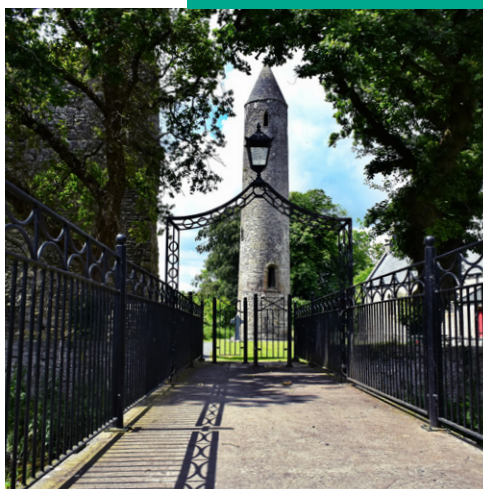




EirGrid.ie

Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project

Autumn 2023



Who are EirGrid – and what do we do?

EirGrid develops, manages, and operates Ireland's electricity grid. We are leading the secure transition of Ireland's electricity grid to a low carbon, renewable future. We are responsible for the safe, secure, and reliable supply of Ireland's electricity. The grid brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Ireland. It supplies power directly to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity.

The grid also provides power to the domestic network that supplies the electricity you use every day in homes, businesses, schools and hospitals. This critical infrastructure underpins our societal and economic development. Work carried out now will help create a more sustainable future for the next generation.

What is ESB Networks role in this project?

ESB Networks is responsible for the detailed design and construction of the project.

They fund and build the infrastructure and maintain it to the specification and standard set out by EirGrid.

About this update

This update is for you as stakeholders, communities, landowners and members of the public interested in keeping up to date about the Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project. The project is progressing well and we want to keep you informed.

We also want to tell you about the work of the Community Forum and the 12 local projects awarded funding under the Community Benefit Fund in 2022. We hope that these awardees will provide ideas for the next round of funding.



What is the Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project?

EirGrid is reinforcing the electricity grid in the general Laois Kilkenny region. We are doing this by upgrading the existing grid network as well as building new infrastructure.

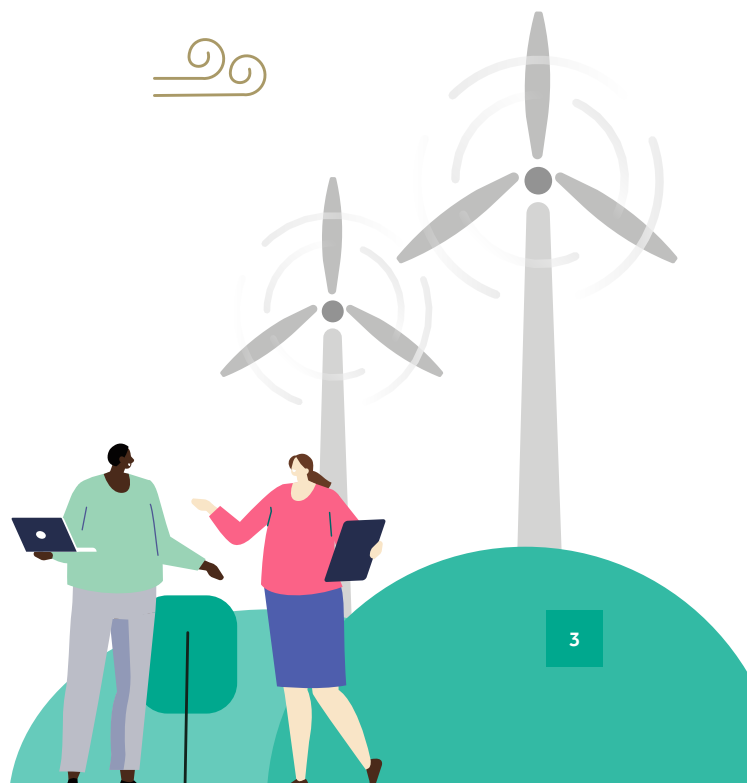
The reinforcement will consist of the following items:

- A new 400/110 kV substation situated to the south east of Portlaoise at Coolnabacky. (See point 1 on the map.)
- Two existing overhead lines will connect to this new substation. These are the:
 - 400 kV Moneypoint-Dunstown line (See point 2) and
 - the 110 kV Athy-Portlaoise line (See point 3).
- The 400 kV line will require an overhead line connection between the existing line and the new Coolnabacky substation. (See point 4)
- A new 110/38 kV substation. This is next to the existing 38 kV electricity substation at Ballyragget, County Kilkenny. (See point 5)
- A new 110 kV line between these two new stations: Coolnabacky and Ballyragget. (See point 6)
- An upgrade to the existing Ballyragget-Kilkenny overhead line to a 110 kV standard.
- A modification to the existing Athy-Portlaoise 110 kV line and works in Kilkenny electricity station.

