



Powering Up Offshore South Coast

Step 4a Consultation
and Information

September 2026





Who is EirGrid?

EirGrid develops, manages and operates Ireland's electricity grid. We are responsible for ensuring the safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity, connecting power generated onshore and offshore to homes, businesses and communities across Ireland. As we plan and build the grid for the future, we are enabling the transition to clean energy and supporting Ireland's social and economic growth.

What is Powering Up Offshore - South Coast?

The Government's Climate Action Plan aims for 80% of Ireland's energy from renewable sources. A big part of this plan is generating enough electricity from offshore wind farms to power millions of homes and businesses (5 gigawatts in total).

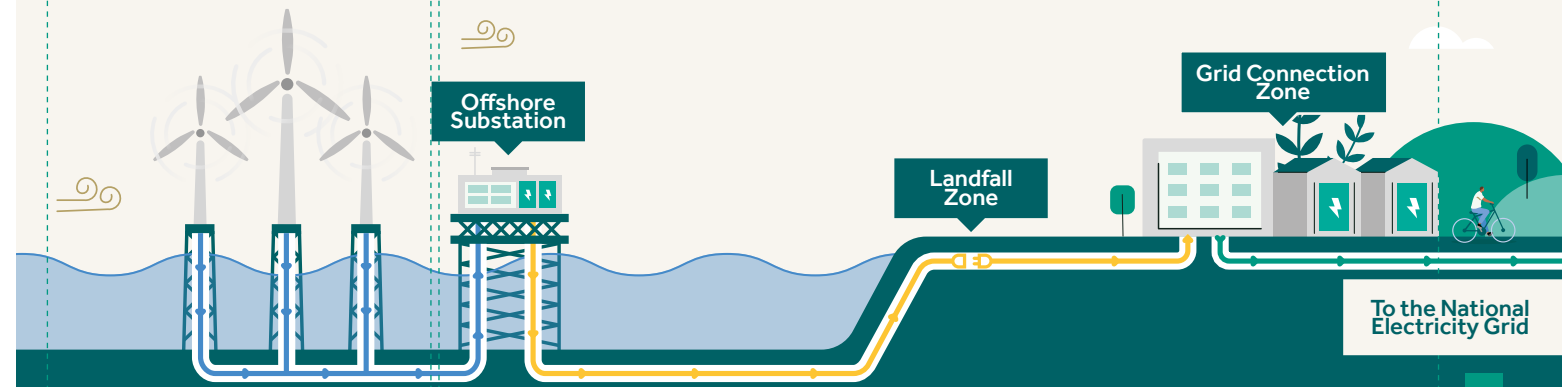
To make this possible, EirGrid is delivering the Powering Up Offshore – South Coast project, which will design and build the new electricity infrastructure needed to connect offshore wind farms off Ireland's south coast to the national electricity grid.

Tonn Nua Wind Farm

In November 2025, a joint venture partnership between ESB and Denmark-based renewable energy developer Ørsted, won the Government auction to design and develop the Tonn Nua offshore wind farm.

New Electricity Infrastructure

EirGrid will build the new infrastructure needed to connect the electricity from the Tonn Nua Wind Farm to the national electricity grid.



Project Benefits



Sustainability

This project will enable homes and businesses across the Irish coast and beyond to use electricity generated from offshore renewable energy.



Security and reliability of supply

Building a more independent, resilient and reliable electricity grid helps ensure that everyone has power when and where they need it.



Social and community

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



Meet future needs

As our society and economy develops, the programme will help us meet the growing demand for electricity, without increasing our carbon footprint.



Economic

This critical programme will help strengthen the economy across coastal regions, encouraging and supporting industry investment with accessibility to a strong electricity grid.



South coast offshore wind energy plans

Ireland is taking a plan-led approach to offshore renewable energy through a series of Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMAPs). The South Coast DMAP was the first of these plans, identifying four maritime areas in the Celtic Sea to host the development of offshore wind energy.

