

MEATH-CAVAN 400KV POWER LINE

Proposed Route Corridor Options, Public Consultation

October 2007

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EU TEN-E Initiative

Who is EirGrid?

EirGrid plc, a state owned company, is the independent electricity Transmission System Operator in Ireland and the Market Operator in the wholesale electricity trading system. EirGrid's role is to deliver quality connection, transmission and market services to generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system, and to put in place the grid infrastructure required to support the development of Ireland's economy. EirGrid develops, maintains and operates a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system. EirGrid is playing a key role in establishment of the new All-Island Market for Electricity, as well as developing a second North-South Interconnector.

What's Happening?

EirGrid is planning two projects to facilitate cross-border sharing of electricity, promoting better competition and to ensure a future secure supply of electricity throughout the North East. The 2 projects are:

- 80km long 400kV Interconnector between Cavan and Tyrone
- 58km Woodland (Co Meath) to Kingscourt (Co Cavan) 400kV Power Line.

The 58km Woodland, Co Meath to Kingscourt, Co Cavan 400kV Power Line is necessary to strengthen the existing power supply in the North East due to recent increased development in the region. This project will connect the existing sub-station in Woodland, Co Meath to a proposed new sub-station near Kingscourt in Co Cavan.

Following extensive studies, route corridor options have been developed and are presented overleaf.

Benefits

- Provide high quality bulk power supply for the North East
- Support growth in the region and ensure continuing reliability of supply.
- Boost existing industry in the North East when competing for business and inward development in the area.
- Guarantee security of supply for future decades - if nothing is done now, by 2012/13 there is likely to be insufficient network capacity required to supply demand in the North East
- Increase competition and therefore reduce the cost of electricity to customers.
- Increase reliability for the local network in the North East and for all electricity customers.

How were the route corridors decided upon?

Seven key criteria were taken into account by the consultants when choosing possible route corridors for the power lines:

Visual Impact: An assessment of the of the visual impact of the proposal on the environment was carried out in order to minimise the impact

Community: an assessment of the local villages and communities was undertaken to reduce the proximity of the power lines to them and ensure minimal impact on lifestyles of those living and working in nearby communities.

Ecology: A review of conservation designated areas, including Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Area (SPAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) was completed.

Cultural Heritage: Architectural and archaeological heritage sites, including recorded archaeological monuments and places, protected structures, and national monuments, were assessed in an attempt to minimise any impact.

