



EirGrid.ie

North-South 400 kV Interconnection Project

October 2023



Introduction

The North-South Interconnector is a new 400 kV overhead electricity cable connecting the electricity grids in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The North-South Interconnector is required to improve the security and reliability of electricity supply across the island of Ireland. It will also help to improve the efficiency of the electricity system, reducing costs and ultimately saving money for the end user, the electricity customer.

Increased capacity in the connection between our networks will facilitate the connection of more renewable electricity generation to the grid. This is essential to achieve the Government climate action targets that aim to have up to 80% of our electricity powered by renewable energy in 2030. Doing this will also increase our energy independence, by reducing our reliance on imported fossil fuels such as oil and natural gas.

It will also provide a local benefit for the people of the north-east by increasing the capacity of the electricity grid in the region which will help to attract inward investment and jobs.

EirGrid is now engaging with landowners who will be hosting infrastructure about related compensation packages. Those within 200 metres of the line will also be consulted about proximity payments.

Proximity payment scale for 400 kV overhead electricity cable

| Distance of Home | | |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| 50m | 125m | 200m |
| €30,000 | €17,500 | €5,000 |

Benefits of the North-South Interconnector

- **Economic**
Contribute to the regional economy and support increased investment in the area
- **Community**
Deliver community benefit in the areas that facilitate the project infrastructure
- **Competition**
Apply downward pressure on the cost of electricity
- **Sustainability**
Help Ireland’s transition to a low carbon energy future
- **Security of Supply**
Improve security of electricity supply across the island of Ireland



Project Update

Government Review

This project has been the subject of a number of independent reviews and EirGrid has acknowledged the publication by the Government of the most recent review on the North-South Interconnector. This review accepts the findings of previous reports including the 2018 Expert Commission that indicated that the North-South Interconnector should proceed as planned as an overhead line.

As the project has full planning permission in Ireland and Northern Ireland it will now proceed to the next phase of the project.

