EirGrid

Public Information

Powering Up Offshore South Coast

Have your say

Project Update, November 2024



Who is EirGrid?

EirGrid is responsible for leading the secure transition of the electricity grid to a sustainable, low-carbon energy future.

EirGrid is a semi-state company that develops, manages, and operates Ireland's electricity grid. We also develop and will own Ireland's offshore high voltage electricity infrastructure.



We 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 our homes, businesses, schools and hospitals.

While EirGrid is not responsible for generating electricity or building windfarms, EirGrid is responsible for connecting electricity generation infrastructure, such as offshore and onshore windfarms, into our national electricity grid.

What is Powering Up Offshore - South Coast?

The Government's Climate Action Plan 2024 aims for Ireland to get 80% of the states energy needs coming from renewable energy sources.

Powering Up Offshore - South Coast is a project to build the new transmission grid infrastructure needed to bring power generated by offshore windfarms into our national grid.

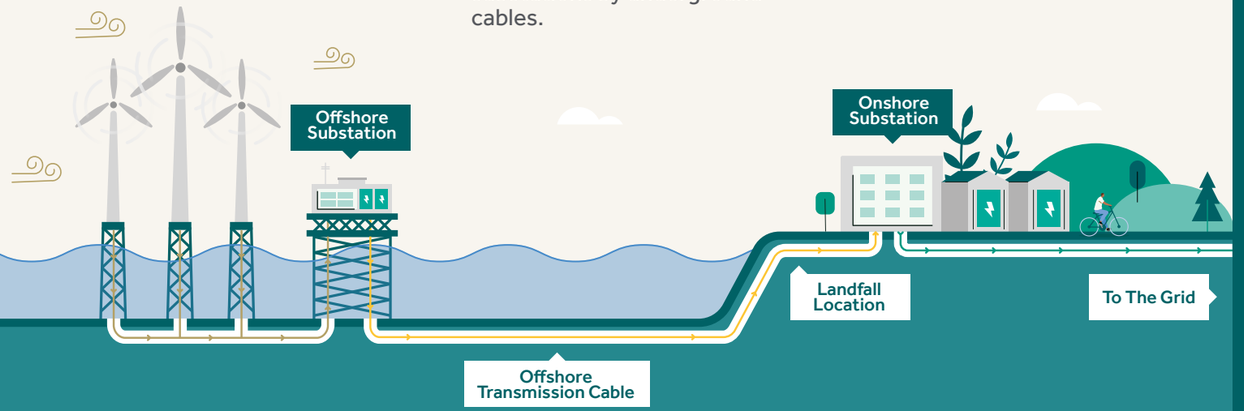
A key step to enabling this project is the Maritime Usage License (MUL) application, which is being lodged in November 2024, further detail of this is provided on page 12.

The main components of this project are:

- Two offshore substation platforms – to be located within the Maritime Area A, also known as Tonn Nua.

The following will then be required in County Cork and in County Waterford/Wexford:

- Offshore transmission cables connecting offshore substations to landfall locations.
- New onshore substations.
- Connections between landfalls and new onshore substations by underground cables.
- Loop-in connections to the existing electricity transmission network from the new substations by either underground cables or overhead lines.



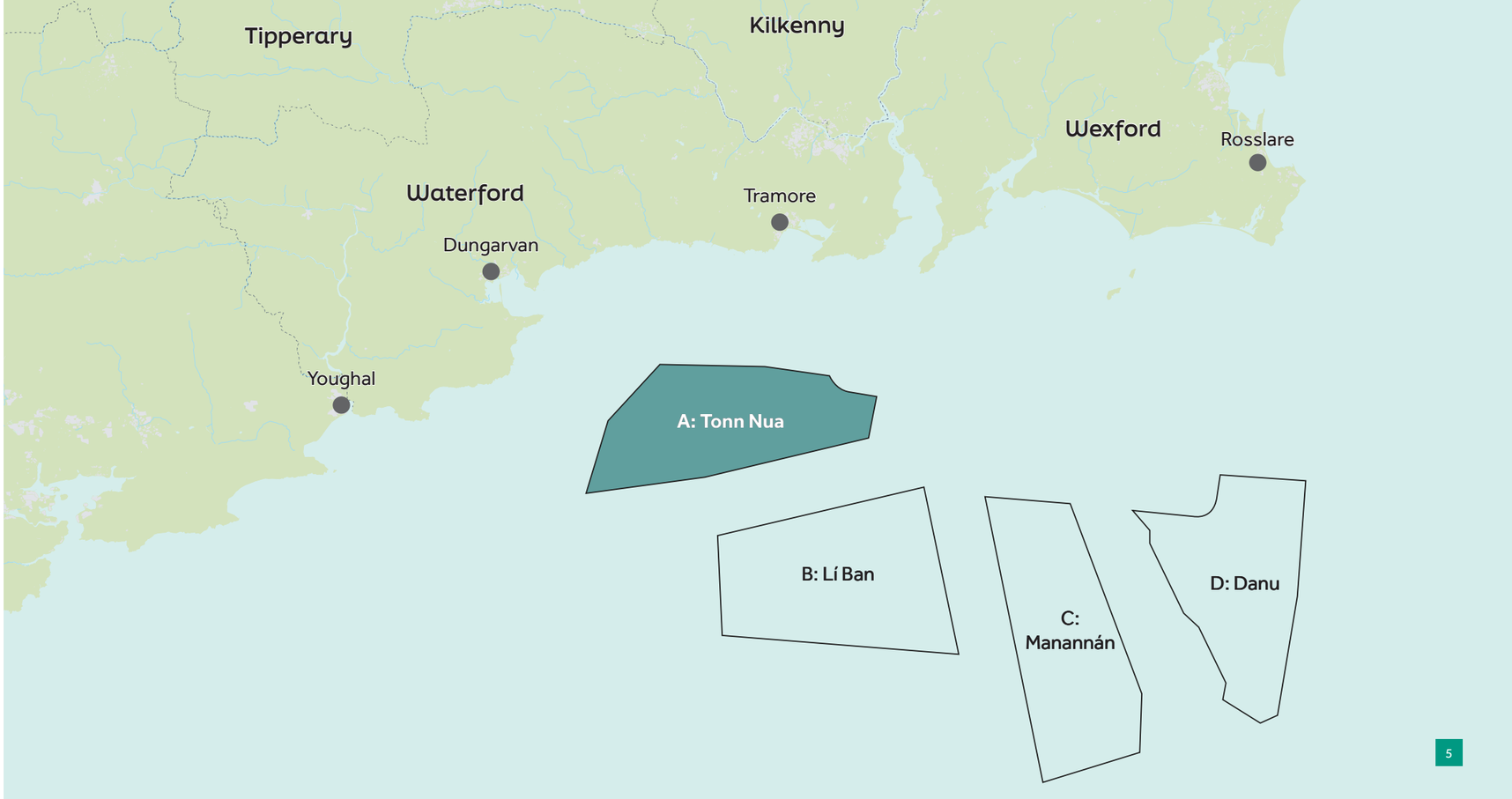
South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan (SC-DMAP)

