



Public Information

# Powering Up Offshore South Coast

Project Update, March 2026



## Who is EirGrid?

EirGrid develops, manages, and operates Ireland's electricity grid.

We are responsible for the safe, secure and reliable supply of Ireland's electricity.

Our job is to bring power from where it is generated, to where it is needed throughout Ireland, onshore and offshore.

## Why is this project needed?

The Government's climate action targets aim for Ireland to generate 80% of the state's energy from renewable energy sources. A central pillar of reaching this target is 5GW of offshore wind.

**Powering Up Offshore – South Coast** is EirGrid's programme to build the new transmission grid infrastructure needed to bring the power generated by offshore windfarms on the south coast into our national grid.

Tonn Nua is the name of the first Area being connected into the grid within the larger Powering Up Offshore – South Coast Programme. This will help deliver approximately 900 megawatts of additional electricity, enough to power almost one million homes and support us in meeting our climate goals.



## What is Tonn Nua?

Tonn Nua is the first area off the south coast that will host an offshore wind farm development.

This is one of four areas for future offshore wind development as part of Government's South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC-DMAP), approved by the Oireachtas in October 2024.

In December 2025, a joint venture partnership between ESB and Denmark-based renewable energy developer, Ørsted, was successful in the government's auction to win the rights to build the Tonn Nua project.

EirGrid's role in Tonn Nua involves building the grid transmission infrastructure needed to connect the power generated by the offshore wind farm to our national grid.



## Project Overview

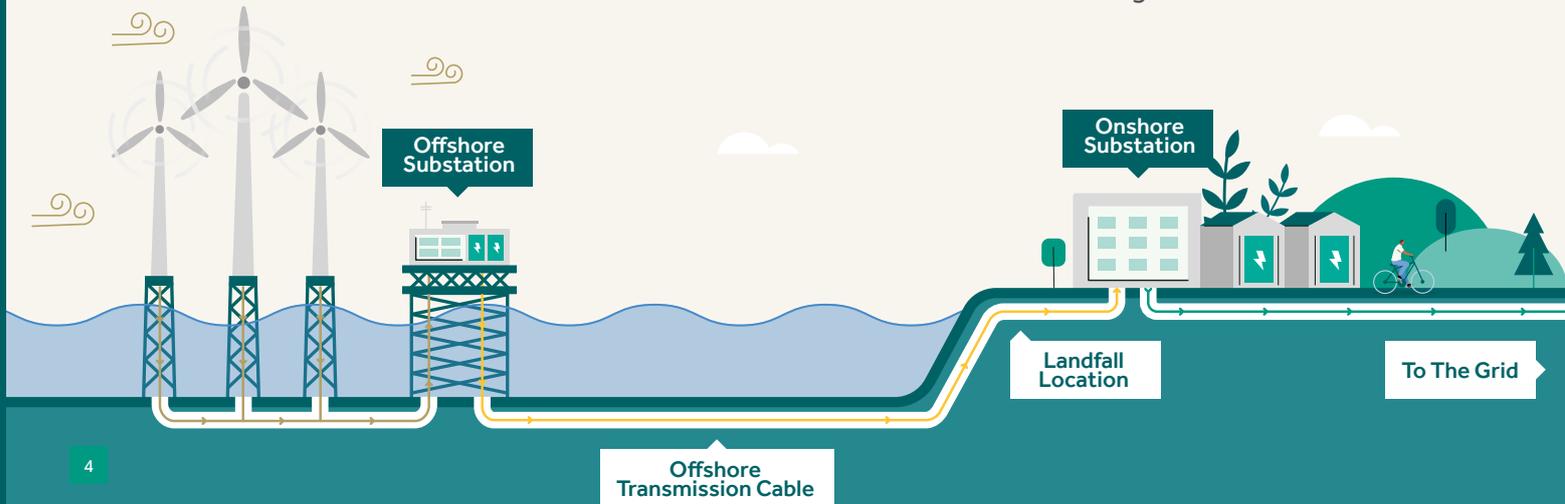
The main components of EirGrid's project are:

- Two offshore substation platforms – to be located within the Maritime Area A, known as Tonn Nua.

The following will then be required in County Cork and in County Waterford/Wexford:

- Offshore transmission cables connecting offshore substations to landfall locations.
- New onshore substations.

