

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), Greenlink Interconnector 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 will form part of the Greenlink Interconnector. The Greenlink Interconnector is designated as a European Union Project of Common Interest (PCI), under the provisions of European Union Regulation No. 347/2013 on guidelines for Trans-European Network for Energy ('TEN-E Regulation'). The Greenlink Interconnector will comprise subsea and underground high voltage electricity cables and associated converter stations to connect EirGrid's Great Island 220 kV substation in County Wexford (Ireland) and National Grid's Pembroke transmission substation in Pembrokeshire (Wales). The elements of the Greenlink Interconnector offshore Ireland, offshore Wales and on land in Wales are the subject of separate applications for consent to the relevant competent authorities.

The proposed development will consist of the development of a new converter station, tail station, MV substation and 23km of high voltage direct current (HVDC) electricity cables, 420m of high voltage alternating current (HVAC) cables, 23.42km of fibre optic cable, associated above ground marker posts, 54 car parking spaces on the access road to Baginbun Beach, the provision of footpaths and street lighting in Ramsgrange village and associated construction compounds, with an overall proposed development site area of 83.8ha. The proposed development will be located in the townlands of Great Island, Kilmannock, Dunbrody, Saltmills, Grange, Kilhile, Rosetown, Coleman, Ramsgrange, Kilbride, Ballinruan, Aldridge, Booley, Broomhill, Lewistown, Kilcloggan, Templetown, Graigue Little, Graigue Great, Lambstown and Ramstown in County Wexford, and will consist of the following principal elements:

- **Landfall Compound** – a temporary landfall compound at Baginbun in the townland of Ramstown, where the high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable will be installed underground, below the beach and cliff at Baginbun Beach, by horizontal directional drilling (HDD);
- **HVDC Cables** – two HVDC electricity cables with a nominal capacity of 500 megawatts (MW), will be installed underground in an approximate 0.7m wide trench, at a depth of circa 1m, (depths will be increased to approximately 5-10m where HDD is employed or where there is a need to avoid existing services) from the landfall at Baginbun in the townland of Ramstown to the converter station at Great Island (approximately 23km in length), including jointing bays and ground level marker posts at intervals along the route;
- **Converter Station** – a converter station situated close to the existing Eirgrid 220 kV Great Island substation in Wexford in the townland of Great Island. Permission is being sought for two alternative converter station site layouts. Particulars of both alternatives are included in the application. Both will include a converter hall, converter transformers which will be surrounded by 9m high precast fire walls where appropriate, AC switchgear and busbars, harmonics filters, up to 26m high lightning towers, ancillary plant such as cooling bank and a diesel generator, and a control building. The dimensions of buildings associated with Alternative 1 are as follows: Control room with an area of 740m² and a height of 5.1m, converter and DC halls with a total area of 4305m² and a height of 20.9m and the spare parts building with an area of 360m² and a height of 8.4m. Dimensions for Alternative 2 are as follows: control room with an area of 280m² and a height of 10.8m, two valve halls with a total area of 2080m² and a height of 17.7m, AC reactors hall with an area of 790m² and a height of 15.1m, a pump room with an area of 130m² and a height of 6.2m, a spare parts building with an area of 320m² and a height of 5.6m and a cable storage building of 300m² and a height of 6.1m. Stormwater will be discharged via an attenuation pond to an existing stream. Foul water will be contained in a holding tank. The converter station site will have a double perimeter fence consisting of a 2.4m high security fence and a 3.4m high electrified security fence;
- **Tail Station** - a 220 kV Loughtown substation located beside the converter station. The area of the tail station buildings will be 290m² and will be 11m in height. The tail station connects the HVAC 220 kV cable into the 220 kV grid via the existing Eirgrid Great Island substation. The tail station will comprise a single 220 kV gas insulated switchgear (GIS) circuit along with control panels and a small diesel generator (250kVA). It will have a singular perimeter fence, 2.6m in height;
- **MV Substation** - an ESB MV substation building of 9.0m by 4.5m, and 3.0m in height, will be located outside the converter station and tail station perimeter fences but within the landholding. This substation will provide the MV (medium voltage) and LV (low voltage) connections required for the development;
- **Converter Station Construction Compound** - temporary compound for the construction of the converter station and tail station at Great Island. This compound will be 4,120m², while the area for contractor plant and equipment will be 3,810m²;
- **Cable Contractor Compounds** – three temporary cable contractor compounds will be required (i) at the landfall site close to Baginbun Beach in the townland of Ramstown with an area of 5,670m² (ii) at the proposed converter station in the townland of Great Island with an area of 1,760m² for the compound and 2,380m² for contractor's plant and equipment and (iii) one along the onshore route in the townland of Lewistown with an area of 5,530m². These compounds will provide the following: space for materials lay down (2,380m²), road access, securely fenced site, space for parking, wheel wash facilities, construction waste storage, site offices, electricity supply, IT/telecommunications connection, water supply and welfare facilities;
- **HDD Compounds** – three temporary HDD contractor compounds are required. One will be located close to the cable contractor compound at Baginbun Beach in the townland of Ramstown with an area of 5,140m² including the access road. A HDD compound will be located at either side of the Campile River Estuary crossing in the townland of Kilmannock with an area of 4,360m² to the north of the estuary and 4,270m² to the south of the estuary. These compounds will provide the following: space for materials and equipment lay down, space for two HDD rigs aligned with the cable, road access, securely fenced site, space for parking, wheel wash facilities, construction waste storage, site offices, electricity supplied by a generator, IT/telecommunications connection, water supplied by a bowser and welfare facilities;
- **High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) Cables** – one 220 kV HVAC electricity cable circuit consisting of three cables, will be installed underground in an approximate 1m wide trench, at a depth of approximately 1.2m, connecting the converter station via the Loughtown tail station to the existing EirGrid Great Island substation in the townland of Great Island (420m in length);
- **Fibre Optic Cables** – fibre optic cables for operation and control purposes, laid underground with the HVDC and HVAC cables from the landfall at Baginbun Beach, in the townland of Ramstown to the Converter Station in Great Island and from there to the Eirgrid 220 kV Great Island substation in the townland of Great Island;
- **Community Gain Roadside Car Parking near Baginbun Beach** – in consultation with Wexford County Council, circa 54 roadside car parking spaces will be constructed; and
- **Community Gain Street Improvement in Ramsgrange Village** - in consultation with Wexford County Council, extension to existing footpaths, four new street lights and a speed activated sign at Ramsgrange will be provided.

The application relates to proposed development that includes modifications to an establishment for the purposes of Part 11 (Major Accidents Directive) and article 215 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The application is accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which has been prepared to comply with the amendments made by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) (formerly referred to as an Environmental Impact Statement), and by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The Greenlink Interconnector, of which the proposed development forms part, is likely to have significant effects on the environment of Wales, an area of a Member State of the European Union (i.e., the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland). The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) includes a Joint Environmental Report in respect of the entire of the Greenlink Interconnector, having had regard to the European Commission Guidance on the Application of the Environmental Impact Assessment Procedure for Large-Scale Transboundary Projects (May 2013).

The application and the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (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 16 December 2020 for a period of 7 weeks until 12 February 2021 at the following locations:

- The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
- The Offices of Wexford County Council, Newtown Road, Carricklawn, Wexford Y35 WY93

The application may also be viewed/ downloaded from 16 December 2020 on the following project website: www.greenlinkplanning.ie.

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 16 December 2020 and until 12 February 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, if carried out; and
- iii. the likely effects on a European Site of the proposed development, if carried out.

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 12 February 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. Submissions may be made in electronic form if An Bord Pleanála consents. 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: 
Michael Daly (Agent)

Address of signee: Ove Arup & Partners (Ireland) Ltd.
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Date of site notice: 10/12/2020