



CLASHAVOON-DUNMANWAY Project





Clashavoon - Dunmanway Project

About EirGrid

EirGrid, a state-owned company, is the national operator of the electricity grid.

The National Grid is an interconnected network of high voltage power lines and cables, the equivalent of the main roads, dual carriageways and motorways of the road network.

EirGrid's role is to operate, plan and develop the grid to provide customers throughout the country - from rural areas, to homes, business parks, hospitals and sports fields - with a safe, secure, reliable and efficient electricity supply.

EirGrid have developed a strategy called Grid25 to deliver the development of Ireland's electricity Grid for a Sustainable and Competitive Future

What is Grid25?

Grid25 is EirGrid's plan to develop and upgrade the electricity transmission network from now until 2025.

This major initiative will put in place a safe, secure and affordable electricity supply throughout Ireland. This is a major undertaking which will take several years, represents an investment of €4 billion.

Grid25 is critical to Ireland's future from both an economic as well as environmental standpoint, and will help secure Ireland's energy needs for the next generations.

Under Grid25, €730 million will be invested in the development of the electricity transmission network for the south west region.

One of the projects under this €730 million investment is the Clashavoon-Dunmanway project which is detailed next. It is vital that this new electricity infrastructure is built to ensure that the region meets the standards required of a safe and secure electricity system.

What is proposed?

A new 110 kV electricity circuit is proposed to connect to the existing Clashavoon electricity substation, which is located north east of Macroom Co. Cork, and the existing Dunmanway electricity substation located on the outskirts of Dunmanway Co. Cork. The proposed new circuit will be of similar construction to the existing Dunmanway Macroom line shown in the fig.1 below.

Why is this needed?

The proposed development is required to remedy two identified transmission network problems in South West Cork.

- **Increase security of electricity supply**

Currently the electricity supply in South West Cork is maintained by two 110 kV transmission lines, the Dunmanway – Macroom 110 kV line and the Bandon – Raffeen 110 kV line. During routine maintenance of either line, the subsequent loss of the other line would mean that South West Cork would lose its electricity supply and leave the towns of Bandon, Bantry, Dunmanway and extended areas around them, without power.

- **Facilitate connection of renewable generation**

There is a significant amount of renewable generation connected or seeking to connect in South West Cork. The current transmission network configuration and capacity is not capable of accommodating the connection of this amount of renewable generation.

It is vital that new electricity infrastructure is built to ensure that the region meets the standards required of a safe and secure electricity system.

Fig.1 Existing Dunmanway-Macroom 110 kV line



Your Views are Important to Us

We welcome all suggestions and queries.

Please study the map on the next page and tell us your views on the preferred route corridor. All correspondence will be dealt with confidentially.

How was the preferred corridor determined?

Several key **criteria & inputs** were taken into account by the consultants when choosing this route corridor for the proposed overhead line:

Criteria

Visual Impact:

An assessment of the visual impact of the proposal on the environment was carried out in order to minimise the impact.

Community:

An assessment of the local villages and communities was undertaken to reduce the proximity of the power lines to them and ensure minimal impact on lifestyles of those living and working in nearby communities.

Ecology:

A review of conservation designated areas, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Area (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) was completed.

Cultural Heritage:

Architectural and archaeological heritage sites, including recorded archaeological monuments and places, protected structures, and national monuments, were assessed in an attempt to minimise any impact.

Landscape:

A review of County Development Plans was undertaken in order to assess the numbers of scenic views, scenic routes, and vulnerable landscapes in the area.

Geology:

Soil, subsoil and bedrock data was used to characterise & determine geological constraints.

Water:

The surface water features were reviewed, as lakes are to be avoided and river crossings minimised.

Inputs

Public Consultation:

The identification of constraints also included consultation with statutory and non-statutory consultees as well as the general public.

Aerial Photography:

Aerial photography for the study area was obtained. This aerial photography was used as a basis for the constraints mapping and was in itself used as a means of identifying project constraints.

OSI Mapping:

OSI Mapping under licence was obtained and used to identify possible constraints.

An Post GeoDirectory:

The An Post GeoDirectory identifies the precise address and location of residential and commercial property in Ireland. Information was obtained and mapped along with ongoing reviews of publically available data from Cork County Council.

Local History:

The study area is particularly interesting in regard to Irish History and every effort has been made to identify and give due recognition and protection to any sites discovered.

Site Visit:

Frequent site visits were made by the project team to get a full appreciation of all identified constraints and the general appreciation of the topography/landscape of the study area.

Current Preferred Route Corridor



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- ▭ Study Area
- ▭ Current Preferred Corridor
- ▭ Special Area of Conservation
- ▭ Proposed Natural Heritage Area
- ▭ Special Area of Protection
- Whooper Swan Constrained Area
- ▭ Scenic Landscapes
- ▭ Foresty
- ▭ Scenic Routes
- ▭ Michael Collins Anilash Site
- ▭ An Gaeltacht
- ▭ Macroom Town Council
- ▭ CAHCS Designated Walk
- ▭ 110 kV Overhead Line Network
- ▭ 220kV Overhead Line Network
- ▭ Proposed Macroom Bypass
- ▭ 38kV Overhead Line Network
- ▭ Bord Gas Transmission Line

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PROJECT:
Clashavoon - Dunmanway 110kV project

DRAWING TITLE:
Current Preferred Route Corridor Map

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Planning Application Project Roadmap



Next Steps

- Lead consultant & environmental consultants will shortly commence the fieldwork phase of their studies.
- Publication of the Phase 2 Lead Consultants Report within which the preferred line route will be identified.
- It is intended to submit the planning application for this project directly to An Bord Pleanála under the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure Act) 2006. Details of the planning process can be found on the An Bord Pleanála website: www.pleanala.ie

Benefits

- The new electrical infrastructure will allow the region to utilise its rich renewable energy resources.
- The development of the renewable energy sector is an important element in driving future job creation and is a key platform for economic recovery.
- To support growth and development in the region and ensure security of supply for the future.
- A strong electricity network will help boost existing industry in the South West when competing for business and inward development in the area.

Timelines

- This new infrastructure is required to be fully operational by 2014.
- A planning application is expected to be lodged with An Bord Pleanála in 2011.

Contact Us

EirGrid is committed to ensuring that all members of the public are fully aware of the project and encourage you to participate in public consultation. If you would like to discuss the project or to meet with a member of the project team, please contact us by either telephone or email. Otherwise, consult our website for regular updates.

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GRID25

DELIVERING IRELAND'S ELECTRICITY FUTURE

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