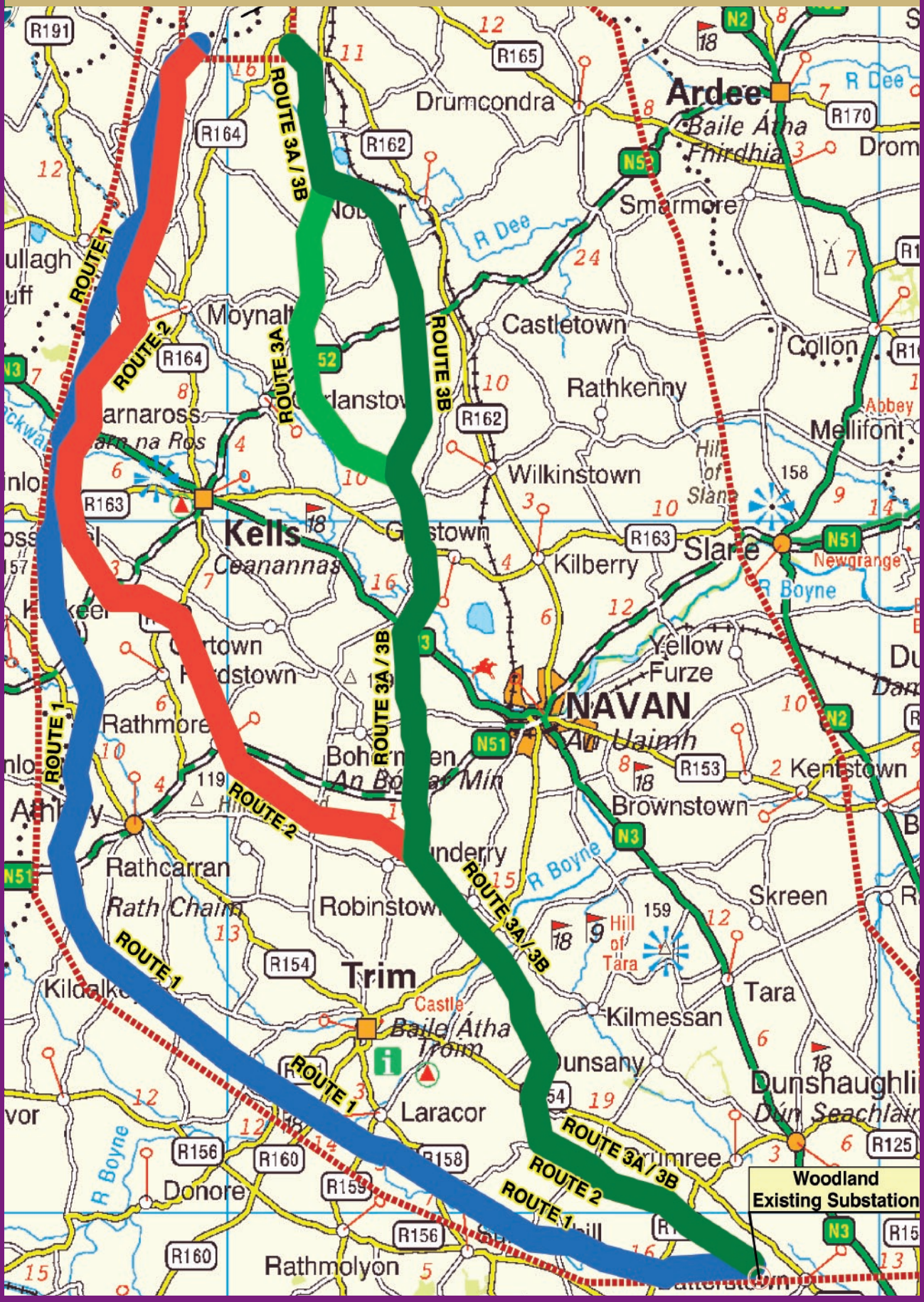
Landscape: A review of County Development Plans was undertaken in order to assess the numbers of scenic views, scenic routes, and vulnerable landscapes in the area.

