



CAVAN-TYRONE 400KV POWER LINE

New North-South Interconnector

**Proposed Route Corridor Options,
Public Consultation**
October 2007



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Who is EirGrid?

EirGrid plc, a state owned company, is the independent electricity Transmission System Operator in Ireland and the Market Operator in the wholesale electricity trading system. EirGrid's role is to deliver quality connection, transmission and market services to generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system, and to put in place the grid infrastructure required to support the development of Ireland's economy. EirGrid develops, maintains and operates a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system. EirGrid is playing a key role in establishment of the new All-Island Market for Electricity, as well as developing a second North-South Interconnector.

What's Happening?

EirGrid is planning two projects to facilitate cross-border sharing of electricity, promote better competition and to ensure a future secure supply of electricity throughout the North East. The 2 projects are:

- 80km long Cavan Tyrone 400kV Power Line – the new North-South Interconnector
- 58km Woodland (Co Meath) to Kingscourt (Co Cavan) 400kV Power Line.

A new 80km long 400kV Interconnector between Cavan and Tyrone will more than double the current power transfer capacity between the North and the South, 35km approximately will be in Northern Ireland and the remaining 45km approximately will be in the Republic of Ireland, routed from a proposed new substation near Kingscourt in Co Cavan, through Co Monaghan to a proposed new substation in Co Tyrone. This project is being undertaken in co-operation with Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE).

Following extensive studies, route corridor options have been developed and are presented overleaf.

Benefits

- Support growth and development
- Boost existing industry in Cavan, Monaghan and N. Ireland when competing for business and inward development in the area.
- Ensure security of supply for the future
- Comply with European Union policy which states that links between electricity systems are a key way of ensuring secure and competitively priced electricity markets into the future.
- Facilitate the Single Electricity Market due to come into effect in Ireland later this year.
- Promote competition and better sharing of generation resources between North and South
- Fuel savings
- Fewer emissions
- Facilitate integration of wind generated energy
- Make more bulk high quality power available for the North East

How were the route corridors decided upon?

Seven key criteria were taken into account by the consultants when choosing possible route corridors for the power lines:

Visual Impact: An assessment of the of the visual impact of the proposal on the environment was carried out in order to minimise the impact

Community: an assessment of the local villages and communities was undertaken to reduce the proximity of the power lines to them and ensure minimal impact on lifestyles of those living and working in nearby communities.

Ecology: A review of conservation designated areas, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Area (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) was completed.

Cultural Heritage: Architectural and archaeological heritage sites, including recorded archaeological monuments and places, protected structures, and national monuments, were assessed in an attempt to minimise any impact.

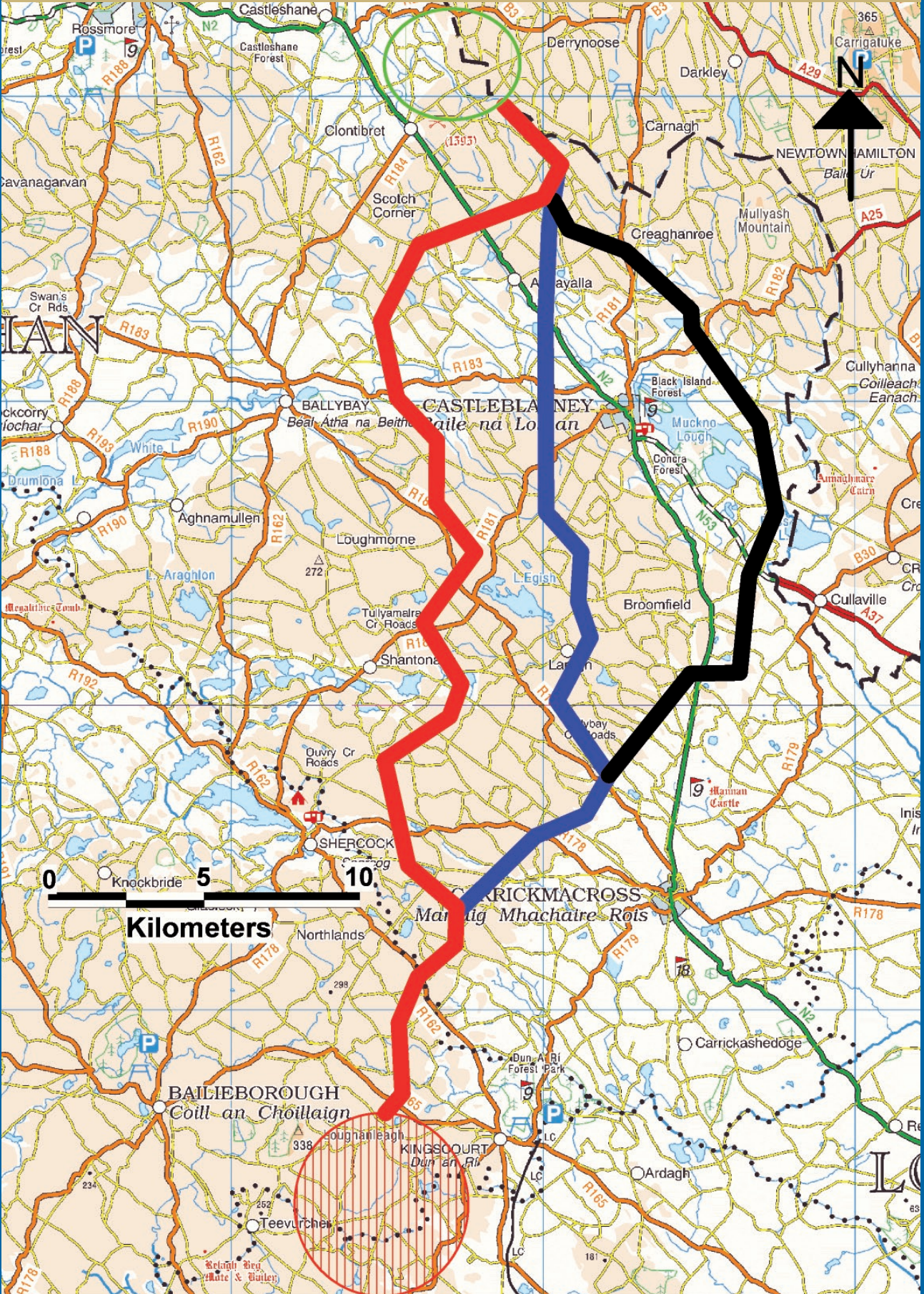
Landscape: A review of County Development Plans was undertaken in order to assess the numbers of scenic views, scenic routes, and vulnerable landscapes in the area.

