
Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project

Step 3 Engagement and Consultation
Report
July 2025



M-CO

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Executive Summary

The Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project is a proposed project to accommodate the continued growth in electricity demand in the region.

A public engagement and consultation period ran from the 20th of May to the 27th of June, which invited feedback on the proposed options for locating this new supporting infrastructure. Three information events were held during this consultation, where members of the public could learn about the project and engage with EirGrid staff.

These events were run in tandem with informal local engagement at high traffic public locations, in the form of information stands and leaflet distribution. Targeted engagement took place with key stakeholders including business owners, landowners, and local elected representatives. Consultation responses were accepted via an online consultation portal, by email or by post, and members of the public could make enquiries by contacting the Public Engagement team by phone or email.

There was a high level of engagement with EirGrid staff and activities during the consultation period, with fifty-nine formal submissions representing a wide reach across the study area. These submissions included responses from local residents, landowners, a community group, businesses, and strategic stakeholders. Thematic feedback was collected informally during information events and direct engagement the Public Engagement Team and is also reflected in the analysis.

Common themes which arose included concerns for the visual impact on the landscape, property values, light and sound pollution and potential damage on natural habitats. There were also concerns regarding the suitability of roads, traffic, and areas of heritage value.

This report provides a summary of the engagement and consultation activities carried out by EirGrid at Step 3 – “What is the Best Option and What Area Might Be Affected” of the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project engagement process and the findings from an independent review of all responses and feedback received. This feedback will be considered by EirGrid as it proceeds to Step 4 - “Where Exactly Should We Build” of the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project.

M-CO, an independent consultancy specialising in public and stakeholder engagement and consultation, was commissioned to report on the findings from this process.

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Glossary of Terms

AIS	Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Substation.
ALO	Agricultural Liaison Officer
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
EMF	Electromagnetic Field
GIS	Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Substation
MCA	Multi-Criteria Analysis
OOH	Out Of Home Advertising

1. About the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project

1.1. About EirGrid

EirGrid is a state-owned company that develops, manages, and operates Ireland’s electricity grid. They are responsible for the safe, secure, and reliable supply of Ireland’s electricity, bringing power from where it is generated to the distribution network that supplies the electricity we use every day in homes, businesses, schools, and hospitals. EirGrid is responsible for leading the secure transition of the electricity grid to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

EirGrid follows a 6-Step approach for all grid development projects (see graphic below), from the identification of a need to develop the electricity transmission grid through to their eventual construction and subsequent energisation. This process sets out the steps to be taken to identify and implement the best performing solution that meets the needs outlined.



1.2. Project Background

The existing electricity infrastructure in the regions of east Kildare and South West Dublin is at risk of reaching its capacity limit. The Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project is critical to maintaining a reliable electricity service in the region and making the grid renewable ready as Ireland transitions to a low carbon electricity future. The project will include a new 400/220/110 kV substation near the South Dublin/East Kildare border at Steelstown and a new 220/110 kV substation near Castlebaggot, as well as associated circuits linking the new stations to each other and to existing stations in Maynooth, Inchicore and Carrickmines.

The aim of this stage of the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project is to seek insights and input to enable 2-way conversation and engage with stakeholders to establish relationships in affected areas, raise awareness and feed into the consultation process. This consultation also introduces the public and stakeholders to the wider reinforcement project, which will consist of further consultation on circuit routes and technologies at a later date.

1.2.1. About the Project

This project is focused on the first phase of consultation around Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement programme, aiming to determine the best performing zone for two substations as well as the preferred substation technology.

This project focuses on determining where exactly to locate two new transmission substations in the vicinity of West County Dublin and East Kildare. The primary function of these substations will be to

facilitate power flows between the transmission and distribution systems to enable power to be distributed to where it is needed. This consultation will determine the central point of a wider programme of grid development in the area. Once we have determined where the two new substations will be located, we will then be able to explore routes for the required circuits.

1.2.2. Project Benefits

This grid reinforcement will create opportunities by providing additional capacity to supply electricity to areas where it is needed in the future. This will enable businesses, schools, hospitals, homes, and farms to prosper and grow, and will also create opportunities for facilitating renewable generation.

Upgrades to the electricity grid will enable the region to use and transmit electricity generated from renewable sources. This is a vital step to help Ireland transition to a low-carbon electricity future. These critical upgrades will help strengthen Ireland's economy, encouraging and supporting future investment

The Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement is a proposed project to accommodate the continued growth in electricity demand in the region, which is being driven by several sectors.

This includes:

- residential housing.
- commercial and industrial development.
- electrification of heat (heat pumps) and transportation (electric vehicles and public transport); and the integration of offshore renewable energy connections.

1.3. Step 3: “What is the best option and what area might be affected?”

The Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project is currently in Step 3. The objective of Step 3 is to identify a best performing technology solution and associated study area, to meet the identified need from the shortlist of options identified previously in Step 1 and Step 2.

Key to this project is the development of two new transmission substations within the identified area. The primary function of this substation is to facilitate power flows between the transmission and distribution systems to enable power to be distributed to where it is needed.

One substation will be located in the South West Dublin/East Kildare area, and one will be located in Steelstown area. The technology options will be AIS and GIS. This consultation will also serve as an introduction to the wider Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement programme, and there will be further consultation phases on cable technology as the project progresses.

EirGrid consulted on the following aspects of the project:

Substation Location:

- One new 400/220/110kV substation near the South West Dublin/East Kildare border at Steelstown.
- One new 220/110kV substation in South West Dublin/East Kildare.

