



Energy for
generations

ESB Great Island – Belview 38 kV Underground Cable

Presentation to An Coimisiún Pleanála

9th July 2026

Townland of Greatisland Co. Wexford and
Drumdowney Upper and Gorteens ,Co. Kilkenny.

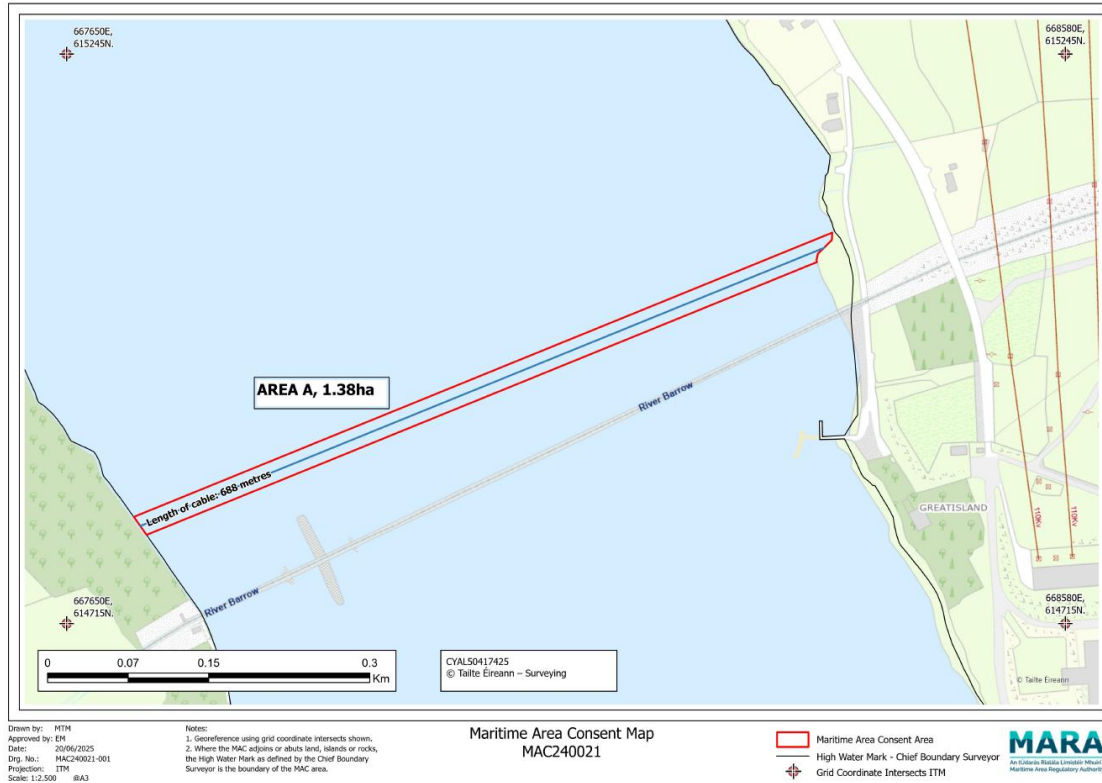
Agenda

- Introductions
- Proposed development
 - Context
 - Location
 - Need
 - Description of development
 - Examples
- Planning Policy Context
- Planning Application – next steps
- Discussion

Attendees:

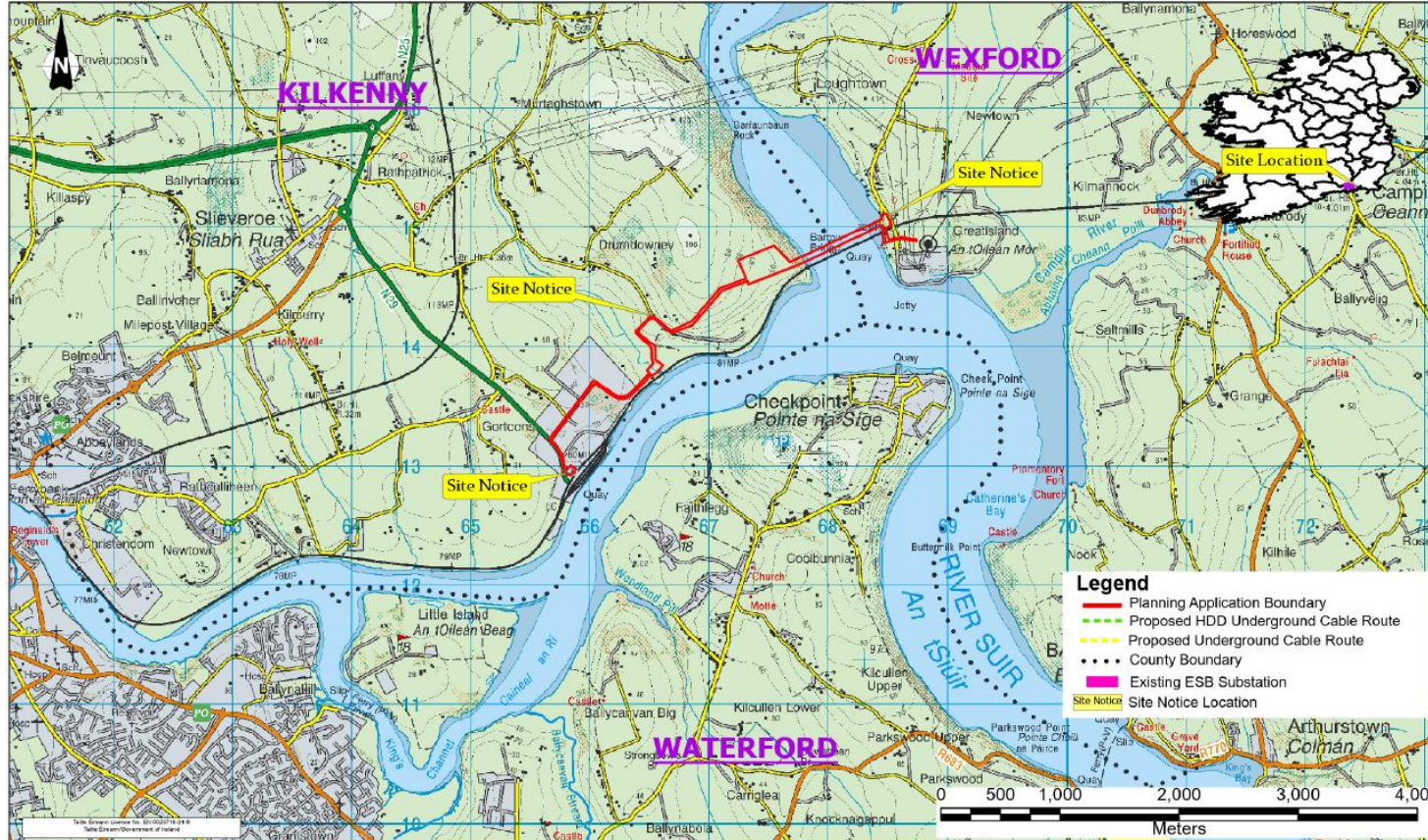
Janette McDonald (ESB)
Amy O'Connell (ESB)
Matthew Daly (ESB)
Diarmuid O'Sullivan (ESB)

Context



- The prospective applicant is the Electricity Supply Board (ESB).
- ESB is seeking a pre-planning consultation with An Coimisiun Pleanála (ACP) in accordance with Section 287 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000.
- A Maritime Area Consent (MAC) was issued for the proposed development on the 25th September 2025 (No. MAC240021)
- The planning authorities in whose functional area the site is situated are Wexford County Council and Kilkenny County Council.
- Condition 5.1 of the MAC requires that “The Holder shall submit an application for Development Permission relating to the Permitted Maritime Usage the subject of this Consent on or before the date set out in the Particulars Schedule.” ...Within 18 months of the commencement date of the MAC = 25th March 2027

Proposed Development: Location



- The proposed development consists of c. 5.2 km of new 38 kV underground cable (UGC), connecting the Great Island 220 kV Substation to the Belview 38 kV Substation.
- The UGC crosses the county boundary of Kilkenny and Wexford.
- The UGC crosses the River Barrow by means Horizontal Directional Drilling.
- River Barrow and River Nore SAC
- Barrow River Estuary pNHA

Proposed Development: Description

The proposed development consists of c.5.2 km of UGC that will cross the River Barrow by means of a HDD to facilitate the connection between the two existing substations.

The UGC starts at the existing Great Island 220kV station on the east side of the Barrow River located on land owned by SSE.

It travels west for c. 500m where it crosses the Barrow River by HDD and into lands known as Drumdowney Upper (Kilkenny CC) on the westside of the Barrow River in Belview.

The route then continues in a southwest direction until it ends within the existing Belview 38 kV Station.



