
Powering Up the North West

Step 3 Engagement and Consultation Report

December 2025



Executive Summary

The Powering Up the North West Project is a proposed programme of works by EirGrid designed to meet the growing electricity demand in the Northwest of Ireland and support the Government's renewable energy targets.

A public engagement and consultation period ran from Tuesday September 16th to Tuesday November 25th, during which time feedback was invited on the proposed study area. Six information events were held during this consultation, where members of the public could learn about the project and engage with EirGrid staff.

These public engagement events were supported by pop-up information stands, QR codes linked to information, and leaflet distribution in the event locations; as well as promotion via local radio, social media and direct mail. Targeted engagement took place with landowners by the Agricultural Liaison Officers, and with Local Authorities in line with the HV (High Voltage) Forum Engagement Protocol and EirGrid best practice.

Feedback was collected informally during information events and direct engagement with the Public Engagement Team and is also reflected in the analysis. There was strong attendance at the webinars and at many of the in-person events.

Consultation responses were accepted via an online consultation portal, by email or by post, and members of the public could make enquiries by contacting the Public Engagement team by phone or email. There were eight formal submissions, when duplicates were excluded, mostly from strategic regional and industry stakeholders, but also inclusive of local residents and landowners.

Common themes were the general location of the projects, the security of the electricity grid, environmental impact, local benefits, and the impact on regional development. There were also concerns regarding visual impact and disruption to landowners and forestry. While not included in the formal submissions, there was a concern shared at an information event regarding local negative sentiment connected to a previous non-EirGrid infrastructure project in the area.

This report summarises the engagement and consultation activities undertaken during Step 3 of EirGrid's 6-Step approach, which focuses on "*What is the best option and what area might be affected?*". This step in the process included public information events, stakeholder engagement, and feedback analysis. The insights gathered will inform the next phase of the project: Step 4 "*Where Exactly Should We Build*".

M-CO, an independent consultancy specialising in public and stakeholder engagement and consultation, was commissioned to report on the findings from this process.

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Glossary of Terms

ALO	Agricultural Liaison Officer
CLO	Community Liaison Officer
HV Forum	To support development of high voltage electricity networks, a 'HV Interface Forum' ('the HV Forum') was initiated between Key Partners within the electricity sector (the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment, the Commission for Regulation of Utilities, EirGrid and ESB) and the roads sector (the Department of Transport, Transport Infrastructure Ireland, the City and County Managers Association, Road Management Office and Local Authorities) to bring together stakeholders in open dialogue and establish the ways of working that will deliver on the Climate Action Plan ('CAP 24').
MCA	Multi-Criteria Analysis
OOH	Out Of Home Advertising

1. About the Powering Up the North West Project

About EirGrid

EirGrid is a state-owned company that develops, manages, and operates Ireland's electricity grid. They are responsible for the safe, secure, and reliable supply of Ireland's electricity, bringing power from where it is generated to the distribution network that supplies the electricity we use every day in homes, businesses, schools, and hospitals. EirGrid is responsible for leading the secure transition of the electricity grid to a sustainable, low-carbon future.

EirGrid follows a 6-Step approach for all grid development projects (see graphic below), from the identification of a need to develop the electricity transmission grid, through to design, planning, construction, and subsequent energisation. This process sets out the steps to be taken to identify and implement the best performing solution that meets the needs outlined.



Project Background

This consultation took place at Step 3 of EirGrid's 6-step development approach, which engages with the public and stakeholders near to the proposed development, and allows for early public feedback to guide the defining of project study areas.

The aim of this consultation was to invite the public's views and inputs on constraints which might impact the delivery of the Powering Up the North West programme, thereby helping to identify route corridor options during the next steps of the programme. At this stage, EirGrid sought public feedback on the broader study area rather than specific locations.

About the Powering Up the North West programme

The existing transmission infrastructure in the North West is nearing its capacity limit. To ensure a reliable and sustainable electricity supply for communities, residents, schools, and businesses, new infrastructure is urgently needed.

The region is characterised by a strong renewable energy resource that is made up primarily of wind. The region's potential for renewable generation is greater than the current capacity of the existing network, which has also driven the need to improve the grid through the Powering Up the North West programme.

As part of this programme, two new 220 kV circuits are required in the Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal area. Reflecting geography, topography, and local needs, these two proposed circuits are being progressed as separate projects, but both of equal importance:

i. Srananagh to Clogher Project

This will involve a new 220 kV circuit between Srananagh substation in Sligo and Clogher in Donegal.

ii. Flagford to Srananagh Project

This will involve a partial replacement of the existing 110 kV circuit between Flagford substation in Roscommon and Sligo substation with a new 220 kV circuit, and the connection of this circuit into Srananagh substation in Sligo, with new 220 kV and new 110 kV circuits.



