



# North-South 400kV Interconnection Development



## *Draft* Community Update



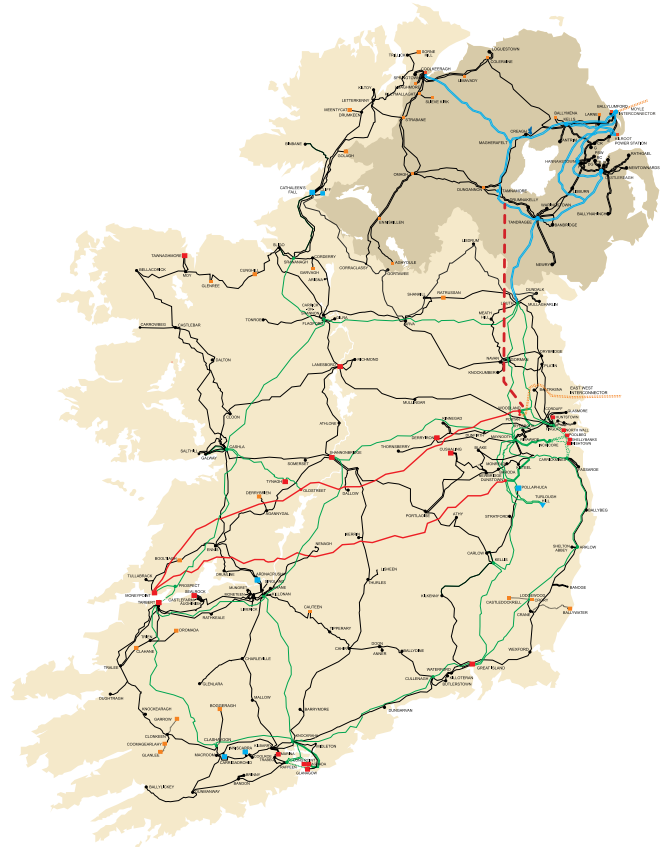
Part Funded by the EU-TEN-E Initiative

Application for Planning Approval to An Bord Pleanála

## Project Background

The North-South 400kV Interconnection Development is part of a strategic cross-border electricity transmission infrastructure scheme undertaken jointly by EirGrid and System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI) – the “proposed interconnector”. The application for planning approval by EirGrid to An Bord Pleanála relates to that portion of the overall proposed interconnector within Ireland (which runs through counties Monaghan, Cavan and Meath) from the existing ESB 400kV substation at Woodland, County Meath to the border at Lemgare, County Monaghan.

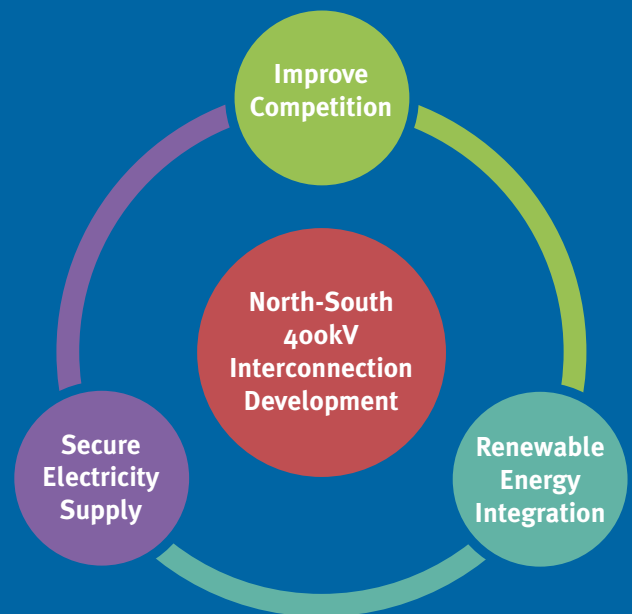
The application for that portion of the proposed interconnector in Northern Ireland (from the border to a planned substation on the Northern Ireland transmission network, in Turleenan, County Tyrone), is currently being considered by the DOE Planning Service in Northern Ireland.



## Project Drivers

The project will provide a second high-capacity interconnector between the two transmission systems on the island of Ireland, delivering benefits to householders, communities, businesses and the economy.

- Improve competition – the proposed interconnector will improve the efficiency of the all-island single electricity market.
- Secure supply of electricity – enhance the security of the electricity supply throughout the island of Ireland which is essential for economic growth, the creation of jobs and improving the standard of living and quality of life for all.
- Help Ireland meet its 40% renewable electricity target – allow more renewable energy to be connected to the electricity network, reducing our production of greenhouse gases and our reliance on imported fossil fuels.





## EirGrid Submits Application for Approval to An Bord Pleanála

(Insert) EirGrid is submitting an application for approval to An Bord Pleanála for the North-South 400kV Interconnection Development. This brochure provides a summary of the planning process and the documents that EirGrid is submitting to An Bord Pleanála. A period of statutory public consultation will take place (insert) for seven weeks until (insert).