Geology: Soil, subsoil and bedrock was used to determine significant types and their benefits and drawbacks.

Water: The surface water features were reviewed, as lakes are to be avoided and river crossings minimised.

All of the above constraints were taken into account in order to ensure that the route options were sited in the best possible location.

Proposed Route Corridor Options for Cavan Tyrone 400kV Power Line new North-South Interconnector





Route Corridor Options

Cavan - Tyrone **Route Corridor A**

- Route corridor option A connects with the NIE proposal east of Clontibret
- From this point it crosses the N2 north of Annayalla and proceeds to cross the R183 west of the village of Doohamlet
- It continues in a south-easterly direction and crosses the R180 northwest of Lough Egish
- It then crosses the R181 between Lough Egish and Shantonagh to circumvent Shantonagh Lough
- It crosses the R178 approximately 3 kilometers east of Shercock to navigate around the lakes at Northlands and to cross the Cavan County Boundary
- Once it crosses the County Boundary along the R162, it travels in a southerly direction to finally cross the R165 and navigate towards the proposed 400kV substation to the west of Kingscourt Co. Cavan.

Route Corridor B

- Route corridor option B travels in a north-south direction crossing the N2 to meander around Laragh Lough
- It proceeds in a southerly direction to cross the R183 and R161 approximately 3km west of Castleblayney
- It then passes to the east of Lough Egish, Laragh and west of Lisdoonan.
- It crosses the R180 approximately 4 km from Carrickmacross and travels southwesterly to cross the R178 to reconnect with the proposed route corridor Option A, east of Northlands.

Route Corridor C

This proposed corridor deviates from the proposed route corridor A and B and traverses in the south-easterly direction around Lough Muckno to cross the N53 west of Crossmaglen

It would then cross the N2 before reconnecting with the proposed route corridor B option, south of Lisdoonan

Your views are important to us

We welcome all suggestions and queries. All submissions made and feedback collected during the public consultation on route selection will be used by the technical project teams to inform their decision on selecting the most appropriate route. All queries and submissions made will be dealt with in a confidential manner.

Please study the maps and tell us your views on the proposed route corridor options—you may use the enclosed feedback form or additional pages if you wish. All correspondence will be dealt with confidentially.

What Happens Next?

- Following public consultation in October 2007, submissions made by the public, businesses and other organisations will be taken into account, and along with further technical and other studies, will help to determine a Preferred Route.
- It is hoped that a Preferred Route will be ready for presentation to the public in early 2008, after which it will likely undergo further studies before a planning application is prepared.
- The planning application will include preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and consultation with landowners and the local community. The Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) will assess the impact of the project on the local areas as it is a process for anticipating and, possibly, preventing, negative effects on the environment that may be caused by a proposed development or project.

Keep informed

EirGrid is committed to ensuring that all members of the public are fully aware of the project and encourage you to participate in public consultation. If you would like to discuss the project or to meet with a member of the project team, please contact us by either telephone or email. Otherwise, keep an eye on the website for regular updates.

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