Figure 1: Illustration from public consultation materials highlighting study area.

While not a focus of the consultation, this project is notable for the inclusion of composite pole set technology as the best performing option for overhead lines. It is more durable and lightweight than traditional steel structures and this will be the first time that this technology will be used for such a project in Ireland.

Project Benefits

Powering Up the North West will benefit the people of the North West region by increasing the capacity of the electricity network in the region which, as well as making the grid more resilient, will help to attract inward investment and employment. The project will also facilitate the integration of increased renewables onto the grid and help to generate social and economic growth and development for the region.

Additionally, a dedicated Community Benefit Fund will be made available to provide direct benefits to communities who are closest to the proposed infrastructure.

Focus of Step 3: “What is the best option and what area might be affected?”

Currently, both projects are in Step 3 of this process. The focus of Step 3 is to determine the best performing technology options and define the relevant study areas for the projects.

EirGrid project teams had performed extensive studies of the region to determine any constraints which could impact the route of these circuits. Several constraints were identified which limit the route options. The constraints identified relate to:

- Physical Constraints
- Landscape and Visual Constraints
- Cultural Heritage Constraints
- People and Environmental Considerations

Programme Elements Under Consideration

EirGrid invited feedback on the constraints and/or the routing of these projects, and any additional feedback relevant to the Flagford to Srananagh and/or Srananagh to Clogher projects.

2. Engagement and Consultation Process

EirGrid's vision for engagement is to ensure that stakeholder perspectives inform decision-making; engagement is conducted in a consistent, transparent, and accessible way; and that engagement is tailored to suit the needs of stakeholders. To do this, EirGrid engages with many stakeholders throughout the lifecycle of projects. This engagement is crucial for informing and capturing feedback and knowledge that will influence the design and decision-making processes of projects. Effective public engagement ensures that stakeholder feedback is considered, fostering transparency and trust in the project's outcomes.

At Step 3 of the Powering Up North West Project, EirGrid delivered a programme of engagement and consultation. This took place from September 16th to November 25th, 2025. The purpose of this engagement and consultation was to get views and inputs on constraints which might impact the delivery of the Powering Up the North West programme.

Communications Activities

A number of communications activities supported the public consultation period, including an awareness campaign prior to the launch, a digital media strategy, and traditional media advertising. Communication activities also included engagement with regional stakeholders, including local authority senior management and elected representatives.

An early awareness phase was launched in September 2025, which included a leaflet drop to 41,200 homes across the study area, introducing EirGrid and the Powering Up the North West Project to local communities.

The consultation was then launched on the 16th of September 2025 with a social media campaign, a project webpage with information, an interactive map of the study area and downloadable consultation materials. EirGrid published project brochures and distributed them to homes and public spaces. This was supported by a video release and a communications campaign that included radio, print media, digital media, and direct mail.

Project Webpage

An online information page at www.eirgrid.ie/northwest was created which detailed the scope of the EirGrid project including maps of the study area; information on how to provide feedback and a link to the consultation portal; and a registration form for those who wished to stay updated on the project. Published documents on this website included:

- [Powering Up the North West - Project Overview September 2025](#)
- [An tIarthuaisceart á Chumhachtú - Forléargas Tionscadail - Meán Fómhair 2025](#)
- [Flagford to Srananagh Step 3 Technical Report](#)
- [Clogher to Srananagh Step 3 Technical Report](#)
- [Interactive Consultation/ Constraints Map](#)

FAQ

The Public Engagement team collected “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQs). The responses to these questions were shared on the project webpage. Questions asked and answered under the FAQs included:

- What is Powering Up the North West?
- Why are the projects needed?
- What is the current status of the projects?

- What are composite poles and why are they the preferred option?
- How will it benefit the North West region?
- What is the current status of the programme?
- Do the projects need landowners' consent to proceed?
- Why can't the projects go underground?

[Interactive Map](#)

An interactive map was created and published on the project webpage allowing users to navigate the areas being consulted on. Users could also input individual addresses to get an understanding of the project and how it may interact with their home, community, or business. The interactive map is accessed by the project webpage and accessible [here](#).

[New GIS Mapping Software](#)

EirGrid trialled the use of a new GIS mapping software at consultation events and in discussion with stakeholders. This allowed members of the public to view infrastructure in their vicinity, the project study area, and constraints mapping.