Proposed Development: Need

- Due to the limitation on the 38kV river crossings (Waterford – Mount Misery 1 & 2) and the continued development north of the river in Waterford city, additional capacity is now required to supply new loads in the North Quays and/or Belview area.
- Two customers have applied for new Maximum Import Capacity (MIC) in the Belview area giving a net increase in the area of 3MVA.
- The Least Cost Technically Acceptable solution is to construct a new 38kv feeder from Great Island to the Belview port area. Great Island is currently being uprated with the installation of a second 31.5MVA 110/38kV transformer and a new 38kV GIS module.



Proposed Development - Example

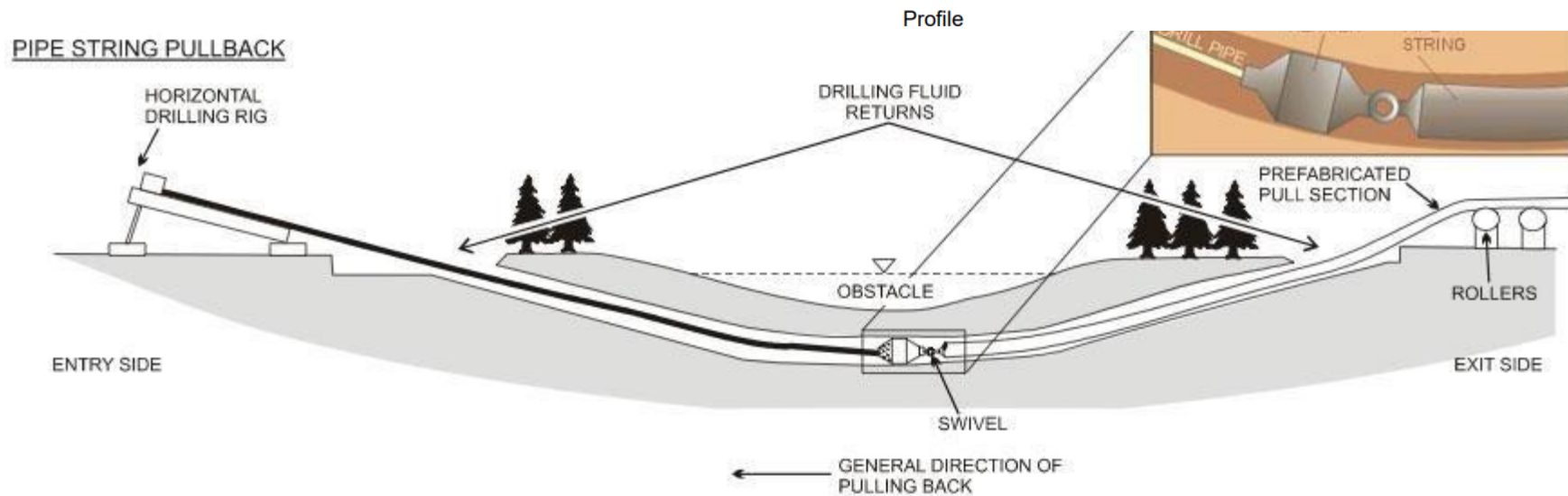
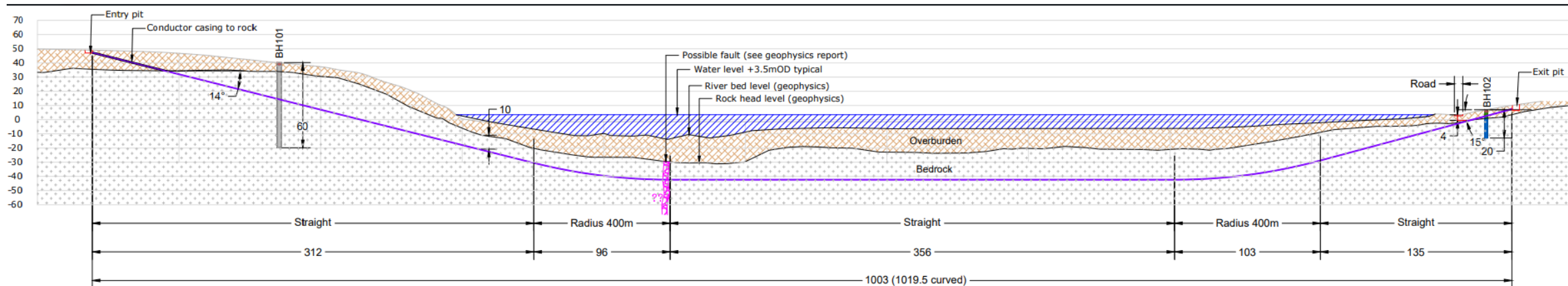


Typical underground
cable installation



Typical HDD compound set up

Proposed Development – HDD



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 in the 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 Southern Region 2020-2032 (RSES)	RPO 219 New Energy Infrastructure 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 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.