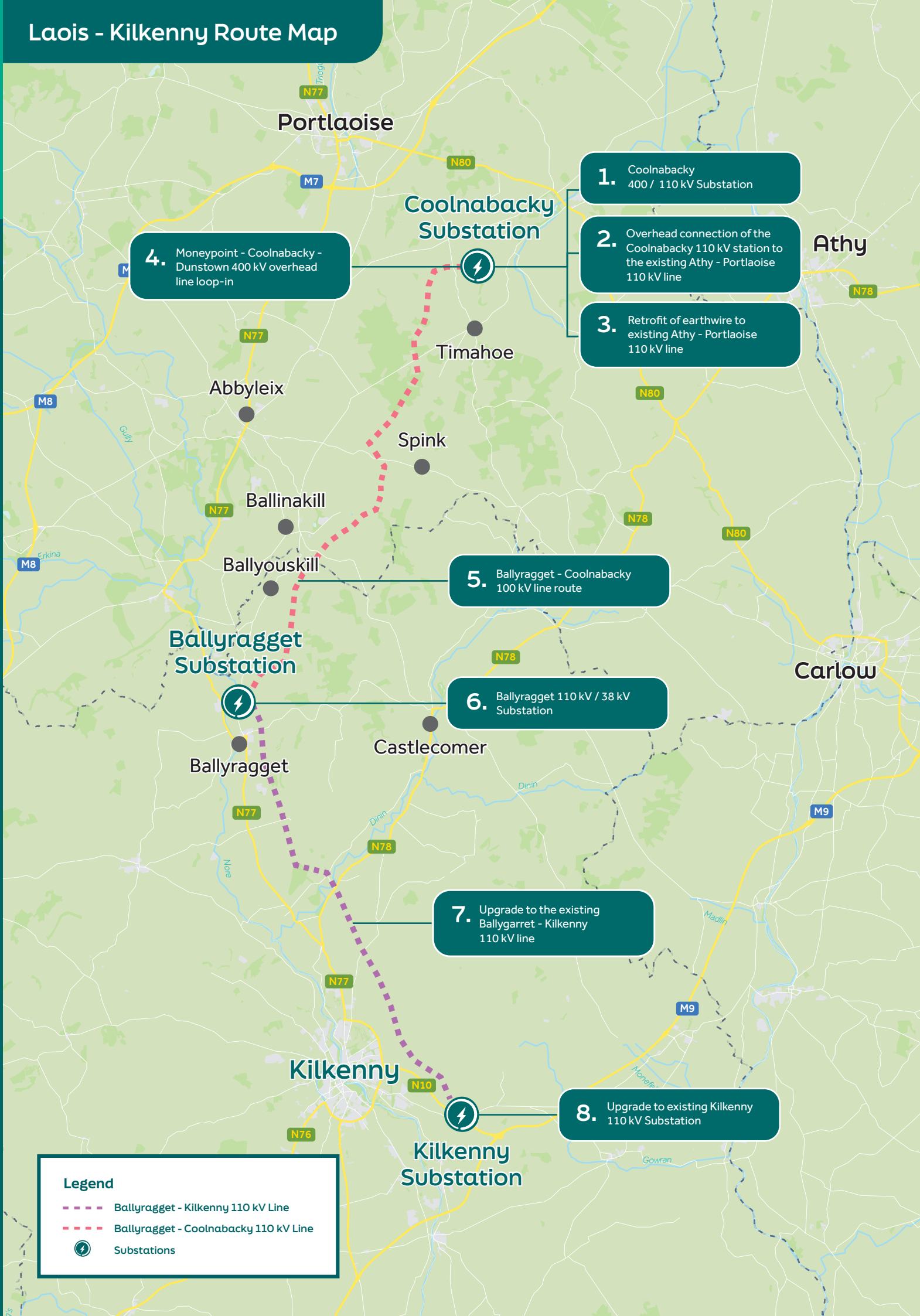


Why the project is needed?

The Laois-Kilkenny Project is required to increase the capacity of electricity supply across Laois, Carlow, Kildare, as well as address issues around security of electricity supply affecting County Kilkenny.



Laois - Kilkenny Route Map



What is the current update?