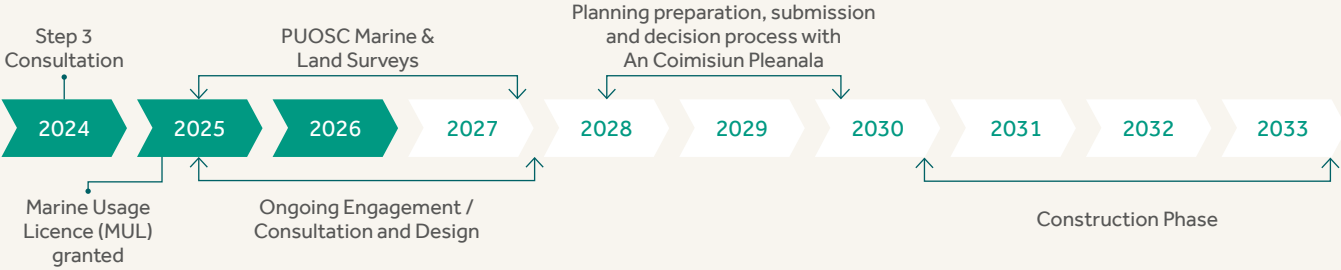
The first of these areas to be developed is Tonn Nua, located approximately 12 kilometres off the coast of County Waterford. Covering an area of approximately 306 km², Tonn Nua is expected to generate up to 900 Megawatts of renewable electricity when complete, making it a key project in Ireland's transition to a cleaner, more secure energy future, and to meet the requirements within the Government's Climate Action Plan.



Our 6 Step Approach to Project Development



EirGrid Project Timeline



What has happened so far?

Step 2

During Step 2, EirGrid identified that the electricity from the proposed Tonn Nua offshore wind farm would need to be connected to the electricity grid at two locations. This is because the existing electricity grid does not have enough capacity in a single location.

Step 3

EirGrid published the Step 3 Emerging Best Performing Options Report and then, between November 2024 and January 2025, EirGrid carried out a Public Consultation for feedback on the proposed landfall zone options (where offshore cables could come ashore) and onshore grid connection zone areas.

The feedback received during this consultation helped shape and refine the options that are now being presented in Step 4a.

What is happening now?

Step 4a

We are now consulting on the emerging best performing options (EBPOs) currently under review.

This brochure presents:

- **EBPO landfalls:** where the offshore cables could come ashore;
- **EBPO offshore substation zones:** the areas where offshore substations are located;
- **EBPO offshore cable corridors:** the broad areas which submarine cables will travel through;



- **EBPO grid connection subzones:** where the new cables could connect into the existing electricity grid; and
- **EBPO onshore cable corridors:** where underground cables could be routed between the landfalls and the grid connection subzones.

These options have been refined following studies carried out to date and feedback received during the Step 3 public consultation.

These options will continue to be assessed as more information and feedback is gathered.

What is an emerging best performing option (EBPO)?

EBPOs are the site and route options that are currently considered the most deliverable overall. They will continue to be studied and refined, taking account of technical assessments and feedback from local communities and stakeholders.

To identify EBPOs, EirGrid applies a comprehensive and consistent multi criteria analysis (MCA) to our decision making. This analysis looks at a wide range of information, including engineering studies, environmental surveys and information about the area, such as geology, infrastructure and local communities.

Each option is assessed against five key criteria:

- Economic
- Technical
- Deliverability
- Environmental
- Socio-economic

The options that perform best across all of these areas are taken forward for further evaluation. This next stage helps us capture valuable local knowledge and feedback from communities, landowners, fisheries and other stakeholders, in addition to the results of the technical studies.



Powering Up Offshore - South Coast Indicative Overview of Infrastructure

To the National
Electricity Grid

Grid Connection Subzone

A new onshore compensation compound which stabilises the wind energy coming from offshore.

A new substation which connects the wind energy to the existing national electricity grid.

Underground Transmission Cables

Underground cables continue onshore to the grid connection subzone.

Underground joint bays are used to connect lengths of underground cable at regular intervals along the route.

Please note that off-road and on-road route options are still under consideration.

Landfall Zone

This is where the submarine transmission cable will come ashore and join with onshore cables in an underground bay called a transition joint bay.

