



West Galway 110/38kV Electricity Substation Project

In the vicinity of Letter, Doon and Uggool



West Galway 110/38kV Electricity Substation Project

What is the West Galway 110/38kV Substation Project?

The West Galway 110/38kV project is part of the Grid25 strategy, which is a programme to upgrade Ireland's electricity transmission grid. The project calls for a new 110/38kV electricity substation to allow renewable generation to connect to the electricity transmission grid.

Why is this needed?

There is a significant amount of renewable generation seeking connection in West Galway. The current transmission network configuration is not capable of accommodating the connection of this renewable generation.

The development of the renewable energy sector in Ireland is an important element in driving future national job creation and is a key platform for economic recovery.

The project will increase security of energy supply to the region and enable Galway to be a net exporter of renewable energy.

What is required?

The West Galway Project is a high voltage electricity project which includes the following:

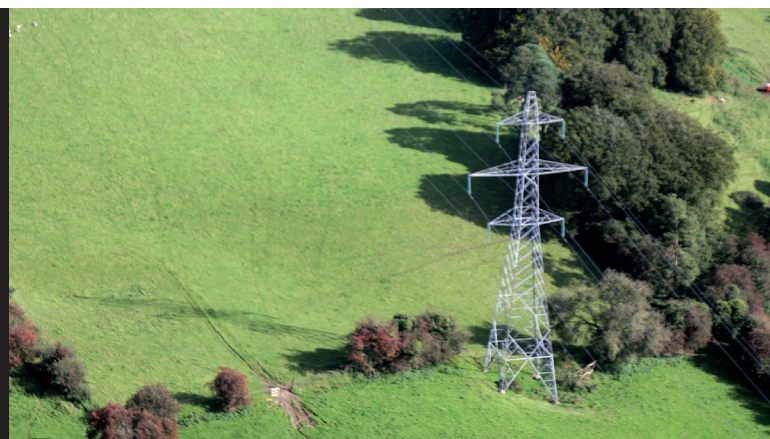
- A new 110/38kV substation in the townland of Letter, northwest of Moycullen, Co. Galway.
- A new 110kV double circuit between the new substation and the permitted Salthill – Screebe 110kV overhead line, currently under construction by ESB Networks. This double circuit will “loop” in the substation and will require minor alterations to the Salthill – Screebe 110kV overhead line.

Where is the project located?

A wide study area was identified and examined. At Stage 1 the least constrained location for the substation was identified as the Southern substation location, in the townland of Knockranny, Co. Galway. Following on from the Stage 1 consultation process and further studies carried out in Stage 2, the preferred substation location has now been identified in the townland of Letter, northwest of Moycullen, Co. Galway.

Timelines

It is expected that the planning application will be submitted to the Strategic Infrastructure Board of An Bord Pleanála under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 in early 2013.





Kylemore Abbey, Co. Galway

What is the purpose of this briefing document?

The purpose of this document is to present an overview of the project and also to summarise the key findings of our studies to date. These findings are presented in the “Stage 2 Lead Consultant’s Report” This report is available to view online at www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/westgalway/projectactivity/

The key findings of this Stage 2 Report are the recommendations of the Lead Consultant. Publication of this report will be followed by a consultation period during which you are encouraged to give us your views on the key recommendations and findings listed below:

- The preferred substation technology for the 110/38kV substation in West Galway is Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS). These substations are typically housed indoors and are the smallest and most compact substation type available.
- The preferred location for this substation is identified in the townland of Letter (Location E on the accompanying map).
- The proposed 110kV double circuit to the permitted Salthill – Screebe 110kV overhead line (shown as the blue hashed line on the Project Overview Map) is still under consideration and there are four possible options being evaluated which will be confirmed at Stage 3.
- The wind farm developers have confirmed that their preferred connection method from the Uggool 110kV substation to the West Galway 110kV substation will be by underground cable, (shown in purple on the Project Overview Map). Please note this is shown for information purposes only and it is not part of the West Galway 110kV Substation Project.

For further information or for an explanation of any terms used in this document please see the Frequently Asked Questions page on our project website or alternatively contact us using the contact details provided on the back page of this document.

Planning Application Key Phases

STAGE 2

Project Development & Consultation Road Map

You are Here



You are Here

Your views are important to us

We welcome all suggestions and queries

Please study the maps on this document and tell us your views. All correspondence will be dealt with confidentially.

Criteria for choosing the preferred site location and indicative circuit routes.

The location and extent of the constraints within the project study area influences the substation site and route selection process:

Visual Impact: A detailed assessment of the visual impact of the proposed development on the receiving environment was carried out in order to minimise the impact.

Community: An assessment of local communities was undertaken to reduce the proximity of the new 110kV substation and ensure minimal impact on lifestyles of those living and working in nearby communities.

Ecology: A detailed 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 monuments and places, protected structures and national monuments were identified in order to minimise potential impacts.

Landscape: A detailed assessment of the local landscape was undertaken in order to record scenic views, scenic routes and vulnerable landscapes in the area.

Geology: An appropriate analysis of soil, subsoil and bedrock was carried out to determine significant types and potential impact on the project.