The best technology options for these substations:

- Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Substation; or
- Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Substation.

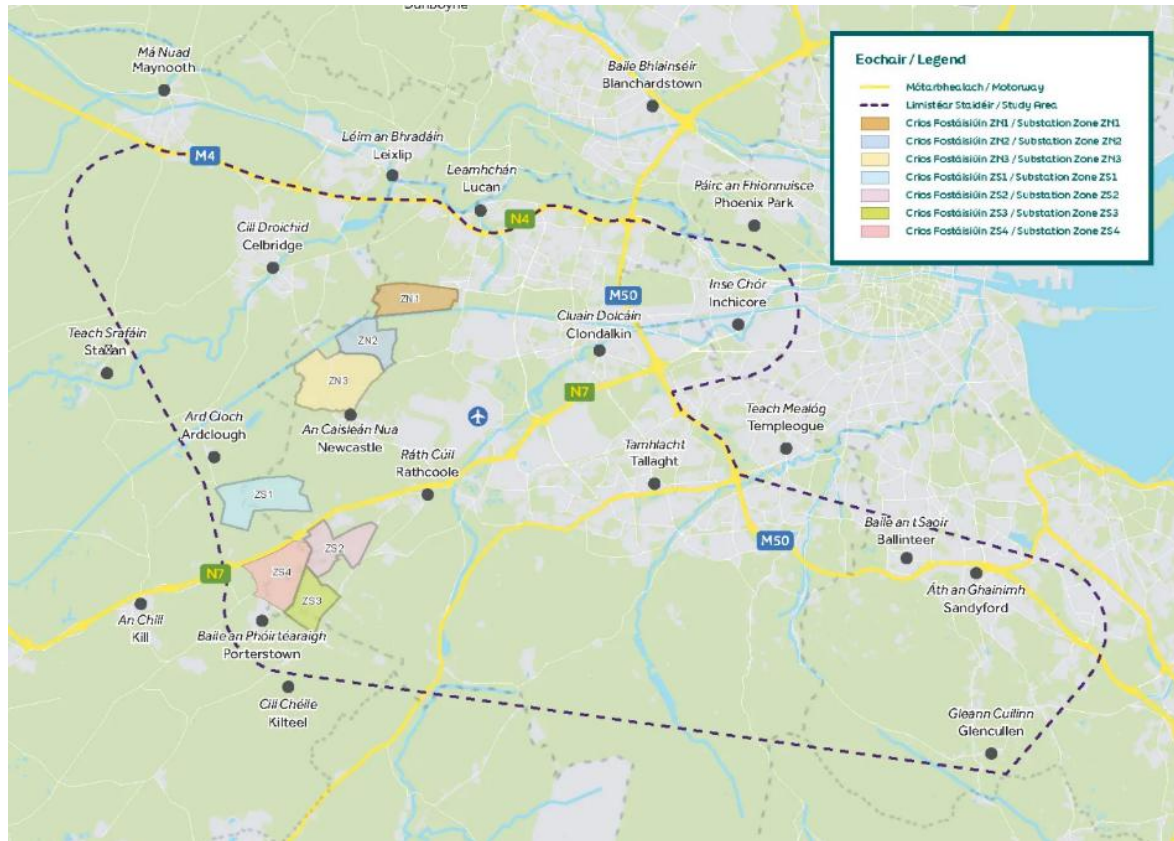


Figure 1: Illustration from public consultation materials highlighting study area.

