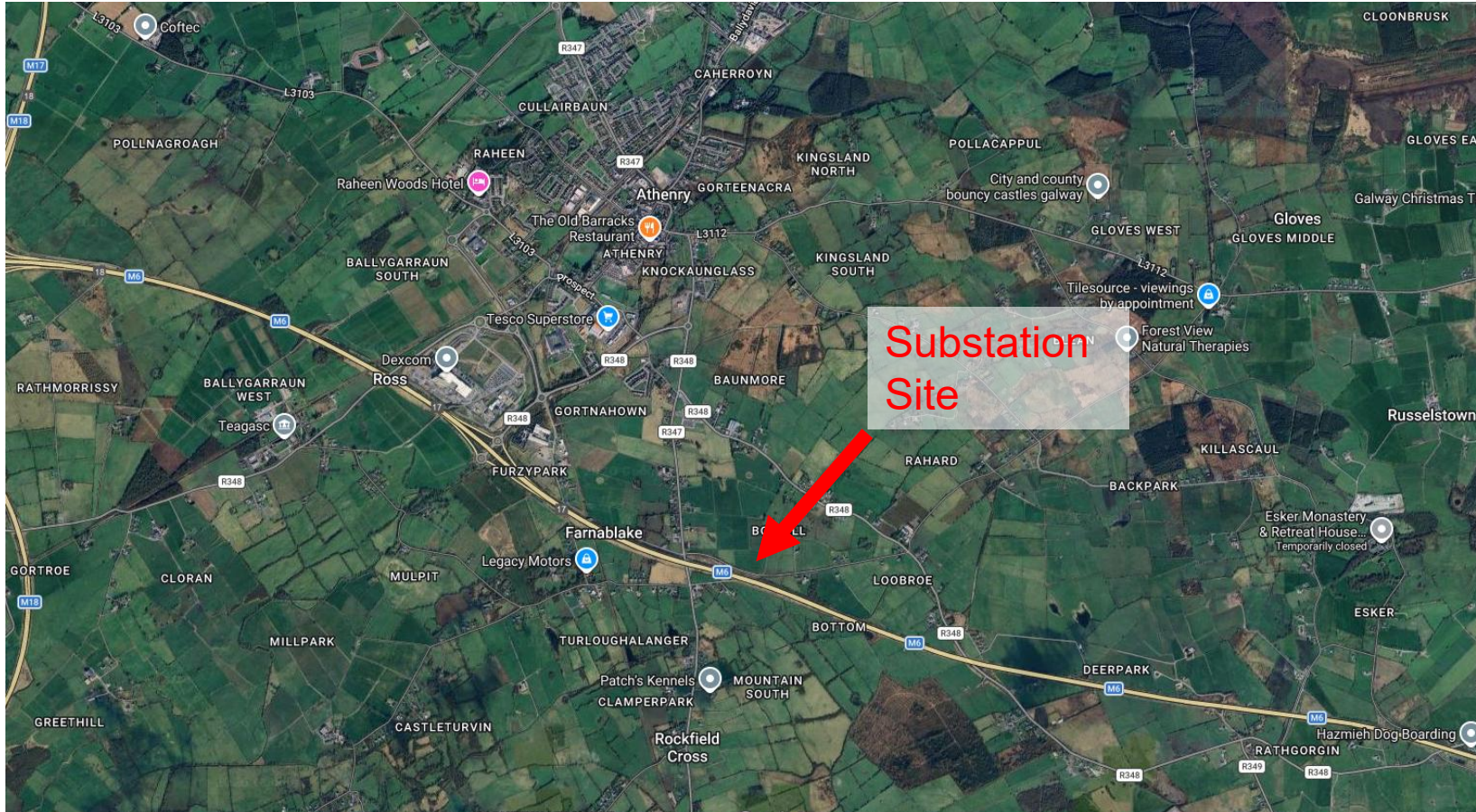
Attendees:

Amy O'Connell (ESB)
Heather McMeel (ESB)
Rob O'Toole (ESB)
Darren Reilly (ESB)

Context – SID Screening Determination

- The ESB is seeking confirmation from An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) as to whether a proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) in accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).
- The prospective applicant is ESB Networks DAC, Three Gateway, East Wall Road, Dublin 3, D03 R583, Ireland.
- Having regard to the precedent set by ACP in similar cases, it is considered that the proposed development falls within the scope of Section 182A of the PDA.

