



Delivering a cleaner energy future

The Celtic Interconnector

Community Update Brochure – July 2021

Guide to public participation in the Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Application process.



Co-financed by the Connecting Europe
Facility of the European Union

About EirGrid

EirGrid is the state-owned company that operates and develops the national high-voltage electricity grid in Ireland.

The grid transports electricity from where it is generated to towns and cities throughout the country. From there, it is sent to every home, office and business via the distribution network operated by ESB Networks.

As part of our role, we need to explore and develop opportunities to connect our transmission grid with grids in other countries.

Project Background

We are proposing to build an electricity interconnector linking the Irish and French electricity grids – the Celtic Interconnector.

For the past 10 years, EirGrid has been working with its French equivalent Réseau de Transport d'Electricité (RTE) to find the best way to do so.

The project is being co-funded by EirGrid and RTE, with significant co-financing from the EU. In 2019, the project was awarded €530.7 million from the European Commission's Connecting Europe Facility. The project also received EU funding at earlier study stages.

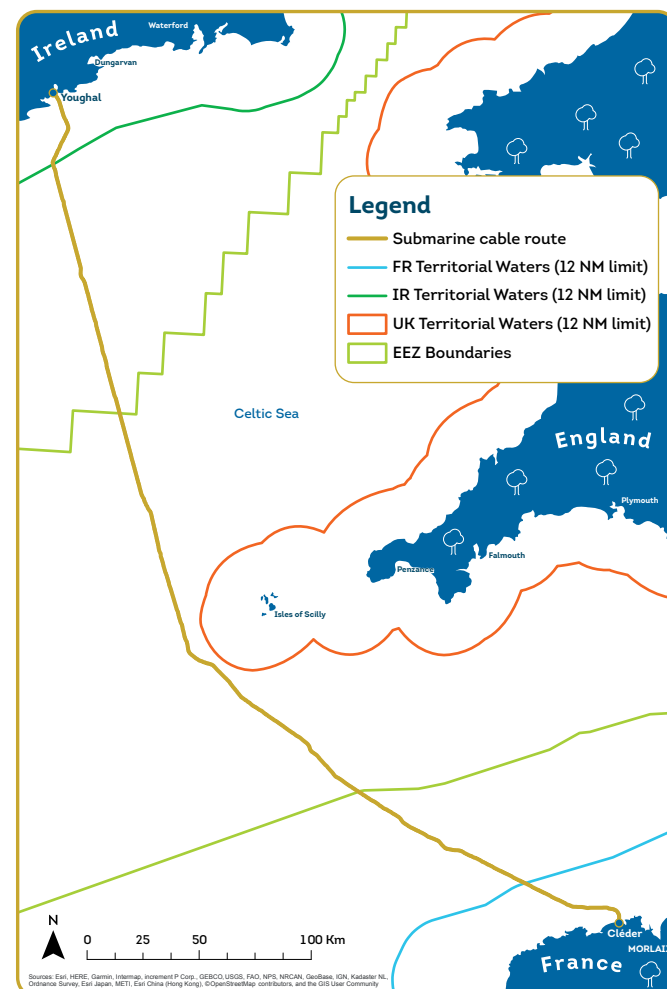
The Celtic Interconnector will bring many benefits for Ireland, France and the EU. It will:

- Enable 700 megawatts (MW) of electricity to move in both directions between the countries. This is equivalent to supplying power to around 450,000 homes
- Improve the security of our electricity supply by providing Ireland's only direct energy connection to an EU member state
- Help us to achieve our climate objectives
- Help to reduce the cost of electricity
- Provide a direct telecommunications fibre optic link between Ireland and France

In November 2020, we established that the best place to land the submarine electricity cable is at Claycastle Beach, near Youghal in East Cork. From there an underground cable will run inland on the national road and continue north of Middleton on local roads to the converter station.

This will be built at Ballyadam, on part of an IDA-owned site, to the east of Carrigtwohill. The final connection will be by underground cable from Ballyadam to a substation on the national grid at Knockraha.

Documentation on how the project has been developed can be reviewed at our website www.eirgrid.ie/celticinterconnector



The Planning Application

The Irish onshore element of the overall Celtic Interconnector project is designated a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID).

An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority responsible for assessing and determining this SID application.

As such, EirGrid has submitted an application for planning approval to An Bord Pleanála which will be open to statutory public consultation.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been submitted as part of this application.

In addition a Foreshore Licence is required for the offshore elements of the project in Ireland. This is a separate consenting process managed by the Foreshore Unit of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

What happens now with the SID Application?

A seven-week period of statutory public consultation will commence on Monday 19 July 2021.

If you wish to make a written submission or observation in relation to the application for approval **you must do so to An Bord Pleanála directly.**

An Bord Pleanála has absolute discretion with regard to holding an oral hearing to further explore issues associated with the project. A decision on whether or not to hold an oral hearing generally follows the Board's consideration of submissions received.

It is anticipated that the planning process may take 9 - 12 months to complete with a decision expected in 2022.



Public Display

The application documentation will be placed on public display during the seven-week period of public consultation at the Cork County Council offices, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 R2NC.

