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1. Executive summary

This report provides a summary of the responses received to the Step 4 consultation on the proposed Celtic Interconnector Project, undertaken by EirGrid between 11 November 2019 and 02 February 2020.

The Celtic Interconnector would enable the transfer of electricity between the south coast of Ireland and the north-west coast of France via approximately 500 km of subsea cable and approximately 75 km of underground cable in Ireland and France. The project has been designated as a Project of Common Interest by the European Union and has been recently awarded €530 million of grant funding under the Connecting Europe Facility.

Following the Step 3 consultation which ran from 11 April 2019 to 10 June 2019, EirGrid identified an emerging best performing option for the landfall location and three site options for a converter station site with one identified as the emerging best performing option. EirGrid also identified proposed underground cable routes for each of the options presented. Feedback on these project options and views on the community gain fund related to this project were sought during the Step 4 consultation period.

1.1. Consultation process

The consultation was owned and managed by EirGrid Group. Traverse, an independent consultancy specialising in consultation analysis, was commissioned to analyse responses to the consultation and report on their findings. Responses to the consultation were submitted via an online form, by email, by post, as hardcopy response forms completed during local consultation events, and also delivered by hand directly to EirGrid's office.

In total, this consultation received 1,047 responses. A detailed description of Traverse's approach to the handling, analysis and reporting of responses can be found in Chapter 2.

1.2. Consultation responses

This report summarises respondents' views on:

- the overall project,
- the assessments that have been carried out,
- the proposed landfall location at Claycastle Beach,
- three proposed options for the converter station site,
- the proposed underground cable routes,
- views on the proposed community gain fund, and
- the consultation process itself.

The responses to the consultation are organised by question, the sentiment of their comment, such as benefits, concerns and suggestions, then by theme, such as environmental issues, socio-economic issues, and deliverability.



Benefits

Respondents expressing support for the overall project cite greater interconnection with Europe as one of the main benefits. A small number of respondents indicate that they have no comment to make on the overall project as they understand it in principle but choose to focus on the specific sites proposed.

Concerns

Some respondents express general opposition to the project, with some questioning the necessity of the Celtic Interconnector as an addition to the national transmission system. A few respondents are concerned that the interconnector would lead to nuclear power being imported into the Irish national grid. A few respondents highlight concerns about the existing substation at Knockraha, Cork as well as the proposed sites for the converter station in this area, particularly regarding the potential impacts on noise pollution, the rural character of the area and health outcomes. A small number of respondents also express concern about how the converter station could impact other infrastructure in their local area.

Views on the proposed landfall location

Most comments on the proposed landfall location express concern about the environmental impact that could result from the use of the Claycastle Beach site. A few respondents highlight potential problems with deliverability, such as the distance from the landfall location to the system connection point at Knockraha, as well as concerns about possible local socioeconomic impact, such as the potential negative effects on fishing and access to the beach for recreation. A small number of respondents also comment on the potential impact of the proposed cabling route from Claycastle Beach, suggesting that there may be environmental impacts and disruption to the road network. Other respondents suggest the location is the most appropriate site of the options previously presented and support EirGrid's proposed landfall location at Claycastle Beach.

Views on the proposed converter station sites

Respondents who express support for site 1 (Ballyadam) suggest the location is appropriate as it is already zoned for industry and would therefore, in their view, have the least impact on surrounding communities. A few respondents express concern about the amount of AC cabling that would be needed to connect the site with the Knockraha substation due to the distance involved. A few respondents express concern about the level of infrastructure that would be needed at site 1, suggesting it would potentially lead to an increased risk of flooding. Other concerns respondents raised included the potential for noise pollution and a negative visual impact.

Those who express support for site 9b, (Knockraha), suggest it would require the least amount of cabling and provide opportunities to mitigate noise issues. Respondents who oppose the site feel the elevated and exposed



location would result in a significant visual impact, whilst also expressing concern about the potential industrialisation of the rural area. Other concerns centre around potential noise and light pollution and the negative impact on ancient woodland and local ecology. Respondents also express concern about the possible effect on the cultural and historical heritage of the area, highlighting significant sites related to the War of Independence.

A few respondents express support for site 12 - Kilquane (Meeleen), due to the screening and noise reduction features of the surrounding landscape. Concerns related to site 12 are similar to issues raised in relation to site 9b. Respondents express concern about the potential industrialisation of the rural area, suggesting the converter station would be visually unappealing and that the natural screening provided by the conifer forest is only temporary. They also comment that noise from the existing substation is already a problem and express concern about the potential impact on biodiversity and the risk of water and soil contamination. As with site 9b, respondents highlight the cultural and historical heritage of the area. Respondents also express concern about the ability of the road network to cope with construction and operational traffic, suggesting this would negatively affect the local economy.

A general theme across comments about all three sites is the lack of benefit that a converter station would bring to the local economy.

Views on the community fund

Most respondents who made suggestions regarding the community fund generally supported the idea of investing in local community facilities so there would be a positive legacy from the project.

A small number of respondents felt a community fund was an attempt to bribe the local community into accepting the project.

2. Introduction

2.1. About this report

This report summarises the responses received to the Step 4 consultation on the Celtic Interconnector Project (Figure 1 below shows EirGrid's six-step approach to grid development). This consultation sought feedback on the assessments that have been carried out, the proposed landfall location at Claycastle Beach, the three sites proposed for the converter station, the underground cable routes, how a community fund could ensure benefits are accrued to the local area, and the consultation process itself.

2.2. About the Celtic Interconnector Project

The Celtic Interconnector is a proposed electrical link which would enable the movement of electricity between Ireland and France. EirGrid has been working with their counterpart in France, Réseau de Transport d'Électricité (RTÉ) to develop an interconnector between the two countries. In October 2019 the European Commission announced that it would provide €530 million of grant funding to this project.

If planning permission is granted and should the project proceed, a final decision to commence construction is expected in 2022. It is anticipated that the Interconnector would then go live in 2026.

Further information about the Celtic Interconnector Project can be found on the EirGrid website:

www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/celtic-interconnector/

2.3. About this consultation

Between 11 November 2019 and 02 February 2020 EirGrid consulted on the Celtic Interconnector Project, in line with its six-step approach to grid development, shown in Figure 1 below.



Figure 1: EirGrid's six step approach to grid development projects

Step 4 of the consultation and engagement process. During Step 3, EirGrid conducted studies and consulted on three options for landfall locations and six options for converter station location zones. Following the Step 3 consultation, these options were assessed under the five different categories, as displayed in Figure 2 below.



Figure 2: EirGrid assessment categories

A number of common themes emerged from the Step 3 consultation. These are treated in greater detail in EirGrid's Step 3 consultation response document available here <http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/Celtic-Interconnector-Step-3-Consultation-Response-Document.pdf> with key themes emerging as:

- noise,
- health,
- visual impact,
- farming and land use, and
- traffic and the road network.

This feedback along with additional analysis of the Step 3 options helped to identify the emerging best performing landfall location and the three converter station sites along with associated underground cable routes which were presented in this consultation.

Of the three proposed converter station sites:

- site 12 – Kilquane (Meeleen) performed well in EirGrid's assessments and was consulted on as the emerging best performing option. EirGrid consider that this site addresses some of the key stakeholder feedback received in step 3;



- site 9b Knockraha performed well in EirGrid's assessments and was consulted on as a viable alternative; and
- site 1 Ballyadam did not perform well in EirGrid's assessments. However, it was consulted on as EirGrid continue to work to see if there is a location within the IDA Park at Ballyadam which could mitigate some of the identified issues of the current site.

Consultation Promotion

As part of the Step 4 public consultation process EirGrid:

- developed a specific project update brochure and updated the Celtic Interconnector webpages;
- held 7 public information meetings across East Cork, in locations close to the proposed landfall site, and the potential converter station sites;
- called to local residents to advise of the project and the information evenings;
- wrote to identified stakeholders at the outset of the consultation process to advise of the progress of the project, provide contact details of the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) and advise of information evenings;
- Shared information via community group administrators for distribution to their membership.
- posted a link to the online feedback form on the EirGrid website;
- provided a dedicated email and freepost address to receive consultation responses;
- advertised the consultation process and upcoming information events in local and national newspapers; and
- advertised on EirGrid's own Facebook and Twitter social media pages, through the Public Participation Network, on local community Facebook pages and via local groups in cooperation with local representatives.

EirGrid also engaged with local representatives, presenting to Cobh Municipal District Council and East Cork Municipal District Council at council meetings in advance of the consultation launch, as well as briefing councillors and local community and interest groups with email updates. Local officials and representatives were invited to attend the consultation events that were held, with some attending events and a few responding directly to the consultation.



2.4. Responses received

In total, this consultation received 1,047 responses. Table 1 shows a breakdown of the types of responses received.

Response type	Total Number of responses received
Online response form	53
Hardcopy response forms	33
Letters and emails (excluding campaign responses)	33
Letters and emails (campaign responses)	928
TOTAL	1,047

Table 1: Response Types Received

Campaigns and petitions

The Knockraha Environment Group organised a campaign response which was received from 928 respondents.

The campaign outlined their opposition to the Celtic Interconnector Project, their negative impression of the consultation event held in Knockraha and the publicity it received. They also express several concerns about the converter station sites 9b and 12, including the potential for:

- health and safety impacts,
- noise pollution,
- visual impact and light pollution,
- proximity to existing housing,
- change of land use,
- the impact on heritage sites,
- the impact on wildlife,
- inadequate infrastructure, and
- property devaluation.

Their responses are included in the main body of the report and it is highlighted where campaign responses have made comments on the topic.

2.5. Response channels

There were four channels provided for responses to be submitted to the consultation:

- **online:** by using the dedicated consultation webform accessible via the



EirGrid website;

- **email:** by emailing the project's dedicated email address, celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com, administered by the project team at EirGrid;
- **post:** by sending in a hardcopy response to the address provided by EirGrid; and
- **in person:** by attending a local consultation engagement event and handing a hardcopy response to a representative from EirGrid.

2.6. Data processing

EirGrid appointed Traverse, an independent consultancy specialising in consultation analysis, to process and analyse the responses received to this consultation and produce this report.

Data protection

Traverse and EirGrid agreed processes to ensure all data was handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

The online and hardcopy response forms included statements on data protection, including respondents' rights under GDPR, explaining how data would be used and for what purpose. Though respondents who provided views in other formats did not receive a data protection statement, care has been taken to ensure that no individual respondents are identifiable in this report.

Submissions received were recorded in a database for analysis and categorised into types (for example letter, email or response form).

