White Hill Wind Farm Electricity Substation & Electricity Line

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Annex 12.3: Gas Pipeline Crossing Assessment

White Hill Wind Limited

Galetech Energy Services
Clondargan, Stradone, Co. Cavan Ireland
Telephone +353 (0)49 555 5050
www.galetechenergyservices.com

Distribution: White Hill Wind Ltd. / Galetech Energy Services Ltd.

Title: Whitehill WF HP Gas Pipeline Crossing Assessment

Project: 300-101087 Whitehill WF

Rev	Date	Description	By	Checked	Approved
00	09/10/24	Draft - Issued for Client Review	JCO	DTA	JCO
01	17/10/24	Issued for Client Approval	JCO	DTA	JCO
02	19/02/25	Figure 1 Grid Route Updated	JCO	DTA	JCO

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

TLI Group (“The Consultant”) was engaged by White Hill Wind Ltd. (“The Client”) to perform pipeline crossing studies for the 33 kV grid connection of the proposed Whitehill onshore windfarm project (“The Project”), located along the border between County Kilkenny and County Carlow. The Project is seeking to connect to the existing transmission grid at a planned loop-in substation on the Kilkenny-Kellis 110 kV OHL at Shankill. This study includes a high-level load assessment of the Cork-Dublin high pressure gas transmission pipeline where its crosses a local road containing the proposed 33 kV circuits running from Whitehill to Shankill (crossing point indicated in Figure 1).

The planned grid connection will consist of 2 no. 33 kV circuits (trefoil configuration) with a MEC of 50.4 MW plus 3 no. spare sets of ducts (in trefoil configuration).