Submarine Transmission Cables

These cables will travel from the offshore substations to the landfalls.

Offshore Substation

Offshore substations receive the electricity generated by the wind turbines before sending it through the offshore cables to the landfall.

Wind Farm

This will be developed by a private developer called Tonn Nua.

For further details, please see page 3.

Not to scale. For illustrative purposes only - does not denote final routes or sites.

What is a landfall zone?

A landfall zone is the place where the submarine transmission cable will come ashore and join with onshore cables in an underground onshore transition joint bay (TJB).

Both of the current EBPO landfalls have associated offshore substation zones and cable route corridors.

What is an offshore substation zone?

An offshore substation zone is the area within the Tonn Nua DMAP where an offshore substation can be located. Offshore substations receive the electricity generated by the wind turbines before sending it through the offshore cables to the landfall.

What is an offshore cable corridor?

Offshore submarine cables will travel from the offshore substations to the landfalls through planned offshore cable corridors. These broad corridors are currently being studied before the best performing cable route is chosen.



Where are the EBPO landfall zones, offshore substation zones, and offshore cable corridors?

In Step 3, EirGrid looked at seven possible locations where the offshore cables could come ashore.

After carrying out further technical, environmental and engineering assessments, and considering the feedback received during the public consultation, two locations have emerged as the best performing options:

- Landfall C in Cork; and
- Landfall F in Wexford.

Landfall C in Cork

Landfall C is located on the East Cork coast, between Garryvoe Beach and Ballinwilling Beach.

Two possible offshore cable corridors have also been identified to connect the offshore substation to this landfall. The associated offshore substation zone (OSS-1) was identified as emerging best performing option, during the MCA process.

Landfall F in Wexford

Landfall F is located at The Long Gap, also known as Bannow Bay Beach, in County Wexford. An associated offshore cable corridor and an associated offshore substation zone (OSS-3) were identified as the emerging best performing options during the MCA process.

What happens next?

Both the Cork and Wexford landfall options will now be studied in more detail. The outcome of these studies will be considered alongside consultation feedback before the Best Performing Options (BPOs) are confirmed.

If you would like more detail on the assessments carried out so far, you can find them in the Powering Up Offshore Step 4a Report.

View the full Step 4a Report at [EirGrid.ie/south-coast-offshore#project-documents](https://eirgrid.ie/south-coast-offshore#project-documents) or scan the QR code below.



Legend

Existing 220 kV OHL

EBPO Landfall

Onshore Grid Connection Sub-zone Options

CRK - 01 CRK - 01

CRK - 02 CRK - 02 (EBPO)

CRK - 03 CRK - 03

CRK - 04 CRK - 04 (EBPO)

Indicative Onshore Transmission Cable Route Corridors

CRK - TC1

CRK - TC4

CRK - TC2

CRK - TC3 (EBPO)

Landfall Egress / Area of Focus

Offshore Substation Zone

Offshore Substation Cork

Offshore Substation Wexford

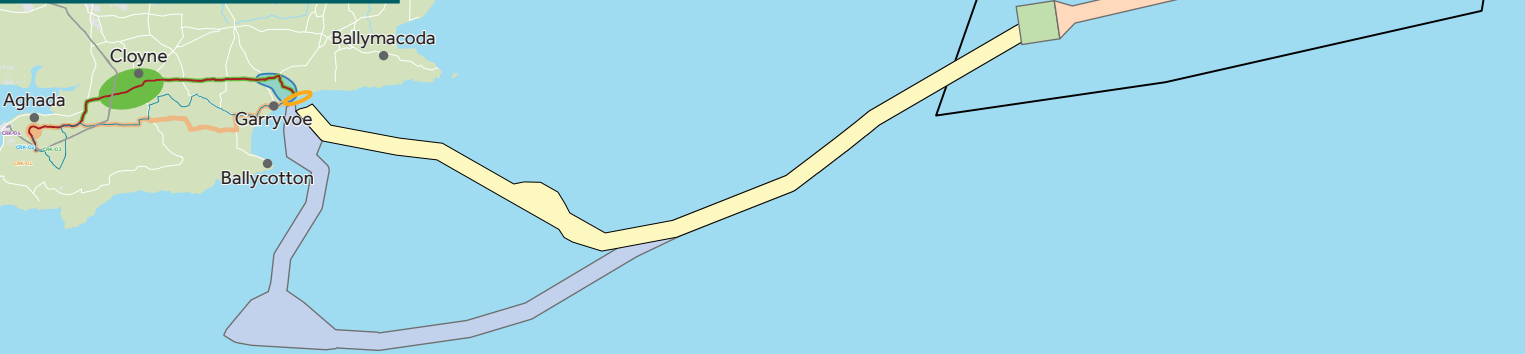
Offshore Substation Interconnection Cable