Development of the coding framework

To analyse the open text responses consistently, Traverse developed a coding framework. Each code represents a specific issue, and these are grouped together according to unifying themes and sentiments.

- For example, "Converter station site 1 - concern – environment – air quality"

A basic thematic structure was developed following a review of a sample of the submissions received and further codes were added in response to additional issues identified following a detailed review of all consultation responses. The coding framework was adapted as analysis of the responses was undertaken to ensure that it reflected the nuances of the responses.

The detailed coding framework is shown in Appendix A.

Using the coding framework

The coding was used to group together similar comments and summarise them thematically. In this way, this summary report draws on and reflects the responses received and the full range of issues raised by respondents.



2.7. Reporting

Structure of the report

Chapter 3 summarises general comments made about the proposed Celtic Interconnector Project.

Chapter 4 presents a summary of comments on the proposed landfall location site at Claycastle Beach. It also presents other comments related to other landfall location sites and proposed DC cable route.

Chapter 5 presents a summary of comments on each of the proposed Converter station options, and the proposed AC cable routes. It also reviews comments made about the assessment process undertaken by EirGrid.

Chapter 6 summarises comments made about EirGrid's proposals to work with the community, including how a community fund could be best applied and suggestions relating the local advisory group.

Chapter 7 presents comments made about the consultation process.

Responses to closed questions

Charts summarising responses to the closed questions used in the online survey and the hardcopy response form are included in this report at Appendix B. Whilst these responses were valuable, the very low number of responses means that these cannot be considered to be representative. As such, whilst these charts have been included to ensure that the views of those respondents who completed the closed questions were represented in this report, care should be taken in drawing any wider conclusions from the charts.

Open text responses

The qualitative analysis set out in this report summarises the responses given to open questions in the consultation form and also responses in other formats, such as via letters and emails.

Reading the report

As well as landowners, project stakeholders and groups likely to be most affected by the project, who were invited to respond, the consultation was open to anyone who wanted to respond. EirGrid undertook a number of promotional activities (highlighted above) to encourage people to participate, including the groups most likely to be affected. However, as with any consultation, it is important to note that the responses were ultimately from a self-selecting group of people, i.e. those who chose to respond. As such these responses should not be viewed in the same light as an opinion poll with a statistically representative sample of the population. They do however offer a valuable insight into the views and opinions about the project, and the current proposals.



Numbers in the report

In summarising the responses to open questions, the following quantifiers are used:

- a small number / a few – comments which were made by around 1 to 6 respondents;
- some – comments which were made by around 7 to 19 respondents; and
- several – comments which were made by approximately 20 respondents or more.

Due to the spread of comments over a wide range of topics, there were not sufficient numbers of responses on particular topics to necessitate further quantifiers.

These quantifying terms are intended to provide a sense of scale and proportion, and to help make the report more accessible to readers. Traverse's intention is to reflect accurately the range of issues raised, rather than to attribute weight to the number of respondents raising them. As noted above the most common responses to this consultation, nearly 90%, were campaign responses containing identical text. As a result, where campaigns have commented on an issue this would be made clear in the text to distinguish it from comments made by respondents not using a campaign template.

3. Feedback on the Celtic Interconnector Project overall

3.1. Overview

This Chapter sets out comments made by respondents on the project as a whole, discussing first comments that were supportive of the proposals, then those which were opposed to the project and finally responses which made suggestions in relation to the project.

3.2. Comments supporting the Celtic Interconnector Project

General	
Support	A few respondents express support for the Celtic Interconnector Project in general, supporting the ambition for greater interconnection with Europe.

3.3. Comments expressing concern about the Celtic Interconnector Project

General	
Opposition	<p>Some respondents express a general opposition to the plans to construct the Celtic Interconnector. Many of these respondents do not go into detail explaining why they oppose the project. Where respondents have outlined in detail concerns about the proposals the comments are captured in the relevant section below.</p> <p>This included the campaign responses, where respondents comment that they “vehemently oppose the need for the Celtic Interconnector project at all for Ireland”.</p> <p>A small number of respondents express other concerns including how unfair they feel the project would be on landowners who would have cables traveling through their property, and the lack of employment opportunities they perceive would come from the project.</p>



Environment	
Existing substation¹	<p>Some respondents and the campaign respondents refer to the impact that they feel the existing substation has. They contend the original siting of the substation in the area was flawed and causes significant visual disruption and emits noise pollution that affects the residents of the area. They often suggest that the existing substation should be scaled back, rather than adding more infrastructure to the area and the existing substation.</p> <p>A few respondents further feel that complaints they have made and issues they have raised about the existing substation are ignored, suggesting this gives them very little faith that EirGrid will take account of their views about further developments to the site.</p>
Rural location	<p>A small number of respondents contend the existing substation should not be expanded due to the rural nature of the area around it and suggest instead that it should be scaled back.</p>
Noise / vibration	<p>A few respondents and the campaign respondents, comment on the impact that they believe the Celtic Interconnector Project would have on noise levels in general, contending that cables and substations emit a buzzing noise that disturbs people and wildlife. Where respondents comment on the noise impact they expect from a substation at a proposed location, the comments are reported on in the relevant substation section of Chapter 5.</p>
Production of CO₂	<p>A small number of respondents question EirGrid's claims that the project will reduce CO₂ on the basis that they feel much of the energy will be produced by nuclear power, which they consider not to be carbon neutral.</p>

¹ Electricity Supply Board (ESB) Networks own and operate an existing substation in Knockraha which has been in place since the 1960's.

Socio-economic	
Need	<p>Some respondents and the campaign respondents, question whether there is a need for the Celtic Interconnector Project at all, often suggesting there is no need or that the need is limited compared to the negative impacts they perceive would result from the project.</p> <p>These respondents contend that Ireland produces adequate power, and that the project is not being driven by need at all, often suggesting it is instead driven by financial motives.</p>
Nuclear power	<p>A few respondents express concern that the Celtic Interconnector would result in nuclear power being utilised in Ireland. They contend that Ireland has been strongly anti-nuclear and that as France generates a large amount of its energy through nuclear power, this would result in nuclear energy being imported onto the Irish grid.</p> <p>This concern is shared by respondents using the campaign template as they contend production of electricity produced by nuclear fission is prohibited from being used on the national grid. They suggest France generates 71.6% of its energy from nuclear power and express concern about importing this type of power onto the Irish grid network.</p>
Health	<p>A small number of respondents raise concerns about possible health impacts for people living near any of the supporting infrastructure for the Celtic Interconnector Project. They suggest there have been increased cancer rates around the existing substation at Knockraha and feel this may be connected to the facility. They suggest this should be investigated to see if there is any link before any more electricity infrastructure is added.</p> <p>This concern is also raised by campaign respondents who believe extremely low frequency (ELF) electric and magnetic fields (EMF) could travel through the walls of a house and cause negative health impacts. They suggest the International Agency for Research on Cancer have found ELF's are possibly carcinogenic to humans and feel this raises questions about whether the Celtic Interconnector Project should proceed.</p>

Delivery	
Flexible grid networks	<p>A small number of respondents comment on the wider grid network that the Celtic interconnector Project would connect to. They suggest local generation of electricity, including individual households with solar panels returning power to the grid, could be impacted by the proposed Celtic Interconnector.</p> <p>Others propose that there is a need to facilitate locally installed generation and suggest if the proposed Greenlink Interconnector is also connected to the grid, the relative benefits for the Celtic Interconnector are reduced. They suggest there is a need to be proactive to avoid isolated transmission loops with little opportunity for penetration of locally installed generation. They request EirGrid consider any impact the project may have on the aim to increase local generation.</p>
Other infrastructure	<p>A few respondents, express concern about how the converter station would impact the generators at Aghada Generating Station. They contend that the current analysis of the effect of a sudden disconnection of power is based on a disconnection of the East West Interconnector which has a capacity of 500 MW, whereas the proposed Celtic Interconnector has a capacity of 700 MW. They suggest that this needs to be assessed further to allow for protection settings to accommodate this.</p> <p>An additional concern is the potential impact the HVDC converter station could have on the shaft-line of a turbine generator set. They contend that the converter station could cause frequencies to align in such a way that could lead to damage in the turbines and generators.</p>
Changes to the existing substation	<p>As well as expressing concerns about the converter station site 12 and 9b, the campaign responses express opposition to the proposed changes to the existing electrical substation as they believe it would result in further industrialisation of a rural area.</p>

3.4. Suggestions relating to the Celtic Interconnector Project

Alternatives	
Locations	<p>A small number of respondents suggest alternative locations for the entire project, contending that it would be sensible not to connect to the grid at Knockraha. Proposals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an unspecified existing substation in an industrial area to avoid a single point of failure; • a new substation and converter station constructed elsewhere to futureproof the grid; • extending the marine route so it comes to land at Cork harbour and then building a converter station in the grounds of Aghada power station; and • an alternative substation along the southern coast of Ireland to avoid inland cables.
Supporting infrastructure	<p>A small number of respondents suggest EirGrid could provide financial support for a bridge crossing Youghal harbour. They contend this could become an “energy bridge” with lots of supporting renewable energy projects alongside the structure of the bridge and could potentially shorten the distance of the marine cable required for the proposed Celtic Interconnector.</p>

4. Feedback on proposed landfall location

4.1. Overview

This Chapter summarises comments on the proposed landfall location at Claycastle Beach, the DC cable route and any alternative locations suggested. Where respondents are commenting on any matters relating to the location of the converter station site, including AC cable routes from the converter station site to the existing substation at Knockraha their comments are included in Chapter 5.

4.2. Comments supporting Claycastle Beach

General	
General	A few respondents feel that this is the most suitable location out of all the three proposed options, without commenting on why they believe this to be the case.

4.3. Comments expressing concern about Claycastle Beach

Delivery	
Interference	A few respondents express concern with potential interference with other technical assets. A few of these respondents also express reservations about the potential impact on utility services, including water and sewage, due to roadworks, as well as the local community at large.
Distance from Knockraha	<p>A small number of respondents feel the cost of installing underground DC cables from Claycastle Beach to Knockraha is prohibitive.</p> <p>A few of these respondents question whether Claycastle Beach is the best option due to environmental, technical and economic issues they expect it would cause, without explicitly stating what these may be.</p>
Environment	
General	A few respondents contend that as this land is currently undeveloped it should not be disrupted by this process.



Socioeconomic	
Fisheries	A few respondents were of the impression that dredging would be needed to prepare the landfall location which they contend would impact the fishing grounds used for local industry for over a year.
Heritage	A small number of respondents express concern over potential harm or loss to the Country's heritage as a result of the project, without explicitly stating any locations.
Public amenity	A few respondents contend that Claycastle Beach is a public amenity which is enjoyed by local residents and should not be considered for EirGrid's proposal.
Tourism	A few respondents express concern about how they would be able to access the car park at Claycastle Beach if this location is chosen.
General	
Opposition	A small number of respondents oppose the landfall location being at Claycastle Beach, without any explanation as to why they oppose it.

