

Addendum to North Connacht 110 kV Project Brochure Autumn 2021 Update

Swinford – Options Under Consideration

Following our announcement in September that the Best Performing Option (BPO) for North Connacht 110kV Project was an underground cable, we confirmed that we needed to further investigate options in the Swinford area.

Our Consultants, Agricultural Liaison Officers and Community Liaison officers have been engaging with Landowners and Stakeholders in the area, as we continue to review feasible options. Determining a cable route in the Swinford area presents challenges relating to existing infrastructure, developments, and archaeological heritage.

The map within the brochure (page 7) highlights, in yellow, the Swinford area under review. Surveys are ongoing in this area; however, we have narrowed our options to three potential routes, shown on the map overleaf.

The three options include:

1.	Option 1	An off-road section shown in Blue
2.	Option 2A	An in-road option shown in Purple
3.	Option 2B	An in-road option shown in Green

Option 1: is approximately 2,600m in length, of which 1,200m is off-road, and 1,400m utilises the local road network, to the north east and north west of Swinford. It traverses ground adjacent to Kilconduff cemetery in Rathscanlan, where archaeological investigations are proposed. Tree loss is associated with this option, but EirGrid intends to compensate for such losses in other areas, through tree and/or hedge planting on other land parcels.

Option 2A & 2B:

Both option 2A and 2B are in-road options, which utilise the existing road network within the town of Swinford. Minor lengths of off-road sections will be required where the existing road width is insufficient to accommodate joint bays and passing bays. While temporary disturbance within the town is anticipated, construction works will be scheduled to minimise this. Due to the density of parallel services within the road, Ground Penetrating Radar Survey (GPRS) will be carried out at a number of locations along the two sub-options to determine the most suitable of these options.

Next Steps

All three options are being taken forward into Step 5 of the EirGrid Six-step approach to the development of the electricity grid and both options will be subject to environmental and technical studies and ongoing consultation with affected landowners and relevant stakeholders in the Swinford area.

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