

Site Notice

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Notice of Application to An Bord Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development

In accordance with Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (the Planning Acts), Sure Partners Limited gives notice of its intention to make an application for approval to An Bord Pleanála in relation to the following proposed development:

The proposed development is the Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 Onshore Grid Infrastructure (hereinafter referred to as the proposed development). The Arklow Bank Wind Park (ABWP) is an offshore wind farm, located off the coast of County Wicklow, on the east coast of Ireland. A Foreshore Lease was granted for the development of a wind park on the Arklow Bank in 2002. Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 1 was constructed in 2003 – 2004 consisting of seven wind turbines. Phase 1 is owned and operated by Arklow Energy Limited under a sublease to the Foreshore Lease. Sure Partners Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of SSE plc (SSE), is now proposing to develop the remainder of the ABWP, Arklow Bank Wind Park Phase 2 (the Project), under the existing Foreshore Lease. The proposed development comprises the onshore grid infrastructure (OGI) to be developed as part of the Project.

The proposed development will comprise the onshore grid infrastructure (OGI) including 220kV export cable circuits and fibre optic cables, from the landfall of the offshore export cable circuits at Johnstown North, to a proposed new 220kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation at Shelton Abbey and overhead line connection from the new substation to the National Electricity Transmission Network (NETN), and associated ancillary works as described below, with an overall proposed development site area of 65.43ha. The proposed development will be located in the townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle in County Wicklow and will consist of the following principal elements:

- **Landfall** at Johnstown North, located approximately 4.5km northeast of Arklow Harbour, including:
 - Two offshore high voltage alternating current (HVAC) export cable circuits, each comprising of a single three core cable, laid underground below the cliff at Johnstown North, by horizontal directional drilling (HDD), from the High Water Mark (HWM) to two Transition Joint Bays (TJBs); and
 - Fibre optic cables, for operation and control purposes, laid underground with the export cable circuits; and
 - Two permanent underground Transition Joint Bays (TJBs), one for each cable circuit, to allow connection between onshore and offshore cable circuits; and
 - A permanent access track, in crushed stone, approximately 4.5m wide, from the existing access point on the R750 to the TJB locations, with an associated entrance gate and bituminous bellmouth; and
 - A temporary HDD compound, up to 4,900m² in area, with associated temporary access track and passing place, at Johnstown North, to the west of the R750 road, in one of two possible locations as detailed on the planning drawings accompanying the planning application, to facilitate the HDD operations; and
 - Biodiversity enhancement planting of approximately 16,000m² using a mixture of native woodland species; and
 - Associated ancillary works.
- **Two Onshore 220kV HVAC Cable Circuits**, from the Transition Joint Bays at Johnstown North to the new 220kV substation at Shelton Abbey, including:
 - Two onshore cable circuits, each comprising three 220kV HVAC single core cables, laid underground in trenches and by HDD, over a distance of approximately 6km between the Transition Joint Bays (TJBs) and the new onshore 220kV substation; and
 - Fibre optic cables for operation and control purposes, and earthing cables, laid underground with the HVAC cables over a distance of approximately 6km between the Transition Joint Bays (TJBs) and the new onshore 220kV substation; and
 - 20no. underground joint bays at intervals along the route; and
 - Ground level marker posts at intervals along the cable route; and
 - A temporary cable construction compound, up to 15,000m² in area, at Johnstown North, to the west of the R750 road, in the alternate location (from the final selected temporary HDD compound) as detailed on the planning drawings accompanying the planning application to facilitate construction of the onshore cables; and
 - Temporary HDD compounds (entry and exit compounds), each being up to 3,000m² in area, to facilitate crossing of the R772 road and the Templerainy watercourse, in the townlands of Killiniskyduff and Coolboy. Temporary HDD compounds, with the entry compound being up to 4,000m² and the exit compound being up to 3,000m² in area, to facilitate crossing of the M11 motorway and Sheepwalk watercourse, located in the townland of Kilbride (if HDD is the selected option for crossing the M11); and
 - Temporary access tracks (approximately 4.5m wide) and temporary haul roads (approximately 5.5m wide), with associated passing places, in the townlands of Johnstown North, Johnstown South, Seabank, Ballymoney, Killiniskyduff, Templerainy, Coolboy, Kilbride, Shelton Abbey and Ballyraine Lower, in crushed stone, with associated signage and drainage measures, to provide access to and along the cable route other than those provided directly from a public road, as shown on the planning drawings accompanying this planning application with temporary structures provided at watercourse crossings along these haul roads; and
 - Where a joint bay cannot be accessed by an existing track, permanent access tracks, approximately 4.5m wide, in crushed stone, with entrance gates and bituminous bellmouths at the junctions with the public road; the permanent access track in Johnstown South will also include a precast concrete culvert crossing of the Johnstown South watercourse; and
 - Associated ancillary works.
- A new **onshore 220kV substation**, to be located at Shelton Abbey, north of the Avoca River, at the Avoca River Business Park, approximately 2.1km northwest of Arklow Town consisting of two connected compounds:
 - The transmission compound, with the infrastructure to physically connect to the NETN, including:
 - 220kV GIS substation building 61m x 18.5m and 17m in height;
 - 2no. new 220kV overhead line towers, each with a maximum height of 40m above the ground;
 - Medium voltage power supply via a small unit substation and underground cable circuit from the existing adjacent 110kV substation;
 - House transformer; and
 - Diesel generator.
 - The connection compound, with the infrastructure to allow the connection of the windfarm in accordance with EirGrid Grid Code requirements, including:
 - 220kV GIS substation building 50m x 23.75m and 17m in height;
 - 2 no. STATCOM buildings, approximately 30m x 23m and 10m in height, housing equipment and control panels with adjacent compounds and 220/33kV transformers;