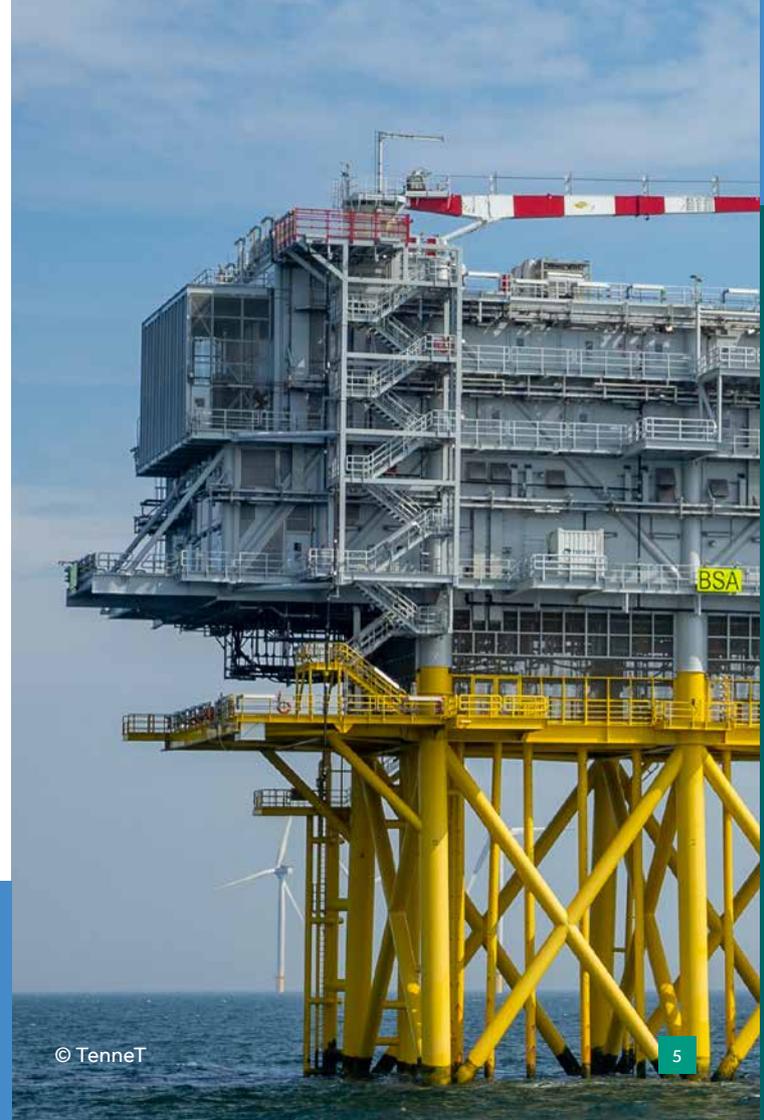
- Connections between landfalls and new onshore substations by underground cables.
- Loop-in connections to the existing electricity transmission network from the new substations by underground cables.



## Tonn Nua Wind Farm Developer

In December 2025, a joint venture partnership between ESB and Denmark-based renewable energy developer, Ørsted, was successful in the government's auction to win the rights to build the Tonn Nua project.

EirGrid's role in Tonn Nua involves building the grid transmission infrastructure needed to connect the power generated by the offshore wind farm to our national 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.



### Social and community

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



### Economic

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



### 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.



### 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.

# Our 6 Step Approach to Project Development



## Step 1

How do we identify needs of the electricity grid?

## Step 2

What technologies can meet these needs?

## Step 3

What's the best option and what area may be affected?

## Step 4

Where exactly should we build?

## Step 5

Apply for planning permission.

## Step 6

Construct, energise (make live), and share benefits.