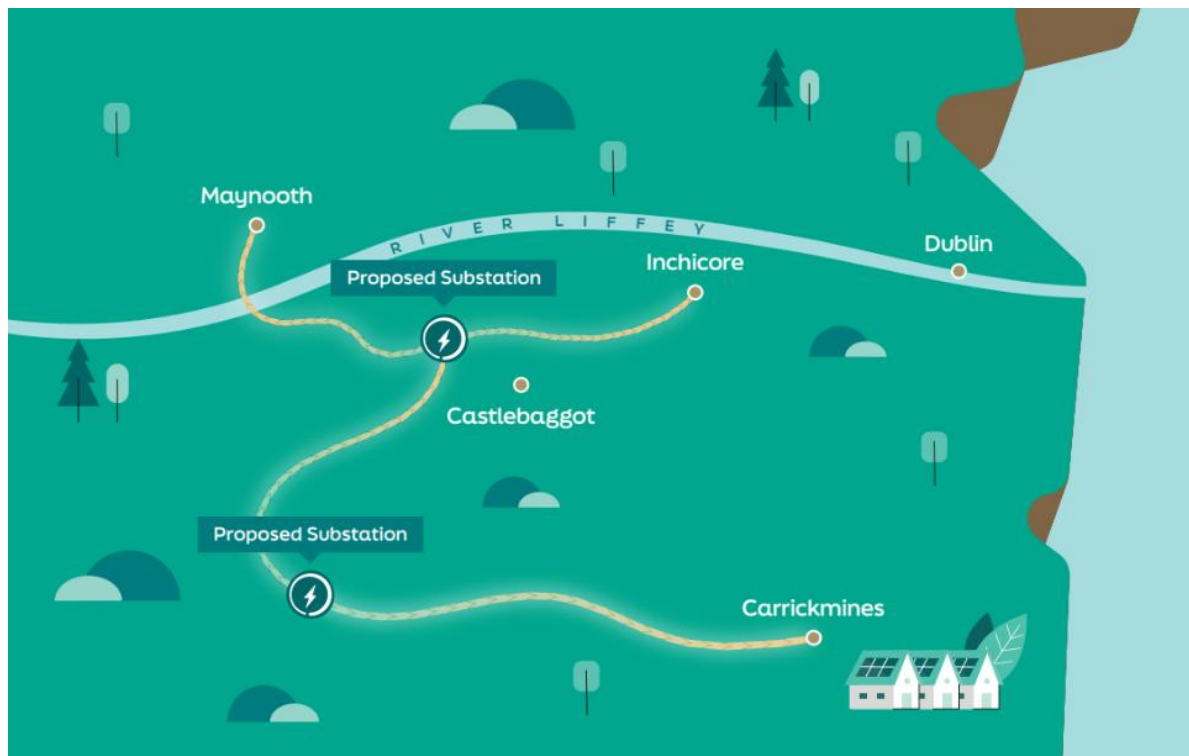


Figure 2: Illustration from Public Consultation Material highlighting route

1.4. Substation Zones Under Consideration

EirGrid identified a number of potential zones for each of the required substations within the larger study zone for the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project via EirGrid's Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) process, which scored sub criteria to evaluate risks and determine overall performance for each option. The consultation focused on getting feedback for the following substation options:

- One new 400/220/110kV substation near the South West Dublin/East Kildare border at Steelstown
- One new 220/110kV substation near Castlebaggot

Zone	County	Zone	County
ZN1	West County Dublin	ZS1	South West Dublin / East Kildare
ZN2	West County Dublin	ZS2	South West Dublin / East Kildare
ZN3	West County Dublin	ZS3	South West Dublin / East Kildare
		ZS4	South West Dublin / East Kildare

1.4.1. West County Dublin Zones

Three Zones were identified by EirGrid as potential locations for a substation in this area, ZN1, ZN2 and ZN3.

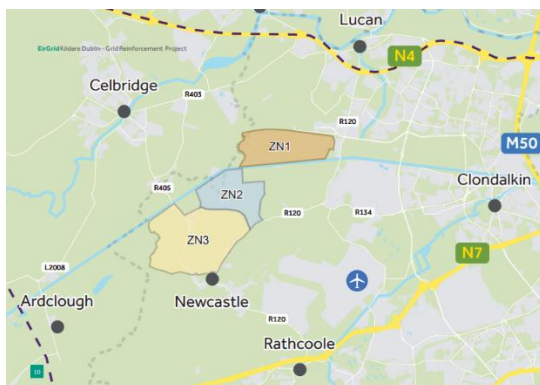


Figure 3: West County Dublin Zones

1.4.2. South West Dublin / East Kildare Zones

Four zones were identified by EirGrid as potential locations for a substation in this area, ZS1, ZS2, ZS3 and ZS4.

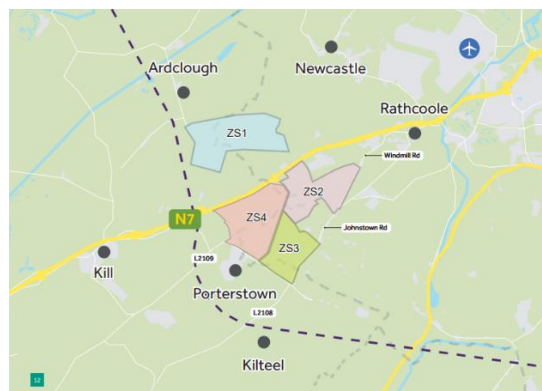


Figure 4: South West Dublin / East Kildare Zones

1.5 Substation technologies under consideration

The two substation technologies being considered are Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Substation and Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Substation. Both technologies have distinct characteristics making them suitable for different scenarios based on land availability, future connection requirements, and regulatory compliance as outlined below:

1.4.3. Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) Substation

- Uses gas to insulate electrical equipment, allowing for a compact design.
- Requires less space and has minimal visual impact.
- Typically built indoors in dedicated buildings.
- Limited future expansion—additional equipment must be installed at the start.

1.4.4. Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) Substation

- Uses air for insulation, making future expansions easier.
- Requires more space.
- Typically built outdoors with a larger footprint.

2. Engagement and Consultation Process

EirGrid's vision for engagement is to ensure that stakeholder perspectives inform decision-making; engagement is conducted in a consistent, transparent, and accessible way; and that engagement is tailored to suit the needs of stakeholders. To do this, EirGrid engages with many stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of projects. This engagement is crucial for informing and capturing feedback and knowledge that will influence the design and decision-making processes of projects. Effective public engagement ensures that stakeholder feedback is considered, fostering transparency and trust in the project's outcomes.

At Step 3 of the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project, EirGrid delivered a programme of engagement and consultation. This took place between 20th of May 2025 – 27th of June 2025. The purpose of this engagement and consultation was to get feedback on the substation location and the best technology options for these substations. Targeted stakeholders included landowners, residents, businesses, schools, and voluntary groups within study area. It also included industry that might be affected and key stakeholders such as Local Authorities and other utilities. Engagement also included ecological, environmental and conservation groups.

2.1. Communications Activities

A number of communications activities supported these public engagement activities, including an awareness campaign prior to the launch, a digital media strategy and traditional media advertising. An early awareness phase was launched in November 2024, which included a leaflet drop introducing EirGrid and the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project to local community.