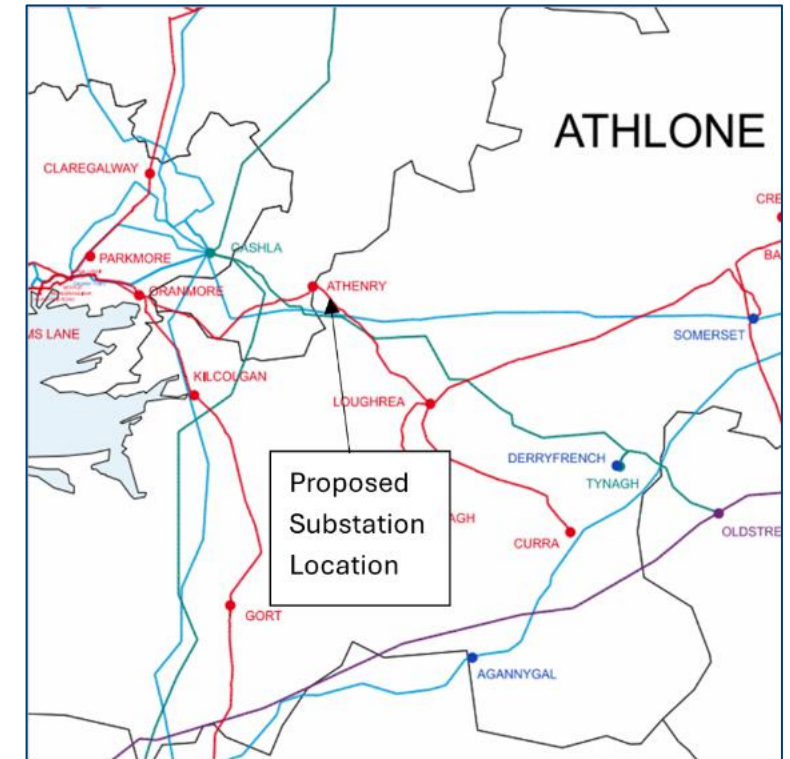
Proposed Development: Location



- The proposed development relates to a new **110 kV / 38 kV & 110 kV / MV GIS Substation** in the townland of Boyhill, Co. Galway
- Located on the L7159
- c.2km south of Athenry
- Surrounding land uses are Agriculture, with the L7159 and the M6 forming the southern boundary of the site
- Unzoned land

Proposed Development: Need

- Provide **additional capacity** required for future industrial, commercial and residential connections load demands and improving security of supply to the greater Athenry area.
- **Resolve the overloading issues** at the existing Athenry and Loughrea substations.
- The Galway County Development Plan (2022-2028) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) identify Athenry as an area of strategic economic potential, in particular the **Oranmore – Athenry Strategic Economic Corridor**.
- Large **customer connection request** for a pharmaceutical manufacturing facility located in Athenry.
- Provide capacity for future electrification of motorway services stations including new EV / HGV charging facilities
- Provide capacity in the wider region for the **electrification of heat and transport** as per Government targets.