# Project Overview Map

## Eochair eolais | Legend

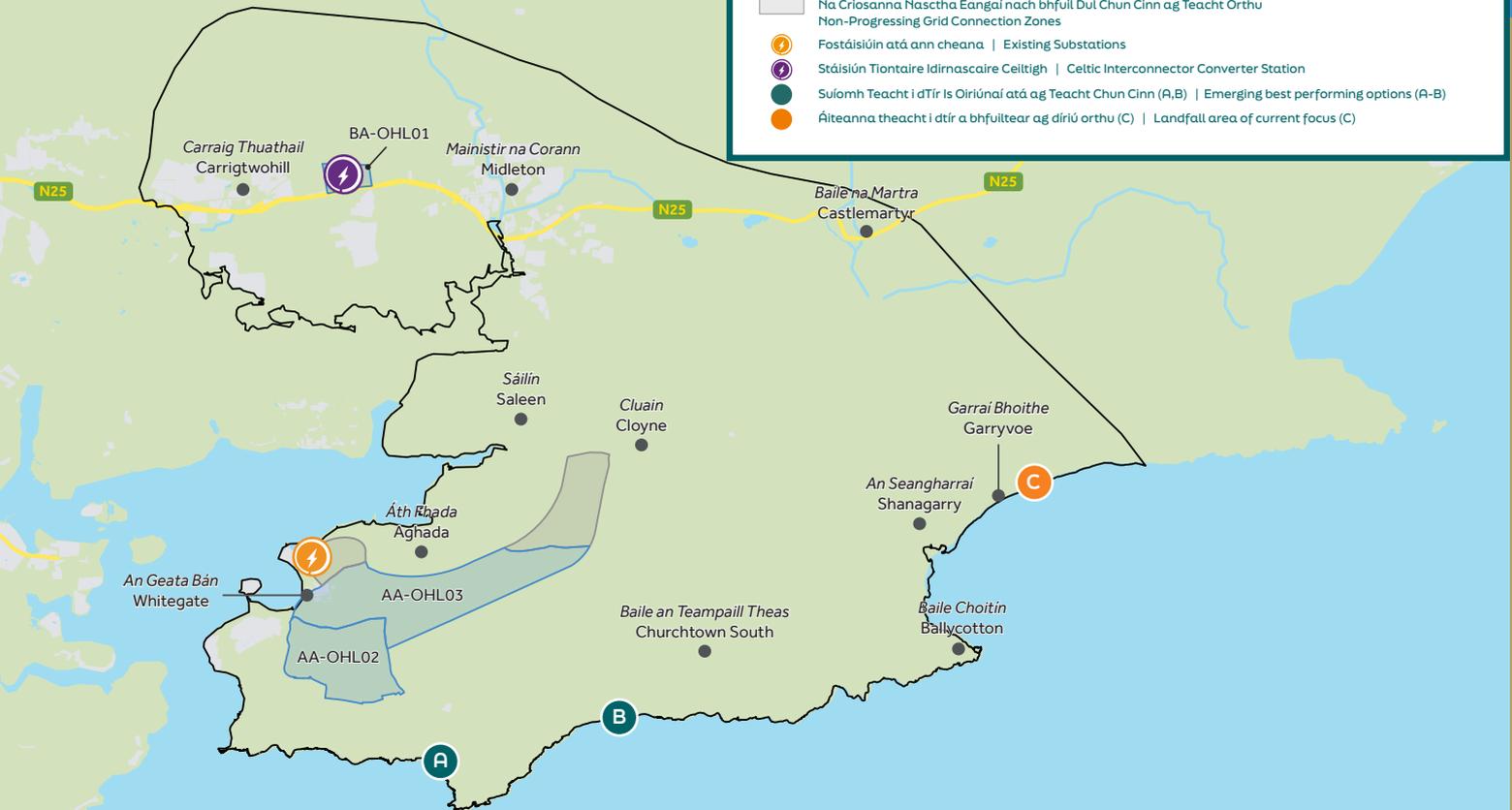
-  Criosanna Bonneagair | Infrastructure Zones
-  Iarratas ar Cheadúnas Úsáide Muirí | Maritime Usage Licence Application
-  Criosanna Nasctha Eangáí Féideartha | Potential Grid Connection Zones
-  Fostáisiúin atá ann cheana | Existing Substations
-  Stáisiún Tiontaire Idirnascaire Ceiltigh | Celtic Interconnector Converter Station
-  Suíomh Teacht i dTír Is Oiriúnaí atá ag Teacht Chun Cinn (A,B,D,E,G) | Emerging best performing options (A,B,D,E,G)
-  Áiteanna theacht i dtír a bhfuiltear ag díriú orthu (C,F) | Landfall areas of current focus (C,F)



# Cork Infrastructure Zone

## Eochair eolais | Legend

-  Criosanna Bonneagair | Infrastructure Zones
-  Na Criosanna Eangla Nasctha is Fearr Feidhmíocht | Best Performing Grid Connection Zones
-  Na Criosanna Nasctha Eangla nach bhfuil Dul Chun Cinn ag Teacht Orthu  
Non-Progressing Grid Connection Zones
-  Fostáisiúin atá ann cheana | Existing Substations
-  Stáisiún Tiontaire Idirnascaire Ceiltigh | Celtic Interconnector Converter Station
-  Sulomh Teacht i dtír Is Oiriúnaí atá ag Teacht Chun Cinn (A,B) | Emerging best performing options (A-B)
-  Áiteanna theacht i dtír a bhfuiltear ag díriú orthu (C) | Landfall area of current focus (C)