This is the phase of the proposed development which commences with the submission of the application for approval to An Bord Pleanála, the competent authority responsible for assessing and determining applications for strategic infrastructure developments. If you wish to make a submission in relation to the application for approval you can do so in writing to An Bord Pleanála directly. An Bord Pleanála has the discretion to conduct an oral hearing during which members of the public may also make submissions and observations with regard to the project.

The development comprises

- A new single-circuit 400kV overhead transmission line in counties Monaghan, Cavan and Meath
- A new 400kV circuit along the unused northern side of the Oldstreet to Woodland 400kV line
- Associated works immediately adjacent to the Woodland substation in Meath
- An associated temporary construction material storage yard in County Monaghan
- Associated permanent and temporary construction and excavation works

In December 2013 EirGrid published a final line route for the project that forms the basis of the planning application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála. This took account of requests from stakeholders - mostly landowners - for localised changes to the line design. These were evaluated in accordance with the criteria set out in the Preferred Project Solution Report, published in July 2013, and many were accommodated.

## Public Display

The application documentation, including the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS), will be placed on public display from (insert) to (insert) as follows:

### On-line:

The application documentation (including the EIS and NIS) may be viewed / downloaded at [www.eirgridnorthsouthinterconnector.ie](http://www.eirgridnorthsouthinterconnector.ie)

### Hard copies may be viewed at the offices of:

- An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
- Meath County Council, County Hall, Navan, County Meath
- Cavan County Council, Cavan Courthouse, Farnham Street, Cavan, County Cavan
- Monaghan County Council, County Offices, The Glen, Monaghan, County Monaghan

### EirGrid Project Information Centres:

- **Navan Information Centre**, 10a Kennedy House, Kennedy Road, Navan, County Meath every Tuesday and Friday.
- **Carrickmacross Information Centre**, Carrickmacross Workhouse, Shercock Road, Carrickmacross, County Monaghan every Monday and Thursday.
- **Kingscourt Information Centre**, Dun a Ri House Hotel, Station Road, Kingscourt, County Cavan every Wednesday.

In addition, the Navan, Carrickmacross and Kingscourt Information centres will be open every day for the following two weeks

- (insert)
- (insert)

## Submissions/Observations

Submissions and/or observations in relation to the application for the proposed development may be made in writing only to An Bord Pleanála, from (insert) to (insert), and shall be accompanied by the statutory fee of €50.

### Post:

An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

# The Environmental Impact Statement

EirGrid has prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the development. This involves a large number of specialists evaluating how the proposed development would interact with the human and natural environment, including any issues of a cross-border nature.

As part of this process, potential impacts and associated mitigation measures across a wide range of environmental areas are identified. These are summarised in brief below.

Environmental Topics	Expected Impacts (including those of a cross-border nature)	Mitigation Measures
<p><b>Human Beings</b></p> <p><i>(Population &amp; Economic, Land Use, Tourism and Amenity, EMF)</i></p>	<p>Potential impact on population and residential amenity in areas within close proximity to the towers and overhead line, including those in the vicinity of the two border crossings with Northern Ireland. Positive economic benefits from improvements to the electricity grid on the island of Ireland.</p> <p>Impacts on land use include potential restrictions on farm yard development and farming enterprises, damage to soil at the construction storage compound, and clearing of trees on forestry land parcels.</p> <p>Impacts on tourism and amenity are expected to be limited to indirect localised visual impacts on the landscape. No expected impacts on tourism and amenity in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>EMF emissions will comply with the ICNIRP and European Union guidelines on exposure. EMF levels dissipate within a short distance of the overhead line; therefore no significant transboundary impacts are expected.</p>	<p>Maximise the distance between the proposed development and houses.</p> <p>Preparation of an outline <i>Construction and Environmental Management Plan</i> outlining the mitigation measures for the construction and operational phase of the development as detailed in the EIS.</p> <p>Route selection used to reduce the potential for adverse impacts on tourism and amenity.</p> <p>Minimise exposure to EMF in siting or line design by avoiding residences to the greatest extent possible.</p>
<p><b>Flora and Fauna</b></p>	<p>Potential impacts during construction phase include indirect water pollution, disturbance to riparian habitats and qualifying protected fauna, temporary disturbance and displacement risk to potential breeding sites and potential tree roosts. Potential impacts during operational phase include collision risk and habitat loss and displacement. No direct impacts are anticipated on habitats located in Northern Ireland. Potential impacts on birds or animal territories that may use sites on both sides of the border are not likely to be significant.</p>	<p>Appoint an Ecological Clerk of Works to advise on the implementation of ecological mitigation measures as detailed in the EIS.</p> <p>Avoid locating tower positions and other work areas in high (local) value habitats or within wetland sites that occur along the alignment.</p>
<p><b>Noise and Vibration</b></p>	<p>Potential for temporary increase in noise levels at noise sensitive locations and ground vibration from excavation works during the construction phase. Operational noise may be audible but not dominant over the ambient noise levels. There are no expected noise and vibration impacts on the environment in Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Noise monitoring will be implemented during construction.</p> <p>Practical noise control measures will be implemented during construction including siting of noisy plant as far away from sensitive receptors as possible.</p>