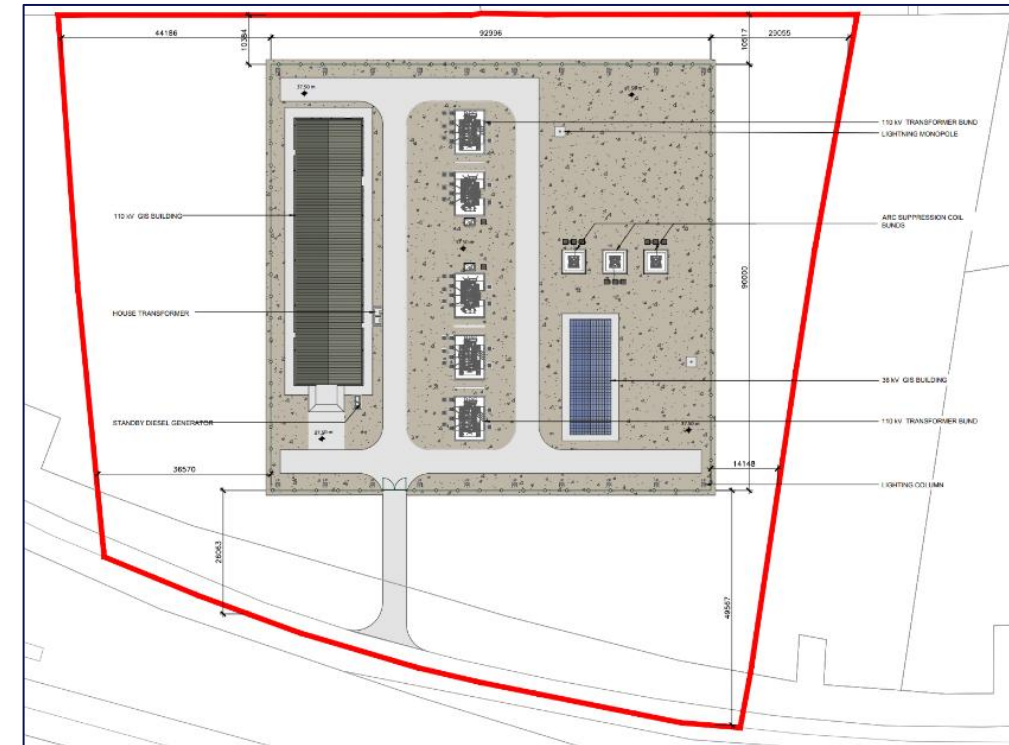


Proposed Development: Description

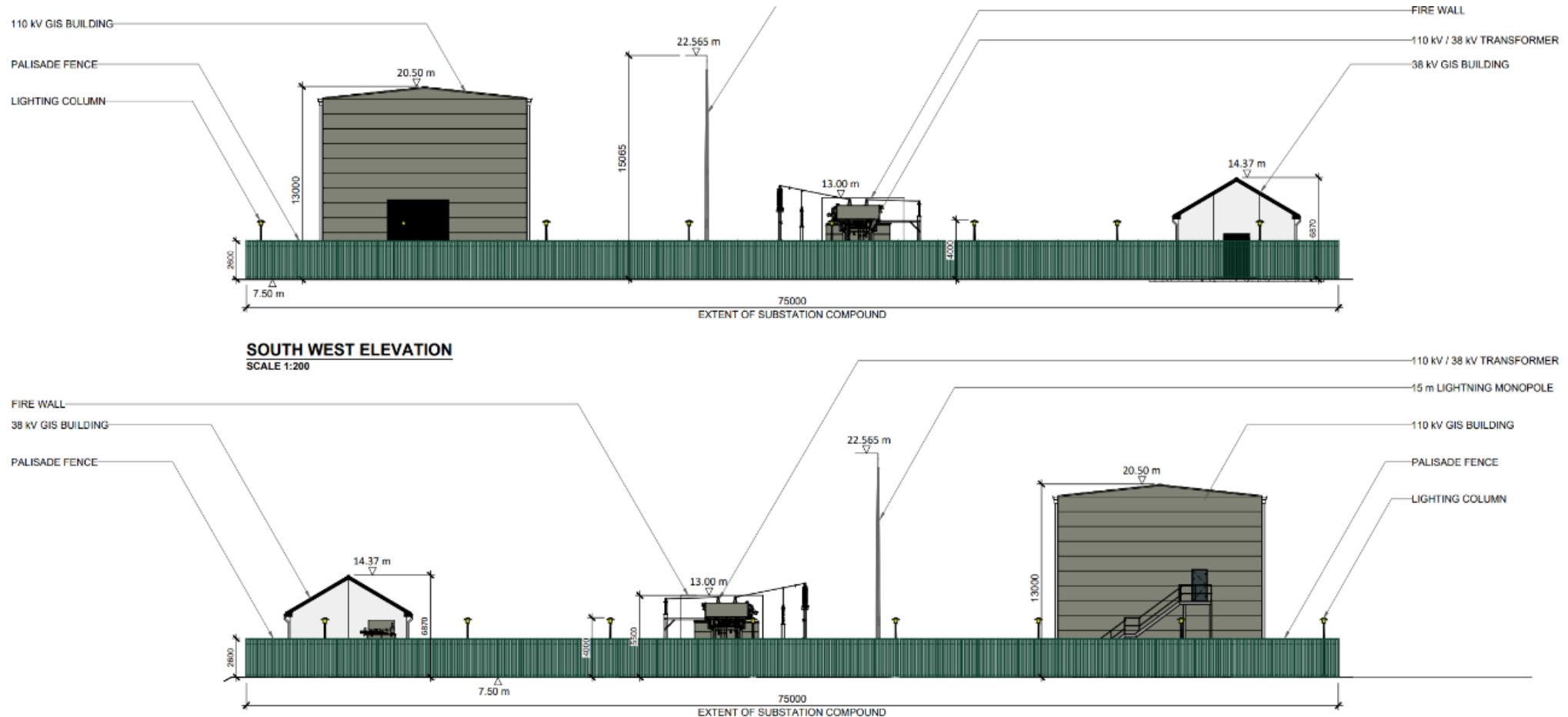
The substation would be contained within a compound enclosed by a palisade fence. The exact layout is TBC, however, it is likely to consist of the following elements amongst other electrical equipment;

