



[EirGrid.ie/dublin](https://eirgrid.ie/dublin)

Powering Up Dublin

Carrickmines to
Poolbeg Route
(Best Performing Option)



Who are EirGrid and What Do We Do?

EirGrid is a state-owned company that develops, manages and operates Ireland's electricity grid. We are responsible for the safe, secure and reliable supply of Ireland's electricity. EirGrid is responsible for leading the secure transition of the electricity grid to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

The grid brings power from where it is generated to the domestic network that supplies the electricity we use every day in homes, businesses, schools and hospitals.

The electricity grid is critical infrastructure that supports the development of Ireland's society and economy. Work carried out now to improve the grid will help to create a more sustainable future.

What is Powering Up Dublin?

Powering Up Dublin is a critical programme that will strengthen key electricity infrastructure in Dublin and the surrounding areas, helping to make Ireland 'renewable ready'. This programme will help deliver a consistent and reliable supply of electricity for Dublin.

Dublin's electricity infrastructure is ageing. Work must be done to transform and modernise it so Dublin can continue to develop and thrive, while increasingly using power from renewable sources.

Dublin's economy and population are growing, and so too is the demand for electricity. This demand will continue to grow as we also move to:

- using electricity for household heat pumps,
- charging electric vehicles, and
- powering our public transport services.





These works will allow Dublin to meet its energy demands now and in the future.

By 2030, we must strive to reach 80% of electricity demand being supplied by renewable resources such as wind and solar energy. This target is set out in Ireland's Climate Action Plan. Powering Up Dublin is key to meeting this target.

What work will be done?

EirGrid, with our partners, will install over 50km of 220 kV cables on 5 routes across the city. These routes are:

- Finglas substation to North Wall substation
- North Wall substation to Poolbeg substation
- Carrickmines substation to Poolbeg substation
- Two circuits connecting the Inchicore substation to the Poolbeg substation

These new 220 kV cables will be underground, and they will connect electricity substations around Dublin.

Upgrades will also take place in a number of substations to support Dublin's electricity network.

This work will be disruptive at times, but, together with our project partners, we will try to minimise disruption during construction. We will do this by continually working and communicating with local communities, local authorities and businesses in Dublin.

This document will take you through the Carrickmines substation to Poolbeg substation route.

It will describe the changes we made to the original proposals based on the feedback we received through public consultation and stakeholder engagement. This has helped us to formulate the Best Performing Option for this route. There is also a frequently asked questions section at the end of this document.

Project Benefits



Security and reliability of supply

Building a more resilient and reliable electricity grid helps ensure that everyone has power when and where they need it. This upgrade will also enable independence by harnessing greener energy sources close to the city.



Meet future needs

These improvements will also help to meet the growing and changing electricity needs of Dublin. This includes the electrification of transport systems, vehicles and heating, the requirement of large energy users and the development of housing and offices.



Sustainability

Powering Up Dublin will enable the city's grid to use and transmit the electricity generated from offshore wind energy to the heart of the city. This is a vital step to help Ireland transition to a low-carbon electricity future.



Economic

These critical upgrades will help strengthen Dublin's economy, encouraging and supporting future investment.



Community

Our community benefit policy will directly support local communities in the areas that host the project infrastructure.

What has Happened so Far?

Public Consultation

EirGrid is committed to stakeholder and public engagement. When we work with stakeholders, communities and industry, we make better decisions. The public consultation gave stakeholders the opportunity to influence the cable routes for Powering Up Dublin. It also provided invaluable local, specialised information that was integral in determining the most appropriate routes for each cable in each part of Dublin.

EirGrid held a public consultation on the Emerging Best Performing Options for five cable routes across the Greater Dublin Area from 28 March to 23 May 2023. You can view the documentation for this programme on the EirGrid website eirgrid.ie/dublin

We appointed dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the programme. The Community Liaison Officers set up and facilitated local business and community forums as part of our ongoing stakeholder engagement.

EirGrid held public information events and briefings over the 8-week consultation period as well as holding Community Liaison Officer drop-in clinics to provide more information and to respond to queries from members of the community and local business owners.

Surveys and Assessments

Traffic assessments and environmental screening surveys are ongoing to confirm that the regulatory and planning requirements associated with the Powering Up Dublin programme are being met.

