



Lanesborough
110 kV Substation
Redevelopment Project



The current. The future.

Who are EirGrid and what do we do?

EirGrid is responsible for a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity – now, and in the future.

We develop manage and operate the electricity flow on the transmission grid. This brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Ireland. We use the grid to supply power to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity. The grid also powers the distribution network. This supplies the electricity you use every day in your homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and farms.

What is the Lanesborough 110 kV Substation Redevelopment Project?

This project involves the construction of a new electricity transmission substation on the lands adjacent to the existing Lough Ree Power Station.

Why do we need this project?

Built in the 1950's, Lanesborough Substation is an important point on the national electricity grid. It is essential in the movement of energy across the island of Ireland. Redevelopment of the station is needed for a number of reasons:

- Equipment in the substation is nearing the end of its life, and is in need of upgrading to ensure a safe and secure supply of electricity for existing customers across Longford and Roscommon and ensure access to secure electricity supplies for new customers.

- Substations are normally designed with some level of spare capacity to enable important maintenance activities, and facilitate new connections. The substation currently does not allow for this. The proposed new development will meet immediate needs while also providing some reserve capacity.
- Changes are needed so that the station can accommodate increasing power flows from the west, largely coming from renewable energy.

Developing renewable energy is a key part of Ireland's sustainable energy objectives and climate change strategy. EirGrid's role as part of this strategy is to facilitate connections for generators, including renewable generators. The EU has set a target for Ireland to generate 40% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2020. Upgrades to the national electricity grid will allow Ireland to take advantage of renewable resources and help us to achieve our goals for climate change.

What is the background to the substation at Lanesborough?

Lanesborough 110 kV Substation is located in the town of Lanesborough on the boundary of counties Roscommon and Longford. It is situated to the rear of Lough Ree Power Station on a separate site adjacent to the River Shannon.

The substation connects Lough Ree Power Station to the national electricity grid. It also supplies the local distribution network that brings power to homes and businesses throughout Longford and Roscommon. Lanesborough substation dates back to the 1950s. The existing substation uses Air Insulated Technology (AIS), meaning the technology is sitting in the outdoors.

Project Timelines and Next Steps

What's Happening?

EirGrid has been working to develop a number of solution options to the issues that have been identified on the site and in the surrounding grid. These solutions are:

1. Extend the existing substation onto adjacent greenfield land to the south-west;
2. Build a new Air Insulated Substation (AIS) on the adjacent brownfield site to the north-east of the existing site. This option would look similar to the existing station.
3. Build a new Gas Insulated Substation (GIS) technology on the adjacent brownfield site to the north-east of the existing site. GIS technology reduces the amount of space needed and allows the station to be enclosed in a building. (Fig 1)

These options were further analysed in Step 3 to determine the best-performing option. They were assessed in terms of social, economic, deliverability, environmental and technical performance.

After a series of studies conducted across Step 3 and Step 4, the GIS technology option emerged as the best performing option. The best performing option involves the development of a new GIS 110 kV substation on a vacant brownfield site of the former Lanesborough peat generation station. The station compound will be approximately 100m x 80m and the station will sit within an enclosed building of approximately 15m x 55m in footprint and 13m in height. The proposed plans will include tree planting to reduce visual impact.



Fig. 1

Community Fund

In 2012, the Government issued a policy which underlined the appropriateness of incorporating community gain considerations in major energy infrastructure projects. A Community Fund will be made available to local community groups in the vicinity of the new substation upon energisation.

Further information is available in our 'Community Support Fund' brochure, available on our website.



Step 1 How do we identify the future needs of the electricity grid?

Step 2 What technologies can meet these needs?

Step 3 What's the best option and what area may be affected?

Step 4 Where exactly should we build?

Step 5 The planning process

Step 6 Construction, energisation and benefit sharing

Step 4 At a glance

What's happening?

Following a number of studies EirGrid identified three technology options that would address the need in Lanesborough. These were assessed on five criteria – economic, technical, deliverability, environmental and social. On completion of further studies, EirGrid have identified a best performing technology option (GIS), and developed detailed proposals for this solution. We are now looking for feedback from the community and stakeholders in Lanesborough on this proposed option.

How long will this take?

Work has been ongoing on this step for a number of months. This phase of public consultation will take 6 weeks.

What can you influence?

You can influence where exactly the station can be located within the feasible site.

How can you get involved?

We will be holding a Public Information Meeting on Wednesday 3 April, from 1pm – 8pm, in St. Mary's Parish Hall, Lanesborough. If you would like further information on this project, or have any questions, please don't hesitate to drop into the meeting to speak with a member of the EirGrid team. Details of this meeting will be advertised in advance in the local media, and on social media.

You can also find further information on our website, www.eirgrid.com.

If you would like more information or to arrange a meeting you can contact our Community Liaison Officer, Eoghan O'Sullivan on: +353 87 247 7732 or eoghan.osullivan@eirgrid.com.



Lanesborough Substation Aerial View

Future Plans

Once the consultation on Step 4 has been completed, the GIS station location will be confirmed within the brownfield site, and design of the development will be finalized to allow the project to progress to Step 5, 'The Planning Process'. EirGrid will then prepare a planning application for submission to Longford County Council in early summer 2019.

Construction of the Lanesborough Substation Redevelopment Project is hoped to begin in 2021, and be operational in 2024.



Lanesborough Substation Redevelopment Project

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