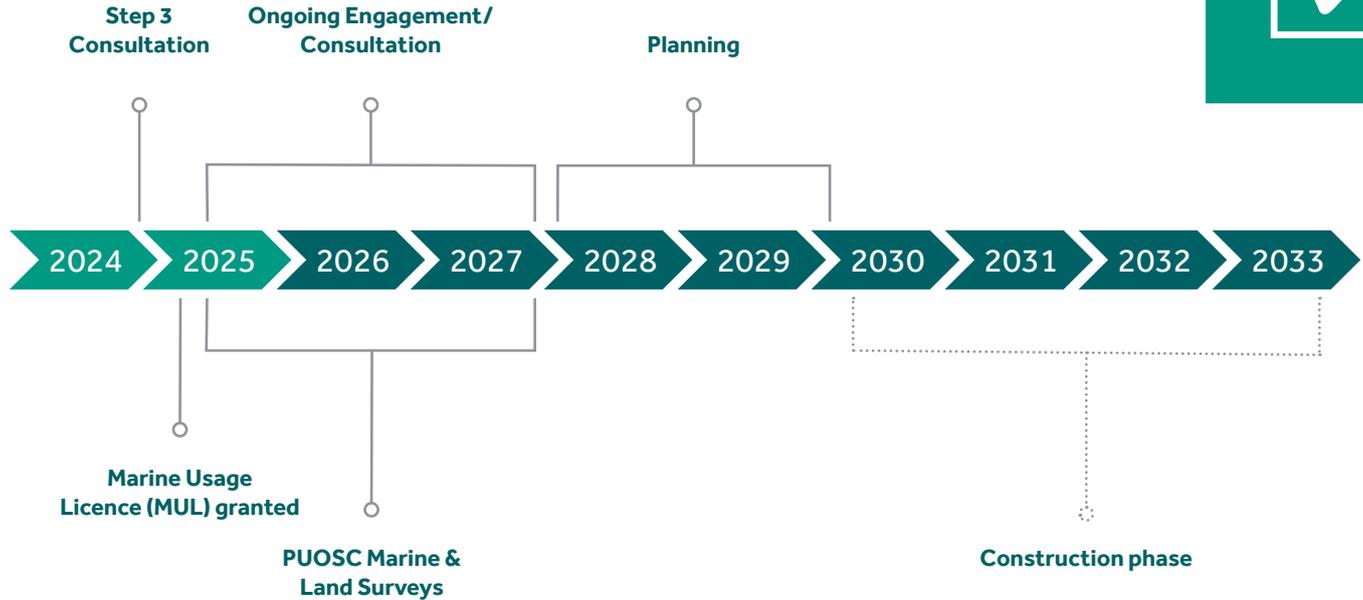
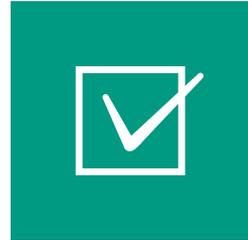
# Waterford/Wexford Infrastructure Zone

## Eochair eolais | Legend

-  Criosanna Bonneagair | Infrastructure Zones
-  Na Criosanna Eangaí Nasctha is Fearr Feidhmíocht | Best Performing Grid Connection Zones
-  Na Criosanna Nasctha Eangaí nach bhfuil Dul Chun Cinn ag Teacht Orthu | Non-Progressing Grid Connection Zones
-  Fostáisiúin atá ann cheana | Existing Substations
-  Suiomh Teacht i dTír Is Oiriúnaí atá ag Teacht Chun Cinn (D,E,G) | Emerging best performing options (D,E,G)
-  Áiteanna theacht i dtír a bhfuiltear ag díriú orthu (F) | Landfall area of current focus (F)



# Project Timeline





## What has happened to date and next steps

### Step 3 Public Consultation November 2024 – January 2025

Between November 2024 and January 2025, EirGrid held a public consultation to inform and seek feedback from the public. This consultation focused on two key elements:

1. The seven landfall zones being considered for where the transmission cables will come ashore.
2. The infrastructure zones being considered for the location of the grid connection substations.

Both in person and virtual events were held to provide opportunities for the public, community groups, businesses, fishers, and other bodies to engage with the EirGrid project team and provide insight and feedback regarding the project.