[Project Brochure](#)

A detailed project brochure was developed which detailed the scope of the EirGrid project including the aspects of the project that were being consulted on. Over three hundred brochures were distributed at information, pop-up events and at a roadshow, and to local businesses and shops.

[Project QR Code](#)

Notices with QR code links to consultation materials were posted on noticeboards and distributed in public spaces, including in local supermarkets, libraries, pharmacies, and community centres.

[Project Leaflet](#)

Leaflets were delivered to 41,200 homes in the engagement area, providing information about upcoming information events and details on how the public could provide feedback.

[Media Coverage](#)

EirGrid coordination around media and communications resulted in extensive coverage on local broadcast media. A series of 30-second advertisements were broadcast on local radio between September 8th and November 24th on the following radio stations:

Station	Spots
iRadio NW	72
Ocean FM	241
Shannonside	63
Highland Radio	52

[Social Media](#)

Thirteen social media posts were shared across two platforms creating 18,533 impressions (i.e. the number of times a piece of social media content was seen by users) and 1,020 engagements (i.e. the number of public

interactions with a piece of social media content, such as a comment, “like” or share) to a reach of 4,780. See appendix on page 22 for visual references. These posts included:

- Facebook: “ We’re upgrading the electricity grid in the North West ” with 4,594 Impressions, 2.35% Engagement Rate and 108 Engagements
- LinkedIn:  EirGrid puts technology in pole position to Power Up the North West ” with 5336 Impressions, 5.08% engagement rate and 271 Engagements.

[Mailing List: Powering Up the North West- Register Your Interest](#)

Twenty-eight people from Sligo, Roscommon, Donegal, and Leitrim registered their interest in receiving updates about these projects by completing a form on the consultation portal.

Engagement Activities

A broad range of engagement activities took place preceding and during the public consultation period with the objective of providing multiple avenues for communicating information and inviting feedback. These activities were led by EirGrid’s Public Engagement team, including Public Engagement Specialists, Community Liaison Officer, and Agricultural Liaison Officer. The Public Relations (PR) team were involved in developing communications, advertising, online materials, and printed collateral as well as developing and delivering a communications plan.

Expert members of the cross functional team, from a range of disciplines including planning, technical, programme and project management were available to support the Public Engagement team in responding to requests for information in a timely manner.

The name, phone number and email addresses of the Community Liaison Officer was printed on widely distributed materials, to ensure members of the public had direct access to support they might require in understanding information or engaging with the consultation process.

Event reports were prepared by EirGrid engagement staff following each engagement activity, noting the number of attendees and the headline themes for questions, feedback or concerns raised. This data will be considered alongside the consultation responses as the project moves into the next step of development. At engagement events, members of the public were asked how they heard about the event. This information was gathered to understand and respond to local preferences and increase effectiveness of engagement and communications activities.

[Webinar](#)

Two online webinars were held with the aim of informing the public about the consultation, answering questions, and gathering indicative feedback regarding both the consultation process and the subject matter of the consultation.

[Public Information Events](#)

Six information events were held during the consultation period, with approximately ninety people in attendance in total. The venues were chosen to ensure a geographical spread across the study areas and covered three counties. Information event details:

- Bee Park Community Centre, Manorhamilton, Co Leitrim (Wednesday 1st October)
- Folk Park, Riverstown, Co Sligo (Thursday 2nd October)
- The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co Leitrim (Wednesday 15th October)
- Coláiste Cholmcille, Ballyshannon, Co Donegal (Thursday 16th October)

- Sligo Park Hotel, Co Sligo (Wednesday 29th October)
- Leghowney Community Hall, Co Donegal (Thursday 30th October)

The aim of the information events was to inform people about the project, gather local knowledge about the proposed areas and to encourage and facilitate consultation submissions. Each event included an exhibition of maps and information panels, and EirGrid staff were available to discuss the project and respond to any concerns and general queries raised.

Where people attended to receive further information, these engagements were recorded as a “Request for Information”, and it was noted if this information was provided. These questions also informed the creation of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs).

[EirGrid Energy Citizens Roadshow](#)

EirGrid held an Energy Citizens Roadshow event in the Central Hotel in Donegal on 6th November 2025, with the aim of engaging members of the community across the county about the future of the electricity grid. This event featured experts from SEAI, ESB Networks, and Donegal County Council and covered topics of home energy upgrades, retrofitting grants, community energy schemes and how to achieve Ireland’s energy ambitions. This event also offered an additional opportunity for local stakeholders to engage with the EirGrid team during the consultation window.

