



Celtic Interconnector

La liaison électrique entre la France et l'Irlande
Connecting the electricity grids of Ireland and France

Project Overview

The Celtic Interconnector project will create an electrical interconnection between Ireland and France to allow the exchange of electricity between the two countries. The connection will link the existing electricity substation located in Knockraha (in east Cork) to the substation in La Martyre (Finistère, France). It will contribute to a more secure and a more sustainable electricity supply by providing Ireland's only direct energy connection to an EU member state. The project is being developed by EirGrid, the electricity transmission system operator in Ireland, and its French counterpart Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (Rte).

In this Issue



- Project Update
- What's Happening Now
- RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) Update
- Two year milestone
- Community Benefit Fund
- The Project in Numbers
- Did You Know

Project Update

The trenching and installation of ducting to carry the high voltage direct current (HVDC) cable on the route from Claycastle Beach to the converter station in Ballyadam is complete.

Over 60% of the HVDC cables have been installed.

Cable installation and jointing of the cables on the N25 between Youghal and Killeagh and between Killeagh and Castlemartyr has been completed. Permanent road reinstatement on these sections has finished.

At the landfall, the cofferdam was removed and the beach returned to its former state for public use.

All four transformers have been successfully installed at Ballyadam converter station. The transformers ensure the voltage levels at the converter station are matched to the transmission system voltages to allow the connection of the interconnector to the grid.





The transformers arriving at the ESB Aghada Power Station via boat from Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

What's Happening Now

Electrical equipment installation is progressing well at the converter station and civil works are nearing completion.

The high voltage electrical equipment installation and control system installation are well advanced and will be complete shortly. Readiness and preparatory works for the commissioning phase are well under way, and commissioning works to validate and test the installed electrical equipment will ramp up early in 2026.

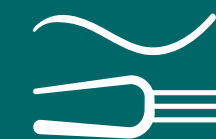
Cable installation and jointing of the cables on the N25 between Castlemartyr and Churchtown North Cross, and on the remaining locations on the local and rural roads will continue in the new year.

A programme of permanent road reinstatement works will be active throughout the coming months, undertaken by Cork County Council appointed contractors.

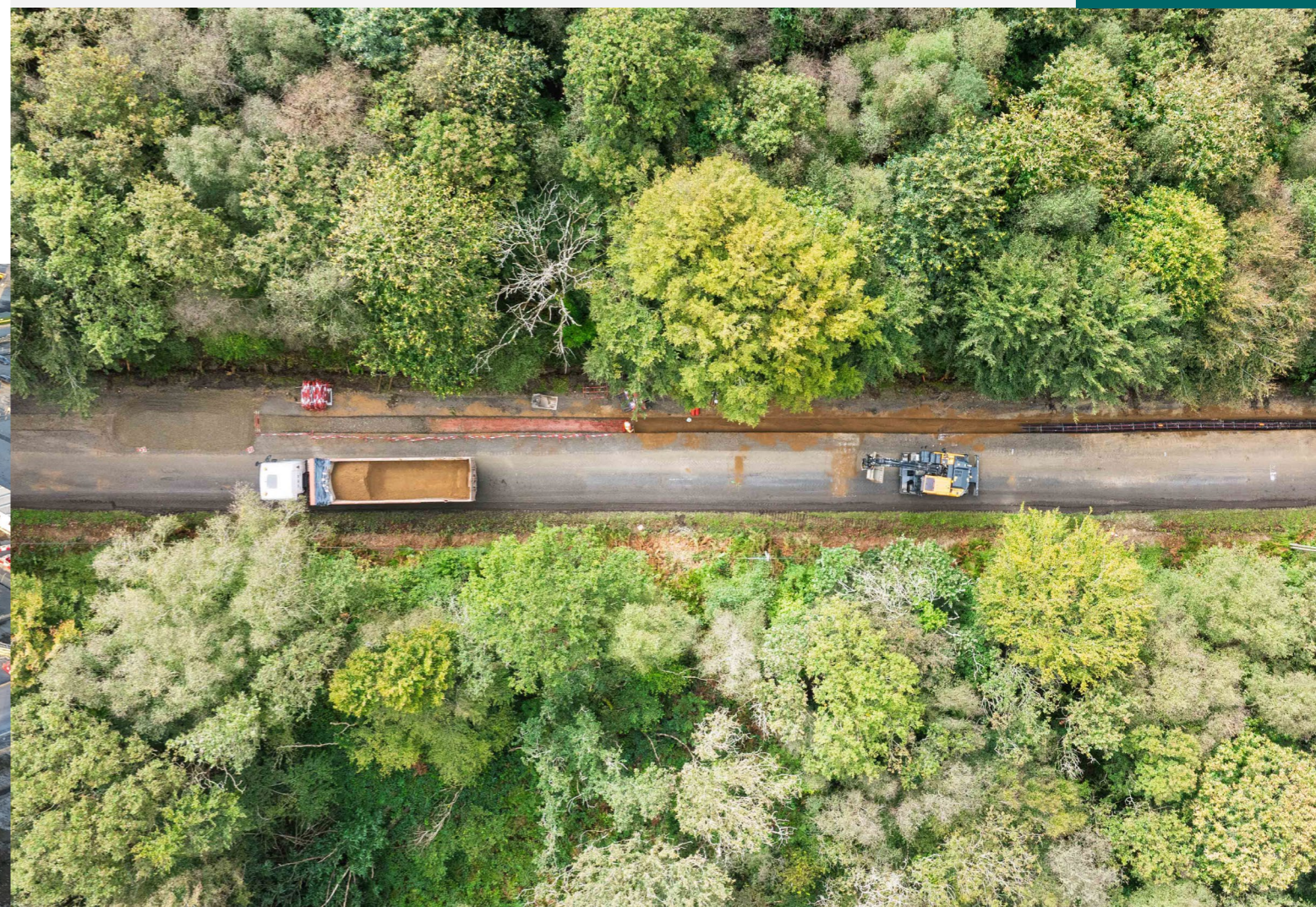
Rte (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) Update