Procurement

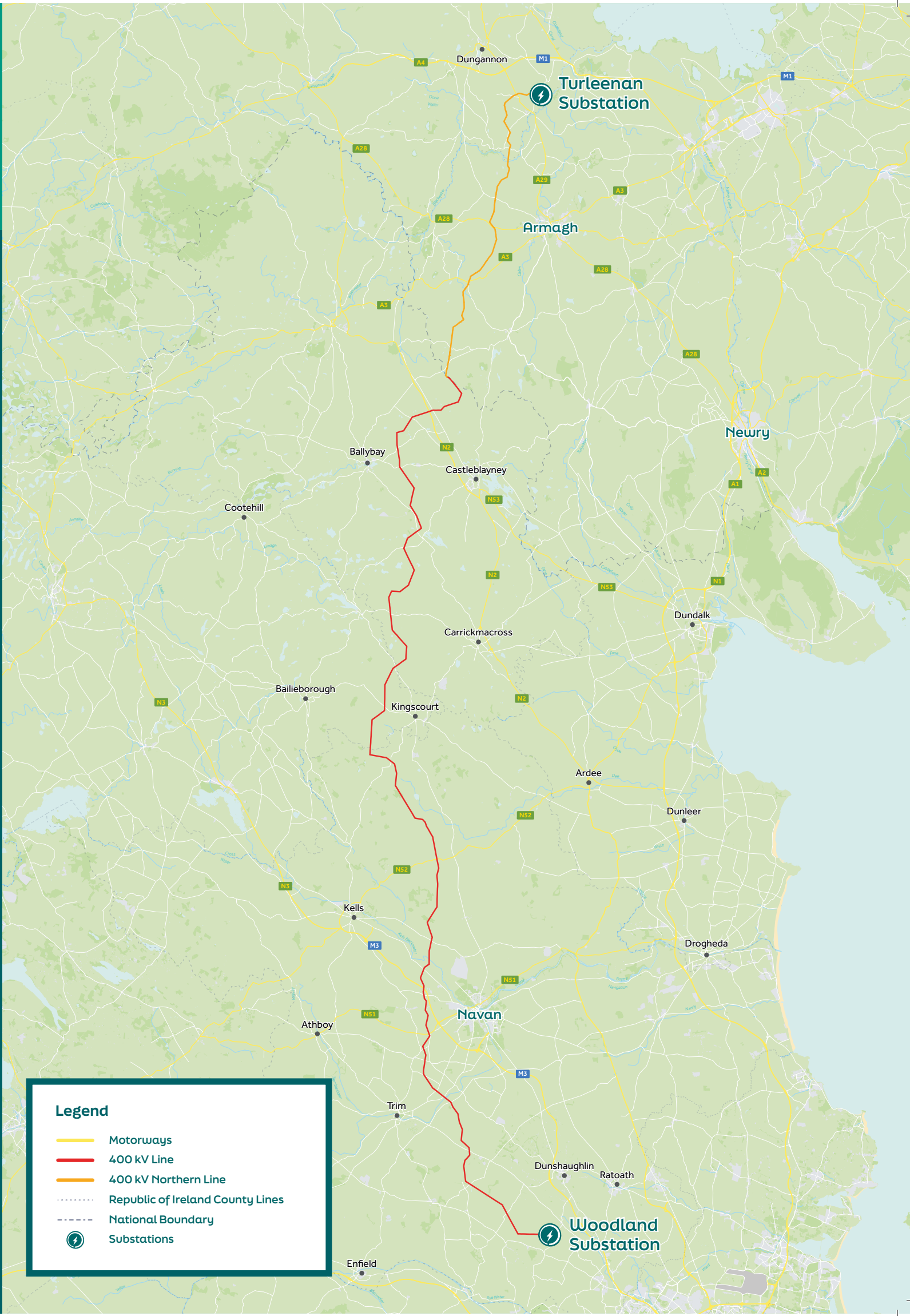
EirGrid, as Transmission System Operator of the electricity grid, was responsible for obtaining planning permission for the North-South Interconnector, while ESB Networks is responsible for the detailed design and construction of the project.

ESB Networks has awarded a framework contract for the supply of towers for the interconnector and have issued tenders for the supply of all other overhead line components and the civil works for the storage yard.

The main construction tender framework has also been issued and is expected to be awarded in the coming months.

ESB Networks and NIE Networks have carried out site investigation boreholes, environmental and technical surveys at a number of tower locations along the route to gather information for the construction phase, to ensure compliance with the approved planning permission.





Legend

- Motorways
- 400 kV Line
- 400 kV Northern Line
- Republic of Ireland County Lines
- National Boundary
- Substations

North-South 400 kV Interconnection Project Timeline



What has happened so far, where are we now and next steps

2008 - 2010

- Need for North-South 400 kV Interconnector (NSI) identified
- Route corridors defined
- Irish government publishes the ECOFYS report which endorses use of overhead line technology (OHL)
- Initial planning application submitted but withdrawn in 2010

2014 - 2016

- EirGrid publish final line design proposal
- Planning application submitted to An Bord Pleanála in June 2015
- An Bord Pleanála conducted a 12-week oral hearing from March-June 2016
- An Bord Pleanála granted planning approval in December 2016

2020-2022

- Planning permission was granted in Northern Ireland in September 2020
- Planning decision was the subject of a judicial review to the High Court which was dismissed in October 2021
- Appeal to the Court of Appeal dismissed in October 2022

2024 - 2027

- Full engagement with landowners, local communities and stakeholders along the route
- Construction is intended to start in 2024 and is likely to take three years
- Community forums to be established
- Community Benefit Fund launched

2011 - 2013

- Irish Government set up an International Expert Commission (IEC) to examine undergrounding
- IEC government report recommends that underground cable is not used for NSI
- Government publishes policy recommending the use of community gain for linear utility projects
- EirGrid issue final re-evaluation report and preferred project solution