4.4. Suggestions relating to Claycastle Beach

Suggestion	
Suggestion	A few respondents suggest that access to the beach is available across land from the old railway station.



4.5. Comments about the proposed DC cabling route

Concern	
Environment	<p>A few respondents comment on environmental concerns they anticipate being caused by the DC cable route from the landfall location to any of the proposed converter station sites. This includes the concern that all the necessary groundworks would damage the native hedgerows and damage the rural nature of the area.</p> <p>A small number of respondents express concern about how the DC cabling may impact the proposed Ballyvergan Marsh / Green.</p>
Hydrology	<p>A small number of respondents express concern about the perceived impact of the proposed landfall location on drainage in the area, without going into detail how they think this would occur.</p>
Road Network	<p>A few respondents indicate that they feel the DC cable routes would cause significant disruption to the road network. They are particularly concerned about delays between Killeagh and Castlemartyr as they contend that there were significant delays in the same area when maintenance on pipework was being undertaken.</p> <p>A small number of respondents make general comments expressing their view that the roads in Knockraha are unsuitable and the disruption they expect would occur if DC cabling needs to be installed in the area.</p> <p>Where respondents refer specifically to AC cables near Knockraha, these comments are captured in the section on the proposed converter station sites to which they refer.</p>

4.6. Suggestions relating to the proposed DC cabling route

Suggestion	
Cable routes	<p>A small number of respondents make suggestions about the proposed cable routes, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ensuring cables are underground all the way to Knockraha, and• the old railway line is followed as far as Churchtown, before following the N25 to Ballyadam. Although they do suggest that if this is not possible, the proposed route is suitable.

4.7. Suggestions on other landfall locations

Other Location	
Suggestion	<p>A small number of respondents make alternative suggestions for landfall locations. Whitegate is the most commonly proposed alternative, as respondents suggest it is nearer to the sea, and so would cause less disruption. They further contend the converter station could also be located here, and that this would be more cost efficient for EirGrid.</p> <p>Other places suggested included Aghada or Little Island, as respondents contend that this would lead to shorter inland cable routes.</p> <p>A few respondents offer suggestions for issues they feel warrant further consideration, such as the planned board walk from Claycastle to Redbarn and the protected bird sanctuary at Ballyvergan bog.</p>



5. Feedback on proposed converter station sites

5.1. Overview

This Chapter summarises comments on the proposed converter station sites. The shortlisted sites set out in the consultation document were:

- Site 1 - Ballyadam,
- Site 9b - Knockraha, and
- Site 12 - Kilquane (Meeleen).

Four other sites were considered but did not perform as well in assessments, however the consultation asked respondents to provide any new information about the sites that EirGrid should consider.

As well as any opinions on the specific locations, respondents were asked for any comments they may have had on the assessment process and studies undertaken as part of the project. Where respondents have commented on an element of the assessments and selection processes that directly impact their view on one of the proposed sites, their comments are summarised in relation to the relevant site. Where respondents make comments on the assessment criteria in principle, or without relating their comments to a specific site, they are discussed at the end of this Chapter.

5.2. Comments supporting converter station site 1 - Ballyadam

General	
General	<p>A small number of respondents express general support for locating the converter station at Ballyadam, without explaining in detail why they think this is the case, often just making general comments such as “it is the best of the options presented”.</p> <p>A few respondents support locating the construction at Carrigtwohill because they contend existing industries have not had issues with the caves.</p> <p>This included a TD who commented that they felt this would be the most appropriate location for a converter station site.</p>



Delivery	
Existing infrastructure	<p>Some respondents believe the converter station site at Ballyadam is a suitable location as it is already an industrialised area. They suggest the site is already zoned for industrial use and the development would not look out of place. A small number also contend that the necessary infrastructure to support the infrastructure is already in place.</p>
Suitable site	<p>A few respondents make comments about the deliverability of the scheme at Ballyadam, including support for EirGrid's work in identifying another location in the IDA Park at Ballyadam.</p> <p>A few respondents believe that Ballyadam is a suitable location for the converter station site. They contend that cost should not prohibit the site being used and others believe that geological issues can be resolved by building on a stable location.</p>
Flooding and cabling	<p>A small number of respondents dispute the suggestion that land in the area may pose a risk of flooding, contending that existing developments have not been hindered in this way. Of these, a few respondents feel that good design and construction would satisfactorily remove any potential risk.</p> <p>A few respondents believe EirGrid's concerns over cabling are overstated and suggest there is no reason laying cables from Ballyadam to Knockraha would be any more complex than laying cables to facilitate other converter station sites.</p>
Space	<p>A small number of respondents comment that the Ballyadam site is 150 acres so can easily accommodate the converter station. They suggest it be given further consideration.</p>

Environment	
Landscape and visual impact	<p>A few respondents comment on the landscape and visual impact. They contend this site would have less of a visual impact because the development would fit the existing character of the area. Others suggest the site can be easily screened from the community.</p> <p>A small number of respondents are concerned about the potential environmental impact of constructing a converter station in terms of local biodiversity, suggesting it should be built at Ballyadam because it is a brownfield site, and would therefore have less of an environmental impact than at the other proposed locations.</p>
Noise and vibration impact	<p>A small number of respondents contend there would be less of a noise impact on communities if site 1 at Ballyadam is chosen. They suggest the area around Ballyadam has an existing level of background noise unlike other proposed sites.</p>
Socio-economic	
Least impact	<p>A small number of respondents believe the converter station site at Ballyadam is a suitable location as, in their opinion, it would be the least disruptive for surrounding communities. A few of these respondents further contend that even if there is a higher cost associated with this site, this should be considered acceptable as there is likely to be a less significant impact on local communities overall.</p>
Local benefit	<p>A few respondents support the development and contend that the proposal to provide fibre optic cables alongside the electrical cables would have a positive impact on existing businesses and attract new business to the area.</p>

5.3. Comments expressing concern about the converter station site 1- Ballyadam

Delivery	
Equipment at Knockraha	A small number of respondents oppose constructing the converter station at Ballyadam because this would necessitate the installation of new equipment at Knockraha, to which they object.
Too far from connection point	A few respondents express concern about the distance between the converter station at Ballyadam and the Knockraha station, with potential for additional costs.
Disruption to roads	A small number of respondents contend that using the Ballyadam site would cause inconvenience, as they feel laying the necessary underground cables would cause disruption on the road network, such as the back road to Midleton.
Underground caves	A small number of respondents wish to draw attention to the underground cave system connecting the site to Cork harbour.
Environment	
Noise and sound	A small number of respondents contend there would be more of a noise impact on communities if this site were chosen. This includes the concern that whilst there may be noise from roads already in the area, this fluctuates as opposed to the noise from the proposed converter station which they expect to be 24 hours a day.
Flooding	A few respondents express concern about the risk of flooding if Ballyadam was chosen as the ultimate converter station site. They contend that the area around Ballyadam has been susceptible to flooding in recent years, and that nobody, including EirGrid for this project, has conducted a thorough assessment of the groundwater flows in the area.



Landscape and visual impact	<p>A small number of respondents express concern that their properties would overlook the proposed site, questioning whether there would be opportunities to provide natural screening.</p> <p>A few respondents express further concern that the site is located within a Greenbelt area that is also a high value scenic landscape. They state that it should be preserved from development.</p>
Socio-economic	
Local economy	<p>A small number of respondents feel the land would be used more effectively by other businesses, which would generate employment, rather than for a converter station which would not.</p>
Disruption due to cable works	<p>A few respondents express concern about possible disruption to local business and residents as a result of the works needed to install the necessary cables.</p>

5.4. Suggestions for the converter station site 1 - Ballyadam

Suggestions	
Location	<p>A small number of respondents suggest the converter site be located on the IDA lands at site 1 in Ballyadam.</p>

5.5. Comments supporting converter station site 9b - Knockraha

General	
Support	<p>A few respondents express general support for converter station site 9b at Knockraha.</p>
Delivery	
Less cabling	<p>A small number of respondents express support for the site at Knockraha as they feel it would require the least amount of cabling and trench digging.</p>

Environment	
Noise and vibration	A few respondents suggest that noise issues at this site could be mitigated more effectively than at other sites. This included using a berm (a raised barrier made of compacted soil) as an effective sound barrier to absorb sound.

5.6. Comments expressing concern about converter station site 9b - Knockraha

General	
Opposition	<p>Some respondents raise general opposition to the proposal to locate the converter station site at Knockraha. They contend that the area already contains too much energy-related infrastructure. Others believe the scheme does not benefit the local community and say it is the most objectionable site of all those proposed.</p> <p>The campaign responses also express opposition to the converter station site at Knockraha.</p>
Environment	
General	<p>A small number of respondents express general concerns about the potential environmental impact of locating the converter station at Knockraha. They contend that this would compound what they perceive to be an original bad decision to build a substation at Knockraha.</p> <p>A few respondents also raise concern about the working practices of EirGrid and ESB, contending that previously cables had leaked, causing damage to the environment.</p>

Landscape and visual	<p>Some respondents feel the visual impact of a converter station at Knockraha would be significant. They are concerned that it would stand 25 metres high on an elevated and exposed site. They express concern about the lack of natural screening and suggest the nature of the site means it cannot be constructed. A few respondents believe that EirGrid favour this option because it is cheaper and are neglecting the perceived visual impact.</p> <p>Some respondents say the converter station is too close to local residents, whose concerns about light pollution have not been addressed. They believe that the light pollution would damage residents' health and disturb wildlife.</p> <p>A few respondents contend the construction would exacerbate existing visual issues and proposed mitigation plans are inadequate. Others state that the roads are part of the landscape and charm and fear the construction would damage this.</p> <p>The campaign organised by the Knockraha Environment Group also suggests the visual impact would be high, commenting that the site would have “a significant overbearing impact on nearby homes”.</p>
Rural location	<p>Some respondents believe Knockraha has rural nature that would change and be industrialised as a result of the converter station being situated there. A small number of respondents suggest these proposals contravene Cork County Council's zoning designation of the area as agricultural.</p> <p>A few respondents additionally contend that the development would necessitate other infrastructure improvements that would further damage the nature of the area. They believe that no amount of mitigation would make up for this loss.</p> <p>A small number of respondents claim the countryside is already populated with steel pylons, poles and electricity lines and others complain that there is already an industrial plant in the area. They fear further industrial creep in the rural area.</p> <p>The campaign responses contend the proposed site lies within the Rural Housing Control Zone and the proposal therefore is not in line with the Cork County Development Plan.</p>