Water: Surface and subsurface water features were reviewed so as to minimise any potential impacts.

Several other key inputs were taken into account by the Project Team when selecting the substation site location and circuit routes.

Consultation: Ongoing consultation with statutory and non statutory stakeholders as well as members of the general public and local communities.

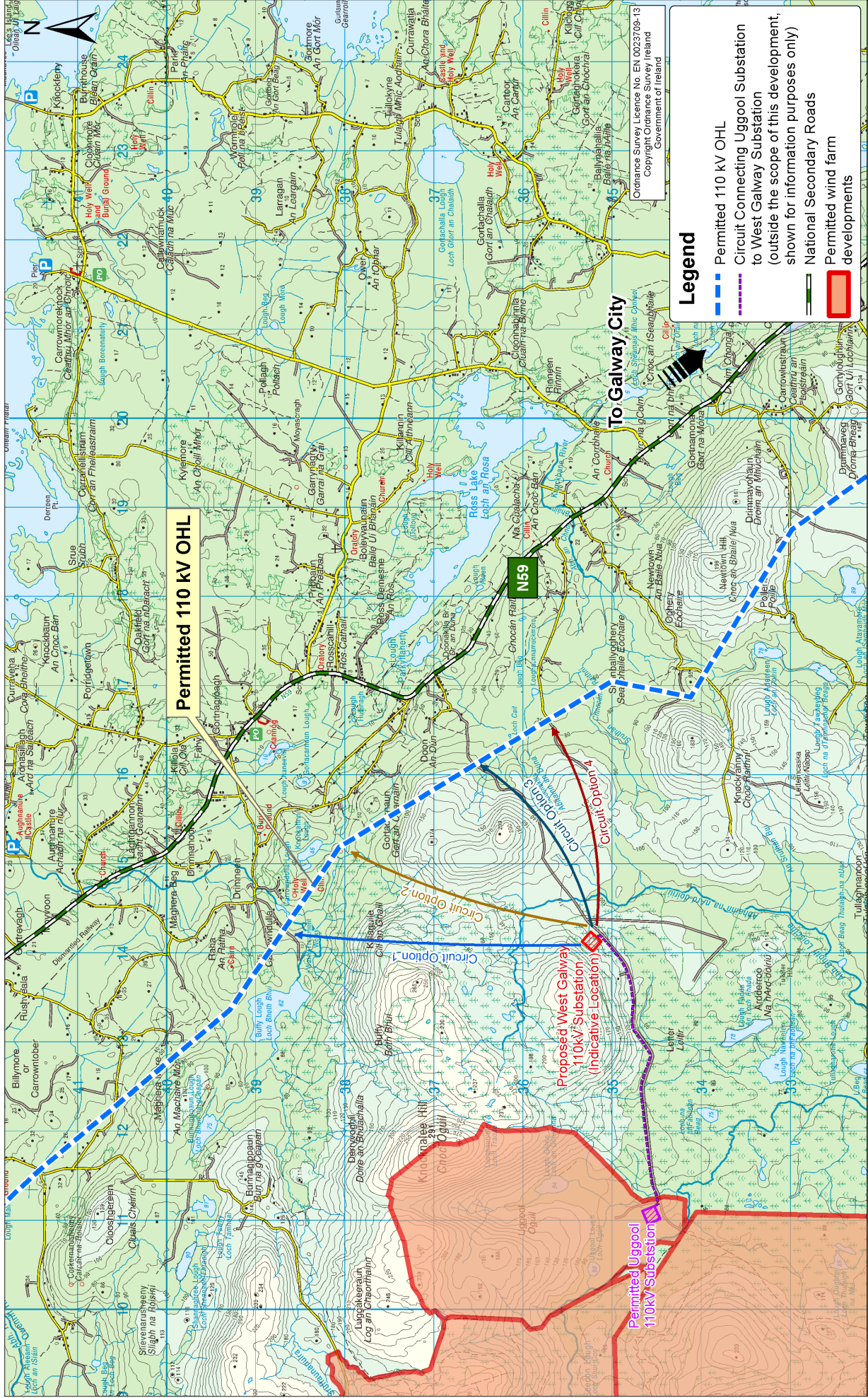
Aerial Photography: Aerial photography for the study area was used as a means of confirming and identifying project constraints

OSI Mapping: OSI Mapping under licence was obtained to identify possible constraints.

Local History: Every effort has been made to identify and grant due recognition and protection to any sites discovered.

Site visits: Frequent site visits were made by the project team to get a full appreciation of all identified constraints and the general appreciation of the topography/landscape of the study area.