Offshore Cable Route Corridors

Offshore Transmission Cable Route Corridor C

Offshore Transmission Cable Route Corridor C1

Tonn Hua Maritime Area



Cork Emerging Best Performing Options

Legend

EBPO Landfall

Onshore Grid Connection Sub-zone Options

CRK - 01 CRK - 01

CRK - 02 CRK - 02 (EBPO)

CRK - 03 CRK - 03

CRK - 04 CRK - 04 (EBPO)

Indicative Onshore Transmission Cable Route Corridors

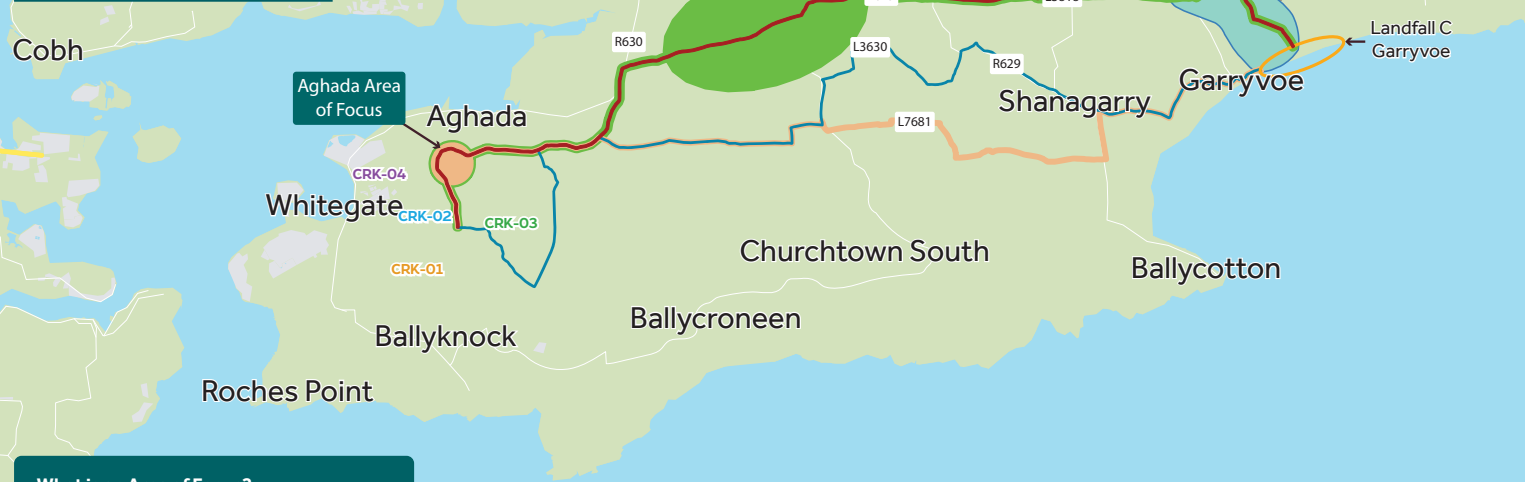
CRK - TC1

CRK - TC4

CRK - TC2

CRK - TC3 (EBPO)

Landfall Egress / Area of Focus



What is an Area of Focus?

An Area of Focus is a location where more information is needed. It does not represent a preferred cable route. Instead, it highlights an area where further environmental, engineering and technical work, together with ongoing engagement, will help identify the most appropriate way forward.