The Dublin Infrastructure Forum

EirGrid established the Dublin Infrastructure Forum in May 2022 in order to minimise disruption to businesses and communities across the city. Building strategic infrastructure on this scale requires close collaboration across a large number of key stakeholders, many of whom are also providing strategic infrastructure and projects for Dublin City.

The Forum brings state agencies and statutory bodies together to identify opportunities for collaboration, and to share ideas and information on planned infrastructure works across the city.

This collaboration has resulted in many positive opportunities across the Powering Up Dublin programme to date. We know that it is only by working together across all sectors of society that Ireland will achieve its Climate Action Plan target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

What's Happening Now?

The feedback we collected through the consultation and other stakeholder engagement, along with greater technical examination of each route, has allowed EirGrid to determine the Best Performing Options for three of the cable routes presented in 2023.

We have now published the Best Performing Options for three of the cable routes associated with Powering Up Dublin:

- Carrickmines to Poolbeg
- North Wall to Poolbeg
- Finglas to North Wall

Further work is required to finalise the two remaining routes needed to connect the Inchicore electricity substation to the Poolbeg electricity substation. We will publish the Best Performing Options for these routes later this year.



You Spoke, We Listened

EirGrid received 91 submissions during the public consultation on the Emerging Best Performing Route options for Powering Up Dublin. These submissions, along with on-the-ground engagement with community groups, businesses and major infrastructure operators and regulators highlighted a number of pinch points and potential alternatives. This collaboration has resulted in a better, more efficient cable replacement programme, minimising impacts on traffic, communities, businesses and the environment.

There have been some changes to the proposed routes that have happened as a direct result of EirGrid speaking with communities, businesses and through the Dublin Infrastructure Forum. Some of these are outlined below:

When speaking with local communities, it was suggested that the route could travel through the grounds of Leopardstown Racecourse rather than travelling along the N31. A number of respondents stated that this would reduce traffic congestion through Murphystown and the Ballyogan Road. The Best Performing Option, therefore, runs through the grounds of the racecourse which will reduce traffic impacts on residents, commuters, and businesses, reducing road impacts by over 1km.

Further engagement in the Blackrock area highlighted the significant number of schools around the Newtownpark Avenue area, and the associated traffic during school run hours. Rather than travelling down Newtownpark Avenue, the route will now run through the housing estates parallel to Newtownpark Avenue, travelling down Carysfort Avenue towards the coastline. This significant change will reduce the impact to an important route,



making the works more sustainable and less disruptive for communities in the Blackrock area.

We will carry out additional assessments as the programme progresses into the next phase, which will further refine the route.

These assessments will include site investigations, continued engagement with landowners and communities, and identifying nature inclusive design options for marine cable protection with proven benefits for marine wildlife.