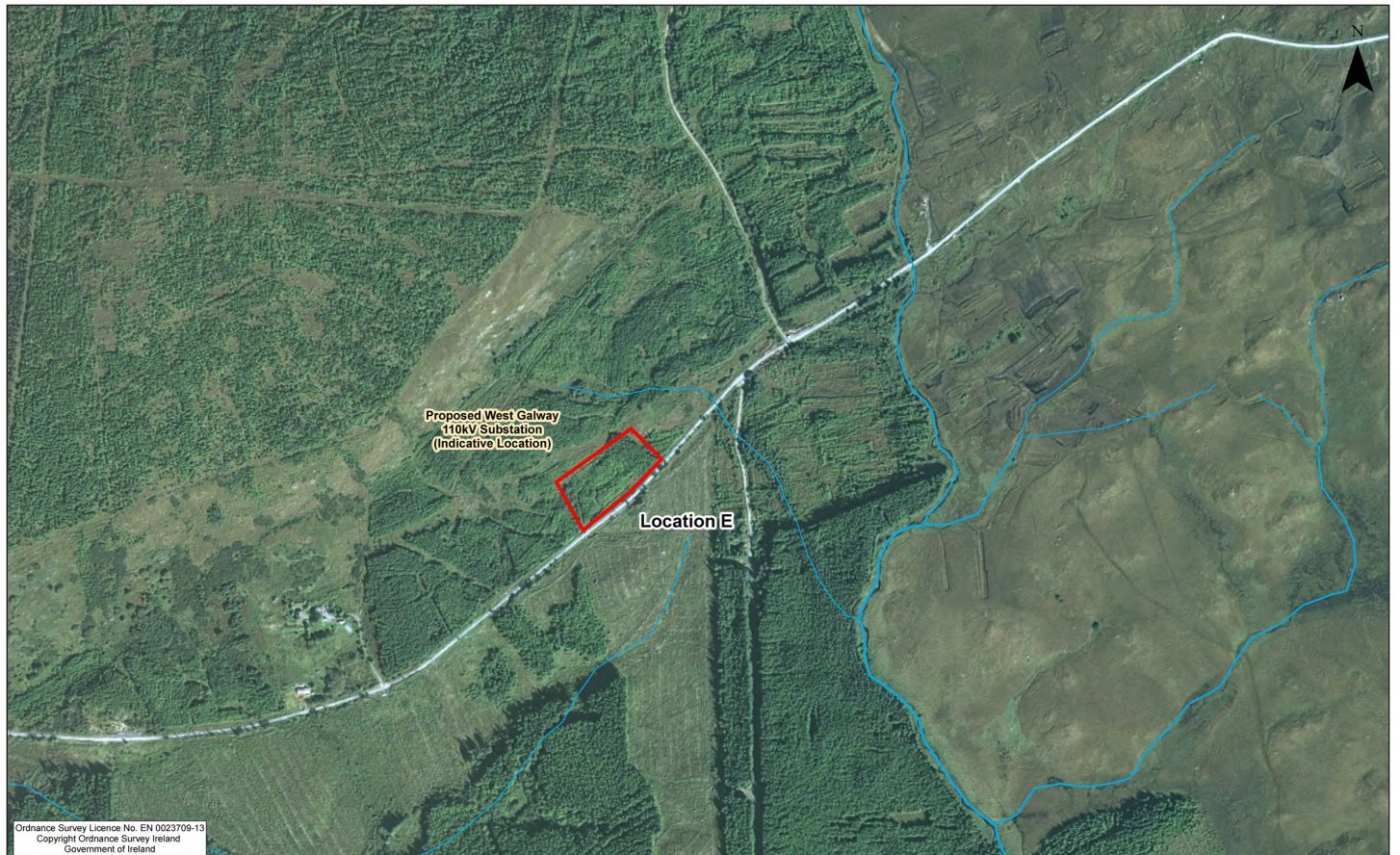
West Galway 110/38kV Substation Project Overview Map



West Galway 110/38kV Substation Alternative Locations Assessed



West Galway 110/38kV Substation Preferred Substation Location E





About EirGrid

EirGrid is the state-owned independent electricity Transmission System Operator and Market Operator in Ireland. EirGrid's role is to operate, plan and develop the grid to provide customers throughout the country with a safe, secure, reliable, economic and efficient supply of electricity.

The national grid is an interconnected network of high voltage power lines and cables, comparable to the motorways, dual carriage ways and main roads of the national road network. It is operated at three voltage levels; 400kV, 220kV and 110kV and is approximately 6,400km in overall length.

It is the backbone of Ireland's power system and is vital to ensuring that all customers; industrial, commercial and residential from both rural and urban areas to cities, have a safe, secure, reliable, economic and efficient electricity supply.

What is Grid25?

Grid25 is a major initiative to put in place a safe, secure and affordable electricity supply throughout Ireland, supporting economic growth and utilising our renewable energy resource to its maximum potential.

Development of the grid is essential to provide a platform for renewed economic growth and regional development and is vital if we are to effectively tap into our abundant renewable energy resources.

Grid25 will involve upgrading the high voltage system and an overall investment of approximately €3.2 billion in the period up to 2025. This new infrastructure is every bit as essential to the future growth of the country as any investments in road, rail and broadband.

Contact Details

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 check our website for regular updates.

West Galway 110kV Project

EirGrid plc

The Oval

160 Shelbourne Road

Ballsbridge

Dublin 4

Tel: 01 702 6642

Email: westgalway@eirgrid.com

Web: www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/westgalway

GRID25

DELIVERING IRELAND'S ELECTRICITY FUTURE

www.eirgridprojects.com