Noise and vibrations	<p>Some respondents express concerns about the potential noise pollution they believe would be generated by the site. They often comment on the noise from the current substation and pylons, suggesting the addition of a converter station in close proximity to residential properties would create a greater noise impact on the community. A few respondents suggest this would result in negative health impacts on the local population, farm animals and wildlife.</p> <p>A small number of respondents suggest the proposed use of high-voltage direct current would increase the level of noise. Others contend the site at Knockraha is particularly inappropriate because it sits on a hill where sound is exacerbated by the weather. A few respondents are also concerned that, unlike the Ballyadam site, there is no background noise at Knockraha to mask noise from the converter station.</p> <p>Respondents using the campaign template also contend there would be significant negative impacts on noise levels, suggesting noise studies have shown the additional audible noise could reach higher than 100 decibels (dB).</p>
Wildlife and ecology	<p>Some respondents raise concerns about the potential impact on the wildlife and ecology of the area around Knockraha. They often highlight the potential for negative impact on areas of ancient and protected woodland, such as Ballynagaul, which is a native woodland and a habitat for barn owls. A few respondents are also concerned that the construction might disturb bat habitats, which they claim is illegal.</p> <p>Some respondents are further concerned that the proposal would destroy the biodiversity of the area and contend that glare from artificial lights would impact wetland habitats that are home to amphibians.</p> <p>A few respondents feel that EirGrid, and other agencies such as ESB, have shown no demonstrable will to protect the countryside.</p> <p>The campaign responses also feel the site would have negative impacts on local wildlife, suggesting the area contains protected species such as yellowhammer and barn owls, as well as glens and streams, which are important assets for a range of species.</p>



Hydrology	<p>A small number of respondents are concerned about the impact on the local water table which they feel could result from locating the converter station at Knockraha. They state that in their opinion groundwater is extremely vulnerable to potential cable leaks because streams feed into to the Butlerstown River which feeds into the Glashaboy River. Others state that the existing substation at Knockraha contains a septic tank system that would need upgrading.</p> <p>A few respondents express concern as they suggest other developments in the area have increased the risk of flooding. A few respondents also state most people use wells and they raise concerns about any potential impact on drinking water.</p> <p>Respondents using the campaign response suggest it is unclear how a low-moderate ranking was assigned with regard to waterbodies, drainage and flood risk at this site and also express concern that the groundwater is extremely vulnerable to potential cable leaks.</p>
Air pollution	<p>A few respondents raise concerns about air pollution from the proposal but do not provide further detail.</p>

Socio-economic	
Heritage	<p>Some respondents raise concerns about what they see as a negative impact on the heritage of Knockraha. Others contend that they are only custodians of the land for future generations. This is a concern shared by respondents using the Knockraha Environment Group response template. Respondents cite a number of significant sites of archaeological and historical importance such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liberty Hall; • Knockraha East underground grenade factory at Ballynanelagh; • the IRA courthouse; • the arms dump in a church; • the Cork No.1 Brigade grenade factory in Butlerstown glen, west of Knockraha; • the Ballingohig bridge; • the Carrolls Pond execution area; • the Knockraha East bomb factory; • the first training base for the 4th Battalion Flying Column; and • the site of key 4th Battalion area safe houses.
Community impact	<p>Some respondents contend there would be a significant impact on the local community if the Knockraha site is chosen. A small number are concerned the converter station would exacerbate existing problems with anti-social behaviour and crime. A few respondents raise further concerns that the construction would take place with little regard for the community.</p> <p>A few respondents highlight concerns that the converter station site would have a negative impact on recreational activities such as horse-riding, golf and shooting.</p> <p>A few respondents further suggest that the local school and businesses could suffer as it could drive families away, eroding the quality of services for residents.</p>



Property value	<p>Some respondents express concern that their homes could lose value as a result of this development. They contend that it would turn prospective homeowners away. A few respondents express frustration that no compensation scheme has been suggested.</p> <p>Respondents using the campaign template also express concern about the potential for their properties to lose value as a result of the development.</p>
Health and safety	<p>Some respondents raise concerns about the health of local residents. They are concerned that living in close proximity to a high voltage converter station could increase rates of childhood leukaemia. They further contend that electricity that is converted from DC to AC creates massive electric fields / magnetic fields / radiation which could have a negative impact on health.</p> <p>A few respondents also raise concerns regarding safety because they believe that emergency services would not be able to respond in time to incidents at the site.</p> <p>The campaign responses also comment that there could be significant negative health impacts as a result of the converter station being close to people, as well as suggesting the site is unsuitable for emergency service access.</p>
Local economic impact	<p>Some respondents are concerned about what they perceive would be a negative impact on the local economy. They suggest that the site is situated in an agricultural region and livestock and crops would be disturbed, damaging farmers' businesses. They note that disruption to farming would have a knock-on impact on businesses in the farming supply chain.</p>
Traffic and congestion	<p>Some respondents are concerned the proposal would have a negative impact on traffic and congestion in general, without going into detail. A small number of respondents contend the site is inadequate for heavy traffic because the roads are old and narrow. A few respondents further state that laying the cables would cause further disruption to the roads and lead to additional congestion. A small number note in particular the effect this could have on access to Water Rock golf course.</p>

Delivery	
Infrastructure	<p>Some respondents suggest the local infrastructure is inadequate for the amount of construction-related traffic they expect to see. They are particularly concerned that the road network cannot support this extra traffic or the heavy or oversized vehicles the construction would require. A few respondents also contend that EirGrid has not made enough effort to assess the cumulative impacts when considering site 9b. A small number of respondents make similar comments about both sites 9b and 12, their comments about site 12 are discussed in more detail in section 5.9 below.</p> <p>Respondents using the campaign template also contend the local road infrastructure is unsuitable to support the work required to construct the converter station site at Knockraha.</p>
Local opposition	<p>A few respondents suggest the level of local opposition to the site at Knockraha could impact on the delivery of the project itself. They contend EirGrid would not face as many local obstacles at other locations. This was reflected in comments by a local TD, who feels there would be opposition from local residents.</p>
Cable routes	<p>A few respondents contend that the route required for the cables at site 12 would lead to an additional cost, making it a surprising choice.</p>

5.7. Comments supporting converter station site 12 - Kilquane (Meeleen)

General	
Support	<p>A small number of respondents express the view that the Kilquane (Meeleen) site is their preferred location for the converter station, whilst a few respondents rate it as their second choice.</p>
Environment	
Landscape and visual impact	<p>A few respondents feel that the site at Kilquane (Meeleen) is suitable due to the high level of natural screening provided by the adjacent woods.</p>

Noise and vibration	A small number of respondents feel the site at Kilquane (Meeleen) would have less of a noise impact than at other sites, particularly because the landscape provides some natural noise reduction.
Socioeconomic	
Less community impact	A few respondents believe the site at Kilquane (Meeleen) would have the least impact on the local community due to its distance from residential properties.
Deliverability	
Close to Knockraha station	A small number of respondents contend it makes sense to locate the converter station at Kilquane (Meeleen), as its proximity to the Knockraha station means less AC cabling would be required to connect the two sites.

5.8. Comments expressing concern about converter station site 12 – Kilquane (Meeleen)

General	
Opposition	<p>Some respondents express general opposition to the proposed site, with a few wishing to emphasise their objections, commenting that they “vehemently oppose” the locating of the converter station at site 12.</p> <p>A small number of respondents contend there is already a large concentration of electrical infrastructure in County Cork and in the area around Kilquane (Meeleen) in particular, suggesting that limits should therefore be placed on further developments. They also feel that reviews completed by EirGrid have not adequately considered the effects of the converter station on residents, habitats and businesses.</p> <p>Other respondents express opposition as they feel the development would bring no benefits to the local community.</p> <p>The campaign responses also express strong general opposition to the converter station site at Kilquane (Meeleen), citing many of the same reasons.</p>



Environment	
General opposition	A small number of respondents express concern about the site location, due to potential pollution and disturbance to the tranquillity of the area.
Rural location	<p>Some respondents believe there would be significant risk to the environment and rural character of the area if the Kilquane (Meeleen) site were chosen. Respondents contend the building of a converter station would lead to industrialisation of the area, highlighting that this would change the land use category from 'agriculture' to 'utility', which they contend would contravene Cork County Council's Local Area Development Plan.</p> <p>A few respondents highlight other issues that they feel make the site unsuitable, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• civil work accompanying the development, such as road widening, damaging local ecosystems;• the negative impact on the country roads of Knockraha, which are considered an asset and scenic feature of the area;• a lack benefit for the local environment and the potential to discourage population growth;• the existing overhead lines negatively affecting the rural character of area;• the location being a Greenfield site in the middle of the countryside.• the creation of a large industrial site so close to the village; and• the converter station setting a precedent for further development. <p>In addition, a small number of respondents contend the installation of electricity cables would destroy the character and historic nature of roads in the area.</p> <p>The campaign responses, which include the concerns mentioned above, also contend the site falls within a Rural Housing Control Zone, which would be threatened by the proposed development.</p>