The consultation was then launched on the 20th of May 2025 with a social media campaign, a project webpage with information, an interactive map of the study area and downloadable consultation materials. EirGrid published project brochures and distributed them to homes and public spaces, information, EirGrid developed an online consultation form. This was supported by a video release and a communications campaign that included radio, print media, digital media, and OOH (Out of Home) Advertising. OOH Advertising featured in thirty-six locations, including transport, roadside, and retail locations.

2.1.1. Project Webpage

An online information page at www.EirGrid.ie/kildaredublin was created which detailed the scope of the EirGrid project including maps of the study area; information on how to provide feedback and a link to the consultation portal; information on the EirGrid community forums; and a registration form for those who wished to stay updated on the project. Published documents on this website included:

- Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project Update May 2025
- Tionscadal Treisithe Eangaí Cill Dara Baile Átha Cliath - Eolas don Phobal Bealtaine 2025

- Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project Step 3 Report which details the process of selecting the current study areas and technology options.
- A video which visually communicates the key messages of the project, featuring an introduction from Sinead Dooley, Head of Public Engagement in EirGrid.

2.1.2. Interactive Map

An interactive map was created and published on the project webpage allowing users to navigate the areas being consulted on. Users could also input individual addresses to get an understanding of the project and how it may interact with their home, community, or business.

The interactive map is located at [Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project - Substation Zones | EirGrid Consultation Portal](#).

2.1.3. Project Brochure

A detailed project brochure was developed and distributed homes and businesses within zones and made available at information events. This brochure detailed the scope of the EirGrid project including the aspects of the project that were being consulted on as well.

2.1.4. Project Leaflet

Delivered to homes in the engagement area, providing information about upcoming information events and details on how the public could provide feedback.

2.1.5. Media Coverage

Media coverage included radio and print media, focused on local media and industry press. Types of coverage included articles, interviews, and paid advertisements. See appendix on Page 21 for visual references.

National Print Media	Broadcast Media	Regional Media
1. Independent.ie – Paid editorial	1. KFM - news bulletins	1. Nova.ie
2. Irish Times online – Interview with Siobhán O'Shea	2. KFM – Interview with Jason Kenna on Kildare Today	2. LeinsterLeader.ie x2
		3. Kildarenow.com x2
		4. Ireland-live.ie
		5. Dublin People

2.1.6. Social Media

Six posts were shared across three platforms creating 7145 impressions (i.e. the number of times a piece of social media content was seen by users) and 497 engagements (i.e. the number of public interactions with a piece of social media content, such as a comment, “like” or share). See appendix on page 21 for visual references.

- Instagram – 1 Reel, with 593 impressions and 16 engagements
- Facebook – 4 posts, with 1307 impressions and 74 engagements
- LinkedIn – 1post, with 5,245 impressions and 407 engagements.

2.2. Engagement Activities

A broad range of engagement activities took place preceding and during the public consultation period with the objective of providing multiple avenues for communicating information and inviting feedback. These activities were led by EirGrid's Public Engagement team, including Public Engagement Specialists, Community Liaison Officers, and Agricultural Liaison Officers. The Public Relations (PR) team were involved in developing communications, advertising, online materials, and printed collateral as well as developing and delivering a communications plan.

Expert members of the cross functional team, from a range of disciplines including planning, technical, programme and project management were available to support the Public Engagement team in responding to requests for information in a timely manner. The name, phone number and email addresses of the Community Liaison Officers were printed on widely distributed materials, to ensure members of the public had direct access to support they might require in understanding information or engaging with the consultation process.

Event reports were prepared by EirGrid engagement staff following each engagement activity, noting the number of attendees and the headline themes for questions, feedback or concerns raised. This data will be considered alongside the consultation responses as the project moves into the next step of development.

2.2.1. Public Information Events

Three information events were held during the consultation period, with approximately 100 people in attendance in total. The venues were chosen to ensure a geographical spread across the study areas.

- Tuesday 10 June 2025: Rathcoole Community Centre
- Wednesday 18 June 2025: Lucan Library
- Tuesday 24 June 2025: St Finian's Community Hall, Newcastle

The aim of the information events was to inform people about the project, gather local knowledge about the proposed areas and to encourage and facilitate consultation submissions. Each event included an exhibition of maps and information panels and EirGrid staff were available to discuss the project, concerns, and general queries. Information was also shared regarding the formation of the Community Forum and the Community Liaison Officer gathered expressions of interest for joining from attendees.

2.2.2. Information Stands and Leaflet Distribution

The Public Engagement team held information stands in three public locations to facilitate informal engagement prior to nearby public information events. This included a stand at Supervalu in Newcastle on the 23rd of June, during which approximately 100 people were engaged, a stand at Lucan Library on the 17th of June, during which approximately 30 people were engaged, and a stand in Avoca in Rathcoole, during which approximately 150 people were engaged. The team also distributed 150 leaflets at Hazelhatch train station at morning peak time, while providing information to those with queries.

2.2.3. Stakeholder Engagement

The Public Engagement team proactively engaged with key stakeholders in the study area, as well as key neighbouring stakeholders Kildare County Council & South Dublin County Council were engaged in

advance of the consultation and introduced to project by the EirGrid team. As statutory stakeholders, TII, Irish Rail and Waterways Ireland were also engaged.

2.2.4. Landowner Engagement

EirGrid's Agricultural Liaison Officers (ALO) met with landowners within the project study area to provide project information, capture feedback and sentiment, and identify risks and opportunities for project design. This information is then fed back to the project team to analyse as part of the overall project design.

2.3. Consultation Submissions

As part of the public consultation, members of the public were invited to respond to the following questions:

Q1. Please provide any comments you have on the three northern substation zone options being considered (Zones ZN1-ZN3 presented in this consultation)

Q2. Which of these zones is your preference and why?

