



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

# Powering Up Dublin

Finglas to  
North Wall / North Wall  
to Poolbeg Routes  
(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 demand for electricity has grown and will continue to grow as we 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 Finglas substation to North Wall substation route and the North Wall 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](https://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:

## Finglas to North Wall

Some concerns were raised about traffic congestion on Finglas Road, including funeral traffic to Glasnevin Cemetery. Potential impacts on retail businesses and their distribution networks were also highlighted during the consultation. Following the feedback and engagement with local stakeholders, we determined that, given the lower level of traffic congestion on Ratoath Road, this route is a better option.

Technical surveys along with key stakeholder engagement has determined that the originally proposed crossing through existing service tunnels was unfeasible due to utility congestion. Instead, the cable will cross under the M50 using a Horizontal Directional Drill. This is not expected to have any impact on M50 traffic.





### What is a Horizontal Directional Drill?

Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) is a method of drilling that installs underground ducting and cables without digging trenches. It drills along the chosen path underneath the infrastructure and the required duct is installed.



### What is Advanced Ducting?

Advanced ducting means when the roads are being opened for other works, there is an opportunity for our ducting to be included so as to minimise disruption in the future.





There were concerns about public transport infrastructure and minimising impact on areas that have planned works scheduled. One example is the proposed MetroLink station at Glasnevin which would have had an engineering conflict with our ducts. However, following the Multi Criteria Assessment of many route options, public consultation feedback, and collaboration with other developers within Dublin, an alternative section along Finglas Road was identified. This will allow the route to bypass the conflict area and to re-join with the original proposed route. A similar process was followed to avoid potential conflict with proposed development on Iarnród Éireann lands near the North Wall Quay section of the route.

Working with Dublin City Council and Dublin Port Company, we were able to identify opportunities to collaborate to minimise impact on communities. It was determined that an alternative route is possible to coincide with the planned

Liffey-Tolka Greenway. The space that will be created through this collaboration will allow the cable route to avoid the congested roadway and complete the works in a more sustainable and efficient way.

Close engagement with Dublin Port Company identified further that there were planned works which could facilitate the installation of advanced ducting along Precinct Road and beside the Dublin Port building. The route can now cross a site running parallel to East Wall Road rather than on the road itself. Combining this work will reduce traffic disruption and shorten construction timelines.