[Information Pop-Ups](#)

EirGrid’s Agricultural Liaison Officer and Community Liaison Officer held a total of four pop-up stands in advance of Public Information Events in the areas mentioned above, with the purpose of informing the public and promoting the upcoming events.

[Stakeholder Engagement](#)

The Public Engagement team proactively engaged with key stakeholders in the study area, as well as statutory stakeholders. In-line with the HV Forum Engagement Protocol, EirGrid gave a presentation to Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal County Council on the Powering Up the North West programme which included an overview of the two projects, and what technology was selected and why. EirGrid also outlined the ongoing Step 3 public consultation and the Step 4 consultation that will take place in 2026, which will include initial route corridor options.

[Landowner Engagement](#)

EirGrid’s Agricultural Liaison Officers (ALO) met with landowners within the project study area to provide project information, capture feedback and sentiment, and identify risks and opportunities for project design. This information is then fed back to the project team to analyse as part of the overall project design. This consultation follows on from pilot landowner engagement on the existing Flagford to Srananagh project in 2025.

[Consultation Submissions](#)

As part of the public consultation, members of the public and stakeholders were invited to provide their feedback via the online consultation portal. The portal also provided detailed information on the projects, an

interactive public consultation web map, and details of the next steps. The contact information for the Community Liaison Officer was also provided.

The questions asked on the consultation portal were:

Q1. Please describe your interest in this project (e.g. Landowner; Homeowner; Business; Community Group etc)

Q2. Please provide any feedback you have on project constraints and/or routing to help inform and identify route corridors during the next step of these projects.

Q3. Please provide any additional feedback you might have on the Flagford to Srananagh and/or Srananagh to Clogher projects.

When making a submission, members of the public were also able to provide feedback or create a drawing using an interactive mapping tool. They could also opt to be added to the distribution list for this project in order to receive updates and communications.

[Post](#)

Members of the public were provided with a postal address to send submissions via free post to:

Powering Up the North West,
EirGrid plc,
Freepost FDN 5312,
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
D04 FW28

[Email](#)

Email submissions could be sent to **northwest@eirgrid.com**, and this email address was printed in published and online materials.

3. Analysis of Feedback

The following section provides an overview of all responses and feedback received during the engagement and consultation period. Submissions received via the formal consultation channels were analysed, as well as feedback and queries collected by EirGrid public engagement staff during the public information events and stakeholder briefings. Engagements that involved requests for, or provision of, general information were recorded as such, and it was noted if this information was provided. These engagements are not considered feedback and have not been included in engagement feedback analysis.

This analysis includes details of the number of responses, the headline themes, and a breakdown of these themes within the consultation submissions.

Summary of Consultation Responses and Feedback Received

Eight responses were received from contributors across the formal consultation channels (portal, email, and written submissions).

Consultation Channel	Number of Responses
Consultation Portal: <i>6 submissions</i>	6
Email: <i>3 emails, 2 of which duplicate portal submissions</i>	1
Post	1
Total Submissions	8

Submissions were provided by online portal, post, and email by the following:

Category	Number
Local Resident or Landowner	2
Regional Stakeholder (Donegal County Council, Northern and Western Regional Assembly, Western Development Commission)	3
Not Stated	1
Energy Developer (Bord na Mona, Plan Energy Development Ltd)	2
Total	8

In addition to the responses received via the consultation channels, a variety of stakeholders provided feedback during the information days and engagement process. These included local residents, community representatives, local businesses, and landowners.

Category	No.	Metrics	Information captured
Information Days	6	89 people engaged in total	Post event reports compiled by Public Engagement team, including estimated attendance and headline themes. Where possible, attendees were also asked where they heard about the event.
Pop-Up Information Stands	4	250+ people engaged in total	Estimated number of local residents and headline themes.
Roadshow	1	30 people engaged	Estimated number of local residents and stakeholders informally engaged.
Webinars	2	41 attendees in total	Number of attendees, and questions asked.
Emails	5	5 Emails received	Number of emails, their purpose and emerging feedback.
Leaflet - Postal	1	41,200 homes	Number of leaflets distributed
Brochure Distribution	1	300+ brochures distributed	Number of brochures printed and distributed across events and engagements.

Summary of Consultation Responses and Feedback Received

The following responses are to the questions regarding the Powering Up the North West programme, as set out on the consultation portal. The breakdown below includes submissions sent via both the online consultation portal and via email. Informal feedback shared during consultation activities is also included, where relevant.

While the consultation submissions were broadly supportive of the need for the Powering Up the North West programme, there were concerns from strategic regional stakeholders about the programme scope and ambition being limited. A few submissions, primarily from local residents, shared a concern for proximity, visual impact, and impact on the environment.