Q3. Please provide any comments you have on the four southern substation zone options being considered (Zones ZS1-4 presented in this consultation)

Q4. Please provide any comments you have on the proposed substation zones and/or study area in relation to environmental and biodiversity constraints

Q5. Please provide any comments you have on the proposed substation zones and/or study area in relation to cultural and/or heritage considerations

Q6. Which substation technology (GIS - Gas Insulated Switchgear or AIS – Air Insulated Switchgear) is your preference and why?

Q7. Please provide any further comments you may have in relation to this project.

2.3.1. Consultation Portal

Members of the public and stakeholders were invited to provide their feedback via the online consultation portal. The portal also provided detailed information on the projects, the types of technology options, and details of the next steps. The contact information for the Community Liaison Officers was also provided.

2.3.2. Post

Members of the public were provided with a postal address to send submissions via free post.

2.3.3. Email

Email submissions could be sent to KildareDublin@EirGrid.com, and this email address was printed in published and online materials.

3. Analysis of Feedback

The following section provides an overview of all responses and feedback received during the engagement and consultation period. Submissions received via the formal consultation channels were analysed, as well as feedback and queries collected by EirGrid public engagement staff during the public information events and stakeholder briefings.

This analysis includes details of the number of responses, the headline themes, and a breakdown of these themes within the consultation submissions.

3.1. Summary of Consultation Responses and Feedback Received

59 responses were received from contributors across the formal consultation channels (portal, email, and written submissions).

Consultation Channel	Number of Responses
Consultation Portal	39
Email	20
Post	0
Total	59

Submissions were provided by online portal and email by the following:

Category	Number
Resident	48
Landowner	8
Community Group	1
Strategic Stakeholder	2
Total	59

In addition to the responses received via the consultation channels, a variety of stakeholders provided feedback during the information days and engagement process. These included local residents, representatives from community groups, local businesses, and landowners.

Category	Events	No.	Information captured
Information Days	3	100+ people engaged	Post event reports compiled by CLOs, including estimated attendance and headline themes.
Information Stands	3	280+ people engaged	Number of local residents and stakeholders informally engaged.
Door to Door	2	64 householders engaged	Number of householders engaged, and any emerging feedback.
Leaflet Distribution at Hazelhatch Train Station	1	150 leaflets distributed	Number of leaflets distributed, and any emerging feedback.

3.2. Summary of Consultation Responses and Feedback Received

The following responses are to questions regarding the location of two new substations in the vicinity of West County Dublin and East Kildare as well as the technology options available for these substations are summarised as follows ¹. The breakdown below includes submissions sent via the online consultation portal and via email. Information shared via emailed responses are included in sections Q1, Q3 and Q6, where relevant. Any additional information is detailed in the section titled “Additional Email Responses”. Likewise, feedback from engagement activities is noted where relevant, and in the section. “Additional Engagement Feedback”.

Consultation Questions	Summary of Responses
Q1. Please provide any comments you have on the three northern substation zone options being considered (Zones ZN1-ZN3 presented in this consultation)	<p>There were 7 submissions uploaded to the consultation portal with comments and feedback regarding the four southern substation zone options (Zones ZN1-3) being considered.</p> <p>Three portal submissions referred to ZN1, two supporting this location and one with concerns regarding this location. The concerned submission referred to the visual impact on landscape and the zoning designations of this area, with a reference that Scenic Route 11 was used to refuse a residential planning permission application in the area. One submission thought the location was suitable due to its proximity close to industrial areas and a data centre, its geographic location, and its low residential density. One submission did not state reasons for supporting this zone.</p> <p>One portal submission referred to ZN2, suggesting it was suitable due to its distance from a new data centre.</p>

¹ Language qualification for submissions, feedback, and questions: A (1), A Couple (2) A Few (3-5), Some (6 – 10), Several (11-16), Many (17 - 20), A Lot (21 - 30)

	<p>Four portal submissions referred to ZN3, one that was supportive of this location and three that had concerns. Themes included a concern regarding its distance from a new data centre, a concern regarding its proximity to farmland, a couple of concerns regarding its proximity to residential housing, a concern about traffic and a concern about the suitability of local roads.</p> <p>There were no emailed submissions specific to ZN1, while Zones ZN2 and ZN3 were both referred to in one emailed submission, with property value, heritage and visual impact being concerns. This submission also had concerns for Baldonnell Aerodrome and the health impact of EMFs (Electromagnetic fields).</p> <p>At the information event in Lucan, two attendees were local residents interested in more receiving information, while the third was an engineer with a specialist interest in this project. All stakeholders were happy with the engagement and did not express any dissatisfaction with the proposal.</p>
Q2. Which of these zones is your preference and why?	<p>4 consultation portal submissions stated a preference for ZN1.</p> <p>1 consultation portal submission stated a preference for ZN2</p>
Q3. Please provide any comments you have on the four southern substation zone options being considered (Zones ZS1-4 presented in this consultation)	<p>Consultation Portal Submissions</p> <p>There were 34 submissions uploaded to the consultation portal with comments and feedback regarding the four southern substation zone options (Zones ZS1-4) being considered.</p> <p><u>Zones</u></p> <p>30 of the submissions detailed concerns related to ZS1, while one submission also mentioned ZS2, ZS3 and ZS4. The rest of the submissions referred to the area in more general terms. All submission to this question shared concerns.</p> <p><u>Visual Impact</u></p> <p>Many submissions referred to concerns related to the visual impact of the substation on the landscape, with several referring to the negative impact on heritage and tourism. Some submissions referring to Scenic Routes 10 and 11 as important factors to consider both in terms of zoning criteria and concern for the visual impact on these routes.</p> <p><u>Planning Criteria</u></p> <p>Several submissions referenced planning criteria and the Local Development Plan, with some specifically referencing local zoning guidelines specific to residential and agricultural use. Some of these concerns related to cases they were aware of where residential planning permission was refused due to Scenic Routes.</p> <p><u>Road Suitability</u></p> <p>Many had concerns regarding the suitability of the roads, including a few concerns regarding the transport of high voltage technology on roads. A few</p>