Landscape and visual impact	<p>Some respondents suggest that the converter station would be visually very unappealing, highlighting that the existing substation is already visually obtrusive. A few respondents feel this negative visual impact would have a detrimental effect on the everyday life and recreational activities of local people.</p> <p>A few respondents also express concern about the height of the converter station, contending that buildings would be visible to most residents in the area. They suggest that this would contravene council planning restrictions and feel this would be an abuse of power on the part of EirGrid, as they are able to bypass traditional planning requirements.</p> <p>A few respondents suggest that the conifer forest would only form a temporary screen as, they suggest, it would likely require felling in the next 10 years. Respondents suggest that appropriate broadleaved continuous forest cover would take many decades to establish.</p> <p>A few respondents contend the forest only screens the view from one side, and that the converter station would still be clearly visible from Knockraha.</p> <p>A small number of respondents express concern that the converter station would significantly increase levels of light pollution, highlighting the negative affect this could have on the sleeping patterns of humans and animals.</p> <p>The campaign responses, in addition to the concerns discussed above, also suggest the visual impact would be high, suggesting the forest would be felled and so question EirGrid suggesting its visual impact would be low.</p>
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Noise and vibration	<p>Several respondents express concern about the level of noise that could be emitted from the converter station. These respondents suggest there is a constant buzzing noise emitted from the existing substation and powerlines. They stress that any additional noise could have a significant negative impact, including potentially restricting the growth of the village and causing stress for local families. A few respondents also suggest that noise during construction could negatively affect local businesses, particularly the local dog training school. A few respondents also point out that noise from the motorway and karting track is already a problem.</p> <p>A small number of respondents comment that they feel the forest would not provide a permanent sound barrier as, they suggest, it would likely be felled soon. Others contend studies have shown trees are no more an effective sound barrier than grasslands.</p> <p>A few respondents also contend the natural landscape would reflect noise directly towards the village of Knockraha.</p> <p>A small number of respondents claim that recently conducted noise assessments found existing noise levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are not compliant with maximum permitted night-time noise levels;• are noticeable and potentially impacting nearby dwellings; and• could result in annoyance due to the tonal nature of the noise. <p>A few respondents also suggest that noise from substations and electrical infrastructure can have a negative impact on animals and the mental health of humans. Furthermore, they contend that their own testing has revealed the converter station in Co. Meath can be heard 1km away.</p> <p>In addition to these concerns, Respondents using the campaign template also contend there would be significant negative impacts on noise levels. As with the converter station site 9b, they suggest noise studies have shown the additional audible noise could reach higher than 100 decibels (dB).</p>
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Wildlife and ecology	<p>Several respondents express concern that the converter station may negatively impact local biodiversity. They suggest that corridors of native woodland, particularly ancient woodland at Ballynagaul, are significant habitats for wildlife, including protected species, and provide ecosystem services such as flood prevention, clear air and water and carbon sinks.</p> <p>Some respondents specifically wish to highlight road ditches and hedgerows as essential corridors for local wildlife and express concern about the impact their disturbance or removal would have on the biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>A few respondents also suggest that the strip of woodland which follows the stream and the two glens meeting in Kilquane (Meeleen) warrant more detailed survey. They contend this is especially important given that otters, which they state are a European Priority Species, utilise this waterway.</p> <p>Other respondents also express concern about specific animals that may be affected by the converter station, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• loss of habitat and light pollution possibly contributing to the decline of the Birds of Conservation Concern living in the area; and• light pollution negatively impacting insect populations, particularly moths. <p>In line with concerns highlighted above, and in relation to site 9b, the campaign respondents also feel the converter station site at Kilquane (Meeleen) would have negative impacts on local wildlife, suggesting the area contains protected species such as yellowhammer and barn owls, as well as glens and streams which are an important asset for a range of species.</p>
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Hydrology	<p>Several respondents express concern that there is potential for groundwater, surface water and soil contamination during construction and operation of the converter station.</p> <p>A few respondents state that it would be unacceptable for wastewater from the converter station to be disposed of in the stream, even after filtration. They express concern about water run-off from buildings and parking areas potentially polluting the water table.</p> <p>A small number of respondents claim that recent work to strengthen the foundations of existing electrical pylons outside Knockraha village used large quantities of concrete, affecting the drainage system of the area resulting in flooding of agricultural land and roads.</p> <p>A few respondents also comment on the risk of soil contamination, contending that the soil quality of the area has taken years to develop and any increase to the risk of soil contamination is unacceptable, as it directly affects livelihoods.</p> <p>A small number of respondents cite claims made in a recent TV programme 'RTE Investigates – The ESB Leaks' about the poor environmental record of the ESB network, and express concern about the high rate of leakage of insulating oil from underground cables compared to the UK National Grid. They worry that cables connected to the converter site may lead to similar problems.</p> <p>The campaign template used by respondents highlights the potential negative affect of construction on a range of local water supplies. They highlight the river next to the site leads in to Ballingohig reservoir, which is a supply of water to a large population, and generally question the low to moderate risk rating given to the site.</p>
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Socioeconomic	
Heritage	<p>Several respondents express opposition to the proposed site, contending that the converter station would negatively impact the cultural and historical heritage of the area. Some respondents wish to emphasise their opposition, describing the proposals as “utterly insensitive” and showing a “total disregard” for the history of the area and local families.</p> <p>A small number of respondents wish to highlight the multiple generations of families who have grown up in the area, stressing their role as custodians of the land and emphasising their opposition to its industrialisation.</p> <p>Others highlight notable monuments such as Kilquane Standing Stone, Holy Well and Graveyard and contend that, considering these historic sites, the site risk ranking should be upgraded to ‘moderate-high’.</p> <p>The campaign response template contends that the converter station would undermine the planned War of Independence Heritage Trail. Some respondents also reference other historical sites in the area related to the War of Independence, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the village of Knockraha as the location of ‘E’ Company, 4th Battalion, Cork No.1 Brigade of the IRA;• two important bomb factories;• various safe houses;• an IRA court;• arms dump sites;• the locations of various execution and burial sites; and• new information regarding a possible archaeological site of an early Christian church in the townland of Meeleen. The group has contacted the National Monuments service about this previously undocumented site.



Access and traffic	<p>Some respondents express opposition to the proposed site because of the potential impact on local roads caused by increased traffic. Respondents specifically express concern about the inadequacy of the roads in handling the required traffic and the impact that road closures would have on local farming, health and businesses. These concerns were also shared by campaign respondents.</p> <p>A small number of respondents also contend that access to the Water Rock golf course would be severely hampered by the construction work.</p>
Local economic impact	<p>Some respondents object to the proposed location due to concerns about the potential impact on the local economy. A few respondents wish to emphasise their opposition, contending that the site is "totally inappropriate" as it is in an area not currently designated for industry or utility.</p> <p>A small number of respondents claim the converter station would bring no economic benefit to the area as they do not believe it would provide employment or generate additional income. Others suggest the local economy would suffer as people would be dissuaded from moving to the area because of the converter station. A few respondents express concern that the local dog training facility may lose business as dogs may respond negatively to the frequencies of noise generated by the converter station.</p> <p>In addition to concerns about the impact of construction traffic on business highlighted above, respondents also contend the converter station poses unknown risks to crops and livestock.</p>



Health and safety	<p>Some respondents express concern about perceived negative health impacts of the converter station.</p> <p>In particular, a few respondents claim that the cancer rate near the existing substation is currently higher than the national average.</p> <p>A small number of respondents contend that additional electricity passing through power lines increases the risk of breakage, which poses a danger to life and livestock.</p> <p>A few respondents also express concern about the capacity of emergency services to respond to an incident at the converter station site, suggesting response times in the area are slower than national averages and the area lacks the required infrastructure to support emergency responses.</p> <p>The campaign organised by the Knockraha Environment Group, in addition to sharing the concerns above, also includes a concern that there could be significant negative health impacts as a result of the converter station being close to people, as well as suggesting the site is unsuitable for emergency service access.</p>
Property value	<p>A few respondents express opposition to the proposed site because of potential devaluation of residential, agricultural and business property.</p> <p>A few respondents cite studies showing evidence of devaluation of properties located near wind farm developments, contending that the converter station would have a similar effect.</p> <p>A small number of respondents also claim that previous expansions of the substation have already negatively impacted property values, suggesting additional expansion would lead to further suppression of value.</p> <p>In line with comments made about the converter station site at Knockraha, respondents using the campaign template also express this concern about their properties losing value as a result of the converter station site at Kilquane (Meeleen).</p>



Deliverability	
Infrastructure	<p>Some respondents express concern about the ability of the existing roads to cope with additional traffic, given how narrow and in need of repair they are.</p> <p>A few respondents feel that there would be too many design and construction difficulties involved in the plan to lay cables via the road network. They also contend there is a potential crossover of timelines with the planned solar farm at Clash, which could compound the level of disruption to residents.</p> <p>A small number of respondents feel that the cumulative impact of the proposed converter station, when combined with previous expansions to the substation, has not been properly considered.</p> <p>Respondents using the campaign template from the Knockraha Environment Group also contend the local road infrastructure is unsuitable to support the work required to construct the converter station site at Kilquane (Meeleen).</p>
Local opposition	<p>A small number of respondents claim the local community is organised and united in opposing the project, which would affect EirGrid's ability to deliver the project within the proposed timeline of 2026.</p> <p>A few respondents suggest that in their experience EirGrid have a poor record regarding resolution of issues with local communities.</p> <p>Others wish to highlight that permission would need to be obtained from farmers who work the land between the substation and converter station site 12, claiming that at least 4 of these farmers would not grant permission willingly.</p> <p>The campaign organised by the Knockraha Environment Group also highlights significant opposition from residents in Knockraha.</p>



Cable routes	<p>A few respondents express concern about the proposed cable routes, suggesting the long distance between the landfall point and Knockraha substation would increase project risks. They therefore contend a closer substation should be identified.</p> <p>Others suggest the looping back of cables for site 12 would add an unnecessary 3-4km to the route and increase costs.</p>
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5.9. Comments making suggestions about converter station site 12 – Kilquane (Meeleen)

Mitigation	
General	<p>A small number of respondents make suggestions about ways to mitigate the potential negative impacts from developing the converter station at Knockraha. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a hard trackway through land to the main road during the construction phase to ease traffic, • waste management to control potential litter, • planting trees to mitigate the visual impact, • lowering the height of the building to lessen the visual impact, and • use of a berm to mitigate sound and visual pollution.