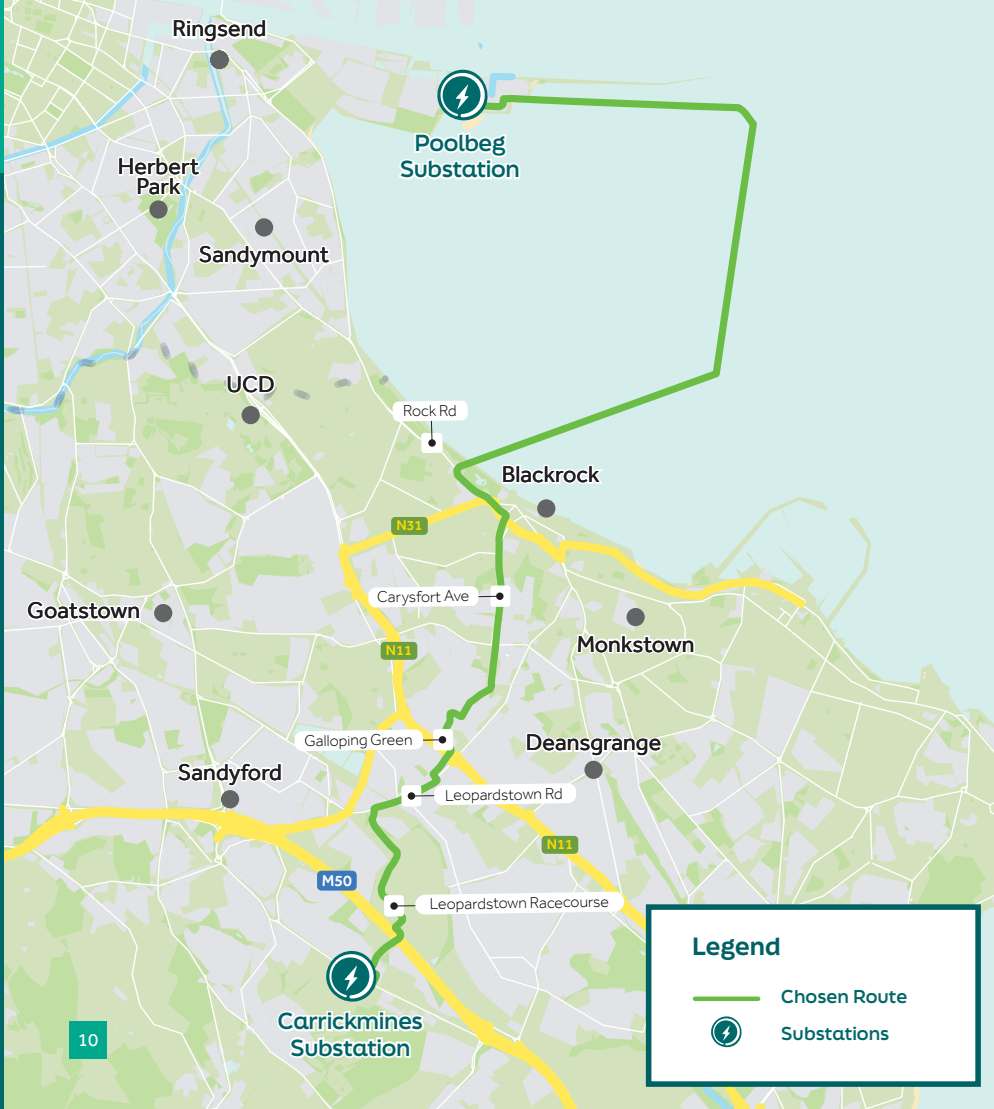


Offshore Route

A key feature of the Best Performing Option for this route is the marine crossing of South Dublin Bay. This crossing received support from stakeholders and will significantly reduce impact on traffic.

We have made every effort to ensure that the plans have as little impact on the environment as possible, and we will continue with environmental assessments to maintain this. EirGrid is more than just committed to avoiding impacts on biodiversity. We are also committed to restoring and enhancing nature. One way to do this on our offshore cable projects is to use 'Nature Inclusive' cable protection. This means the rock armour protecting the cables under water will have rough edges that will support algae, crustaceans, molluscs, fish, and other species.





Best Performing Option

Carrickmines to Poolbeg

The Best Performing Option identified for Carrickmines to Poolbeg is a revised route based on the option previously identified as Option I during the public engagement process.

General concerns were raised across the area relating to impacts on traffic, businesses, and the environment, as well as high levels of ongoing infrastructure projects. Therefore, we assessed the route and made a number of changes. These changes were made following particular focus on the feedback from landowners, businesses, stakeholders, and local communities.

Legend

- Chosen Route
- Substations

Route Description

The Best Performing Option for this route begins at the boundary of the Carrickmines electricity substation on Ballyogan Road. The precise route out of the substation will be confirmed during the next phase of the programme.

The cable route then crosses the Luas Green Line at Ballyogan Road towards Ballyogan Avenue. From there, it will run parallel to the M50 by the Stepside Educate Together Secondary School, and travel under the M50 at the point identified as the best crossing location. During later phases, further geotechnical assessments will confirm the exact crossing location.

The route then crosses Leopardstown Racecourse from the M50 crossing location to Leopardstown Road until it reaches the junction of Leopardstown Road and Torquay Wood. It will then go northeast onto Westminster Lawns, and travel through the estate adjacent to the N11.

The cable route will then cross the N11 towards Belmont Lawn. Assessments are ongoing as to how to complete the works with minimal traffic impact, with nightworks being considered.

From Belmont Lawn, the route will then travel on to Ardagh Park Road, through Ardagh Close and down Carysfort Avenue. It is envisioned that the works required on these roads will combine with planned active travel upgrades in the area to minimise impacts on residents.

From Carysfort Avenue, the route then travels onto the N31 (Frascati Road), along the Rock Road and turns east into Blackrock Park. The route will then pass under the DART railway and use a submarine cable to cross South Dublin Bay from Blackrock Park and on towards the Shelley Banks car park at Poolbeg.