In France, the civil works in the converter station are now complete and the installation and cabling works are progressing with all converter modules. Pre-commissioning of equipment has started and will be ongoing until spring 2026 when the trials before powering the converter station will take place.

Terrestrial cable works are progressing, with more than 80% of trenching and ducting operations for the cable route now complete and 10% of the HVDC cable installed.



Converter station civil works are nearing completion.

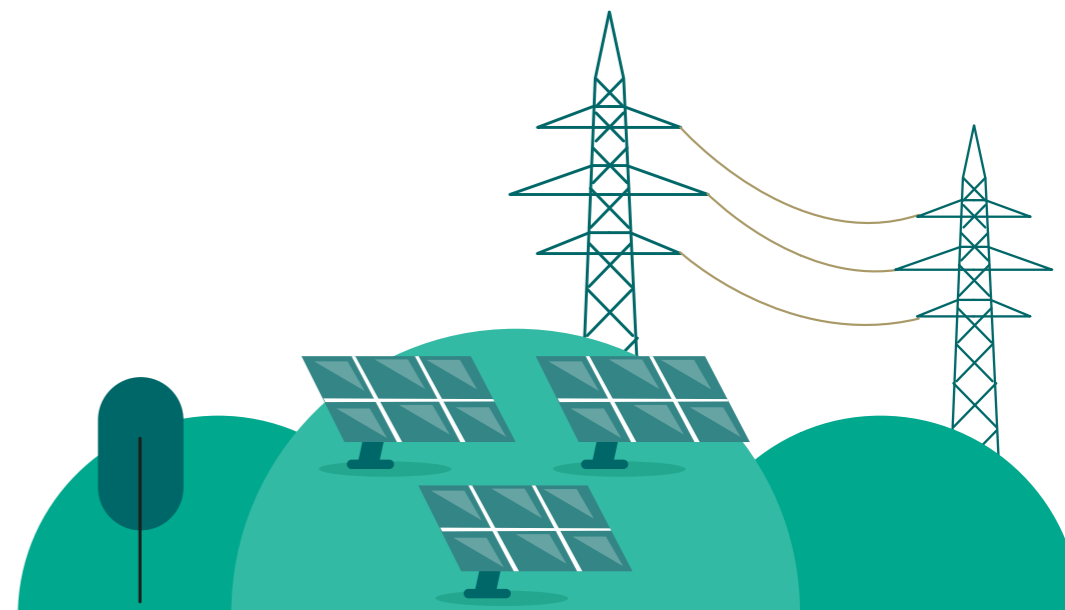


Trenching and ducting works continue on the northern part of the cable route between Cléder and Sibiril.

Celtic Interconnector team marks two-year milestone

Marking the milestone of two years since construction on the ground commenced, EirGrid teams and project partner, RTE, attended the sixth PCI Energy Days event in Brussels earlier this month, where they spoke with Mechthild Wörsdörfer, deputy director general for the European Commission Directorate-General for Energy (DG ENER) and MEP Barry Andrews about the project's progress.

The Project of Common Interest event brings together regulators, grid operators and project promoters to discuss and share successful examples of how they have overcome some of the most pressing challenges in building and modernising the energy infrastructure needed to meet the EU's 2030 climate and energy targets.



EirGrid representatives Pádraig Slyne and Shane Cooney speaking with Mechthild Wörsdörfer in Brussels earlier this month.



Shane Cooney (EirGrid) and Michael Behan, Chief Financial Officer, EirGrid, alongside Barry Andrews, MEP and Rémi Courtial (Rte, France) at the PCI Energy Days event.



Weed removal taking place recently from Loughaderra Lake, Middleton.