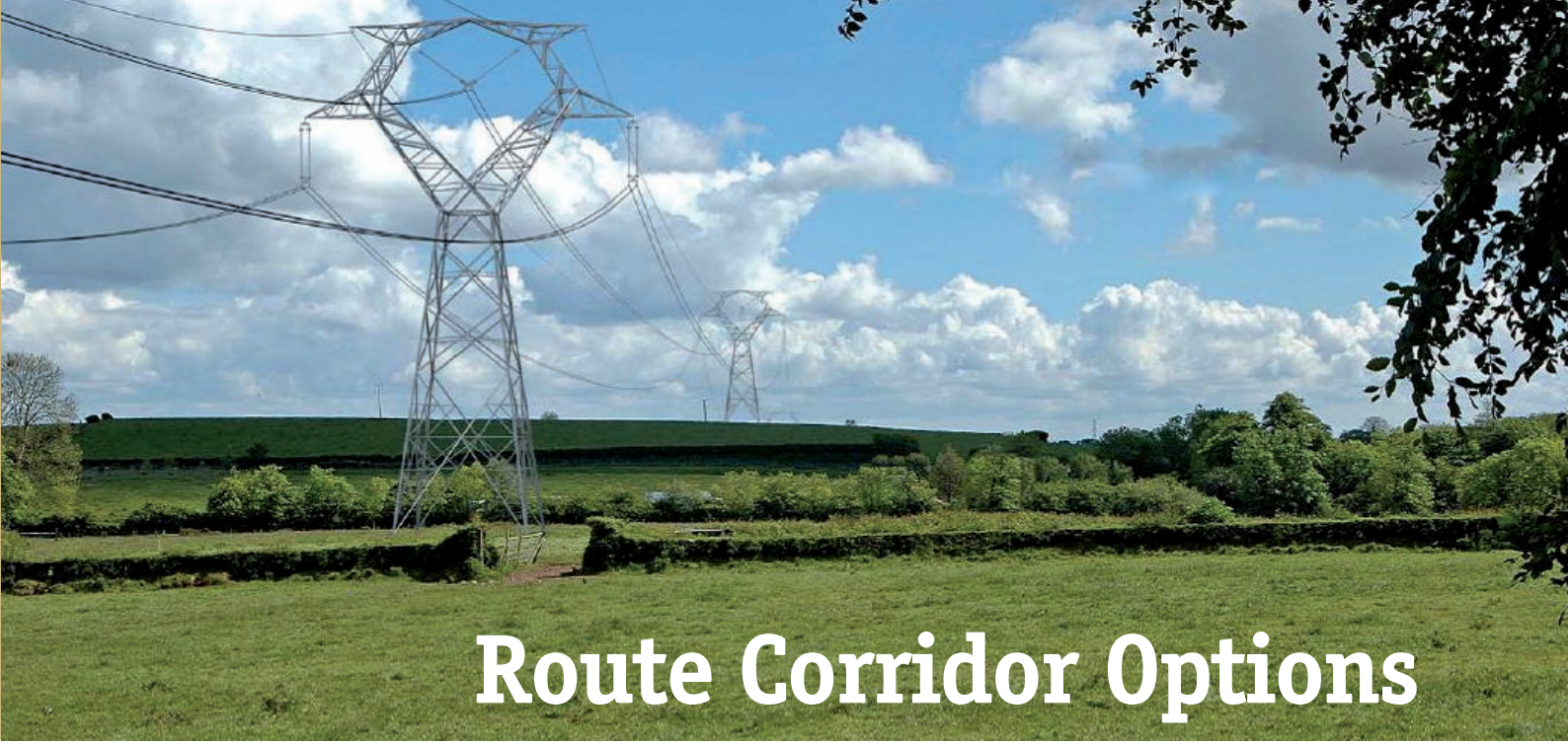
Geology: Soil, subsoil and bedrock was used to determine significant types and their benefits and drawbacks.

Water: The surface water features were reviewed, as lakes are to be avoided and river crossings minimised.

All of the above constraints were taken into account in order to ensure that the route options were sited in the best possible location.

Proposed Route Corridor Options for Meath – Cavan 400 kV Power Line





Route Corridor Options

Meath-Cavan

Route Option 1

Route Option 1 runs to the western part of the study area, staying to the west of the towns of Trim, Athboy and Kells and approximately 5km north of the town of Ballivor and approximately 1km east of the town of Mullagh.

Route Option 2

Route Option 2 runs between the central and western section of the study area, staying to the east of the town of Trim and Athboy, west of the town of Kells and then runs parallel to Route Option 1, running approximately 2.5km to the east of the town of Mullagh

Route Option 3

Route Option 3 follows Route Option 2 initially before running in a due north direction, running to the west of the town of Navan and to the east of the town of Kells. Approximately 6km north of the N3, this route option splits into two options 3A and 3B, before joining together west of Whitewood Lough.

Your views are important to us

We welcome all suggestions and queries. All submissions made and feedback collected during the public consultation on route selection will be used by the technical project teams to inform their decision on selecting the most appropriate route. All queries and submissions made will be dealt with in a confidential manner.

Please study the maps and tell us your views on the proposed route corridor options—you may use the enclosed feedback form or additional pages if you wish. All correspondence will be dealt with confidentially.

What Happens Next?

- Following public consultation in October 2007, submissions made by the public, businesses and other organisations will be taken into account, and along with further technical and other studies, will help to determine a Preferred Route.
- It is hoped that a Preferred Route will be ready for presentation to the public in early 2008, after which it will likely undergo further studies before a planning application is prepared.
- The planning application will include preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and consultation with landowners and the local community. The Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) will assess the impact of the project on the local areas as it is a process for anticipating and, possibly, preventing, negative effects on the environment that may be caused by a proposed development or project.

Keep informed

EirGrid is committed to ensuring that all members of the public are fully aware of the project and encourage you to participate in public consultation. If you would like to discuss the project or to meet with a member of the project team, please contact us by either telephone or email. Otherwise, keep an eye on the website for regular updates.

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Feedback

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What are your views?


EIRGRID