Within the in-person and online events, the primary focus was communicating accurate information and ensuring members of the public were fully informed. At these in-person and online events, the primary areas of enquiry were related to location of the infrastructure, the delivery plans, and details of the technology, with some attendees also sharing some feedback and concerns.

	Summary of Responses
Q1	<p><i>Please describe your interest in this project (e.g. Landowner; Homeowner; Business; Community Group etc)</i></p> <p>3 x Regional stakeholders involved in local government and regional development 2 x Renewable Energy Providers 2 x Local residents and landowners 1 submission did not state their interest in the project, and there was no reference to study area locations to indicate their interest.</p>

Q2	<p><i>Please provide any feedback you have on project constraints and/or routing to help inform and identify route corridors during the next step of these projects.</i></p> <p>Most consultation submissions were broadly supportive of the need for the Powering Up the North West programme, with specific concerns or caveats outlined in some cases. Two regional stakeholders stated that the route was not extensive enough and should include more of the Donegal region.</p> <p>In written submissions, two local residents referred to their own properties as areas to avoid within the route corridors. Of these, one also referred to a fairy fort, while another made suggestions regarding alternative routing that would be more acceptable.</p> <p>One submission from a local resident also stated a preference for underground technology and referred to local landscape and community elements that would be impacted by overhead technology.</p> <p>During in-person and online events, the primary focus of attendees was to gather information and learn more about the routing locations with regards to homes, land, and forestry. Constraints connected to specific geographic locations were not highlighted, though some attendees had questions regarding technology near their own home and/or on their own land.</p>
Q3	<p><i>Please provide any additional feedback you might have on the Flagford to Srananagh and/or Srananagh to Clogher projects</i></p> <p>Grid Development and Future Proofing</p> <p>A few submissions included a focus on strategic development and future proofing of the grid. This was seen as an urgent concern, with reference to historic lack of grid investment and the need to resolve capacity constraints.</p> <p>Some of the engagement enquiries also connected to current challenges arising from grid curtailment, and the positive local impact that improved infrastructure could bring.</p> <p>Feedback from engagement activities mirrored support for improving grid infrastructure. A concern was shared that an improved grid could enable unwelcome future developments.</p> <p>Regional and Economic Development</p> <p>A few regional development stakeholder submissions had a strong focus on critical economic and regional development benefits of these projects, with an emphasis on future development and ambitions.</p> <p>One landowner's submission also recognised the value of improving the grid, and the value of improving the grid was also noted by local residents attending engagement activities.</p> <p>Some of this support was connected to a concern for the current security of the grid, and that the projects should be more ambitious to address regional development objectives.</p> <p>Geographical Range of the Programme</p> <p>Some strategic regional stakeholders requested that the programme be extended to other strategic locations in Donegal, in line with regional development objectives. This was also reflected in requests in a couple of submissions for information on future infrastructure plans.</p> <p>Proximity and Visual Impact</p>

	<p>A couple of submissions were concerned with the visual impact of infrastructure and the proximity to residential properties, and the visual impact on the landscape. Some of the engagement feedback also included concerns regarding proximity to homes and land.</p> <p>Environmental Impact</p> <p>There was concern shared in a couple of submissions regarding the effect of the infrastructure on birds and the natural environment, as well as the impact of the project construction on the landscape, forestry, and farmland. One of these submissions came from a landowner with reference to their own land, while another did not refer to a specific route or area.</p> <p>Within feedback from engagement events, there was some concern for environmental impact, land degradation, and a potential impact on agroforestry.</p> <p>Community</p> <p>A number of attendees at the engagement events were positive about the project having positive direct and indirect benefits for the region and their local area.</p> <p>There was a notable reflection from an attendee who was concerned about the potential of negative community sentiment. This concern stemmed from a legacy issue connected to a previous infrastructure project which they claimed generated community division.</p> <p>Safety</p> <p>There was also a concern shared regarding the safety of overhead infrastructure, with a preference shared for underground technology.</p>
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Summary of Themes

The key themes communicated across both the consultation submissions and engagement activity feedback related to the location of the infrastructure, the nature of the technology, the delivery process, impact on land and landscape, the resilience of the local grid infrastructure and community and economic factors.

While most submissions were from key state, regional and industry stakeholders and reflected strategic objectives, those from individuals shared additional concerns specific to their locality. A broader set of themes were identified within the feedback, questions and areas of interest shared during online and in-person engagement activities.