2017 - 2019

- Planning decision was the subject of 3 judicial reviews to the High Court
- All proceedings were subsequently dismissed in August 2017
- Irish Government appoints International Expert Panel (IEP) to review and update previous underground cable studies and examine landowner compensation
- IEP Recommends OHL technology as best solution for the NSI and notes that compensation in Ireland is one of the highest in Europe
- Appeal to the Supreme Court dismissed in February 2019

2023

- ESB Networks carry out procurement for supply of towers materials and the main construction contract
- ESB and NIE Networks carry out borehole surveys on 80 random tower sites along the route
- Irish Government publishes underground report which upholds previous conclusions on the use of overhead line technology
- EirGrid is now engaging with landowners who will be hosting infrastructure about related compensation packages. Those within 200 metres of the line will also be consulted about proximity payments

Community Forums

EirGrid establishes community forums on all strategic infrastructure projects. As the North-South Interconnector project is now moving to construction stage, EirGrid will establish two forums along the route which will provide for open dialogue with the project team to ensure regular updates for communities.

These forums will engage with EirGrid on key project developments such as:

- how we communicate and engage with the public to share project updates;
- what we need to consider in developing the project; and
- how we can deliver meaningful community benefit to the area where our infrastructure is hosted.

These forums, which will be Chaired by independent facilitators, will act as consultative bodies and do not replace any other engagement and consultation we carry out.

EirGrid will liaise with all stakeholders in the coming months and host webinars to share further details on the community forums and the community benefit fund.

To express your interest in joining one of the community forums for this project, **please scan the QR code** to complete the Expression of Interest form.



SCAN HERE

EirGrid will be visiting communities in Cavan and Monaghan with our Energy Citizen Roadshow in November 2023, teaming up with ESB Networks, the SEAI, and local and regional authorities.



This event includes a host of local exhibitors showcasing the latest information about home energy efficiency upgrades, followed by a panel discussion informing local communities on how EirGrid plans to future-proof the electricity grid. ESB Networks will also be on hand to outline its role in connecting microgeneration, while the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) will provide advice on home energy upgrades and retrofitting grants.

Dates and venues for Energy Citizen Roadshows



MONAGHAN

15th November
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Glencarn Hotel
Castleblayney
Co. Monaghan



CAVAN

22nd November
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Hotel Kilmore
Killygarry
Co. Cavan



Community Benefit Funds

We recognise the importance of local communities and businesses who facilitate the upgrading of the electricity transmission network. While the North-South 400 kV Interconnector is being built, we will work to support communities as part of our community benefit policy.

A dedicated fund for the North-South Interconnection Project will be made available to provide direct benefits to communities who are closest to the cable. This fund, which is proportional to the scale of the project, supports local community groups, not-for-profit and social enterprises who are providing services, activities and facilities for the well-being of their communities.

The first step is the appointment of an independent community benefit fund administrator who will work with the North-South Interconnection Forum and EirGrid to develop a community benefit strategy that will ensure a bottom up approach to delivering projects that are prioritised by the community and for the community.

The fund will then be released in 3 phases, which align with the development of the infrastructure:

| Phase | Percentage of funding released |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Construction | 40% |
| 2. Cable Installation | 30% |
| 3. Energisation | 30% |

The community benefit fund criteria will require projects to be aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and must outline how your proposal contributes to the achievement of the goals in your community. The independent funds administrator will work with communities and organisations in developing their projects.

Examples of projects funded in other project areas include:

- Installing sustainable energy solutions to heat an outdoor public swimming pool.
- Funding to deliver a Comhaltas community music festival; including master classes, competitions and a concert.
- Community hall refurbishment and preservation of historic stain-glass windows.



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 brings power from

generators to the domestic network that supplies the electricity you use every day in homes, businesses, schools and hospitals. In brief, we make sure that everyone has power when they need it at the most economic price possible.

This critical infrastructure underpins our societal and economic development. Work carried out now will help create a more sustainable future for the next generation.



The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Rd,
Dublin 4, D04 FW28
01 627 1700 | [EirGrid.ie](https://eirgrid.ie)