Environmental Topics	Expected Impacts (including those of a cross-border nature)	Mitigation Measures
<b>Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology</b>	Potential impacts on soils, geology and hydrogeology are limited to the immediate area of the proposed towers. Potential impacts from accidental spillages of fuels, oils and solvents which could impact the soil, bedrock and groundwater quality. A negligible transboundary impact will occur on the geology or groundwater conditions in Northern Ireland from excavation or other works at the sites of proposed towers in Ireland.	<p>All excavated materials will be visually assessed for signs of possible contamination and dealt with appropriately under the <i>Waste Management Acts</i>.</p> <p>Precautions will be taken to avoid spillages.</p> <p>Avoid locating any towers within the inner source protection of public groundwater supply schemes.</p>
<b>Water</b>	Potential impacts to the water environment include the use of temporary access routes and excavations required for the tower bases, increased runoff from soil disturbance and concrete and from accidental spillages of fuels. No significant impacts are anticipated on the surface water environment in Northern Ireland.	<p>Construction works will be undertaken in accordance with CIRIA Document C650 <i>Environmental Good Practice on Site</i>.</p> <p>Silt barrier / silt curtains will be used where towers or works are undertaken near watercourses.</p> <p>Precautions will be taken to avoid spillages.</p>
<b>Air – Quality and Climate</b>	No significant local air quality effects are anticipated in terms of dust and traffic emissions. Positive transboundary impact on climate through facilitating a reduction in national greenhouse gas emissions in compliance with the EU emission targets for Ireland.	Mitigation measures will be employed on a site specific basis, based on a review of construction activities.
<b>Landscape</b>	There will be significant changes to landscape character in the immediate vicinity of the line but there will be little alteration to the character of the wider landscape. Visual effects reduce with distance, with the most significant effects occurring up to 600-800m from unscreened structures. Localised transboundary landscape and visual effects are anticipated from the part of the alignment in County Monaghan closest to the jurisdictional border with Northern Ireland.	<p>Avoid the most sensitive parts of the landscape at routing stage.</p> <p>Use of existing access route and gaps in hedgerows and protection of retained vegetation during construction.</p>
<b>Material Assets - General</b>	The proposed development will have no significant impacts on utilities and aviation enterprises in Ireland. There will be a positive transboundary impact associated with providing a high capacity electricity transmission line between Ireland and Northern Ireland. Aircraft and ballooning companies operating out of Northern Ireland will need to be cognisant of the proposed overhead line close to the border and on the approach to Trim Airfield.	<p>The proposed line route is selected taking into account the presence of Trim Airfield in County Meath and the relevant Obstacle Limitation Surfaces for the airfield.</p> <p>Preparation of an outline <i>Construction Waste Management Plan</i> to minimise waste and ensure correct handling and disposal of construction waste streams in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines.</p>

Environmental Topics	Expected Impacts (including those of a cross-border nature)	Mitigation Measures
<b>Material Assets - Traffic</b>	<p>The construction phase of the proposed development will generate significant, albeit temporary, volumes of traffic because the primary means of transporting materials and labour will be via the public road network. The operational phase of the proposed development will generate minimal volumes of traffic. Higher volumes of traffic are anticipated at the material storage yard as vehicles will concentrate in this location prior to dispersing to sites. The transboundary traffic impact as a result of the proposed development is considered minimal.</p>	<p>Preparation of an outline <i>Construction Traffic Management Plan</i>.</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>There will be no direct, physical impacts on the upstanding remains of previously recorded archaeological monuments, however there is potential that subsurface archaeological remains associated with a number of sites could be impacted on during the construction stage. With regard to architectural heritage, potential direct impacts may occur as a result of construction traffic passing through demesne landscapes with associated protected structures. The greatest potential for impacts is on the setting of cultural heritage sites during the operational phase. No direct physical impacts on previously recorded archaeological, architectural or cultural heritage sites, structures or monuments located in Northern Ireland are anticipated as a result of the proposed development. It is envisaged that the archaeological monument (Northern Ireland SMR No. ARM023-004) will experience a negative impact on its setting.</p>	<p>The main mitigation involves preservation in situ, thereby avoiding direct, physical impacts on known archaeological sites</p> <p>A Specialist archaeologist will work closely with the construction team.</p>

## VOLUME 3 Multi-Volume EIS VOLUME 3C & 3D

**Volume 3C** Cavan Monaghan Study Area (CMSA)

**Volume 3D** Meath Study Area (MSA)

**Volume 3C of the EIS considers the Cavan Monaghan Study Area.** This volume provides an appraisal of the proposed development from the area of two crossing points of the jurisdictional border with Northern Ireland at Lemgare, County Monaghan to the townland of Clonturkan, County Cavan.