New Ballyragget Substation: This station is now built (see pictures below) and is fully operational.

Ballyragget – Kilkenny Line Uprate: This will be completed and energised in Autumn 2023.

Kilkenny 110kV Substation: These upgrade works are now completed.

New Coolnabackey 400/110kV Substation: Plans are underway to start construction in quarter 4 2023.

New Ballyragget-Coolnabackey 110 kV Overhead Line: Contractor has commenced construction and work is progressing on the Kilkenny side of the line at present.



Ballyragget 110 kV Substation



An internal view of the substation

Update on the Community Forum:

The Laois Kilkenny Community Forum was established by EirGrid. This group aims to make sure that the voices of the local communities, and those impacted most by our infrastructure, are listened to. The Forum provides for open dialogue between the project team and stakeholders interested in the project.

The voluntary Community Forum is comprised of:

- local representatives from community groups and associations, and
- elected representatives in Laois and Kilkenny.

The forum is chaired by Irish Rural Link (a not-for profit organisation). Its first meeting was in June 2021. Since then the forum has met every three months.

To date, the forum has received project updates from the EirGrid Project Manager and has overseen the development of a Community Benefit Fund scoping study for the project area.

Update on the Community Benefit Fund:

EirGrid appointed an independent body, M-CO, to administer this fund on its behalf.

EirGrid recognises the importance of the local communities who facilitate the upgrading of the electricity grid and the Community Benefit Fund reflects this.

The overall Community Benefit Fund for the Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project is **€511,500**. This fund will be released in three phases, which align with the development of the infrastructure:

Phase 1 of the fund opened for online applications on Tuesday 30 November 2021 and closed on Tuesday 1 February 2022.

In addition, we held:

- an information evening, and
- a grant writing workshop.

We also provided one-to-one project development support meetings.

In April 2022, EirGrid awarded phase 1 of the fund **€204,600** of the **€511,500** to 12 community and not-for-profit organisations near the Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement Project.

You can read about the projects and funding amounts each organisation received on the next page.

Community Benefit Fund per Construction Phase:

Phase	Percentage	Fund amount	Projected timeline
1 – Construction	40%	€204,600	Closed to applications on 1st February 2022.
2 – Line stringing completed	30%	€153,450	2023 (To be confirmed)
3 – When the project is completed and goes live	30%	€153,450	2025

These funds will provide support to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises that operate or service communities near this new electricity line.

2022 Allocation of Funds:

Name of Lead Community Group / Organisation	Title of Project	Awarded
Ballinakill Community Development Association CLG	Ballinakill Amenity Park Development Project	€40,500
Ballinakill GAA Club	Ballinakill Development Plan – Walking/Running Track	€14,850
Ballyouskill Community Hall	Insulating the Community Hall	€14,400
Ballyouskill Heritage & Tourism Society	Refurbishment of the Heritage Stained Glass Windows at Ballyouskill Church	€14,625
Ballyragget Community Hall Committee	Replacement of Corrugated Metal Roof of the Community Hall	€33,750
Ballyragget Scout Group	Equipment for Scouting Group	€5,000
Ballyroan Blue Stars Basketball Club	Ladies Team Away Kit	€875
O'Gorman Home Supported Care Unit	Conversion of Bedroom to En-suite, Isolation Room in accordance with infection control regulations	€14,400
Spink Comhaltas	Spink Music Festival - Inspiring the Musicians of Tomorrow	€17,300
Spink Community Development Association	Flood Lighting project for Community field in Spink	€22,500
Spink Tidy Towns	Purchase of an amenity lawnmower	€7,650
St. Patrick's (Ballyragget) GAA Club	Enhancement of Facilities at St. Patrick's GAA Grounds	€18,750

What are the next steps?

The next steps in the project are to:

- commence construction at Coolnabacky 400/110 kV Substation,
- provide regular updates to the community forum on the project's progress and updates on when phase 2 of the community benefit fund will open.

How can I stay informed?

To stay informed, you can read our detailed project information and updates at:

www.eirgrid.ie/LaoisKilkenny and on our social media channels.

You can also register to receive email updates on the project or to give your feedback on this project. If you want to do this, email:

laoiskilkennyreinforcement@Eirgrid.com

Who can I contact?

You can contact our Liaison Officers, they will continue to make themselves available to you as the project develops.



Eoghan O'Sullivan
Community Liaison Officer
087 247 7732



Aidan Naughton
Agricultural Liaison Officer
086 172 0156



**For More
Information
Scan Here**



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