Legend

EBPO Landfall

Onshore Grid Connection Subzone Area of Focus

Onshore Grid Connection Sub-zone Options

WXD-06

WXD-06 (EBPO)

WXD-09

WXD-09 (EBPO)

Indicative Onshore Transmission Cable Route Corridors Wexford (50m)

WXD - TC1

WXD - TC2 (EBPO)

WXD - TC3

WXD - TC4

WXD - TC5

Wellingtonbridge/Bannow Bay Area of Focus

Wellington Bridge South Corridor (EBPO)

Offshore Substation Zone

Offshore Substation Cork

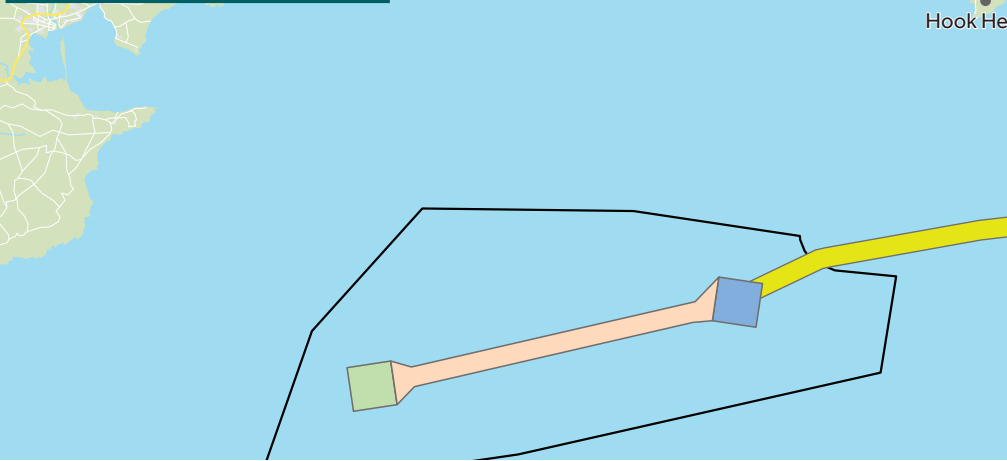
Offshore Substation Wexford

Offshore Substation Interconnection Cable

Offshore Cable Route Corridors

Offshore Transmission Cable Route Corridor F

Tonn Nua Maritime Area



Wexford Emerging Best Performing Options

Legend

EBPO Landfall

Onshore Grid Connection Subzone Area of Focus

Onshore Grid Connection Sub-zone Options

WXD-06

WXD-06 (EBPO)

WXD-09

WXD-09 (EBPO)

Indicative Onshore Transmission Cable Route Corridors Wexford (50m)

WXD - TC1

WXD - TC2 (EBPO)

