



The Grid Link Project

Electricity Transmission Scheme Linking Leinster & Munster

AUTUMN 2013



What is the Grid Link Project?

- An estimated €500 million is being invested in the national electricity grid linking Leinster and Munster.
- The project consists of a new high voltage overhead power line linking Knockraha in Co. Cork to Great Island in Co. Wexford to Dunstown, near Kilcullen, in Co. Kildare.

What are the benefits of the Grid Link Project?

1. The Grid Link Project will help secure a future electricity supply for Leinster and Munster

- EirGrid's statutory role in Ireland is to continue to develop the national electricity transmission grid.
- The Grid Link Project will reinforce the transmission network to provide a secure supply of electricity for the future, regardless of where the power is generated, to homes, businesses, farms, factories and communities in the region.

2. The Grid Link Project will provide a platform for job creation in the south and east of Ireland

- A region with a high-quality, secure supply of electricity is better placed to attract inward investment that will bring employment and prosperity.
- This will facilitate job creation and economic recovery helping future generations to prosper in Ireland.

3. The Grid Link Project will help enable Ireland to meet its 40% renewable electricity target

- Under European policy, Ireland's national goal is to meet 40% of electricity demand from renewable sources by 2020 – these include wind, wave, tidal and biomass energy. The Grid Link Project will enable this to happen.
- The growth of the renewable energy sector represents an opportunity to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and promote clean, indigenous, and sustainable energy sources and reduce our CO₂ emissions.

4. The Grid Link Project will facilitate possible electricity links with either Britain or France

- Interconnection will enhance the electricity market by facilitating competition leading to downward pressure on electricity prices and increasing security of supply.

What has happened so far?

In April 2012, EirGrid launched the consultation for the Grid Link Project.

To date EirGrid has:

- ✓ Launched the Grid Link Project with Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Pat Rabbitte T.D.
- ✓ Published the Proposed Study Area Map
- ✓ Completed first focused-period of consultation
- ✓ Published the Constraints Report
- ✓ Completed second focused-period of consultation
- ✓ Held a total of twenty-three open days across the study area
- ✓ Met and had discussions with numerous groups and individuals
- ✓ Briefed local authorities within the project study area and met with their elected members
- ✓ Engaged with regional and community organisations within the project study area
- ✓ Undertaken an extensive community outreach programme, setting up information stands at marts, supermarkets, libraries, race meetings, shows and other venues and events throughout the project study area
- ✓ Undertaken print and radio advertising
- ✓ Set up a dedicated project website, phonenumber and email
- ✓ Opened five information centres at Midleton, Carrick-on-Suir, New Ross, Carlow and Kilcullen



What feedback has been received?

Two rounds of consultation undertaken to date invited the public and stakeholders to comment on the proposed study area map, comment on the constraints report, identify constraints within the study area and provide feedback on how EirGrid should develop corridors for the project.

EirGrid has received feedback from hundreds of stakeholders and would like to thank all those who participated in the process. Issues raised ranged from general comments on the study area, questions about technology, to the listing of specific constraints that should be mapped and taken into account. Feedback was also received on the development of corridors and how the project should proceed.

The feedback received to date has given the project team a better understanding of the project study area and helped identify route corridor options.

What stage is the project at now?

- EirGrid's project team has identified a number of feasible 1km wide route corridors and substation zones for the Grid Link Project.
- The project team used desk-top studies and site visits, along with expert input and consultation feedback to develop route corridor options and substation zones. The results of their findings are published in the Stage 1 Report.
- A period of focused consultation will now take place over a 12 week period from Tuesday, 3rd September 2013 to Tuesday, 26th November 2013.

Next Steps

Following this round of consultation, EirGrid will review and consider all feedback received from stakeholders and identify a least constrained corridor and substation sites. The least constrained corridor will be the best option from a technical, environmental, community and economic perspective within which an overhead line can be routed.



Why your feedback is important

The project is at an early stage and the identification of feasible 1km wide route corridors is a key opportunity for public input as no decisions have been made regarding the route of the overhead line. EirGrid invites you to participate in the public consultation process and is interested in hearing what you have to say.

EirGrid is seeking feedback on any aspect of the Stage 1 Report, the 1km wide route corridors and substation zones identified.

Share your views:

- on the work that has been carried out to date;
- on what factors you think should be considered when determining the least constrained corridor;
- on any other constraints in your local area that you feel should be considered;
- on any other information you would like us to consider when developing this project.

Your feedback is very important at this stage as it can influence the next step in the project which is the identification of the least constrained corridor.