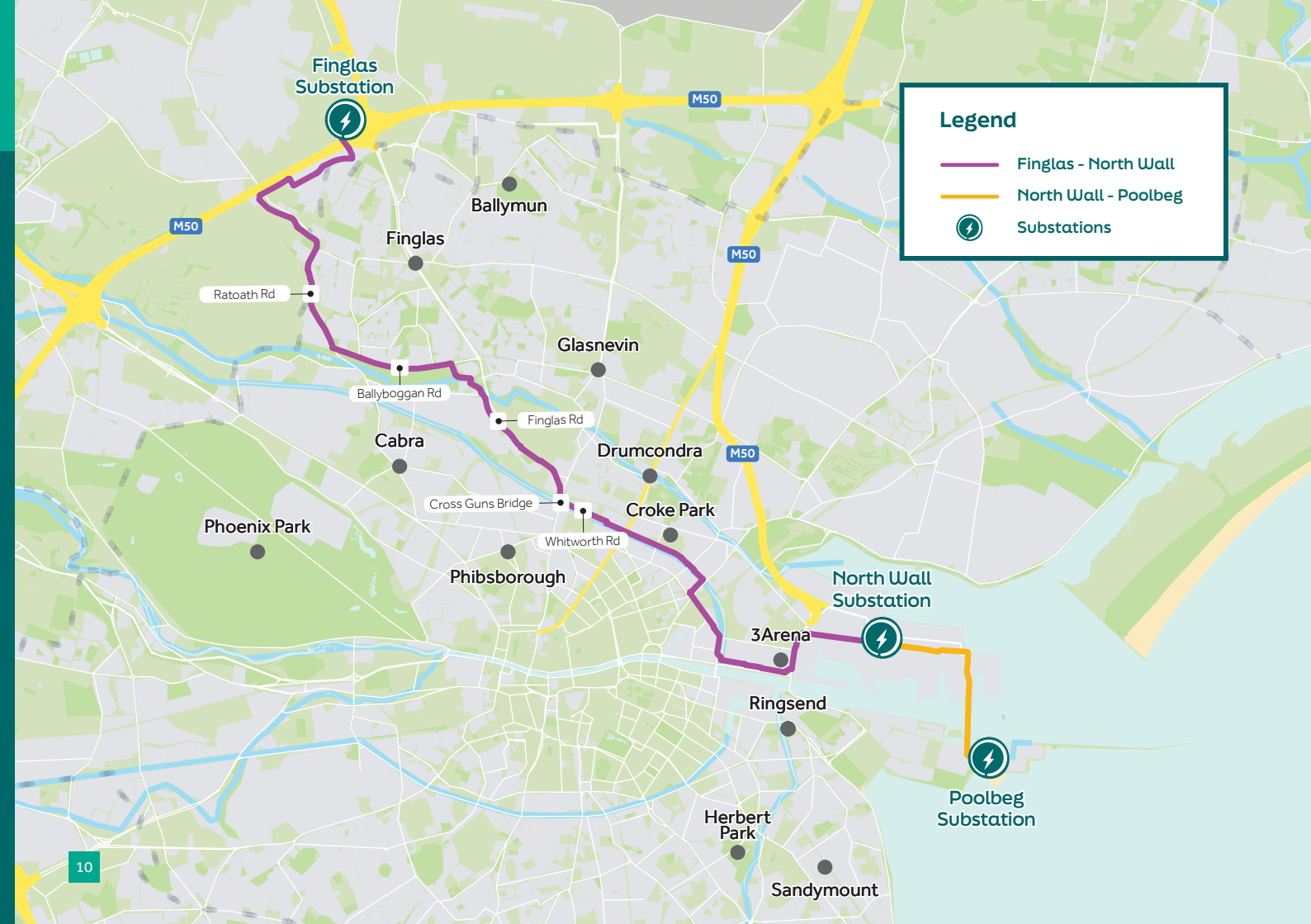
### **North Wall to Poolbeg**

As this route is close to the coastline, there were a number of concerns raised by the public and stakeholders about environmental protection and the impact the works could have on local wildlife.

EirGrid carried out several environmental and ecological assessments to identify the route that would have the lowest impact on local wildlife. Further consideration will be given to construction timeframes where seasonal wildlife could be disrupted.

Dublin Port Company highlighted that there were planned works which could facilitate the installation of advanced ducting along Alexandra Road and Terminal Road South as part of the Tolka Estuary Greenway scheme.

Combining this work will reduce traffic disruption and shorten construction timelines, improving the deliverability of the route and avoiding road impacts.



Finglas Substation

### Legend

- Finglas - North Wall
- North Wall - Poolbeg
- Substations

M50

M50

M50

M50

Ratoath Rd

Ballyboggan Rd

Finglas Rd

Cross Guns Bridge

Whitworth Rd

North Wall Substation

3Arena

Ringsend

Poolbeg Substation

Herbert Park

Sandymount

## Best Performing Option

# Finglas to North Wall

## Route Description

The Best Performing Option identified for Finglas to North Wall is a development of the route previously identified as Option A during the public consultation in 2023.

### Finglas Substation to Ratoath Road

The Finglas to North Wall cable begins at the Finglas substation north of Junction 5 on the M50. It will run through farmlands from here. EirGrid intends to then use a Horizontal Directional Drill (HDD) to tunnel under the M50, reducing impacts on traffic.

From the M50, the route will run through North Park Industrial Estate and North City Business Park, turning northwest to run parallel along the M50 up to Cappagh

Road. The route will follow Cappagh Road on to Ratoath Road, avoiding impacts on traffic where possible.