Alternative WXD - TC2 options

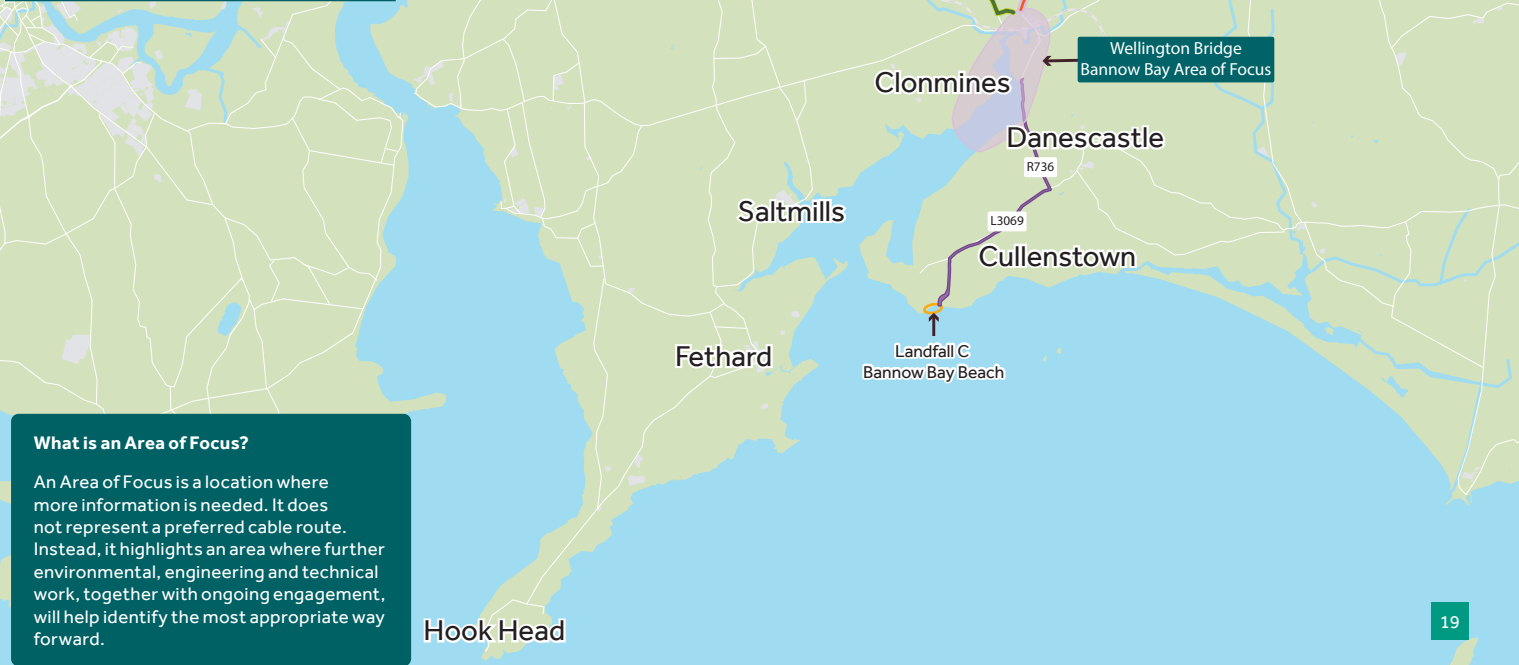
WXD - TC3

WXD - TC4

WXD - TC5

Wellingtonbridge/Bannow Bay Area of Focus

Wellington Bridge South Corridor (EBPO)



What is a grid connection subzone?

This is the area in which the new electricity infrastructure needed to connect the offshore wind farm to Ireland's existing electricity grid will be built.

This infrastructure will include:

- An onshore compensation compound, which contains electrical equipment that helps manage and stabilise the electricity coming from the offshore wind farm, before it enters the national grid.
- A new substation, located beside the compensation compound, where the electricity from the offshore wind farm is connected to the existing transmission network.
- A short connection between the new substation and the existing high-voltage transmission line, allowing the offshore wind farm to connect into the electricity grid. From here, it can be safely transported through the national grid to homes, businesses and communities across Ireland.

Where are the EBPO Grid connection subzones?

To identify grid connection subzones during Step 4a, the larger grid connection zones presented at Step 3 were refined into smaller areas for consideration. These areas were reviewed against a range of engineering, environmental, planning, land use and deliverability factors, informed by technical studies and engagement with landowners and other stakeholders. This work informed the identification of the Emerging Best Performing Option (EBPO) grid connection subzones.

The location of the EBPOs reflects the outcome of this process. As part of the assessment, proximity to existing electricity transmission infrastructure was one of a number of factors taken into account, as this can help reduce the extent of additional infrastructure required to connect the project to the electricity grid.

Cork grid connection subzone EBPOs

The two Cork EBPOs are known as CRK-02, located in the townland of Ballynookery, and CRK-04, located in the townlands of Aghada and Ballincarroonig.

Wexford grid connection subzone EBPOs

The two Wexford EBPOs are known as WXD-06, located in the townland of Tellarought, and WXD-09, located in the townland of Garryduff.

What happens next?

Further environmental and technical studies, together with ongoing engagement with communities, landowners, local authorities and statutory bodies, will continue to inform the evaluation of these subzones.