The Stage 1 Report and all project information, including project reports and mapping, is available for review in any of the project information centres, at public open days, and online at www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/gridlink

Project Development and Consultation Road Map

EirGrid is fully committed to consulting extensively with the public and all interested parties. It is vital that everyone has an opportunity to provide feedback on information presented and decisions that are made by the project team. We encourage you to participate by writing to us, calling us, dropping into one of our information centres or attending one of our open days. It is your opportunity to influence and inform the decision making process.

**WE ARE
HERE**

STAGE 1

Information Gathering

Identify Project Study Area

Identify environmental & other constraints

Identify feasible options (corridor/sites)

Publication of **Stage 1 Report**

Pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála



Public

Public and stakeholder consultation on study area and constraints

Public and stakeholder consultation on findings of **Stage 1 Report**

STAGE 2

Evaluate Options

Consideration of all feedback from **Stage 1**

Identification of EirGrid's emerging preferred option (route corridor/site)

Identification of indicative line within corridor or site boundary

Identify and meet landowners of indicative line/site; initial survey

Publication of **Stage 2 Report**

Pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála



Public

Public and stakeholder consultation on findings of **Stage 2 Report**

STAGE 3

Confirm Design

Consideration of all feedback from **Stage 2**

Conduct environmental studies and surveys

Confirmation of design of line/site proposal including construction methodology

Ongoing engagement with landowners on preferred line route or site

Pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála



Public

Ongoing public information

STAGE 4

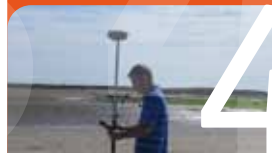
Prepare Planning Application

Complete reports and prepare planning application

Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Report as required

Conclusion of Pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála

Submit application to An Bord Pleanála



Public

Ongoing public information

Once application submitted, public can make submissions to An Bord Pleanála including at an oral hearing, if held

