



Laois - Kilkenny Reinforcement Project





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What is the Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project?

The Laois-Kilkenny Reinforcement Project is a high voltage electricity project that is required to reinforce the transmission network in the South East and Midlands areas.

The proposed project spans the counties of Laois and Kilkenny and consists of the following components:

- A new 400/110 kV substation near Portlaoise, Co. Laois which will connect to the existing 400 kV and 110 kV lines in the area
- A 110 kV extension to the existing 38 kV substation in Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny
- A new 110 kV overhead line between these two substations
- A change in the operational voltage of the existing Ballyragget – Kilkenny overhead line from 38 kV to 110 kV.

Why is this project needed?

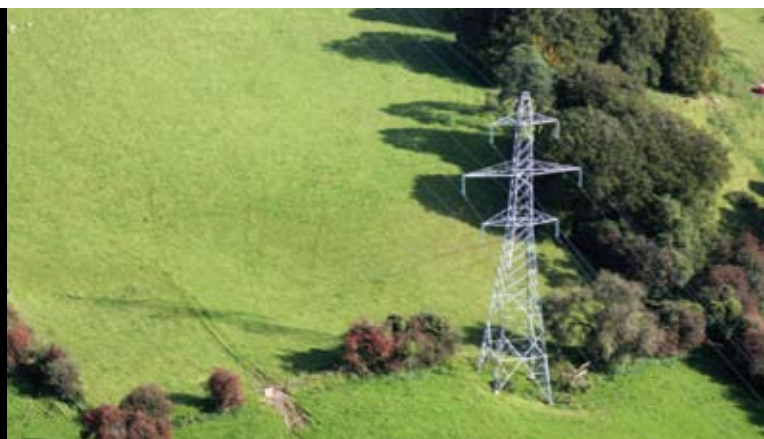
EirGrid has a statutory obligation to operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system while having due regard to the environment.

Over the coming years it is anticipated that the demands placed on the system will become increasingly more onerous. This project will therefore ensure that the local network continues to operate in accordance with the appropriate technical standards.

The network requires this reinforcement in order to improve both quality of supply and security of supply to the areas of Kilkenny, Carlow, Kildare, Laois and Wicklow.

What are the benefits of this project?

This project will increase security of supply and quality of supply to the region and will also increase capacity in the region. This will ensure that the demands of existing users can continue to be accommodated for whilst also facilitating any future growth that may occur in the region. This project represents an overall investment of €80 million euro within the region.





Glanbia, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny

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 'Phase 1 Lead Consultant's Report'*. This report is available to view online at : www.eirgridprojects.com

The findings of this Phase 1 Report are the emerging preferred recommendations of the Lead Consultants. 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 emerging preferred substation technology for the 400/110 kV substation in Laois is GIS (Gas Insulated Switchgear). These stations are typically housed indoors and are the smallest and most compact station type possible.
- The emerging preferred location for this station is identified (located on the southern boundary of the substation study area, close to the existing 110 kV overhead line). The emerging preferred connection corridors to this station are also identified.
- The emerging preferred technology for the 110 kV circuit is overhead line. Underground cable was considered but was not preferred for this particular project.

- The emerging preferred route corridor for this 110 kV overhead line between Laois and Ballyragget stations is identified. Other corridors were also assessed and these are shown.

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

**The process from project initiation through to lodgement of planning application and subsequent construction has been divided into 5 phases or stages (see Project Roadmap in this brochure).*

Planning Application Key Phases

STAGE 1

Project Development & Consultation Road Map

You are Here



Your Views are Important to Us

We welcome all suggestions and queries. Please study the maps and tell us your views on the emerging preferences. All correspondence will be dealt with confidentially.

Criteria for choosing the emerging preferred site location and route corridor

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

Ecology: A detailed review of environmentally protected habitats was carried out. These include, for example, any Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Nature Reserves and Natural Heritage Areas (NHA).

Visual Impact: An assessment of the visual impact of the proposed development on the receiving environment was carried out.

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

Cultural Heritage: Architectural and archaeological monuments and places, protected structures and national monuments were identified in order to minimise any potential impacts.

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

Geology: Analysis of soil, subsoil and bedrock was carried out in order to determine the make up of the local geology and to record any geologically significant findings.

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 emerging preferred route corridor and substation location.

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

Aerial Photography: Aerial photography for the study area has been obtained. This was used as a means of confirming and identifying project constraints.

OSI Mapping: OSI Mapping under licence has been obtained and was used as a means of confirming and identifying constraints.