**Volume 3D of the EIS considers the Meath Study Area.** This volume provides an appraisal of the proposed development, from the townland of Clonturkan, County Cavan to the existing Woodland 400kV Substation in County Meath.

Volume 3C and Volume 3D each contain the following individual chapters specific to the particular study area being focused on in each Volume:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>01</b> Introduction                           | <b>07</b> Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology |
| <b>02</b> Human Beings – Population and Economic | <b>08</b> Water                           |
| <b>03</b> Human Beings – Land Use                | <b>09</b> Air – Noise                     |
| <b>04</b> Human Beings – Tourism and Amenity     | <b>10</b> Air – Quality and climate       |
| <b>05</b> Human Beings – EMF                     | <b>11</b> Landscape                       |
| <b>06</b> Flora and Fauna                        | <b>12</b> Material Assets – General       |
|  | <b>13</b> Material Assets – Traffic       |
|  | <b>14</b> Cultural Heritage               |

**Volume 3C** **Appendices** associated with Volume 3C.

**Volume 3C** **Figures** associated with Volume 3C.

**Volume 3D** **Appendices** associated with Volume 3D

**Volume 3D** **Figures** associated with Volume 3D.

## VOLUME 4 Joint Environmental Report

This report is a summary of the overall proposed interconnector from Turleenan, County Tyrone to Woodland, County Meath, jointly prepared by EirGrid and SONI, and focussing primarily on environmental issues, including transboundary impacts and cumulative effects.

## VOLUME 5 Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

This is a document prepared pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directives to inform the appropriate assessment (AA) to be carried out by An Bord Pleanála as to the likely and possible impacts of the proposed development on a European site or sites.

# Guide to the Planning Application Documents

The application documentation is presented in five volumes, all of which are available for review at the specified locations as detailed on the previous page.

## VOLUME 1 Statutory Particulars and Drawings

- Volume 1A** Statutory Particulars – Notices, Forms, etc
- Volume 1B** Planning Drawings (showing proposed development)

## VOLUME 2 Reports

- Volume 2A** Planning Report
- Volume 2B** Public and Landowner Consultation Report
  
- Volume 2A** **Appendices** associated with the Planning report.
- Volume 2B** **Appendices** associated with the Consultation report.

## VOLUME 3 Multi-Volume EIS VOLUME 3A & 3B

- Volume 3A** Non-Technical Summary
- Volume 3B** Common Chapters (CMSA & MSA)

**Volume 3A Non-Technical Summary** provides a non-technical summary of Volumes 3B, 3C and 3D.

**Volume 3B Common Chapters** is a document which deals with strategic issues arising in respect of the proposed development, including Consideration of Alternatives, Cumulative Impacts and Impact Interactions and Transboundary Impacts

- 01** Introduction
- 02** Strategic Need

- 03** Scoping the EIS
- 04** Transmission & Technology Alternatives
- 05** Route Alternatives
- 06** Description of Development – Transmission Circuit and Substation Works
- 07** Construction
- 08** Electric Magnetic Fields (EMF)
- 09** Transboundary
- 10** Cumulative and Impact Interactions
- 11** Summary of Mitigation Measures

**Volume 3B** **Appendices** associated with Volume 3B.

**Volume 3B** **Figures** contains the 1:5,000 mapping for the proposed development at A1 scale.





## About EirGrid

EirGrid, a state-owned company, is the national operator of the electricity transmission grid.

The national transmission grid is an interconnected network of high-voltage power lines and cables, comparable to the motorways, dual carriageways and main roads of the national road network. It is operated at three voltage levels; 400kV, 220kV and 110kV and is approximately 6,400km in overall length within Ireland.

It is the backbone of Ireland's electricity system and is vital to ensuring that all industrial, commercial and residential customers from both rural and urban areas have a safe, secure, reliable, economic and efficient electricity supply.

## Contact Details

For further information about where the application or maps are on display or to purchase documents please contact the project team as follows:

**Phone:** Lo-call **1890 25 26 90** (9am to 5pm Monday to Friday)

**Email:** [northsouth@eirgrid.com](mailto:northsouth@eirgrid.com)

**Website:** <http://www.eirgridprojects.com/projects/northsouth400kvinterconnectiondevelopment>

**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 Malborough Street, Dublin 1 by (insert) on (insert).**