Theme	Detail of Contributions
1. Location	<p>There were detailed consultation submissions from regional stakeholders regarding further extension of these projects into strategic locations in Donegal. For landowners, there were submissions regarding proximity to homes, land, and a heritage site.</p> <p>Most of the informal queries during engagement activities were about the general location of the infrastructure, with several landowners and homeowners attending to check project locations with relation to their own properties. There was also some concern regarding local disruption.</p>
2. Grid Curtailment	<p>Most of the consultation submissions focused on the imperative of securing and future-proofing the grid; particularly in submissions from regional stakeholders and two renewable energy developers. This was also noted within some of the informal engagement activities, where some local attendees referred to recent power outages.</p>

	This was also raised by sectoral stakeholders, including energy developers, who attended engagement activities. This indicates that grid investment to reduce curtailment issues is viewed as a priority among regional stakeholders and energy developers
3. Technology & Infrastructure	<p>There were requests for information regarding the technology and delivery methods, both through the consultation submissions and informally through engagement activities. For most, these were general enquiries about the technology and infrastructure, although there were some concerns regarding visual and environmental impact.</p> <p>There were also enquiries at events from landowners who currently host technology on their land, to get a better understanding of potential disruptions due to a change in technology.</p>
4. Access to Information & Communication	Access to information and further communication was a key theme of in-person and online engagement activities. The majority of information requests pertained to the location of planned infrastructure to people's residence/land. Consultation submissions included requests from key stakeholders for further technical information.
5. Environment & Land Impact	<p>Some of the informal feedback from engagement activities focused on the impact on the natural landscape, forestry, and the potential degradation of land. There were concerns for local disruption, the impact on roads and the visual impact of the infrastructure.</p> <p>There was also a concern shared that, by improving the grid, these projects could facilitate more local development that could negatively impact the environment.</p>
6. Community	<p>There were engagements with community representatives, who communicated specific concerns as well as positive feedback, while also gathering information for their network.</p> <p>One attendee shared a concern about potential community conflict that may arise, as there had been legacy issues within the community, connected to a non-EirGrid energy project.</p>
7. Economic Impact	<p>There were concerns regarding the impact on the forestry industry due to land disruption.</p> <p>There were also positive contributions regarding the economic benefits a more resilient grid would provide to the area.</p>

Social Impact Overview

While this data cannot provide a full Social Impact Analysis, it is possible to do a snapshot analysis and identify key insights connected to how the communities situated close to this project may be impacted. While a baseline socio-economic dataset has not been used within this analysis, a generalised regional descriptor of the study area provides useful context from which insights can be drawn.

The Northwest of Ireland (Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal), is typified by regional towns, along with rural and remote communities that were adversely impact by power outages caused by recent storms, the effect of which was notable in informal feedback.

Land, Property and Livelihood

There were a few informal enquiries by landowners living close to the study area, or who host current infrastructure. For property owners, there were concerns connected to visual impact and property values. For farmers, there were concerns about potential disruption due to construction and land access. However, there were also questions around compensation for host landowners.

A resilient power grid is important for economic development, and this was noted in community feedback. Many local residents live in remote communities dependent on the grid for remote work, access to education and training, and online commerce. Farming communities depend on the grid for powering water pumps and dairy machinery and were heavily impacted by power outages caused by recent storms.

Community Wellbeing

Social cohesion was a concern raised during an engagement event, due to community experience of a previous non-EirGrid infrastructure project. While compensation for landowners may be welcome for some, broader dissent could impact social cohesion within the community.

More widely, it was shared that secure grid infrastructure is a concern for local communities, who depend on this for their own social, economic, and cultural wellbeing.

Public Trust

Attendees gave feedback regarding the legacy of distrust created by a previous non-EirGrid energy project. The values-led approach to the Powering Up the North West public consultation may be a key factor in rebuilding trust in energy and infrastructure projects, which is important during the energy transition.

Cultural Impact

A small number of stakeholders also noted concerns relating to the visual impact, which can impact cultural factors in terms of local identity, tourism, and sense of place.

4. Step 3 Consultation and Engagement Outcomes

The aim of this public consultation was to get the public's views and inputs on constraints which might impact the delivery of the Powering Up the North West programme. While there was a low level of formal consultation submissions, there was a high level of engagement with the Public Engagement team during engagement activities, and numerous contact points made available to the public.

An analysis of consultation submissions and informal feedback noted that while regional and industry stakeholders would welcome further grid investment and did not note any challenges with the routes, there was an emphasis on further development to connect strategic areas in Donegal, such as Letterkenny and subsequent connections to Derry and Strabane. Based on their submissions, there was a clear indication that the projects would have a significant positive impact and enable important progress in the area of decarbonisation, economic development, and regional planning.