Image: Typical road reinstatement following installation works

What is an onshore transmission cable route corridor?

An onshore transmission cable route corridor is the broad area within which an underground electricity cable can be installed between a landfall zone and a grid connection subzone. These corridors do not constitute the final cable route itself, but rather an area within which the final route is anticipated to be developed, subject to further assessments, engagements and consultations.

Where are the EBPO onshore transmission cable route corridors?

During Step 4a, nine potential route options were developed and assessed against engineering, environmental, community and deliverability considerations, including roads, existing utilities, watercourses, railways, access requirements and construction impacts. This assessment informed the identification of the current Emerging Best Performing Options (EBPOs).

Cork onshore transmission cable route corridor EBPO

The Cork EBPO is known as CRK_TC3. This corridor, provides a relatively direct route, with flexibility to respond to constraints identified through future surveys and assessments.

Wexford onshore transmission cable route corridor EBPO

The Wexford EBPO is known as WXD_TC2. This corridor has the potential to utilise some existing road infrastructure where possible, to minimise engineering and environmental constraints.

Further environmental and technical studies will continue to inform the development of the route, alongside ongoing engagement with communities, stakeholders, local authorities and statutory bodies.

Full details of the assessments completed to date are available in the Step 4a Report (Please see link on page 15).

Public Consultation

Gathering local knowledge is an important part of our project development process. It helps us better understand community priorities, local conditions and issues that may not be identified through technical studies alone.

This information will be considered alongside all other evidence as EirGrid continues to refine the route and location options before identifying best performing options and progressing to the planning stage.



What is happening now?

We are now consulting with the public and inviting feedback on the Emerging Best Performing Options presented in this brochure.

The public consultation will take place from September 15th 2026 to December 8th 2026.

There are several ways you can share your feedback:

- Via EirGrid's consultation portal: consult.eirgrid.ie or
- Email your submissions to southcoastoffshore@eirgrid.ie or,

- By post to the following address: Powering Up Offshore - South Coast Step 4a Consultation, EirGrid plc, Freepost FDN 5312, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28
- At one of our public information events, where you can complete a printed or online feedback form with our assistance if you wish.

If you would like to receive consultation information by post, or in an alternative format, please get in touch and we'll be happy to help.

If you would prefer to give your feedback over the phone or need help completing a submission, a member of our Public Engagement team can take your comments for you.

What happens next?

Once the consultation closes, an independent consultant will prepare the Step 4a Engagement and Consultation Report.

This report will provide an overview of the feedback received throughout the consultation period.

It will also identify the main themes and issues raised during the consultation. This feedback, together with the ongoing technical, environmental and engineering assessments, will help inform the next stage of the project.

The next stage of the project is Step 4b which identifies the Best Performing Option for each of the project elements and EirGrid



will continue to engage with all stakeholders at this next step of the project.

Ongoing Engagement

Throughout the project, and not just during consultation periods, EirGrid will continue to

engage closely with individuals, local communities, landowners, businesses, local authorities, road authorities, statutory bodies, utility providers and other stakeholders to gather local knowledge and feedback.

Community Forum

Community Forums are an important part of all EirGrid projects. The purpose of the Forum is to make sure that the voices of local communities, and those impacted by our infrastructure, are listened to. The forums provide for open dialogue between the project team and stakeholders interested in the project.

EirGrid will establish a Community Forum for Powering Up Offshore - South Coast to help us to engage meaningfully on key project developments such as:

- How we communicate and engage with impacted communities;
- 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.

To learn more about this process or to register your expression of interest in joining the community forum, please scan the QR code.



Community Benefit Fund

In recognition of the impact of large infrastructure projects on hosting communities, a dedicated benefit fund for new grid development is made available by EirGrid. This fund is independently administered on behalf of EirGrid, with the grant's facilitator working closely with local communities and through the local forum, to ensure that funding is allocated to projects that will have the most positive impact in the community.

If you wish to find out more about how other communities have benefitted from EirGrid's Community Benefit Fund please scan the QR code.



**EirGrid want to
hear from you,
so please get in
contact**

Scan here to register
your interest in receiving
project updates.



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