Community Benefit Fund progress

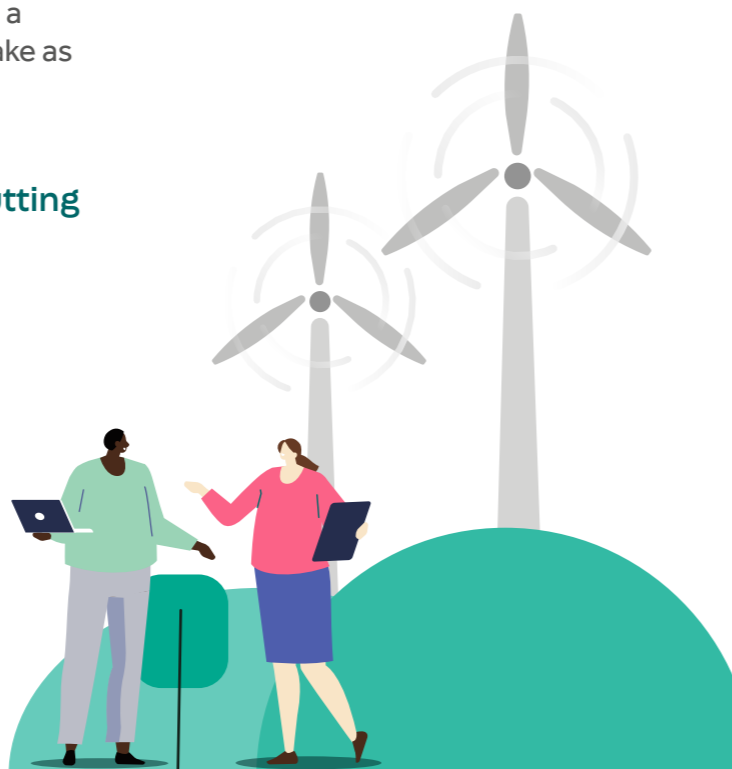
Ballintotis Community Council, (Loughaderra) Lake Sub Committee has begun its weed management project after receiving €79,677 from the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund. This is the first step in a community led plan to restore and care for the lake as a respected and treasured community amenity.



Ballintotis
Community Council

Loughaderra Lake Weedcutting Project 2025

For any queries, please contact
loughaderralake@gmail.com



The group was among 52 other voluntary and not for profit groups which were successful in applying for funding and received the monies through the fund's biodiversity stream.

Phase two of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund saw a total of €821,265.50 awarded, with phase three to be awarded once the Celtic Interconnector is energised and electricity flows through the cable from Ireland to France and vice versa. We look forward to seeing these local community projects come to fruition over the coming months.

Finally, local sponsorships also formed part of our engagement strategy as we continue to support local initiatives in the relevant areas.

Sponsorships

- Youghal United U12 schoolboys' team jerseys
- East Cork Golf Club President's Prize 2025
- RNLI Helvick Head Annual Swim
- 35th Cork French Film Festival
- Cork East Athletics & Sporting Community (CEASC) 10-mile road race
- Youghal Bay Half Marathon & 10k Road Race
- Cycling to Save Lives at Sea RNLI Youghal

As we approach the festive season, we wish all communities and groups in the project area a Happy Christmas and extend a sincere thanks for their cooperation throughout the year as we progress this key energy project.



Women's winners of the EirGrid sponsored CEASC 10 Mile Road Race

The Project in Numbers



13,500

the number of tonnes of rock the vessel 'Seapiper' has recently transported from Stavanger, Norway to Cork for subsea rock installation along the first section of the marine cable route.

Did You Know?



The project is just over two years in construction, having first broke ground in November 2023.

Project Timeline

2025



Commencement of offshore cable installation.

Commencement of submarine cable protection campaigns.

Completion of installation and jointing of HVAC and HVDC land cables.

Converter station buildings complete.

2026



Offshore cable installation continues.

Continuing of submarine cable protection campaigns.

Converter station compound construction complete.

Commissioning & testing phase commences.

2027



Completion of offshore marine cable installation.

Completion of submarine cable protection campaigns.

Converter station commissioning & testing phase complete.

2028



Trial operation & commercial operation.

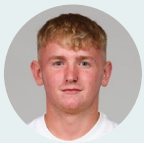
How to Contact Us

At EirGrid, we are committed to engaging with communities during all phases of project development. We remain grateful for the continued patience and support of communities, landowners, and stakeholders as we progress this work.



Michelle Walsh

EirGrid Community Liaison Officer
085 870 4999



Cillian Quinlan

Sorensen Liaison Officer
086 032 6171



Scan here to stay up to date on project progress or visit www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector

To subscribe to project updates by email, register at celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com

You can unsubscribe from receiving updates at any time by emailing celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com

Text Updates



If you would like to receive Text Updates on road closures, subscribe to our FREE Text service by **INTER** to **50015**.

Email Updates



Email Updates If you would like to receive email updates on road closures, please email celticinterconnector@sorensen.ie



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe Facility of the European Union

The Celtic interconnector project is being developed by EirGrid, the operator of the energy transfer system in Ireland, and its counterpart in France, RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité).

Copyright © 2025 | EirGrid |. All rights reserved.



Tionscatal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040