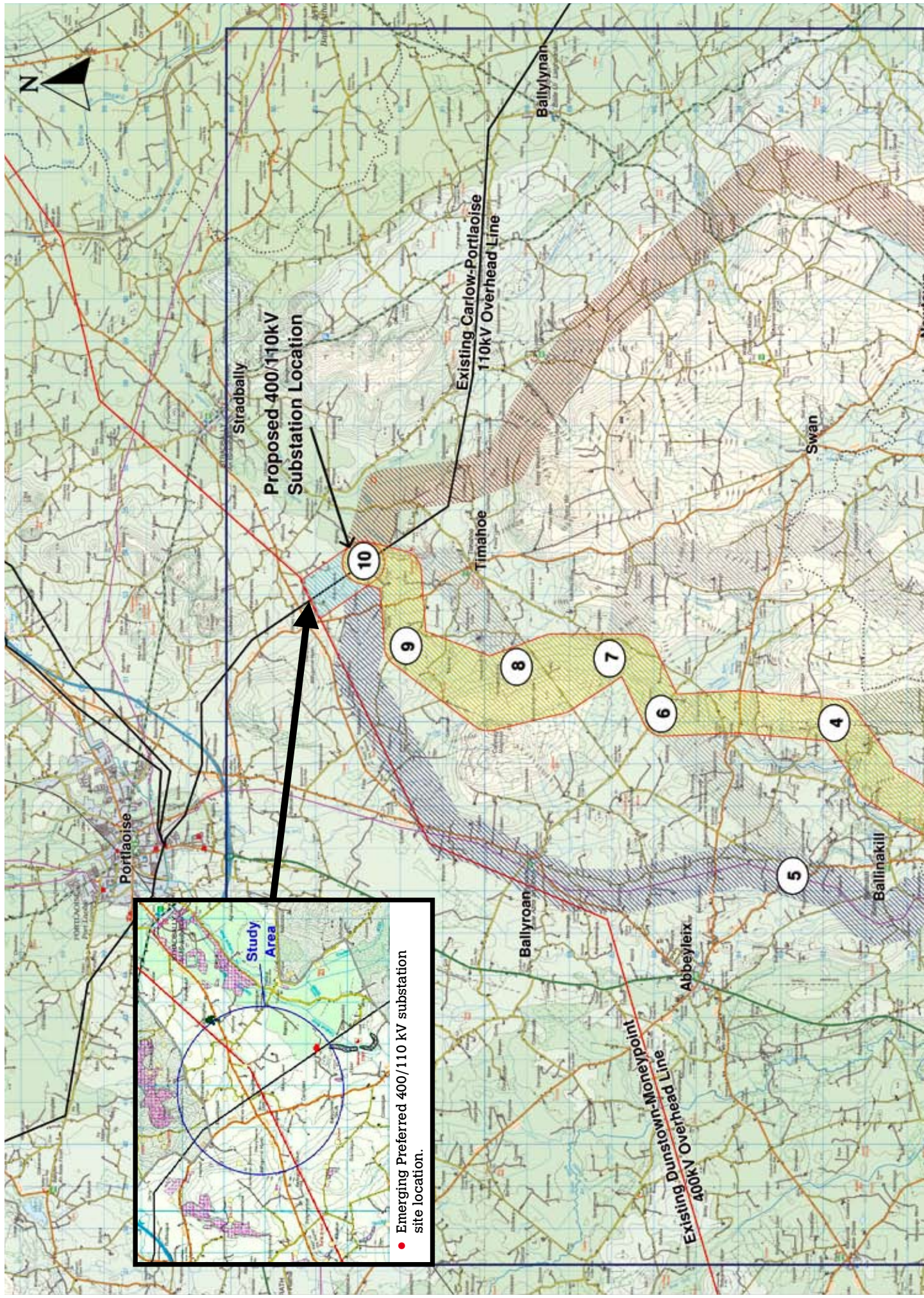
An Post Geodirectory: The An Post Geodirectory identifies the address and location of residential and commercial property. This information was obtained and mapped along with ongoing reviews of publically available data from Laois and Kilkenny County Councils.