There were notable concerns about current grid constraints, which impact key objectives for local authorities, regional development bodies, and energy providers. A regional stakeholder raised concerns that environmental, community and cultural matters be fully taken on board, although these processes will be clearly communicated to local stakeholders during the relevant programme delivery stages. Submissions from residents within the study area focused on proximity to their property, land, a heritage site, and a conservation area, while one proposed the reuse of existing routes.

Most people attended engagement events with the purpose of accessing information. For some, grid improvements are welcome in the context of recent disruptions, which can have large impact on those living in rural and remote areas. Land and property owners with location queries attending the engagement events were supported by EirGrid staff, and it was noted that most people enquiring would not be within the study area. While feedback shared during engagement activities was mostly positive regarding the need for the projects, there were themes and concerns raised by some. Informal feedback highlighted concerns for impacts on forestry, land, and natural habitats, mostly connected to individual landowners but also as a broader landscape concern.

While there was a low number of formal submissions, the high level of in-person engagement recorded indicates a successful level of early engagement around these projects and ensuring that the public has access to two-way communication regarding projects.

[Next Steps for the Powering Up North-West Project](#)

The feedback collected through this consultation will help identify route corridor options during the next steps of the programme.

[Community Forum](#)

EirGrid will establish a Community Forum for the Powering Up North West Project, chaired by an independent facilitator, which will bring together people and organisations from across the project area so that stakeholder and community views can be discussed, understood, and properly considered prior to and during project delivery.

[Appendix A: Designed Materials and Printed Collateral](#)

[1. Information Leaflet.](#)

Distributed during public engagement activities and downloadable from project webpage.

2. Project Webpage for Powering Up North-West

Home > Powering Up The North West

On this page

- Overview
- Project Updates
- FAQ
- Have Your Say
- Documents
- Contact

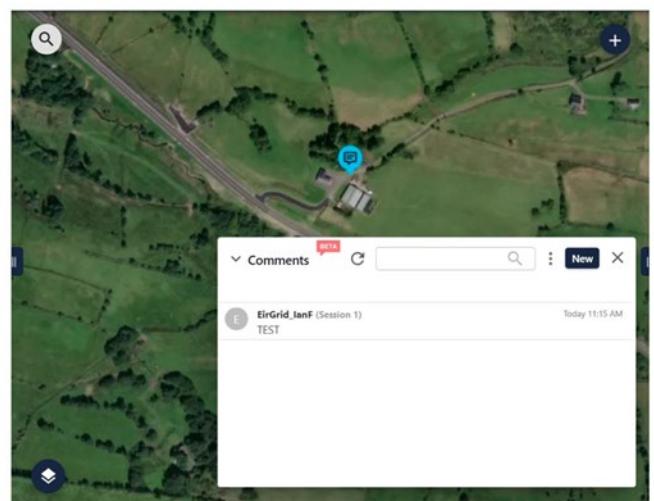
Powering Up the North West

Powering Up the North West is a proposed programme of works designed to enable the integration of more renewable energy sources into the grid and enable the grid to meet increased electricity demand in the North West. This will help drive economic growth and development across the region.

As part of this programme, two new 220 kV circuits are required in the Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal area. Taking into account geography, topography, and local needs it has been decided by EirGrid that these two

3. Pathfinder

Pathfinder



11

4. Social Media Posts

EirGrid's Post

EirGrid Published by Sprout Social · September 18 · [View post](#)

We're upgrading the electricity grid in the North West. Our Powering Up the North West grid upgrade works will address the growing demand for electricity in the area and make the grid more resilient. EirGrid recognises the importance and value of local knowledge and insight. That's why we're hosting information events throughout October to engage with local communities. From 16 September to 25 November, communities in the area will have the opportunity to have their say on the proposed plans through our Public Consultation. You can have your say online or at one of our in person events being held throughout the North West. To find out more visit: www.eirgrid.ie/northwest

#GridDelivery #NorthWest #PublicConsultation #PublicInformation #GridReinforcement #PoweringUp

Powering Up the North West Information Events

Dates and Time	Venue
1st October, 11am - 6.30pm	Bee Park Community Centre, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim
2nd October, 11am - 6.30pm	Folk Park, Riverstown, Co. Sligo
15th October, 11am - 6.30pm	The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim
16th October, 11am - 6.30pm	Coláiste Cholmcille, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal
29th October, 11am - 6.30pm	Sligo Park Hotel, Co. Sligo
30th October, 11am - 6.30pm	Leghowney Community Hall, Co. Donegal

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EirGrid puts technology in pole position to Power Up the North West

EirGrid is advancing plans to upgrade the electricity grid in the North West with its 'Powering Up the North West' programme. The works aim to accommodate the growing demand for electricity in the region as well as facilitating the integration of increased renewables on to the grid.