5.10. Comments regarding other potential and alternative converter station sites

Alternative converter station sites	
General	<p>A few respondents comment on potential sites for the converter station other than sites 1, 9b or 12.</p> <p>A small number of respondents contend that the other four assessed sites should be reconsidered if there is any possibility the converter station could be “not seen and not heard” at any of these locations.</p> <p>A few respondents feel EirGrid dismissed the Ballyvatta site too quickly, whilst others suggest Claycastle in Youghal or Pigeonhill would be more appropriate locations.</p> <p>A small number of respondents contend the converter station should be built in an industrial zone, suggesting the Amgen site may be most suitable in this regard.</p>

5.11. Comments on the assessment process and studies undertaken in identifying the converter station sites

Support	
General	A small number of respondents wish to express general satisfaction with the assessment process and studies undertaken to identify sites.
Informative	A few respondents feel the studies have been clear, comprehensive and informative, particularly highlighting the geological maps and computer graphics as providing useful overviews of the proposed sites.
Agreement	A small number of respondents also express agreement with the assessments, with a few commenting that they provided greater certainty about the potential effects at each site.
Concern	
Insufficient consideration	<p>A few respondents express concern about aspects of the assessments that they feel are one-sided or lacking in information. A few respondents contend there is a lack of independent environmental impact information, and that noise assessments appear not to have been made. Other respondents feel the impact assessments lack balance and that they appear to prioritise the business interests of EirGrid over those of the community.</p> <p>A small number of respondents contend that insufficient consideration was given to zones 14 and 6, whilst others express concern that the assessment process seemed rushed.</p> <p>A few respondents also question the conclusions of the assessments in relation to the water pollution risk ratings.</p>



Predetermined	<p>A few respondents feel that the Knockraha site had already been decided prior to assessments taking place, due to its proximity to the existing substation.</p> <p>A small number of respondents describe the assessment process as a “box ticking exercise”.</p> <p>Others contend that the way certain information was presented in reports was deliberately misleading in order, for example, to minimise the scale of visual impact the converter station may have.</p>
Scoring system	<p>A few respondents contend there is a lack of transparency around how the conclusions of the Performance Matrix Chart were arrived at. They question why all sections are treated with equal importance instead of being weighted based on significance.</p> <p>A small number of respondents feel the assessment of Land Use Planning also lacks transparency and question the rankings given to sites 1 and 9b.</p>
Inconsistent and/or inaccurate	<p>A few respondents contend there are inconsistencies in how sites have been ranked. For example, they question why sites 1 and 9b are given the same low-moderate ranking for Landscape and Visual, when site 1 is in a low-lying industrial park and site 9b is on one of the highest points in rural Knockraha.</p> <p>A small number of respondents also question why emphasis is placed on choosing a site where any noise impact would be least felt, instead of trying to design the converter station in such a way that it would make less noise.</p>
Ecological surveys	<p>A small number of respondents suggest the EirGrid assessment needs to take account of various species, including lamprey, sea trout, Atlantic salmon, the European pine marten and barn owls.</p>
Suggestions	
Specific considerations	<p>A small number of respondents wish to highlight areas they feel should be assessed further. They contend the future cumulative impacts of the converter station need to be assessed and should include energy grid demand forecasts by region. Others feel the overall Combined Environmental Performance of each site should be reassessed.</p>



More information requested	<p>A few respondents request more details regarding the Environmental Impact Assessments of the final site selection, particularly the impact on biodiversity, noise and traffic.</p> <p>A small number of respondents request information on the predicted timelines for laying the two different types of cables between Ballyadam and Knockraha.</p>
Include percentages	<p>A small number of respondents express confusion about the colour coding of report charts and feel that including percentages within the infographics would have been a better way to present the information.</p>
Re-evaluation of all sites	<p>A small number of respondents contend that the assessment criteria for all sites should be re-evaluated.</p>

6. Feedback on proposed community fund

6.1. Overview

As part of the project, EirGrid have proposed a community fund which would help local communities' benefit from the development. They asked respondents what their views on how this could best be applied, and which organisations or groups should form a local advisory group to represent communities. There were several suggestions as to how the proposed community fund could be used and who would be sensible organisations to join local advisory groups.

6.2. Suggestions regarding the community fund

Community facilities	
Investing in the community	<p>Some respondents suggest facilities that could benefit from the community fund. Respondents tend to make proposals of specific benefit to their own community. Notably a few respondents in proximity to Site 12 and Site 9b highlight the need for an AstroTurf pitch and other sports facilities in Knockraha as well as a new community centre, hall and open recreational spaces.</p> <p>A few respondents highlight the importance of building amenities that can generate an income for the community.</p> <p>A few respondents call for a playground, but others contend this is not needed in Knockraha.</p>

Mitigation	
Mitigating negative impacts	<p>Some respondents suggest ways the community fund could be spent on mitigation measures. Concern over potential noise pollution in communities close to the proposed converter station sites at 9b - Knockraha and Site -12 Kilquane (Meeleen) are often raised and a few respondents call for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved landscaping barriers around the existing substation; • upgrades to houses to help dampen the impacts of noise emitted from the substation and converter station; and • a paid independent acoustic consultant to measure, detect and report when the existing substation in Knockraha is in breach of the noise criteria. <p>A small number of users ask for compensation for people who live close to proposed converter station sites and want to relocate.</p> <p>A few respondents, in reference to site 9b suggest installing CCTV to protect the area from potential anti-social loitering and “a light switch” to be installed on the substation that can reduce the light pollution emanating from the station when the lights are not needed.</p> <p>A few respondents in reference to site 9b and site 12 call for the existing substation to be fixed, upgraded or removed which they claim has been promised.</p>
Engage with the community	<p>A small number of respondents suggest that communities most impacted by the proposals be respected and consulted about how the community fund can be best spent.</p> <p>A few others suggest local community associations are best placed to make decisions.</p>



Infrastructure improvements	<p>A few respondents suggest local road infrastructure intended to be used by the project would need to be improved. Specifically, they call for road widening and for local road users to be protected from heavy vehicles.</p> <p>A small number of respondents suggest the following improvements for their local area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• installing a bus shelter;• unspecified measures regarding the area surrounding the entrance to the substation in Knockraha; and• improvements to mobile reception and internet in project impacted areas.
Youth facilities	<p>A few respondents suggest that youth facilities and opportunities are needed, and others say they would like to see a children's playground. A small number of respondents near the landfall location suggest water sports amenity is promoted such as kayaking, or canoeing.</p>
Sustainability	<p>A small number of respondents would like to see sustainability, such as home insulation support, as a key theme for community gain.</p>
Working with ESB	<p>A few respondents in reference to the proposed converter station sites at 9b and 12 suggest proper engagement between the management of the substation and the converter station. They contend that EirGrid and ESB appear to be completely disconnected and it is where there are gaps in responsibility that the community suffers.</p>
Other suggestions	
General	<p>A few respondents suggest the community fund be used for other specific local requirements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• replace the groynes to protect the beach, where the cable enters the sea from the land;• upgrade an unspecified community hall;• upgrade an unspecified youth centre; and• support micro-generation insulation retro-fitting at a community level.



6.3. Comments expressing concerns about the community fund

Concern	
General	<p>A few respondents oppose the community fund because they view it as a form of bribery, and they are concerned it would go to the most influential or obstructive groups. Others contend that the fund would create a conflict of interest for the recipients. A small number of respondents contend it is an attempt to buy-off communities who would be suffering from the impact of the proposals.</p> <p>A few respondents suggest the fund can never compensate for the destruction of their community and others say that whilst the village as a whole might benefit, the impact would still be felt on their house.</p>



6.4. *Suggestions regarding the local advisory group*

General	
	<p>Some respondents make general suggestions about engaging with local communities. These suggestions include involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• local community groups;• representatives from the local primary school;• all local public and private organisations;• community associations;• representatives from the youth group Foróige;• some Gaelic Athletic Association groups;• schools;• local businesses; and• groups and organisations from Knockraha. <p>A few respondents suggest the communities themselves should be asked which groups they would like to be involved and to work with.</p> <p>A small number of respondents ask why only organisations can be involved. A few respondents suggest every household should be included but others suggest one person from the affected households.</p>



Specific groups	
	<p>Some respondents make suggestions about which groups should be involved in the advisory board. Respondents often mention the Knockraha Environment Group, a small number also suggest the Youghal Chamber of Tourism & Development and Knockraha Environmental Group. Other groups mentioned include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youghal 4 All;• Youghal Business Alliance;• IFA;• Knockraha IFA;• Knockraha Macra Na Feirme, (a rural youth organisation);• South Coast Triathlon Club; and• Youghal Socio-Economic Development Group. <p>A few others suggest the local heritage community and community council. A few respondents call for the inclusion of an unspecified community association, and a representative body from the area immediately affected.</p>

7. Feedback on the consultation process

EirGrid also asked for feedback on how well respondents felt they had been consulted about the project. This included a number of closed questions, the results from these are included in Appendix B. Other comments related to the consultation process itself are summarised here.

7.1. Comments supporting consultation process

Process	
General	A small number of respondents express support for the consultation process so far and appreciate the level of consultation. This was also reflected in comments by a local TD, who felt the approach to consultation had been thorough.
Events	
Staff and organisation	A few respondents highlight that they have found consultation events to be well run and informative and EirGrid staff to be helpful and engaging.

7.2. Comments expressing concern consultation process

Events	
General	<p>A few respondents express dissatisfaction with the consultation events. A few respondents comment that they found the events confusing or that the quality was generally “poor”.</p> <p>A small number of respondents express dislike for the dispersed format of events. They feel that previous consultations involving a town hall presentation format were better at allowing the community to air their concerns directly to EirGrid representatives.</p>
Staff	A few respondents feel that EirGrid staff at events lacked local knowledge and seemed dismissive of community concerns. They also comment that staff seemed to give inconsistent responses to questions.



Promotion	A few respondents comment that they did not receive information about the first public consultation event, suggesting that many local people were not aware of it. They contend events were poorly advertised, with no visible posters in the area, and this meant the community could not organise effectively for the meeting.
Poor publicity / outreach	
Landowners	A small number of respondents feel that farmers and landowners with land either on or adjacent to the proposed sites have not been consulted directly, contending that this shows disregard for local people. Others feel that communication has been rushed and that affected landowners have not had time to fully explore the potential impacts of the project.
Information misleading and/or vague	
Quality of information	<p>A few respondents contend that information provided in consultation materials is incorrect and that the assessment matrix used is too simplistic. Others feel that the negative effects on the local community and environment have not been properly explained.</p> <p>A small number of respondents express concern about a perceived lack of information regarding future development of the converter station, highlighting that the existing substation has been expanded since construction in the 1960s.</p>
Engagement	
Poor levels of engagement	<p>A few respondents feel they have not been sufficiently consulted on the proposals, commenting that they feel they are just being told where the converter station will go. Respondents feel there was not enough consultation before Kilquane (Meeleen) was declared the emerging best performing option.</p> <p>A small number of respondents contend that questions from landowners have not been properly answered, suggesting that some have waited over two months for a response from EirGrid.</p>

Predetermination	
Listening to responses	A few respondents feel that site 9b has already been chosen as it appears to be the cheapest option.
Timing	
Limited timeframe	A few respondents feel their engagement in the consultation process has been constrained by the limited response period, contending that the 11 weeks from the open night on 18 th November to the February 2 nd deadline was too short, particularly as it fell over Christmas,

7.3. *Requests for further engagement*

Suggestions	
Ongoing engagement	<p>A few respondents express a desire for further updates regarding the project, either through formal meetings or correspondence. A few respondents suggest engagement with the community could be improved by using local radio and leaflet drops, as well as reaching out to specific groups such as fishermen.</p> <p>A few respondents stress the importance of listening to the concerns of people living along the cabling route, citing a previous development between Flagford in Co. Roscommon and Srananagh in Co. Sligo where they feel this did not happen.</p> <p>A small number of respondents suggest an improved format for consultation events which combines a formal presentation with the poster style format.</p>

Appendix A – Codes applied

The tables below show the codes which were used in the analysis of open responses to identify and group the issues, topics and sentiment of the responses.