	<p>were also concerned that this would cause disruption during the construction phase and some submissions were concerned about traffic more generally.</p> <p><u>Proximity to Homes</u></p> <p>Several portal submissions related to concerns regarding the proximity of the substation to local residences and the impact on house values. There were also several responses with concerns for negative visual, noise and amenity impact.</p> <p><u>Environment and Habitat</u></p> <p>Some portal submissions referred to biodiversity or environmental concerns, with a few submissions referring to frog habitats and a few referring to bats, buzzards, and yellow hammers.</p> <p><u>Equine Industry, Agriculture, and Impact on Land</u></p> <p>A few portal submissions had concern for the impact on the equine industry, while a few had a concern for flooding and a few for flood related soil erosion. A few concerns related to disruption to agriculture during construction.</p> <p>Some responses include uploaded attachments, included reference materials and images. This information was downloaded for review by the EirGrid team.</p> <p>Emailed Submissions</p> <p><u>ZS1</u></p> <p>There were 6 emailed submissions related to ZS1, each with concerns regarding property values, visual impact, impact on biodiversity, heritage, traffic, and road suitability.</p> <p><u>ZS2, ZS3 and ZS4</u></p> <p>There were 2 emailed submissions related to ZS2, ZS3 and ZS4, both with concerns for heritage and biodiversity and one with additional concern for visual impact, traffic, and property values.</p> <p>Information Event Feedback</p> <p><u>St Finian's</u></p> <p>A lot of the 35 – 40 attendees at the St Finian's information event in Newcastle shared concerns regarding ZS1, with feedback that there are more suitable locations.</p> <p><u>ZS1 – Visual Impact</u></p> <p>There were some concerns regarding the visual impact of the infrastructure, with several attendees sharing feedback regarding cultural and heritage sites.</p> <p><u>ZS1 – Proximity to Homes and Road Suitability</u></p>
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	<p>There were also some concerns regarding the proximity to residential homes and a few concerns regarding the suitability of the local roads.</p> <p><u>ZS1 – Project Delivery</u></p> <p>They also shared some concerns regarding the project delivery and consultation process, including how the zones were selected, the information that was received, and what the next steps may be. A few had concerns regarding EMFs, and some had queries regarding the technology.</p> <p>Some attendees suggested sites near Zone ZS2, where there are more industrial sites and less homes.</p> <p><u>Rathcoole</u></p> <p>A lot of the attendees at the Rathcoole information event had concerns or questions regarding the zone selection process, with several concerns regarding the suitability of local roads. There were a few questions around future steps such as land acquisition and a concern regarding future infrastructure developments.</p> <p>A few queries were for more information regarding the project with relation to homes. There were a few queries regarding the impact on agriculture, and one concern regarding visual impact. Feedback was not focused on specific individual zones.</p>
<p>Q4. Please provide any comments you have on the proposed substation zones and/or study area in relation to environmental and biodiversity constraints</p>	<p>Many respondents skipped this question or requested their answer from another section to be considered here, while a number of submissions repeated information from other sections. Therefore, this should be considered as indicative rather than a complete overview of feedback on this topic.</p> <p>Within the 26 responses specific to this question, there were a number of concerns raised regarding environmental and biodiversity constraints. A lot of submissions were concerned about wildlife and natural habitats, some were concerned about visual and acoustic disruption to humans and wildlife, some were concerned about the visual impact on the landscape.</p> <p>A few submissions were concerned about watercourses and soil degradation. A couple of submissions had concerns regarding proximity to animals and pets, while one had a concern about proximity to children. There was a concern regarding the scale of the project, the impact of potential fire, and the proximity to a greenway.</p>
<p>Q5. Please provide any comments you have on the proposed substation zones and/or study area in relation to cultural</p>	<p>Many respondents skipped this question or requested their answer from another section to be considered here, while a number of submissions repeated information from other sections. Therefore, this should be considered as indicative rather than a complete overview of feedback on this topic.</p> <p>Of the 22 who responded specifically to this question, many of the submissions were concerned about this visual impact of the infrastructure</p>

and/or heritage considerations	<p>on the landscape. There were also many comments and concerns regarding the negative impact on a number of specific local heritage sites, including Oughterard Graveyard and Arthur's Way Heritage Trail.</p> <p>There were several comments regarding the tourism significance of these heritage sites and concerns regarding negative impacts on them. There were also a few concerns regarding the negative impact on recreational amenities.</p>
Q6. Which substation technology (GIS - Gas Insulated Switchgear or AIS – Air Insulated Switchgear) is your preference and why?	<p>From the consultation portal, of the 12 submissions that indicated a preference, 9 selected GIS while 1 selected AIS. A couple of submissions indicated a preference for whichever had the least impact. GIS was preferable due to a reduced scale and visual impact, while AIS was preferable due to future proofing.</p> <p>There were some portal submissions that states no preference, and some that stated a preference for no substation technology in their zone.</p> <p>From email submissions, 2 submissions preferred GIS, one referring to visual impact.</p>
Q7. Please provide any further comments you may have in relation to this project.	<p>Most respondents used this question to reiterate their concerns stated in the previous questions. For those with further comments, some of these were concerns relating to the consultation process and the information they had received, with one respondent referring to a need for more detailed information. One respondent included information regarding Air Corps training in Baldonnell.</p>

