



# 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). It is expected to be completed in 2026.

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## Project Update

Progress continued throughout the winter on the project, with 96% of the High Voltage Alternating Cable (HVAC) installation complete. Road reinstatement is continuing on the route, in cooperation with Cork County Council.

On the High Voltage Direct Cable (HVDC) route between Ballyadam and Claycastle Beach, Youghal, 75% of trenching and ducting are now complete.

Works at the landfall at Claycastle Beach have begun, with the establishment of a work site in a section of the beach's car

park. This was followed by a cofferdam structure being installed on the beach. The cofferdam will allow ducts to be laid, through which the cables to and from the marine route to France, will be placed.

This cofferdam is a temporary works structure which will be removed once the work is completed.







Cofferdam construction at Claycastle Beach, February 2025.



Works progressing at the converter station site, Ballyadam.

## What's Happening Now

### Landfall – Claycastle Beach

Onshore works within the tidal area are under-way. The tidal area is the beach area from the low tide water mark to the high tide water mark. Land-based plant and machinery is being used to install the DC ducting within the cofferdam.

Once the excavation is complete and the ducts are installed, the ducts will be covered over and the beach reinstated.

### Cable route

Works are continuing on the HVAC cable route between Carrigtwohill and Knockraha, with jointing, backfilling, road reinstatement and passing bay removal.

Trenching and ducting works are continuing on the N25 between Castlemartyr and Killeagh, with expected completion of end of February 2025. Traffic management and speed restrictions remain in place.

Trenching and ducting works between Killeagh and Youghal have commenced, with expected completion in May 2025, followed by cable installation works. Speed restrictions will be in place on the N25 from March to May 2025.

### Converter station

The converter station building is progressing well, with construction of roof and walls complete, to be followed by external cladding. Electrical installation works have commenced. Once complete, this building will house essential control systems and equipment, playing a vital role in the overall operation of the voltage conversion process.

### Gogginstown Substation

Roadworks within the Gogginstown Substation site are currently in progress, aimed at improving access and infrastructure in the area. This work includes the grading, paving, and installation of necessary drainage systems to enhance road safety and functionality.

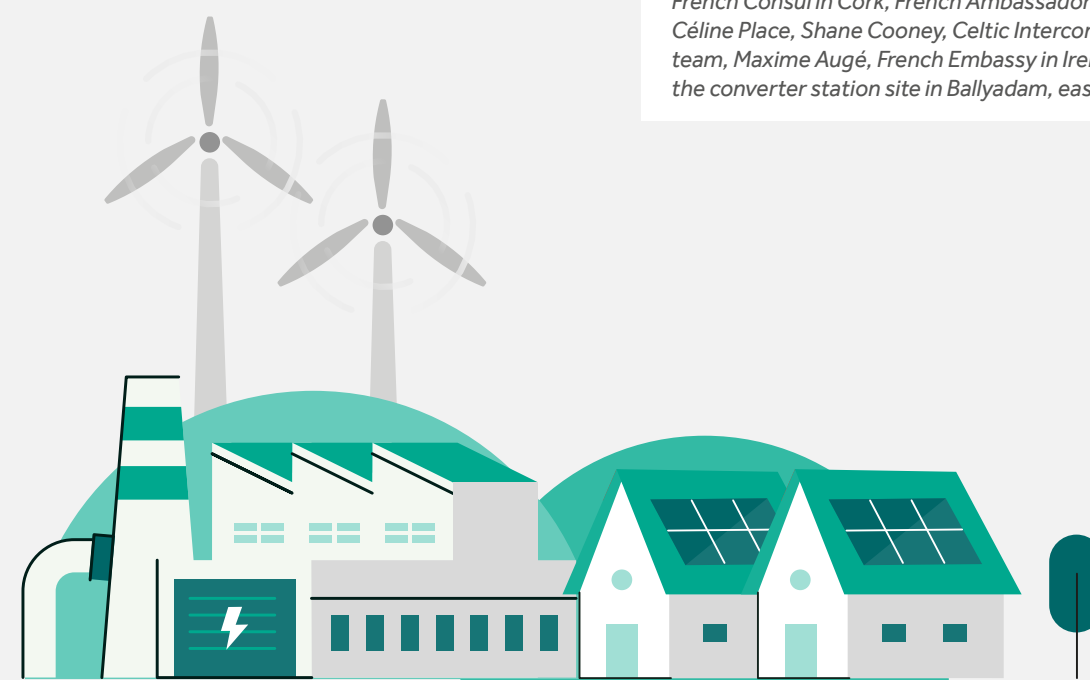
### Marking Construction Milestone

In November 2024, the Celtic Interconnector reached a significant milestone, passing one year in construction.

Celebrating the one-year construction milestone, EirGrid teams and project partners welcomed the Ambassador of France in Ireland, H.E. Céline Place, to the converter station site in Ballyadam, near Carrigtwohill, where the collaboration between the teams in Ireland and France were recognised.



*Pictured L-R Ed Raffle, Celtic Interconnector team, Pádraig Slyne, EirGrid, Josselin Le Gall, Honorary French Consul in Cork, French Ambassador H.E. Céline Place, Shane Cooney, Celtic Interconnector team, Maxime Augé, French Embassy in Ireland, at the converter station site in Ballyadam, east Cork.*





## Community Benefit Fund

Applications for the second phase of the €2.4 million fund are now being welcomed, with €841,013 in funding available to eligible communities and voluntary groups.

The Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund was established by EirGrid to recognise the importance of local communities who facilitate this critical development of the electricity grid and will benefit groups and projects in the east Cork project area.

Funding of €240,000 will be available for community projects, €240,000 for sustainability projects and €361,013 for biodiversity projects, with a €121,013 underspend carried over from the first phase of the fund under the biodiversity stream.

The first phase of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund saw 29 community groups receive a total of €838,987, with funding supporting a wide range of projects. For those interested in exploring an application under any of the funding streams, contact [info@secad.ie](mailto:info@secad.ie)



Back in 2019, we developed the idea of creating a walkway through the woods for locals to enjoy, so we applied to EirGrid for the community benefit funding and we were lucky enough to receive €37,000 to help us with phase one of this walkway.

Declan Whelan  
Leamlara Woods Walking Trail.  
Lisgoold Leamlara Community Council  
€37,000



We were lucky enough to get funding from the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund. We'll be replacing the trees with more suitable natives and restoring the pond for the community to enjoy.

Grainne Furey  
Keane Park Pond restoration project.  
Youghal Blue and Green  
Community Network  
€33,819



Our lighting system is 15-20 years old. 70% of the lighting is not working. The new LED lights project supported by EirGrid will improve participation in the GAA club. In the absence of this funding, projects like this simply cannot happen.

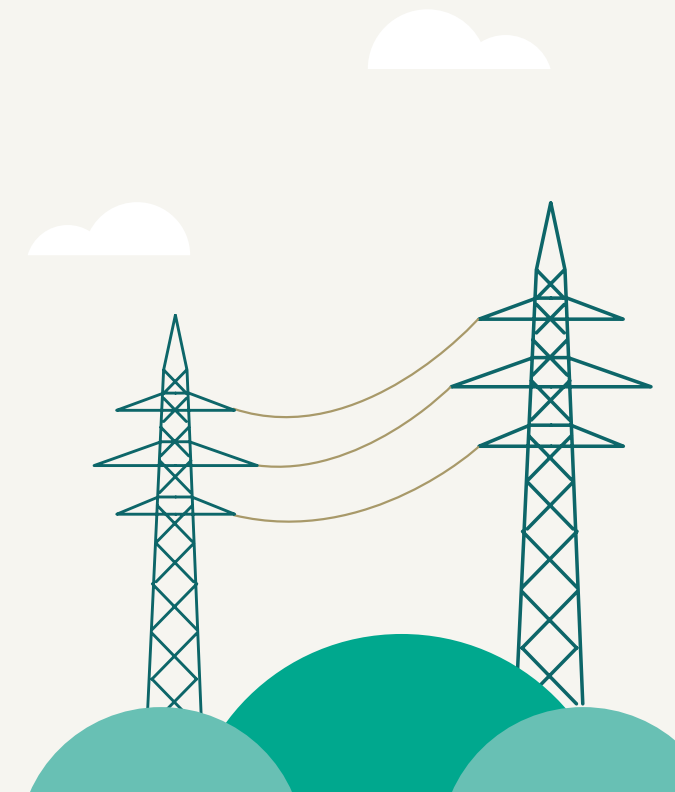
Joe Kirk & Alan Geary  
LED Floodlighting project.  
Youghal GAA Club  
€30,000



## RTE (Réseau de Transport d'Électricité) Update

At the beginning of 2025, the Celtic Interconnector's works in France are focused on the completion of the civil works at the Ar Merzher converter station and the delivery of the first converter transformers are scheduled for May.

Meanwhile, 20% of the trenching and ducting of the HVDC cable route is now reinstated and 43% ongoing. Underground directional drilling with Port-Neuf the next significant step to be carried out between February and April.







Works progressing at the Ar Merzher converter station site near La Martyre substation (Finistère) France.

## The Project in Numbers

36

the number of kilometres that have been successfully trenched and installed with ducting in preparation for cable installation in Ireland.

30

the number of kilometres along the cable route in Ireland installed with high voltage cable.



## Did You Know?

A typical cable laying ship, similar to what will be used on the Celtic Interconnector is 150 meters in length and up to 31 meters wide.

## EirGrid Supporting East Cork Communities

Next month, EirGrid is supporting the Cork East Midleton 10-mile road race, organised by Cork East Athletic Sporting Committee (CEASC). The event is set to take place on Sunday March 9 next and will follow the scenic Midleton to Youghal Greenway. The event offers participants the chance to get involved in a community-driven effort to promote athletics in the east Cork region, by developing a regional track and field facility for east Cork.



## Collaboration at EU Level

Celtic Interconnector team members from EirGrid and [Réseau de Transport d'Électricité](#) enjoyed an insightful visit to Coreso in Brussels last month. [Coreso SA](#) is the EU coordination group for Transmission System Operators throughout Europe, performing analysis, recommending and coordinating solutions for its partners in different areas, and

contributing to ensuring Europe-wide electricity coverage.

Both teams enjoyed insightful presentations on the opportunities of a more connected European grid, and how the Celtic Interconnector will contribute to this.





# Project Timeline

## 2025



- Commencement of offshore marine cable installation.
- Completion of installation and jointing of HVAC and HVDC land cables.
- Converter station buildings complete.

## 2026



- Completion of offshore marine cable installation.
- Submarine cable protection campaigns.
- Commissioning tests.
- Interconnector system tests.
- Trial operation period commences.

## 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](http://www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector)

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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).

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