- 2 no. harmonic filters;
 - 2 no. voltage regulation devices;
 - telecommunications mast up to 50m in height;
 - house transformer;
 - diesel generator; and
 - lightning arrester masts, up to 30m in height.
 - Temporary construction compound for the construction of the 220kV substation (located within the permanent footprint of the new substation site) and to support the construction of the western end of the onshore 220kV HVAC cable circuits as well as the connection from the substation to the NETN. This compound will be up to 10,000m² in area;
 - Potable water for the substation will be provided by a new watermain, connected to the existing watermain outside the perimeter of the substation site; foul wastewater will be collected independently from both substation compounds, temporarily stored in suitable holding tanks and periodically removed from site by licensed contractors; surface water will be collected and discharged to the existing drainage infrastructure in place, which drains to a ditch around the western and northern boundary of the site and to the canal near the southern boundary of the site;
 - Both substation compounds will be secured around the perimeter with boundary palisade fencing, posts and railings, with new entrance gates, site lighting and CCTV security measures also provided; and
 - Access to both the transmission and connection compound will be from the existing road network, with separate site access roads and new junctions provided to each compound, along the northern and western boundary of the site; provision for 15no. car parking spaces, 10 within the connection compound and 5 within the transmission compound is also included, as is site surfacing and landscaping; and
 - Associated ancillary works.
- **Flood defence improvement works** to the existing Avoca River Business Park flood defences located approximately 500m west of the substation site, comprising:
 - Localised raising of the existing flood defence embankment level from approximately 5.8m OD to 6.5m OD, over a distance of up to 75m; and
 - Temporary working areas to facilitate construction of the flood defence improvement works; and
 - Associated ancillary works.
- **A 220kV overhead line 'loop in' connection** from the new 220kV substation at Shelton Abbey to the existing 220kV transmission network located approximately 200m from the substation site in the townlands of Shelton Abbey, Ballyraine Lower and Ballyraine Middle, comprising:
 - A new double circuit lattice steel angle tower, (to the east of the new substation) with maximum height 40m above the ground and re-stringing the overhead line (OHL) from an existing tower to this new tower;
 - Stringing a new OHL from the new tower into the transmission substation site to a new tower. The OHL will consist of up to 6 conductors (3 conductors on either side of the towers) and one shield wire with fibre optic wrap. The shield wire is the top wire and is connected to the top of the towers;
 - A new double circuit lattice steel angle tower, (south of the new substation and Avoca River) with maximum height 40m above the ground and re-stringing the OHL from an existing tower to this new tower;
 - Stringing a new OHL from the new tower into the transmission substation site to a new tower. The OHL will consist of up to 6 conductors (3 conductors on either side of the towers) and one shield wire with fibre optic wrap. The shield wire is the top wire and is connected to the top of the towers;
 - The current towers to the east and south of the new substation and the existing OHL span between these towers will be decommissioned. One will be removed, with the foundation being left in situ. The other tower will be removed including the foundation to c. 1m below existing ground level; and
 - Temporary working areas to facilitate construction of the new 220kV towers and decommissioning of existing 220 kV towers; and
 - Associated ancillary works.

Both an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development.

A copy of the application and the EIAR and NIS may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours, from 5th May 2021 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
- The Offices of Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Whitegates, Wicklow Town, A67 FW96

The application may also be viewed / downloaded from 5th May 2021 on the following project website: www.arklowbankwindparkogiplanning.com
The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government EIA portal: <http://housinggovie.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=d7d5a3d48f104ecbb206e7e5f84b71f1> provides a link to the application.

Submissions or observations may be made only to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 during the above-mentioned period of 7 weeks, commencing 5th May 2021 and until 24th June 2021, relating to –

- i. the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development,
- ii. the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- iii. the likely significant effects or adverse effect on any European site.

Any submissions or observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by An Bord Pleanála not later than 5.30p.m. on the 24th June 2021. Such submissions/observations must also include the following information:

- i. the name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any,
- ii. the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent,
- iii. the subject matter of the submission or observation, and
- iv. the reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full.

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by An Bord Pleanála. After receipt of the submission or observation An Bord Pleanála will acknowledge same in writing which will be in the same format as the submission or observation

itself, unless otherwise agreed.

Once a submission or observation has been received, it is not possible to elaborate on them or to make any further submissions and any communication will not be considered by An Bord Pleanála (Article 217 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) refers).

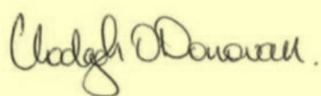
An Bord Pleanála may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details see ‘A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development’ on An Bord Pleanála’s website www.pleanala.ie).

An Bord Pleanála may make the following types of decision, under section 182B of the Planning Acts, in respect of the application:

- i. approve the proposed development, or
- ii. make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in the approval and approve the proposed development as so modified, or
- iii. approve, in part only, the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind), and any of the above decisions may be subject to such conditions as An Bord Pleanála considers appropriate, or
- iv. refuse to approve the proposed development.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel. 01- 8588100).

A person may question the validity of any such decision by the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986) as amended, in accordance with Section 50 of the Planning Acts. Practical information on the judicial review procedure can be accessed under the heading ‘Information Cases – Judicial Review of Planning Decisions’ on the Board’s website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

Signed: 
Clodagh O'Donovan (Agent)

Address of signee: Ove Arup & Partners (Ireland) Ltd.
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Date of site notice: 21/04/2021