The tables below show the number of times respondents raised that particular issue. This gives a broad indication of how frequently that issue or topic was raised. Please note that the nature of qualitative analysis means that there is always a small margin for variation and as such these numbers should always be seen as approximate.

It should also be noted that the frequency of an issue being raised does not necessarily correlate with its importance or validity. A frequently raised comment may indicate a commonly held, but incorrect belief, whilst a comment made infrequently may reflect an important issue that may not be widely known.

As all campaign responses used identical text and were therefore coded identically, the total number of responses includes campaign responses, whilst the non-campaign column only features respondents who did not submit an identical campaign response.

Assessment codes

Code	Total	Non-campaign
(A) Assessment - Concern - ecological surveys	1	1
(A) Assessment - Concern - inconsistent/inaccurate	4	4
(A) Assessment - Concern - Insufficient consideration	8	8
(A) Assessment - Concern - predetermined	5	5
(A) Assessment - Concern - scoring system	5	5
(A) Assessment - Suggestion - include percentages	1	1
(A) Assessment - Suggestion - more information requested	2	2
(A) Assessment - Suggestion - re-evaluation of all sites	1	1
(A) Assessment - Suggestion - specific considerations	4	4
(A) Assessment - Support - general	12	12

Community Fund codes

Code	Total	Non-campaign
(CF) Community Fund - Concern - general	5	5
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - community facilities	9	9
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - engage with community	4	4
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - general	13	13
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - infrastructure improvements	4	4
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - mitigation	2	2
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - specific groups	12	12
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - sustainability	1	1
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - working with ESB	1	1
(CF) Community Fund - Suggestion - youth facilities	3	3



Consultation codes

Code	Total	Non-campaign
(C) Consultation - Concern - events	933	6
(C) Consultation - Concern - info misleading/vague	6	6
(C) Consultation - Concern - poor engagement	4	4
(C) Consultation - Concern - poor promotion	6	6
(C) Consultation - Concern - predetermination	1	1
(C) Consultation - Concern - timing	1	1
(C) Consultation - Suggestion - general	12	12
(C) Consultation - Support - events	3	3
(C) Consultation - Support - process	4	4

Cable Route codes

Code	Total	Non-campaign
(CR) Cable Routes - Concern - environment	3	3
(CR) Cable Routes - Concern - general	1	1
(CR) Cable Routes - Concern - road network	5	5
(CR) Cable Routes - Suggestion	3	3
(CR) Cable Routes - Support with caveat	1	1

Converter Station Site codes

Code	Total	Non-campaign
(CSS) Other - Other Sites	9	9
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - delivery - cost	1	1
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - delivery - disruption to roads	2	2
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - delivery - equipment needed at Knockraha	3	3
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - delivery - too far from converter	2	2
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - delivery - underground caves	1	1
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - environment - flooding	3	3
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - environment - landscape/visual	3	3
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - environment - noise/sound	1	1
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - environment - noise/sound	2	2
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - socioeconomic - disruption to cable works	1	1
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - socioeconomic - disruption to roads	1	1
(CSS) Site 1 - Concern - socioeconomic - local economy	2	2
(CSS) Site 1 - Suggestion - general	3	3
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - delivery - doubt risk of floods	4	4
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - delivery - existing infrastructure	14	14
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - delivery - HVAC cables	2	2
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - delivery - suitable site	4	4
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - general	5	5
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - landscape/visual	3	3
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - noise/vibration	2	2
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - socioeconomic - least impact	3	3
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - socioeconomic - local benefit	2	2
(CSS) Site 1 - Support - space	3	3
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - delivery - cable routes	2	2



(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - delivery - infrastructure	935	8
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - delivery - local opposition	931	4
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - environment - general	4	4
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - environment - hydrology	938	11
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - environment - landscape/visual	945	18
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - environment - noise/vibration	945	18
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - environment - rural location	962	20
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - environment - wildlife/ecology	940	13
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - general	940	13
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - socioeconomic - access/traffic	16	16
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - socioeconomic - community impact	10	10
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - socioeconomic - health/safety	10	10
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - socioeconomic - heritage	941	14
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - socioeconomic - local economic impact	937	10
(CSS) Site 12 - Concern - socioeconomic - property value	931	4
(CSS) Site 12 - Suggestion - general	6	6
(CSS) Site 12 - Support - close to Knockraha station	1	1
(CSS) Site 12 - Support - general	7	7
(CSS) Site 12 - Support - landscape/visual	6	6
(CSS) Site 12 - Support - less community impact	4	4
(CSS) Site 12 - Support - noise/vibration	3	3
(CSS) Site 12 - Support - second choice	3	3
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - delivery - cable routes	1	1
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - delivery - infrastructure	935	8
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - delivery - local opposition	931	4
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - environment - air pollution	1	1
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - environment - general	2	2
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - environment - hydrology	934	7
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - environment - landscape/visual	949	22
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - environment - noise/vibration	944	17
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - environment - rural location	958	18
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - environment - wildlife/ecology	938	11
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - general	944	17
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - socioeconomic - community impact	15	15
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - socioeconomic - health/safety	936	9
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - socioeconomic - heritage	940	13
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - socioeconomic - local economic impact	934	7
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - socioeconomic - property value	937	10
(CSS) Site 9b - Concern - socioeconomic - traffic/congestion	10	10
(CSS) Site 9b - Suggestion - mitigation	2	2
(CSS) Site 9b - Support - delivery - less cabling	1	1
(CSS) Site 9b - Support - environment - noise/vibration	1	1
(CSS) Site 9b - Support - general	1	1

General comments on the overall project

Code	Total	Non-campaign
(G) General - Concern - delivery - C02 emission	2	2
(G) General - Concern - delivery - changes to existing infrastructure at Knockraha	929	2
(G) General - Concern - delivery - local power generation/returning power to the grid	2	2
(G) General - Concern - delivery - other infrastructure	1	1
(G) General - Concern - environment - existing substation	935	8
(G) General - Concern - environment - noise/vibration	2	2
(G) General - Concern - environment - rural location	930	3
(G) General - Concern - socioeconomic - doubt need	6	6
(G) General - Concern - socioeconomic - health	931	4
(G) General - Concern - socioeconomic - object to nuclear power	930	3
(G) General - Concern - socioeconomic - other	2	2
(G) General - Oppose	933	6
(G) General - Suggestion	8	8
(G) General - Support	3	3

Landfall Location codes

Code	Total	Non-campaign
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Concern - delivery - distance from Knockraha	1	1
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Concern - delivery - interference	3	3
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Concern - environment - general	3	3
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Concern - socioeconomic - fisheries	1	1
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Concern - socioeconomic - heritage	1	1
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Concern - socioeconomic - public amenity	3	3
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Concern - socioeconomic - tourism	2	2
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Claycastle Beach - Oppose - general	1	1
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Claycastle Beach - Suggestion - general	1	1
(LL) Claycastle Beach - Claycastle Beach - Support - general	2	2
(LL) Other - Other Location - Suggestion - general	3	3

Other codes

Code	Total	Non-campaign
(OTH) Other - Campaign response	10	10
(OTH) Other - Editor's note	7	7
(OTH) Other - Meaning unclear	4	4
(OTH) Other - No comment	19	19
(OTH) Other - Personal details	27	27
(OTH) Other - Respondent context	947	20

Appendix B – Responses to closed questions

The charts shown in this section summarise the information provided by respondents to the online and hardcopy questionnaire. The feedback outlined below is incorporated within the main report.

As the number of respondents using the online and hardcopy questionnaire represented only a small proportion of the overall responses, with between 30 and 40 respondents giving a response, these charts should not be considered to be representative of the views of the wider respondents but are included to show the views of those who did provide a response to these questions.

General

The chart below shows respondents' overall views on the effect the Celtic Interconnector Project would have on Ireland.

What is your view of the effect Celtic Interconnector Project on Ireland? (n=35)

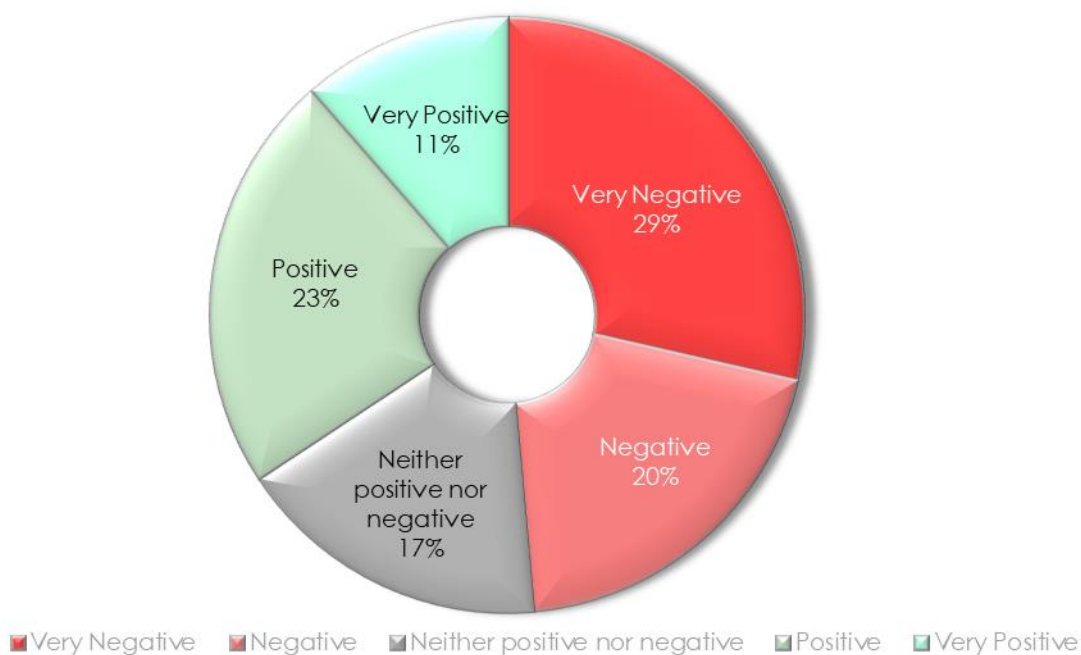


Figure 3: Views about the Celtic Interconnector Project overall

Consultation

The chart below shows responses given by respondents when asked to provide views on the quality of the consultation engagement and materials.