National Marine Planning Framework

Co-existence Policy 1 - Proposals should demonstrate that they have considered how to optimise the use of space, including through consideration of opportunities for coexistence and co-operation with other activities, enhancing other activities where appropriate. If proposals cannot avoid significant adverse impacts (including displacement) on other activities they must, in order of preference: a) minimise significant adverse impacts, b) mitigate significant adverse impacts, or c) if it is not possible to mitigate significant adverse impacts, proposals should set out the reasons for proceeding.

Infrastructure Policy 1 - Appropriate land-based infrastructure which facilitates marine activity (and vice versa) should be supported. Proposals for appropriate infrastructure that facilitates the diversification or regeneration of marine industries should be supported.

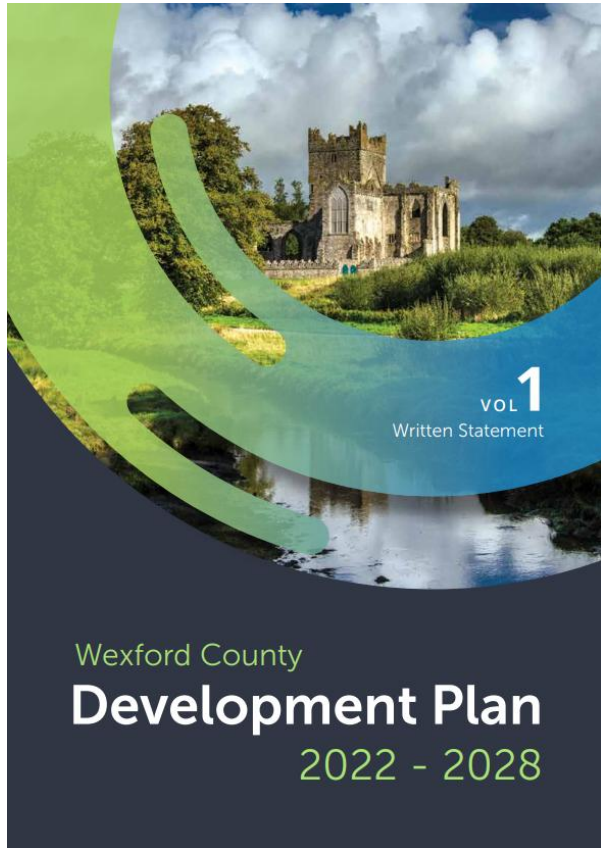
Transmission Policy 4 – Where possible, opportunities for land-based, coastal infrastructure that is critical to and supports energy transmission should be prioritised in plans and policies. Designation of land-based zones for the purposes of co-ordination and integration with relevant Marine Plans must be considered, where appropriate.



Project Ireland 2040
**National Marine
Planning Framework**



Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028



Objective ES35

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, and environmental
- 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

Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027

10.3.2 Grid Development Management Requirements

Kilkenny County Council will facilitate the provision of 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;
- the lines should be planned to avoid areas of high landscape sensitivity;
- preference should be given to undergrounding services where appropriate;
- the proposed infrastructure complies with all internationally recognised standards with regard to proximity to dwellings and other inhabited structures including best practice and new accepted research on the impacts on health;
- new power lines and power installations should be sited in accordance with the requirements of the “Health Effects of Electromagnetic Fields” Report issued by the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources in 2007, and
- where impacts are inevitable, mitigation features have been included.
- where considered necessary by the Council, a Visual Impact Assessment and a Landscape Impact Assessment will be required for significant Grid Infrastructural projects.
- That existing grid infrastructure should be used where possible in preference to erecting new grid infrastructure.
- Any proposed development must avoid impact on any Special Area of Conservation.

In considering facilities of this nature that traverse a number of counties or that traverse one county in order to serve another, the Council will consider the proposal in light of the criteria outlined above.

Planning Application – Next Steps

Planning application to be accompanied by:

- Planning and Environmental Report (PER)
 - To include information required under Schedule 7A of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).
 - Not a type of development which falls under Schedule 5 Part 1 or 2
- AA Screening and NIS
- Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA)
- CEMP
- Archaeological/ Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment
- Drawing Pack

Points to discuss

- Timelines for pre-planning consultation and planning decision
- Any other documents required

Discussion/ Questions



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