Additional Email Responses (feedback not specific to questions above)	<p>Some emails had broader concerns regarding the project, including some concerns regarding the consultation process and the detail of information available.</p> <p>Two emails were from key stakeholders in support of the project.</p>
Additional Engagement Feedback (feedback not specific to the questions above)	<p>There were some concerns regarding the consultation process, including the distribution of flyers and the mapping provided.</p> <p>There were queries regarding the selection of the zones, and the future steps regarding land acquisition.</p>

3.3. Summary of Themes

The key concerns communicated across both the consultation submissions and engagement activity feedback related to the impact on wildlife and biodiversity, the visual impact of the project on the landscape and tourism, and the disruption caused by traffic, sound, and light.

While most submissions were focused on concerns regarding specific locations and zones, some had more general concerns, and a few had suggestions regarding suitable locations. Two submissions were from key stakeholder bodies in support of the project.

Theme	Detail of Contributions
Visual Impact on Landscape	There were several concerns in submissions regarding the impact on the landscape, including disruption to local residents as well as impacting heritage sites and tourism. There was some concern at information events regarding the visual impact on the landscape.
Wildlife	Many submissions were concerned about the impact on wildlife, including farmers within the Acres scheme. This included the physical impact on habitats, and visual, light and noise disruption that may affect wildlife. Species named included bats, frogs, birds and badgers among others. Feedback from in-person consultation activities was not primarily focused on wildlife.
Traffic and Road Suitability	There were a number of submissions, questions and feedback regarding the disruption to local communities
Heritage	Submissions had concerns regarding the impact on the heritage value of local sites, including Oughterard graveyard and subsequent impact on tourism to the Arthur Guinness Heritage Trail. A number of submissions referenced heritage aspects of planning guidelines, which they said had affected local residential planning applications. There was some concern at information events regarding the impact on the heritage and cultural landscape.
Property Value	There were a number of concerns regarding the impact of the project on residential property values.
Proximity to housing and animals	Submissions had comments and concerns regarding the proximity of zones to residential housing, pets, agriculture and equestrian businesses. Other zones were proposed in some cases due to their distance from houses.
Noise and Light Disruption	There were questions and comments regarding the disruption caused by noise and light connected to the proposed infrastructure. This included the impact on wildlife, on the landscape, on dark-sky views, and personal wellbeing.
Planning and Zoning	The theme of zoning and planning criteria within the Local Development Plan was raised a number of times, with reference to designated land use and protected views.

Health, include EMFs	There were some submissions which specifically mentioned the health impacts of the project, such as the impact of noise on mental health and the impact of EMFs on health.
Water, Soil and Land Impact	There were submissions which referred to the impact of the project on water sources, soil health and the material impact on the landscape. There were specific mentions of flooding risk on farmland.

4. Step 3 Consultation and Engagement Outcomes

The aim of this public consultation was to provide opportunities for the public, community groups, businesses, landowners, and other bodies to engage with the EirGrid project team and provide insight and feedback regarding the location of two substations as part of the Kildare-Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project. There was a strong response, with a large number of people sending submissions via email and via the online portal.

Based on the feedback on the consultation there was a clear preference for GIS due to the scale and visual impact of this technology. Most feedback was related to zones and location. The highest level of submissions and feedback was related to Zone ZS1, although there was a broad range of feedback regarding the broader area.

There was also a high level of direct engagement with EirGrid staff, including members of the cross-functional team. While the number of attendees to information events varied, there was consistently high engagement at more informal engagement activities, such as information stands in a supermarket or leaflet distribution at a train station.

Reports from the Community Liaison Officers indicate that many people wished to ask clarifying questions when they were engaged during these informal activities or during door-to-door engagement, such as where to find more information, details of the proposed locations, and how to make a submission.

It is notable that a small number of consultation responses state they had engaged with the Community Liaison Officers and referred to them by name, detailing the information that they had received. This direct engagement resulted in members of the public being more informed about the project and how to engage in the consultation. This also supports the secondary goal of this process, which is to build public awareness of future developments.

A small number of submissions used the option of uploading supporting materials, which included photos and observations of wildlife, details of heritage sites and planning and policy documents. While these are not included in this report, they have been made directly available to the EirGrid team and represent a lot of effort made to document and communicate specific concerns.

A number of submissions related to Zone SZ1 included similar information, indicating local coordination or a group that EirGrid's public engagement team may be able to engage with in future consultation stages.

Next steps for the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project

The feedback collected through this consultation will inform project design where possible. Once the sites for the two required substations have been narrowed down, they will need to be connected to the grid. The project team will conduct assessments on circuits that will connect these substations to the electricity grid. A public consultation to determine the appropriate technology options and route options for these connecting circuits will then take place.

Community Benefit Forum

EirGrid will establish a Community Forum for the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project. The purpose of this forum is to make sure that the voices of the local communities, and those impacted most by our infrastructure, are listened to. The forums provide for open dialogue between the project team and stakeholders interested in the project.