- 110 kV GIS building (c. 50 x 14 x 13m high)
- 38 kV & MV GIS building (c. 29 x 8 x 7 m high)
- 3 x 110 kV / 38 kV & 2 x 110 kV / MV transformers
- Associated electrical equipment and underground cabling
- A steel lattice telecommunications mast of c. 36 m in height

The substation would be primarily unoccupied and visited infrequently for maintenance. The expected lifespan for all the primary plant of the proposed development is in the region of 50 to 60 years but infrastructure of this nature typically remains in situ as long as it is required.



Proposed Development: Example



Typical 110 kV GIS Substation

Proposed Development: Example



Typical 110 kV GIS Substation

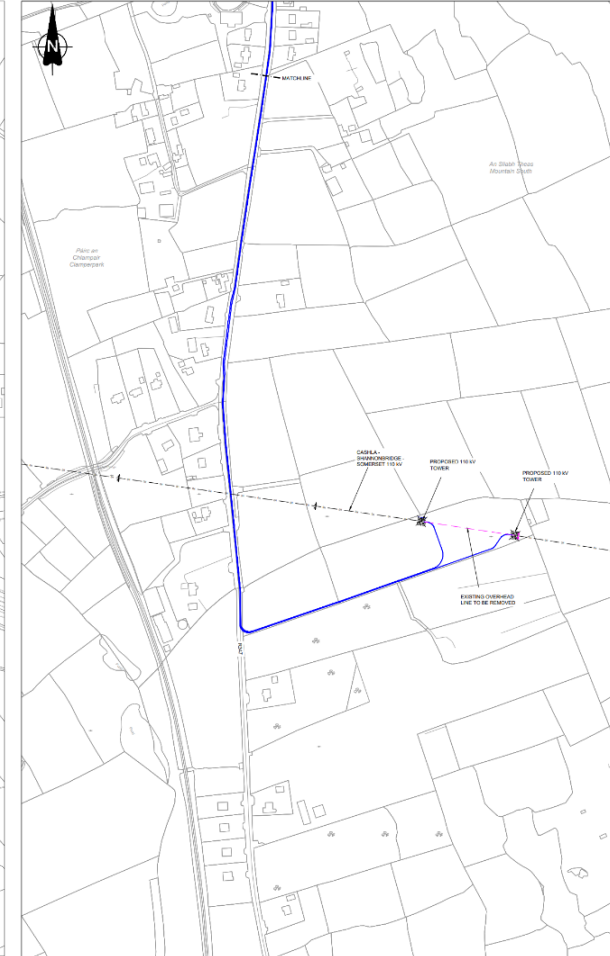
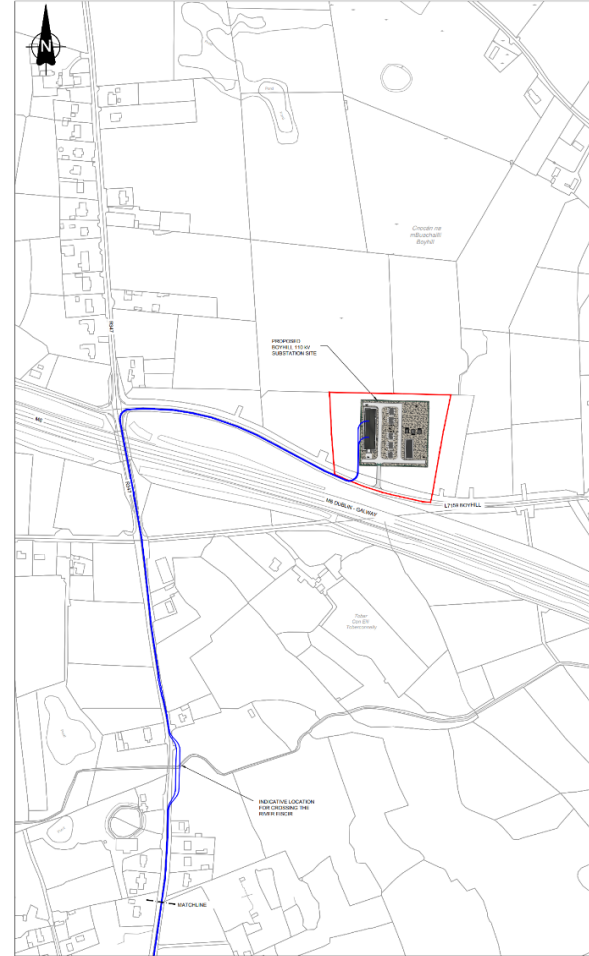
Proposed Grid Connection