The proposed upgrade will consist of two new 220 kV circuits. One route will run from Srananagh substation in Sligo to Clogher in Donegal, and another between Flagford substation in Roscommon and Srananagh.

EirGrid recently ran a public consultation process seeking the public's views and inputs on constraints which might impact the delivery of the programme to help us identify route corridor options during the next steps of the programme.

New innovative grid technology will be utilised for the first time on a project of this kind in Ireland with composite poles being used for supporting the overhead lines. Composite pole sets are more durable and lightweight than traditional steel structures and are designed for strength and weather resistance.

Siobhán O'Shea, EirGrid's Interim Chief Infrastructure Officer Onshore said: "The existing network in the region is quite light from a transmission perspective, and it really needs to be strengthened and upgraded. The whole point is to provide a secure and reliable electricity service for everybody."

"We are always looking for ways to maximise what we have in our technical toolkit and to find the best technology for different applications. This area was hit hard by Storm Éowyn. Composite poles are very durable and are specifically designed to be weather resistant."

[Read more here: \[https://lnkd.in/ehM_p2n2\]\(https://lnkd.in/ehM_p2n2\)](#)

#GridReinforcement #GridDelivery #NorthWest #PoweringUp #Sligo #Donegal #Leitrim #Roscommon



EirGrid Group 49,519 followers · Promoted

We're upgrading the electricity grid in your area, and your input and local knowledge are vital in shaping these plans. Have your say online or in person. Our consultation closes 25 November.

We're upgrading the electricity grid in your area

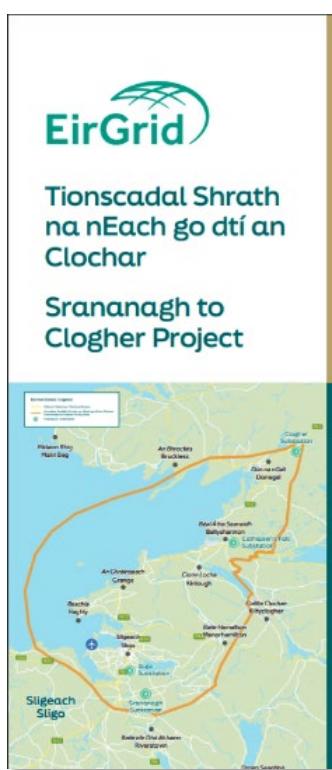
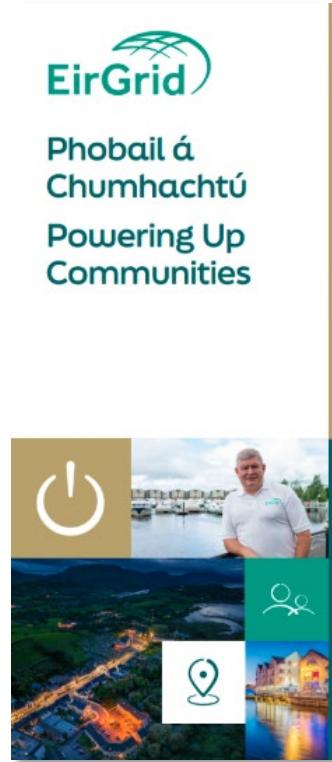
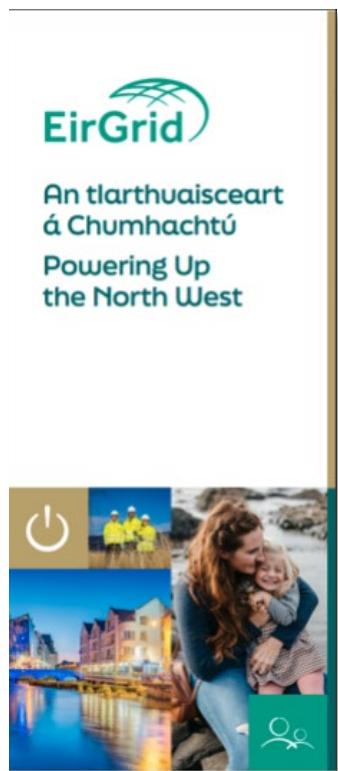




[Powering Up the North West](#) [Learn more](#)

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5. Pull up stands



6. Photos



THANK YOU

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