### Tolka Valley Park to Finglas Road

From Ratoath Road, the route turns east and runs along the southern side of the Tolka Valley Road until it reaches Tolka Valley Park. It will run along the eastern edge of the park and join the footpath beside the Tolka river. It will then cross the river underground. EirGrid will use a HDD or other trenchless technology to avoid disrupting the river. The specific technology will depend on the outcome of further site investigations in the next phase of the project.

From the Tolka river, the route continues to follow the footpath in the park out to Finglas Road. It will then continue down through Finglas Road and Prospect Road as far as Cross Guns Bridge.

### Cross Guns Bridge to North Wall substation

At Cross Guns Bridge, the route will cross over the railway lines within the planned pedestrian bridges to be built as part of BusConnects Core Bus Corridor Scheme for Ballymun/Finglas. It will then join the advanced ducting installed along the Royal Canal Greenway. The detailed design for the bridge crossing will take place in the next phase of this project.

The route is expected to travel to the North Wall substation along the southern side of Alexandra Road to avoid the railway lines on the northern side, however this will be subject to detailed design in the next phase of the programme.

# North Wall to Poolbeg

## Route Description

The Best Performing Option identified for North Wall to Poolbeg is the route previously identified as Option D during the public engagement process. Following route refinement, this route will be 400 meters shorter than Option D as it was presented during the public consultation.

### North Wall substation to River Liffey

The cable route begins at the North Wall electricity substation on Alexandra Road.

The cable will then travel along Alexandra Road before turning south along Terminal Road South, continuing to a launch pit for the crossing of the River Liffey.

### River Liffey to Poolbeg substation

The route will then cross the River Liffey to Poolbeg, launching from the Irish Ferries carpark. Here, it will cross over to the Poolbeg side of the river, landing near the Uisce Éireann Wastewater Treatment Works subject to ongoing collaboration with Uisce Éireann, and licencing.

Tunnelling is considered the only feasible technology for this crossing and will be subject to planning and environmental considerations. The proposed tunnel-crossing reception shaft (exit point) is located very close to the substation, and the final route technology will be confirmed during the following project phase.



# 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](http://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.

### When will construction begin?

Advanced ducting work has already taken place on the Finglas to North Wall route along the Royal Canal Greenway. Further construction will start in 2024. North Wall to Poolbeg construction is yet to be determined, but it is expected that it will take place in late 2024 or early 2025.

### 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 before construction with the local authority and full traffic management plans will be agreed. Businesses and communities will be notified in advance of any closures.

### Is the route final?

The routes presented in this document are the Best Performing Option(s) following local engagement and EirGrid's own assessments. A wide range of studies, investigations, and surveys will be

completed to inform the development of the route. Surveys include archaeology, ecology, marine investigations, ground investigations, utility surveys, hydrology, and technical assessments.

No further major changes to the existing routes are envisaged, but in the event of a requirement for such a change, further engagement with stakeholders will take place.

### What are the next steps?

EirGrid will continue to engage with local communities and stakeholders. We will also complete further surveys and site investigations. Where appropriate we will refine routes on the basis of feedback and additional information. For every underground cable we put in place, we will contribute 3% of the cost of the cable to the Community Benefit fund.

## Will there be community benefit attached to this project?

Yes, while Powering Up Dublin is underway, 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.

## How will impacts on wildlife along the coast be managed?

EirGrid will engage with environmental stakeholders such as Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Uisce Éireann and local authority heritage officers. In support of EirGrid's commitment to nature restoration, we will include biodiversity enhancements in our designs (such as native species-rich

replanting of temporary construction areas). This will be done in consultation with the relevant stakeholders.

## 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  
Chapelstown 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](mailto:dublin@eirgrid.ie) or by writing to us to the following address:

Powering Up Dublin  
EirGrid PLC  
160 Shelbourne Road  
Ballsbridge  
Dublin  
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You can also contact our Community Liaison Officer:



**Liz Dillon**  
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087 188 7982



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