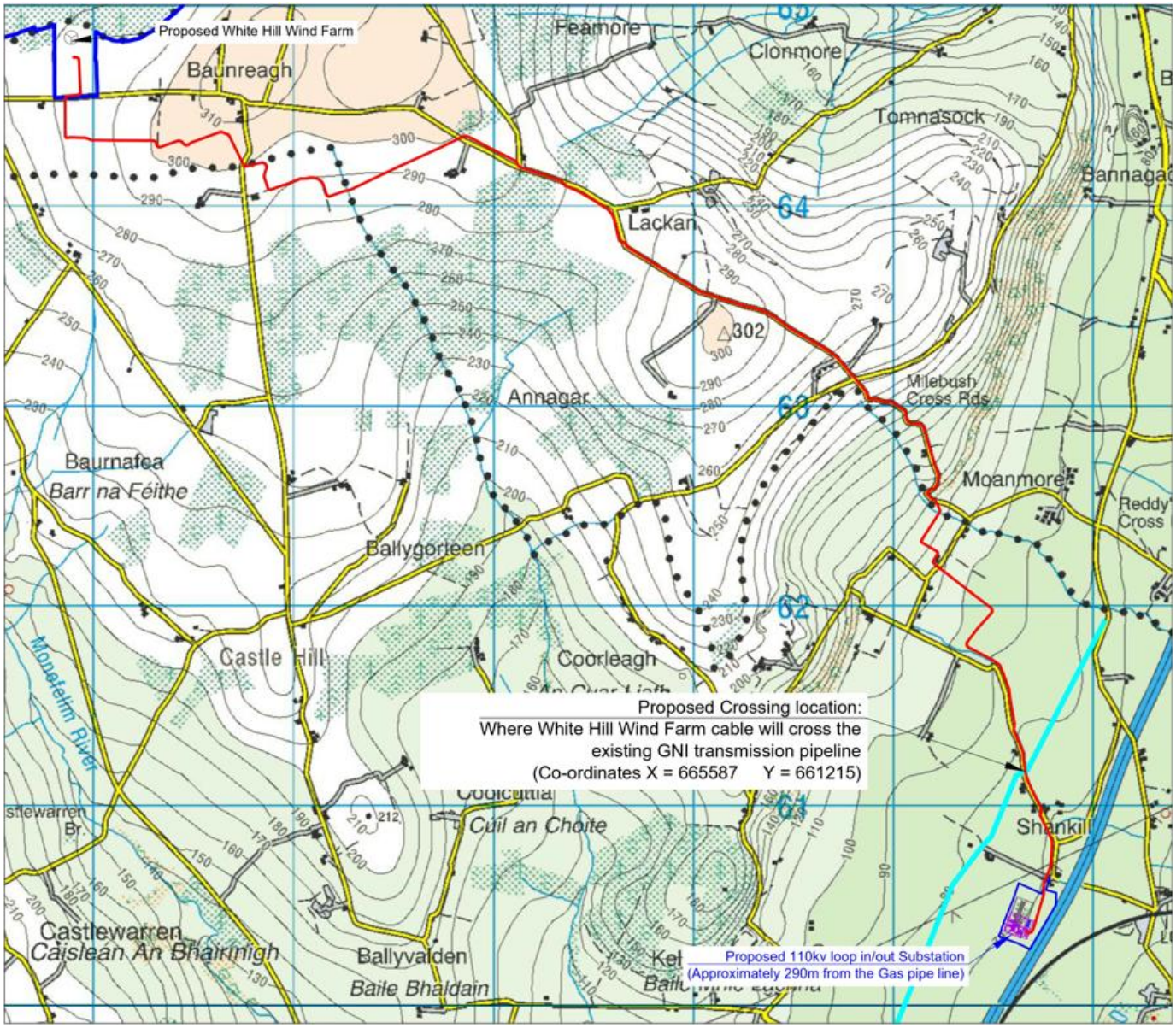


Figure 1 – Whitehill Grid Route and Crossing location.

1.2 Design Brief

The purpose of this document is a high-level assessment of the buried pipeline where it crosses under the public roadway containing the proposed 33 kV circuits. The pipeline crossing is assessed in accordance with **BS31.4** and **API RP 1102** codes to evaluate steel pipeline road crossings.

The pipeline will be subject to stresses induced by internal loads (internal operating pressure) and external loads such as temperature (neglected for the purposes of this study), earth loads (due to self-burial) and live loads (i.e. road traffic). From the pipeline drawings received it does not appear the pipeline has a protective sleeve at the road crossing location.

The pipeline crosses at a depth of 3.0 m below a local public road which will be subject to normal maximum traffic (axle) loads as set down by TII / RSA guidelines (taken as maximum 12 tonnes per axle). As the pipeline depth is greater than 1 m, combined loads due to adjacent wheels / axes will also be taken into account in the calculation.

The nearest pipe girth weld is located approx. 1m outside (west) of the existing road / backfill. The nearest pipe bend is located approx. 4m away (west) of the existing road / backfill.

Under the current road crossing the pipeline lies in a bed of compacted sand (300 mm cover) with the remaining cover (2.7m) up to road level comprising of lean mix concrete. The proposed 33 kV circuit ducting will be laid at a depth of 1250 mm in various layers of compacted thermal sands with a top cover of compacted granular material or cement bound granular material (CBGM) – refer to the trench details in Appendix A.

Design parameters used in the pipeline crossing load evaluation are shown in Table 1.

Pipeline Parameter	Value
Service	Gas (methane)
Pipe Outer Diameter	450 mm
Wall thickness	9.52 mm
Steel Material Grade	API 5L X42 (minimum assumed)
SYMS	42 KSI / 289 MPa
Max Operating Pressure	69 bar / 6.9 MPa (assumed)
Cover depth	3.0 m
Corrosion Allowance	1.5 mm
Pavement type	Flexible
Road Traffic Wheel Load (single Axis)	58.9 kN
Road Traffic Wheel Load (tandem Axis)	49 kN

Table 1 – API RP 1102 Calculation Parameters

1.3 API RP 1102 Calculation Results

Allowable Barlow Stress:

SMYS = 289 MPa

Allowable = SMYS x F x E x T = 208.5 MPa (F=0.72, E=1.0, T=1.0)

S_{Hl} (Barlow) = 196.6 MPa Pass as less than allowable

Effective Stress: Combination of Earth load, Live load and Internal load.

Earth Load: S_{He} = 31.8 MPa

Cyclic Circumferential Stress: ΔS_{Hh} = 22.1 MPa

Cyclic Longitudinal Stress: ΔS_{Lh} = 0.1 MPa

Circumferential Stress (Internal Pressurisation): S_{Hi} = 162.2 MPa

Principle Stresses:

S1 (S_{He}, ΔS_{Hh}, S_{Hi}) = 216.1 MPa

S2 (ΔS_{Lh}, S_{He}, S_{Hi}) = 58.5 MPa

S3 (p) = -6.9 MPa

Combination of Earth load, Live load and Internal load.

S_{eff} = 185.5 MPa	Pass as less than SMYS x F_a
SMYS x F_a = 208.5 MPa	(F_a = 0.72)

Fatigue Check:

Girth Welds:

S_{FG} x F = 59.6 MPa	(F=0.72)
ΔS_{Lh} = 0.1 MPa	Pass as less than S_{FG} x F

Longitudinal Welds:

S_{FL} x F = 104.3 MPa	(F=0.72)
ΔS_{Hh} = 7.6 MPa	Pass as less than S_{FL} x F

1.4 Conclusions

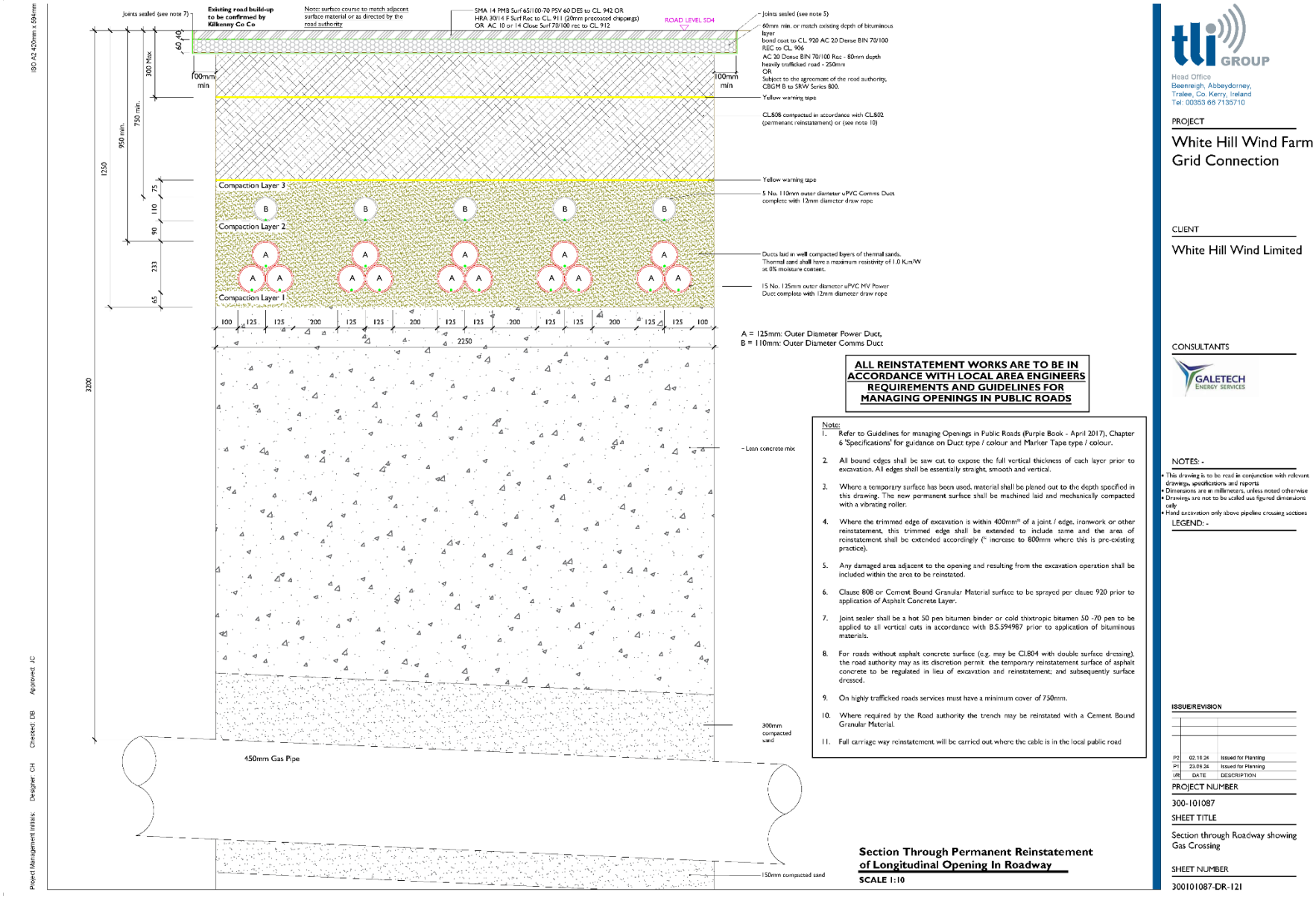
The proposed Whitehill WF 33 kV circuit trench detail is found to not impact on the existing 450 mm high pressure gas pipeline at the designated road crossing and at a cover depth of 3 m. This conclusion is based on the implementation of API RP 1102 stress checks for the pipeline, assuming a minimum pipe steel grade of X42, an operating pressure of 6.9 MPa and the application of maximum allowable road haulage loads.

1.5 Recommendations

The crossing assessment has been performed assuming a minimum pipe steel grade of X42 (API 5L). The steel grade of the HP pipeline should be confirmed with Gas Networks Ireland from as-built records.

To ensure no risk of damage to the pipeline during excavation and construction activities extra care needs to be taken to avoid impact or excess loads or vibration on the pipe, i.e. when cutting out the existing concrete cover. In particular, heavy machinery (tracked or wheeled) should be carefully managed when working near the crossing / avoid unnecessary crossing / point loading of the pipeline.

Appendix A – Drawing – Circuit Crossing in Roadway over Gas Pipeline



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