It is proposed that the substation will loop into the existing Cashla - Shannonbridge - Somerset 110 kV overhead line which is located approximately 1.25 km south of the proposed substation.

The indicative grid connection will likely consist of:

- 2 No. 110 kV Line-Cable Interface Masts (LCIMs)
- 2.3 km of 110 kV underground double circuits

The final grid connection route and methodology will be dependent on a connection agreement with the transmission system operator (TSO), route analysis and planning and environmental assessments.



Exemptions Relevant to Grid Connections

The grid connection works will be included in the SID application where they do not fall within the relevant planning exemptions and where they cannot be screened out for AA.

Exemptions of relevance:

S.4(1)(g) of the Act: *Development consisting of the carrying out by any local authority or statutory undertaker of any works for the provision of inspecting, repairing, renewing, altering or removing any sewers, mains, pipes, cables, overhead wires or other apparatus, including the excavation of any street or other land for that purpose.*

S.4(1)(h) of the Act: *Development consisting of the carrying out of works for the maintenance, improvement or other alteration of any structure, being works which affect only the interior of the structure or which do not materially affect the external appearance of the structure so as to render the appearance inconsistent with the character of the structure or of neighbouring structures.*

Class 26 of the Regulations: *The carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking.*

National Planning Policy Context

Development of Ireland’s electricity grid and supporting infrastructure is a significant feature of national, regional, and local energy policies. The proposed development will facilitate a safe secure and reliable supply of energy in the Galway region.

National Planning Framework	National Policy Objective 71: Support the development and upgrading of the national electricity grid infrastructure, including supporting the delivery of renewable electricity generating development.
Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Northern and Western Region 2020-2032	RPO 8.1 The Assembly support the development of a safe, secure and reliable electricity network and the transition towards a low carbon economy centred on energy efficiency and the growth projects outlined and described in this strategy RPO 8.2 Support the reinforcement and strengthening of the electricity transmission network RPO 8.3 The Assembly support the necessary integration of the transmission network requirements to allow linkages with renewable energy proposals at all levels to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner. RPO 8.4 That reinforcements and new electricity transmission infrastructure are put in place and their provision is supported, 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. Ensure that development minimises impacts on designated areas.

Galway County Development Plan 2022-2028

Policies in the GCDP are supportive of the proposed development:

Policy Objective EG 1 Enhancement of Electricity Infrastructure

Support and promote the sustainable improvement and expansion of the electricity transmission and distribution network that supply the County, while taking into consideration landscape, residential, amenity and environmental considerations.

Policy Objective EG 2 Electricity Transmission Networks

To support the development of the transmission grid network in order to sustainably accommodate both consistent and variable flows of renewable energy generated in County Galway.

Policy Objective ICT 8 Underground Cabling

To co-operate with the relevant agencies to facilitate the undergrounding of all electricity, telephone and television cables in all environments, wherever possible, in the interests of visual amenity subject to fish and fisheries habitat considerations, especially where watercourse crossings are involved. Where undergrounding of cables is being pursued, proposals should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimised:

- Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows (right of way preparation) followed by topsoil stripping (to ensure machinery does not destroy soil structure and drainage properties);
- Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered;
- Impacts on underground archaeology;
- Impacts on soil structure and drainage; and
- Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation.

Planning Application

Next Steps: Strategic Infrastructure Development Screening has been submitted to ACP. Likely outcome that the development IS SID based on recent cases.

Planning application to be accompanied by:

- Planning and Environmental Report (PER)
- AA Screening
- Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)
- CEMP
- Archaeological/Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment
- Noise Impact Assessment
- Drawing Pack
- Other documents as required

Discussion/ Questions



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