A step 3 consultation report setting out the feedback provided was then published in March 2025. This report can be viewed on our website at [eirgrid.ie/offshore](https://eirgrid.ie/offshore).



## Marine and Coastal Surveys July – November 2025

The first phase of marine and coastal surveys took place between July and November 2025. These included comprehensive marine geophysical, metocean and environmental surveys, as well as intertidal non-intrusive landfall investigations involving geophysical and environmental surveys.

The data acquired to date has been assessed and has informed these schedule for further surveys including geophysical, geotechnical and unexploded ordnance (UXO) will take place in spring/summer 2026.

Once all surveys are complete, the research gathered will support shaping plans for

the installation of EirGrid's transmission infrastructure for offshore wind by helping to inform our optioneering processes, technical and design elements and build on our understanding of the environment in the vicinity of our potential offshore cable routes and offshore substation locations.



# Our 6 Step Approach to Project Development

## Where we are now



## Where are we now?

We are currently in Step 4 of our project, which involves determining where exactly we should build the project infrastructure. Information from the previous public consultation and data from marine and coastal surveys is a key input into this evaluation.

The marine surveys carried out by EirGrid in 2025 have been very successful in informing possible options for our offshore cable routes and landfalls. In April 2026, we will be continuing with our survey campaigns, both onshore and offshore.

Two of the seven landing zones which were identified in our November 2024 consultation – Landfalls C (Garryvoe Lower, Ballybutler and Ballycrenane) and F (within the townlands of Bannow) – continue to perform very strongly in assessments. Therefore, our 2026 survey campaign, due to take place between April and September 2026, will be focused on these areas.

EirGrid's Public Engagement team are available to local organisations, fisheries, landowners, and members of the public to answer any queries on this latest survey activity and any other aspect of our project. They team are available all year

round to answer questions via email and phone, not only during consultation periods. Please see our community liaison officers' contact details at the end of this document.

Our community liaison officers will be engaging communities in the project areas throughout April, and a schedule detailing the dates our Mobile Information Unit will be in the area will be available on our website and on social media. There will also be a webinar for those we are unable to meet in person.

When surveys have been completed and assessments finalised, we will provide further updates, and we anticipate this will be in Autumn 2026.



# Community Forum & Community Benefit Fund

## Community Forum

We are currently establishing our Powering Up Offshore – South Coast community forum which will be established to ensure that the voices of local communities, and those impacted most by our infrastructure, are listened to. To learn more about this process or to register your expression of interest in joining the community forum, please scan the QR code.

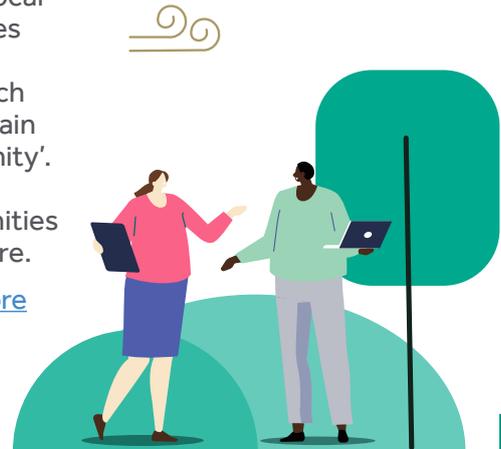
## Community Benefit Fund

A dedicated fund for new grid development is made available from EirGrid on all projects to provide direct benefits to communities who are closest to new transmission infrastructure. These funds, which are proportional to the scale of the project, support local good causes, help communities transform their area, and provide the opportunity to each community to become or remain a 'sustainable energy community'. The overall aim is to leave a positive legacy in the communities hosting electrical infrastructure.

For more visit [eirgrid.ie/offshore](http://eirgrid.ie/offshore)



Community Forum  
Expression of Interest



## Contact details

### EirGrid Community Liaison Officers



**Michelle Walsh**

[michelle.walsh@eirgrid.com](mailto:michelle.walsh@eirgrid.com)

+353 (0) 85 870 4999



**Eoghan O'Sullivan**

[eoghan.osullivan@eirgrid.com](mailto:eoghan.osullivan@eirgrid.com)

+353 (0) 87 247 7732

### Fisheries Liaison Officer



**Ronan Lynch**

[ronan.lynch@eirgrid.com](mailto:ronan.lynch@eirgrid.com)

+353 (0) 87 490 4786

### Land Engagement Lead



**Sean Kenny**

[sean.kenny@eirgrid.com](mailto:sean.kenny@eirgrid.com)

+353 (0) 85 708 9595



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