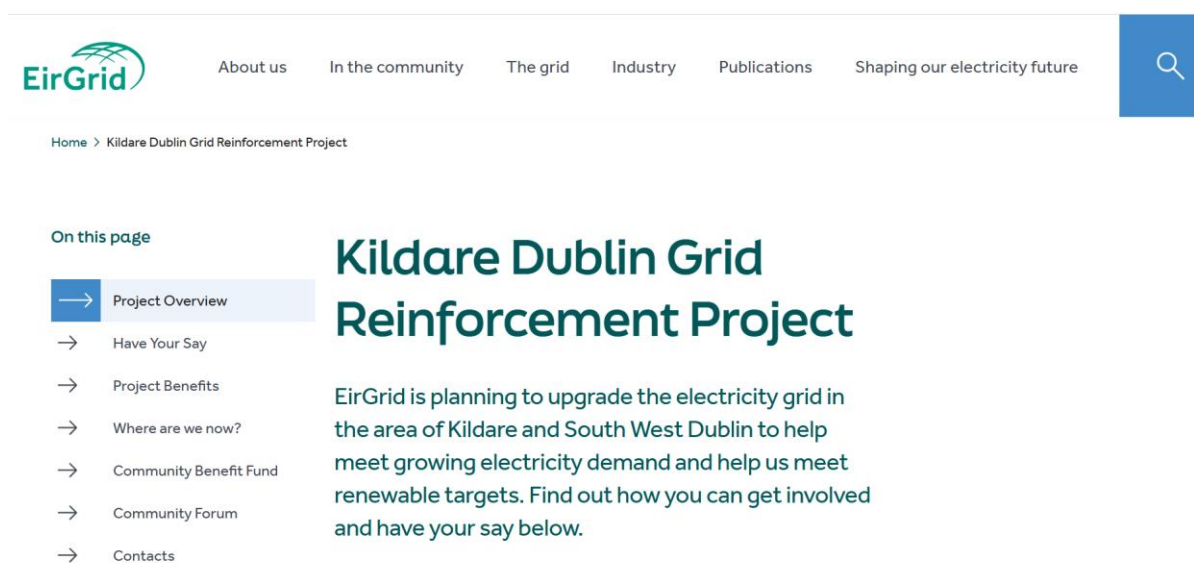
Appendix A: Designed Materials and Printed Collateral

1. Information Leaflet.

Distributed during public engagement activities and downloadable from project webpage.



2. Project Webpage for Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project



3. Have Your Say Video - [Link](#)



4. Social Media Posts



5. Print Media Clippings

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EirGrid launches public consultation for critical electricity grid upgrade in Kildare and South-West Dublin

Local stakeholders and communities asked to give their feedback on plans



File photo/Pixabay

By Ken Phelan
20 May 2025 10:39 AM



15 minutes 2 THE BRISTOL TIMES

Upgrades planned for electricity grid in Kildare and southwest Dublin

The project will help facilitate the integration of offshore renewable energy connections when they come online in the 2030s



FILE PHOTO: EIRGRID

By Ken Phelan

20 May 2025

Upgrades planned for electricity grid in Kildare and southwest Dublin

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EirGrid to host public information events

Ken Phelan

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EirGrid, the operator and developer of the national electricity grid, is to host public information events on a critical electricity grid upgrade to improve the energy system in the Kildare and South-West Dublin regions.

The Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project will see the upgrading of energy infrastructure in this rapidly growing region.

New infrastructure is required to ensure the continued reliable supply of power to schools, businesses and homes in this region.

Local stakeholders and communities are now being asked to give their feedback on initial plans for the project as part of a public consultation.

The consultation, which will run until Friday, June 27, will give communities and local stakeholders an opportunity to give their

feedback on the proposed plans.

Submissions can be made online or by post, and public information events will be held to allow those interested to speak to EirGrid representatives and learn more about the proposals. These events will take place in Lucan Library from 12-8pm on Wednesday, June 18, and in St. Finian's Community Hall, Newcastle from 1pm-8pm on Tuesday, June 24.

Feedback will be considered alongside landowner engagement and technical studies being carried out by EirGrid to help determine the approach to project plans moving forward.

Infrastructure Officer Onshore (Interim) with EirGrid, Siobhán O'Shea, said: "Electricity demand in this region is on the rise due to factors such as residential housing, commercial and industrial development, and the



FILE PHOTO/PIXABAY

electrification of heat and transportation. However, the existing infrastructure in this area will not be capable of meeting the projected growth in demand.

"The Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project will be key to ensuring we can continue to deliver a reliable electricity supply to communities in the area, as well as bringing the country closer to achieving a renewable-led energy system and reaching our climate ambitions."

The project will include a new 400/320/110kV substation near the South

Dublin/East Kildare border at Steadstown and a new 220/110kV substation near Castleblagney, as well as associated circuits linking the new stations to Maynooth, Inchicore and Carrickmines substations.

This first phase of consultation will look to determine the best performing zones for where the substations will be located, as well as consulting on the best technology option for these substations.

For more information visit www.eirgrid.ie/kildaredublin.

Powering a greener future – how to have your say on the Kildare Dublin Grid Reinforcement Project

Public consultation on critical grid upgrade opens to communities



FILE PHOTO: EIRGRID

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EirGrid to host public information events on critical electricity grid upgrade

Information events to be held in Kildare and South-West Dublin



File photo/Pixabay

By Ken Phelan

16 Jun 2025 11:00 AM

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