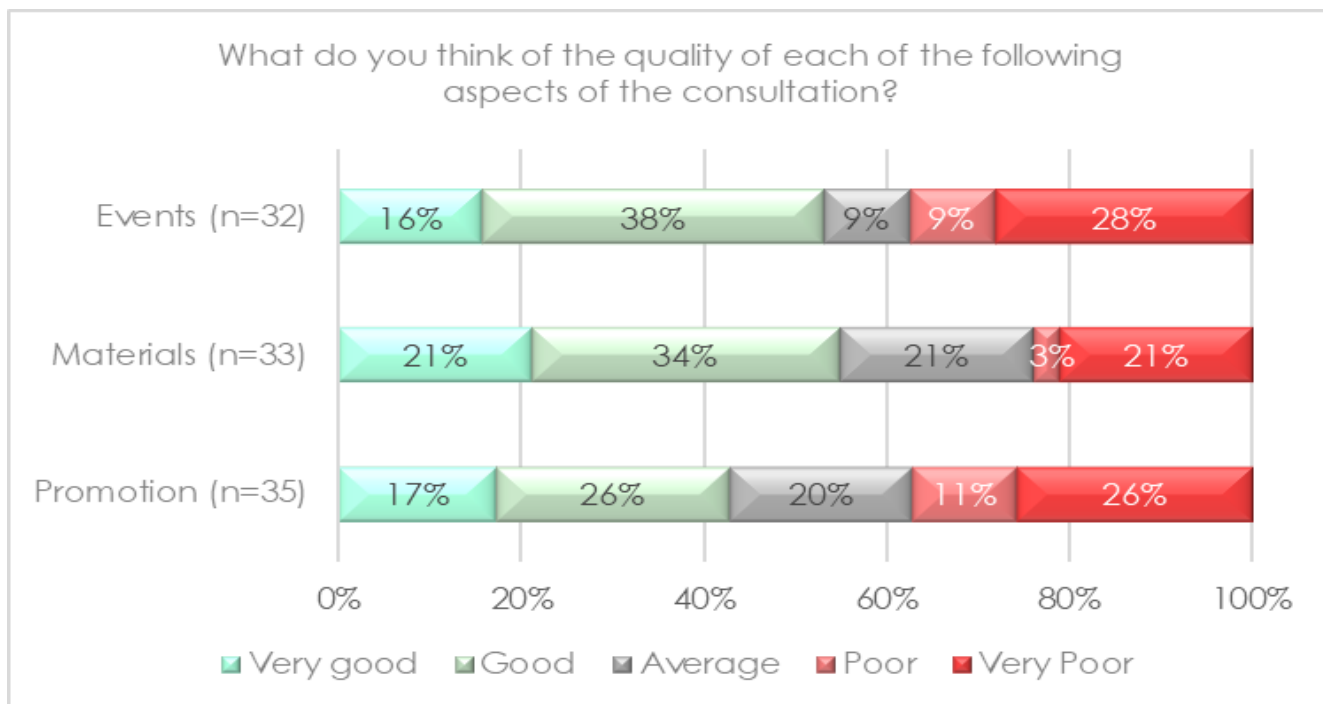


Figure 4: Views on the quality of the consultation events, materials and promotion

The chart below shows the responses given when respondents were asked how they first heard about the consultation.

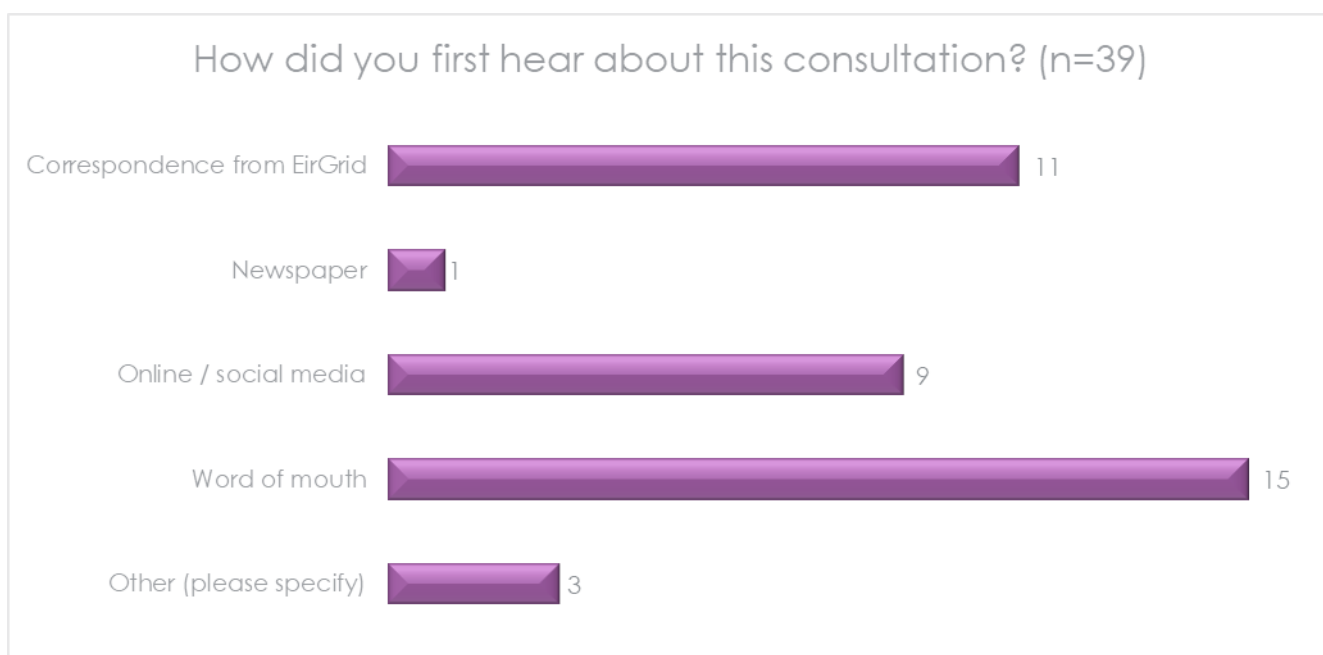


Figure 5: How respondents first heard about the consultation

Appendix C – The consultation response form

Celtic Interconnector Step 4 Consultation questionnaire



Responding to the consultation

Submit your response by midnight 02 February 2020 (you only need to submit once, using one of the channels below).



Post this form (**free**): EirGrid, The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Freepost FDN5312, Dublin 4, D04 FW28



Online: You can fill in the consultation questionnaire at bit.ly/celticconsultation



Email: If you want to submit your response by email, send it to celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com

What we are consulting on

We are seeking feedback on three converter station sites (12, 9B and 1), the emerging best performing landfall location, underground cable route options, and community gain. Before responding, please familiarise yourself with updated project information, available here www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/celtic-interconnector. Please contact us if you would like to receive a hard copy of any reports

Personal details

All information provided to EirGrid will be held by EirGrid personnel and EirGrid's data processors only, for the purpose of engaging with you in the public consultation process.

First name

Surname

Email

Are you responding on behalf of an organisation? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of organisation (if applicable)

Role in organisation (if applicable)

House number / name Eircode

Address line 1

Address line 2

County Phone Number

I have been informed of the GDPR Privacy Statement and received a copy of the Privacy Notice ☐

I would like to be contacted about the Celtic Interconnector Project ☐

Section 1 – Converter station site

Please refer to the Celtic Interconnector Project Update brochure for the Step 4 Consultation and the Step 4A Consultant's Development Options Report for further information on the converter station sites.

1. We identified converter station sites in each zone by considering a number of factors including visual impact, distance from potentially sensitive receptors, including homes and businesses, feedback from the Step 3 consultation, and the number of landholdings that the site covers. These converter station sites were then assessed under EirGrid's five criteria (deliverability, environment, socio-economic, technical, and economic).

Please provide your comments on the assessment process and studies undertaken.

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

2. EirGrid is moving forward, focussing on three converter station sites (12, 9B and 1) for further review before confirming the best performing option at the end of Step 4. Please provide your comments and any new information about these sites that we should consider.

a. Site 12

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

b. Site 9B

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

c. Site 1

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

3. Four sites (Site 6, Site 9A, Site 10 and Site 14) did not perform as well in our assessments. Please provide any new information about these sites that we should consider.

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

Section 2 – Landfall location and underground cable route options

Please refer to the Celtic Interconnector Project Update brochure for the Step 4 Consultation and the Step 4A Consultant's Development Options Report for further information on the landfall locations and underground cable route options.

4. We have identified the landfall location at Claycastle Beach as the emerging best performing option. Please provide your comments on the assessment process and studies undertaken.

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

5. We have identified underground cable routes from the landfall location at Claycastle Beach to Churchtown (east of Midleton) and from Churchtown (east of Midleton) to the converter station sites 12, 9B and 1 and onwards to the connection point (refer to maps available in the brochure). Please provide any comments you may have relating to any of the routes mentioned (if your comments are about a specific section of the route, highlight it clearly).

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

Section 3 – Working with the community

6. Please provide any ideas you have for how a community fund could best be applied in the affected East Cork communities, where and how the area could benefit, and what support we could give to ensure it is a success.

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

7. We are considering setting up a local advisory group after Step 4, to represent communities in the area of the best performing option. What organisations and/or groups do you feel should be involved?

If you need additional space, continue on separate paper with the question number and include it when you post this form

Section 4 – General

8. What is your view of the effect of the Celtic Interconnector Project on Ireland? *(tick only one)*

- ☐ Very positive
- ☐ Positive
- ☐ Neither positive nor negative
- ☐ Negative
- ☐ Very negative
- ☐ No opinion/don't know

9. What do you think of the quality of each of the following aspects of this consultation?

	Very good	Good	Average	Poor	Very poor	No opinion/ don't know
Promotion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Materials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Events	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10. How did you first hear about this consultation? *(tick only one)*

- ☐ Correspondence from EirGrid
- ☐ Newspaper
- ☐ Online / social media
- ☐ Word of mouth
- ☐ Other (please specify)

11. Provide any comments on these or any other aspects of the consultation below:

Next steps

Your feedback on our proposals, alongside results from further studies, will help us decide which converter station site option, landfall location and underground cable route to take forward for further development at the end of step 4. Please note, we will be unable to respond to individual feedback. We will collate all responses to the consultation and publish a report in response.

Contact details for Celtic Interconnector Project

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Eoghan O'Sullivan, Community Liaison Officer: +353 87 247 7732

EirGrid Customer Relations: +353 1 237 0472

Email: celticinterconnector@eirgrid.com · info@eirgrid.com

Websites: www.eirgridgroup.com/the-grid/projects/celtic-interconnector · www.celticinterconnector.eu

The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin D04 FW28 · Telephone: 01 677 1700 · www.eirgrid.com



If you would like a large text version of this document, please contact us.

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London, EC1V 1NY United Kingdom
info@traverse.ltd
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