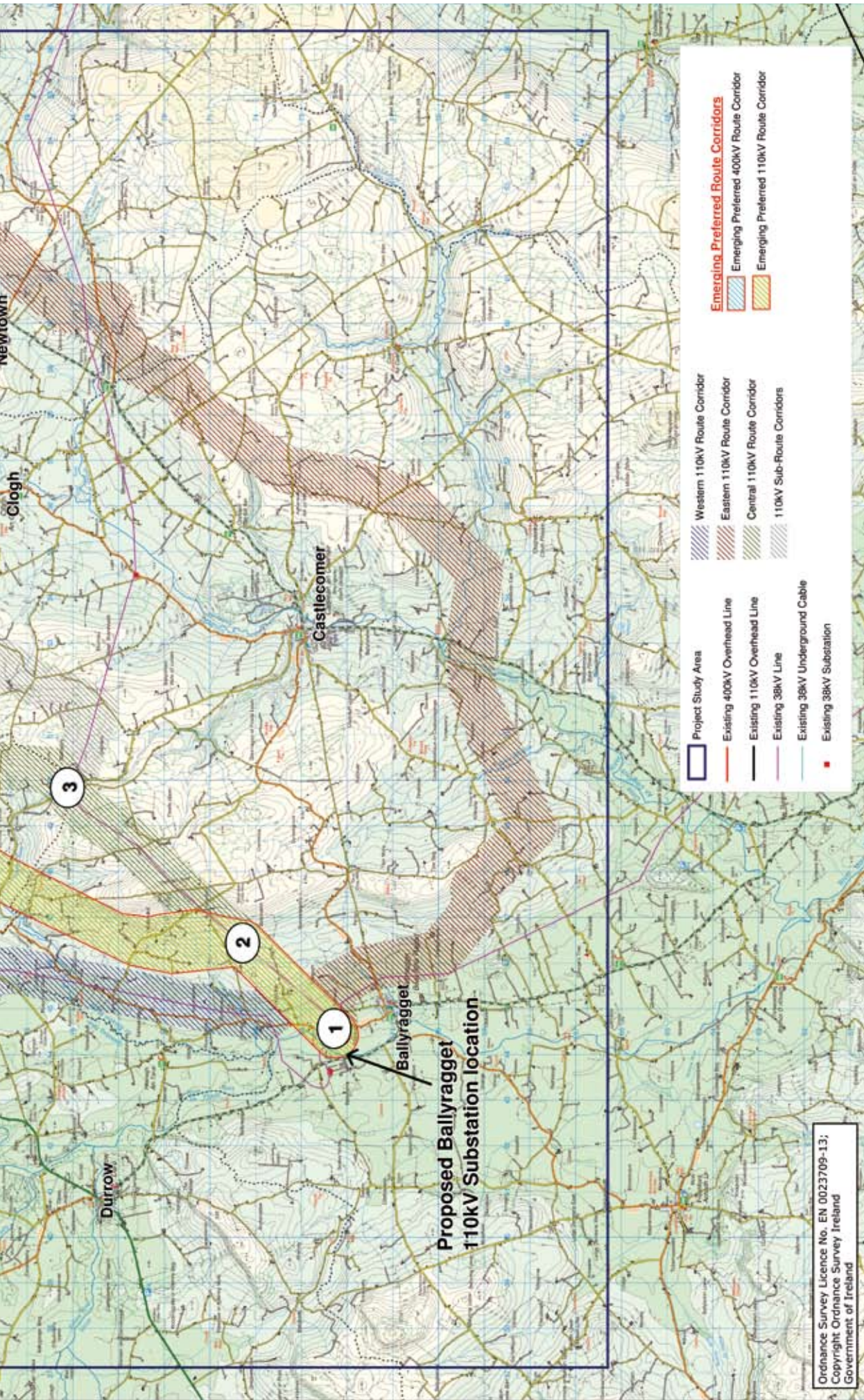
Site Visits: Frequent site visits were made by the Project Team to the study area to familiarise themselves with the constraints identified and the local environment.

The Emerging Preferred Substation Site and also the Emerging Preferred Route Corridor are shown on the maps on the following pages.

The reasons for identifying these is that at this stage, on balance they represent the best options taking all of the above selection criteria into account. This is described in detail in the Phase 1 Lead Consultant's Report.

Emerging Preferred Corridor and Emerging Preferred Substation Site Location





The emerging preferred corridor for the 110 kV overhead line between the proposed substations in Laois and Ballyragget is shown in yellow and follows nodes* 1-2-4-6-7-8-9-10.

The emerging preferred corridor for the necessary connections from the existing overhead lines to the proposed substation in Laois is shown in turquoise adjacent to node 10.

Insert shows Emerging Preferred Location for the 400/110 kV substation in Laois.

*For reference purposes numbered nodes were used at locations where the assessed corridors intersect with each other.

Note: To ensure clarity, the constraints have been removed from the maps used in this brochure. Maps with constraints shown are available online or on request.

About EirGrid

EirGrid, a state owned company, is the operator of the national electricity transmission grid. The national grid is an interconnected network of high voltage power lines and cables which is comparable to the motorways, dual carriage ways and main roads of the national road network. EirGrid's role is to operate, plan and develop the grid to provide customers throughout the country – from rural areas, to homes, business parks, hospitals and sports fields – with a safe, secure, reliable, economic and efficient electricity supply.

What is Grid25?

Grid25 is an essential infrastructure initiative to facilitate reliable, secure and affordable electricity supplies throughout Ireland. Grid25 will involve upgrading the high voltage system by way of building new transmission circuits and by upgrading existing circuits. This new infrastructure is every bit as essential to the future growth of the country as investments in road, rail and broadband.

Next Steps and Timelines

As can be seen from the 'Project Roadmap', Phase 1/Stage 1 is now complete. Phase 2/Stage 2 will commence with a consultation period (to include further 'Open Days') and a subsequent evaluation of all feedback on the Phase 1/Stage 1 Report. Phase 2/Stage 2 will conclude with the publication of a report which will identify the preferred route corridor and the indicative line route within that corridor. Phase 2/Stage 2 may take up to 6 months to complete and consultation will continue during this stage.

Planning Application Submitted	Q1 2012
Decision from Planning Authority	Q3 2012
Construction*	2013
Energisation*	2015

*subject to decision by Planning Authority

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 the public consultation process. If you would like to discuss any aspect of the project with a member of the project team, please see the contact information below or visit our website for regular updates.

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GRID25

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