Finally, the route will travel from the Shelley Banks car park along Shelley Banks Road to the Poolbeg substation. The exact route into the substation will be confirmed in the next phase of the programme.

Further Information

You can find further information - including detailed maps, the consultation report, technical reports and feasibility studies – on our dedicated Powering Up Dublin webpage: eirgrid.ie/dublin

Frequently Asked Questions

Will this project cause disruption?

Yes, but to help minimise disruption and work as efficiently as possible, EirGrid is coordinating closely with other state-owned utilities, transport providers, local authorities and many more. We have set up the Dublin Infrastructure Forum with various working groups to support this coordination. Consideration will be given regarding the approach to the construction phase and potential measures, such as traffic management, to minimise traffic disturbance.

Will there be road closures associated with the works?

Where routes are narrow, roads may need to be closed. This will be determined and agreed in advance of construction with the local authority and full traffic management plans will be agreed. Businesses and communities will be notified in advance of any closures.

When will construction begin?

Works are expected to start on this project in 2025, completion is targeted for 2028.

Will the offshore cable have a negative impact on the environment?

EirGrid will prioritise placing the cable running through South Dublin Bay outside the Special Area of Conservation, where possible. During design and construction of the cable, every effort is being made to ensure that the plans have as little impact on the environment as possible. Surveys at the cable launch and landfall sites will inform continued efforts to identify

locations requiring mitigation for wildlife, including Brent Geese and other wetland bird feeding and roosting areas, and roosting Tern sites near Poolbeg.

Why has the offshore cable launch site changed?

Further investigation revealed that there was not enough space in the car park adjacent to the Monkstown site to fit the drilling equipment needed to install the cable. A number of alternatives along the coast were investigated between Dún Laoghaire and Merrion Gate. As a result of this process, Blackrock Park was identified as the best location.

Will the offshore route require a licence or consent?

Yes, the offshore route requires a Maritime Licence and Maritime Area Consent (MAC) to carry out surveys and construction in Dublin Bay. As part of the process both MARA and An Bord Pleanála must approve or consent certain activities.

Is this the final route?

We believe that the route presented in this document represents the Best Performing Route Option from stakeholder engagements and technical assessments carried out so far. Before construction a wide range of studies, investigations, and surveys will be completed to inform the detailed design of the route. Surveys include archaeology, ecology, marine investigations, ground investigations, utility surveys, hydrology, and technical assessments.

We do not expect any material changes to the current proposed route, but in the event of such a change being required, further engagement with stakeholders will take place.

What are the next steps?

EirGrid will continue to engage with local communities and stakeholders, whilst surveys and site investigations are being progressed. Where appropriate, the route

will be refined based on feedback or other additional technical or environmental information.

We will also be progressing preparation of planning applications with the expectation of applying for the relevant permissions, where required, later in 2024.

Will there be community benefit attached to Powering Up Dublin?

As part of Powering Up Dublin, we will work to give back to communities as part of our Community Benefit Policy. Our support will focus on the themes of community, sustainability, and biodiversity. We will be led by local stakeholders on the best ways to use the community benefit funds set aside for these projects, so that those organisations, clubs, and groups who have the most positive impact in these communities are supported. For every underground cable we put in place, we will contribute 3% of the cost of the cable to the fund.



Information Events

EirGrid will be holding a number of pop-up information events to provide members of the public with information on each of the selected routes. These events offer an opportunity for interested people and groups to:

- speak with a member of the technical team and our Community Liaison Officer,
- view detailed maps of the routes, and
- ask questions or discuss issues that may arise regarding the selected routes.

These events are drop-in and you do not need to make an appointment. Our team is also happy to meet with individuals, community and business groups on a one-to-one basis if requested.

The details of the events are as follows:



6th February, 11am - 7pm
Charelstown Shopping Centre,
Finglas



8th February, 11am - 7pm
Leopardstown Village Centre,
Ballyogan



12th February, 11am - 4pm
Sean O'Casey Community Centre,
East Wall



15th February, 11am - 7pm
Frascati Centre, Blackrock



20th February, 11am - 7pm
Frascati Centre, Blackrock



22nd February, 11am - 7pm
Clearwater, Finglas



Get in Touch

If you would like to receive further information, or you require any documentation in another format, please get in touch by emailing dublin@eirgrid.ie or by writing to us to the following address:

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You can also contact our Community Liaison Officer:



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