The documentation can also be viewed and downloaded at www.eirgridcelticinterconnector.ie

Hard copies may also be viewed at An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902.

Submissions and Observations

Submissions and observations in relation to the application for the proposed development may be made in writing only to An Bord Pleanála, from Monday 19 July to Monday 6 September 2021, and must be accompanied by a statutory fee of €50. Further information on how to make a submission is available on the An Bord Pleanála website at www.pleanala.ie

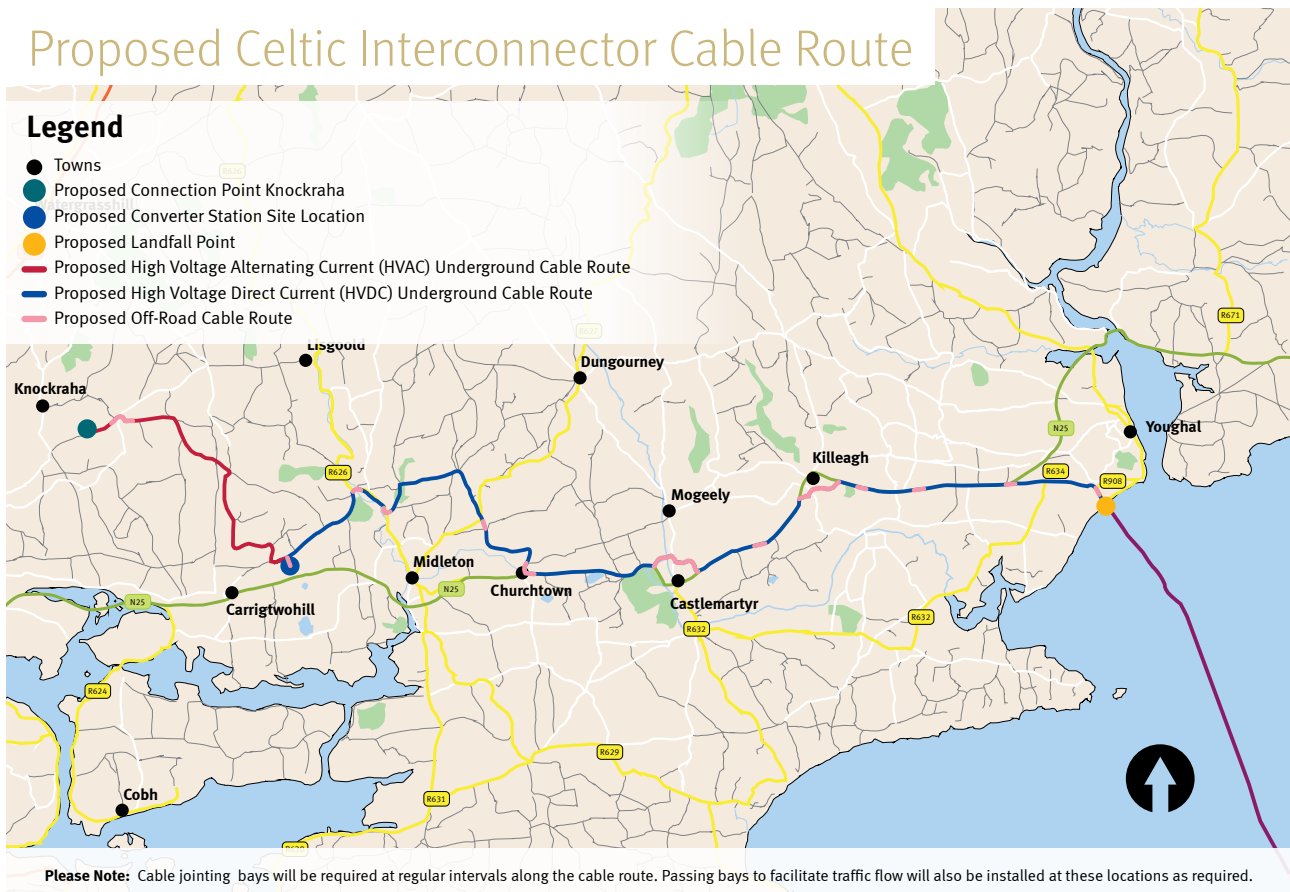
Guide to the Planning Application Documents

The application documentation is available for viewing at the locations previously advised and online at www.eirgridcelticinterconnector.ie from Monday the 19 July.

It is comprised of three parts:

1. **Statutory Particulars:** Information which we are statutorily obliged to include, including the application form, public notices and other particulars.
2. **Plans and Drawings:** Details showing the proposed development including location maps and technical design drawings.
3. **Planning and Environmental Documents:** Documents detailing the strategic development including non-technical summaries of the environmental impact of the proposed development. This includes a planning report, consultation report, the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and the Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

Proposed Celtic Interconnector Cable Route



Contact Details

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Please note, submissions and or observations in relation to the application for planning approval should NOT be sent to EirGrid but should be made directly to An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01 V902 by **5.30p.m. Monday 6 September 2021.**

Printed copies of the full application, or parts thereof, can be obtained at a price not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy upon request. Please direct any such request to the offices of An Bord Pleanála.



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