STAGE 5

Wayleaving and Construction

Preparation of construction plans

Serve wayleave notice to landowners and agree access for construction

Commence construction



Public

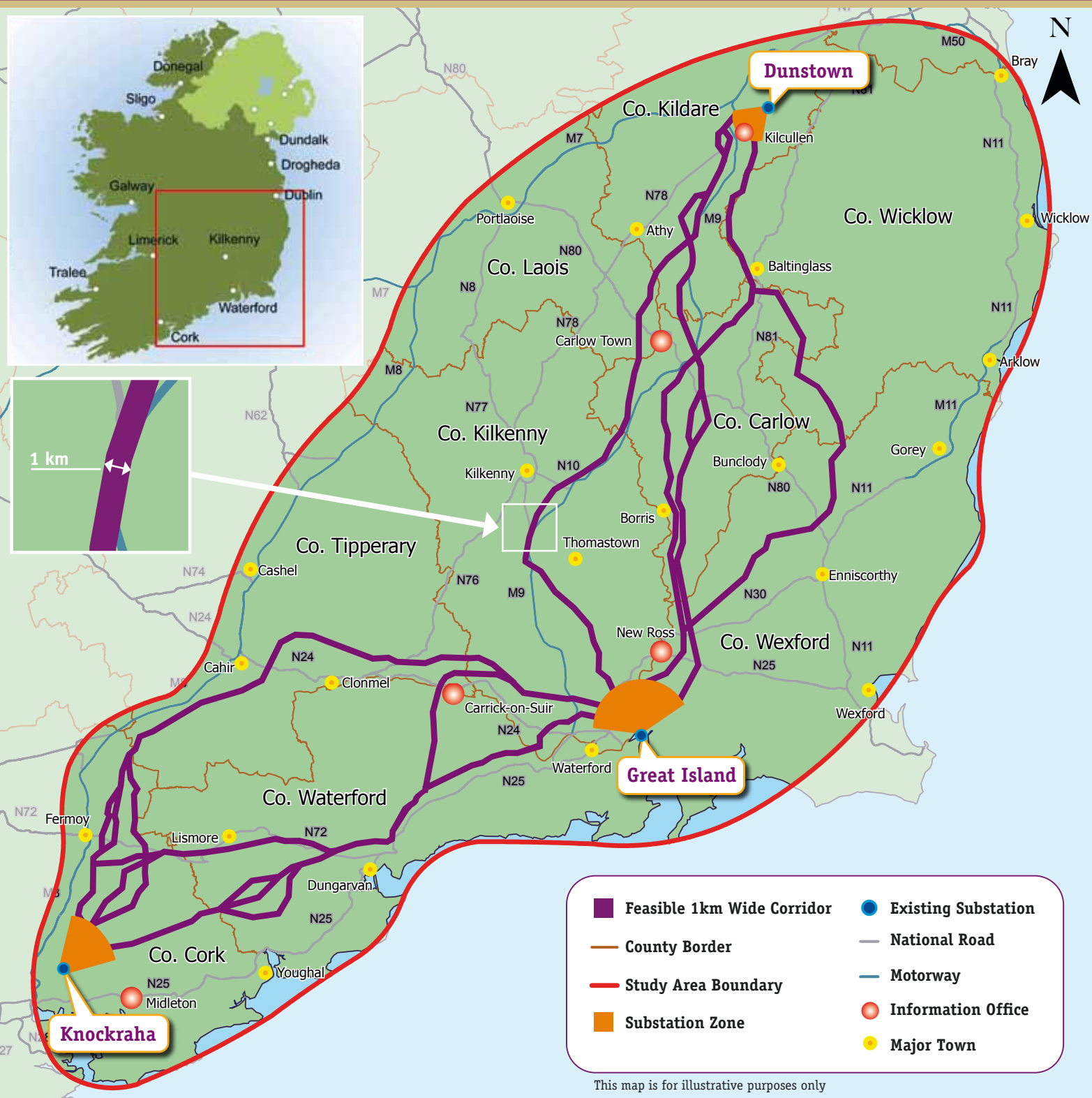
Ongoing public information

Evaluation of Public Consultation process

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Route Corridor Options

This map illustrates a number of 1km wide route corridor options within which the new 400kV power line could feasibly be located. All options will be evaluated as part of the next step in the project which is the identification of the least constrained corridor.



	Feasible 1km Wide Corridor		Existing Substation
	County Border		National Road
	Study Area Boundary		Motorway
	Substation Zone		Information Office
			Major Town

This map is for illustrative purposes only

About EirGrid


EirGrid, a state-owned company, is the national operator of the electricity grid.


The national grid is an interconnected network of high voltage power lines and cables, comparable to the motorways, dual carriage ways and main roads of the national road network. It is operated at three voltage levels, 400kV, 220kV and 110kV, and is approximately 6,400km in overall length.

The grid is the backbone of Ireland's power system and is vital to ensuring that all customers, including industrial, commercial and residential, from both rural and urban areas, have a safe, secure, reliable, economic and efficient electricity supply.

Contact Details

EirGrid is committed to ensuring that the public is fully aware of the project and we encourage you to participate in public consultation. If you would like to discuss the project or to meet with a member of the project team, please visit our website for regular updates.

 The Grid Link Project Manager, EirGrid, PO Box 12213, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland

 Lo-call 1890 422 122

 gridlink@eirgrid.com

 www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/gridlink

Text: If you wish to receive text updates on the Grid Link Project text Grid Link and the name of your county (e.g. Grid Link Carlow) to 51444 (standard SMS rates apply).

Visit: The Grid Link Project Information Centres:

Where?	Address	Opening Hours
Midleton, County Cork	Unit 5, Market Green Shopping Centre, Midleton, Co. Cork	Every Monday from 12 noon to 6pm
Kilcullen, County Kildare	Market Square, Kilcullen, Co. Kildare	Every Monday from 12 noon to 6pm
Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary	Carrick Community Business Centre at the Nano Nagle Centre, Carrick-on-Suir, Co. Tipperary	Every Tuesday from 12 noon to 6pm
New Ross, County Wexford	The Coach House, Marsh Lane, New Ross, Co. Wexford	Every Wednesday from 12 noon to 6pm
Carlow, County Carlow	Enterprise House, O'Brien Road, Carlow, Co. Carlow	Every Thursday from 12 noon to 6pm

Note: Project Information Centres are closed on Bank Holidays

What is Grid25?

Grid25 is a major initiative to put in place a safe, secure and affordable electricity supply throughout Ireland, supporting economic growth and utilising our renewable energy resource to its maximum potential.

Development of the grid is essential to provide a platform for renewed economic growth and regional development, and is vital if we are to effectively tap into our abundant renewable energy resources.

Grid25 will involve upgrading the high voltage system and an overall investment of approximately €3.2 billion in the period up to 2025. This new infrastructure is every bit as essential to the future growth of the country as any investment in road, rail and broadband.

The Grid Link Project is a major part of the Grid25 initiative.



Feedback form

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Mobile phone:

Would you like to subscribe to the Grid Link Project Text Messaging Service?

YES NO

EirGrid will send all project updates to your mobile phone

What are your views?

FOLD HERE

FOLD HERE

Postage will be paid
by Licensee

No
Postage
Stamp
Required

Licence F5007

The Grid Link Project Manager
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