The South Coast Designated Maritime Area Plan for Offshore Renewable Energy (SC-DMAP) is Ireland's first spatial plan for offshore renewable energy (ORE).

The substantial marine space and sea depths off the South Coast of Ireland are suitable for immediate and future developments of offshore wind. With the significant and growing population and industrial base along the South Coast the region is well placed to benefit from the long-term secure supply of green energy that will be provided by implementation of the SC-DMAP.

In October this year, the SC – DMAP was approved by the Oireachtas. The SC-DMAP represents a spatial government led approach for the development of offshore wind farms.

The SC-DMAP includes four proposed areas for future offshore wind development. The first area off the south coast that will host offshore wind farm development is area A, Tonn Nua. This will help deliver approximately 900 megawatts of additional electricity - enough to power almost one million homes with clean energy.



Project Benefits

This project is a critical development on the journey to a renewable energy future in Ireland. It will enable electricity generated from offshore wind to flow into the grid, where it is needed in the future. This will power businesses, schools, hospitals, homes and farms to prosper and grow. Other key benefits include:

Sustainability

This project will enable homes and businesses across the Irish coast and beyond to use electricity generated from offshore renewable energy.

Social and community

Our community benefit policy will directly support local communities in the areas that host the programme infrastructure.

Economic

This critical programme will help strengthen the economy across coastal regions, encouraging and supporting industry investment with accessibility to a strong electricity grid.

Security and reliability of supply

Building a more independent, resilient and reliable electricity grid helps ensure that everyone has power when and where they need it.

Meet future needs

As our society and economy develops, the programme will help us meet the growing demand for electricity, without increasing our carbon footprint.



What is happening now?

The development of this project follows EirGrid's 6-Step approach to Grid Development (see below) which sets out the steps to be taken to identify and implement the best performing solution for the development of the electricity transmission grid.

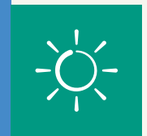
The **Powering Up Offshore - South Coast** is currently in Step 3.

EirGrid evaluated a long-list of potential Landfall Zones and Grid Connection Zones, to identify the Emerging Best Performing Options being consulted on now, in Step 3.



Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
How do we identify needs of the electricity grid?	What technologies can meet these needs?	**What's the best option and what area may be affected?**	Where exactly should we build?	Apply for planning permission.	Construct, energise (make live), and share benefits.





Have Your Say

EirGrid is now consulting on the the Emerging Best Performing Options shown for Landfall Zones and Grid Connection Zones.

Your input, local knowledge and ideas for this development are important to us.

The public consultation will take place from Tuesday 12th November 2024 to Friday 24th January 2025 and we want to hear your thoughts and suggestions.

You can get involved in the future of energy generation and provide feedback in a range of ways:

You can make a submission via EirGrid's consultation portal here:

https://consult.eirgrid.ie/en/consultation/powering-offshore-south-coast-step-3-consultation

or

Email your submissions to **southcoastoffshore@eirgrid.ie**

or

Submit your response in hard copy via free post to the following address:

Powering Up Offshore - South Coast Step 3 Consultation,

EirGrid plc,
Freepost FDN 5312,
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge,Dublin 4
D04 FW28



During and following this public consultation, EirGrid's Community, Agricultural and Fisheries Liaison Officers will engage with communities, landowners and the maritime community across the project study area.

EirGrid is a member of the Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE) Seafood Working Group, which was established by Government to facilitate discussion on matters arising from the interaction of the seafood and offshore renewable energy industries. We are committed to adhering to the principles for engagement as agreed by the Working Group.

Throughout the consultation, we are holding a series of public information events and online webinars.

This will provide an opportunity for us to share information with you and for you to speak to members of the project team about the project and ask any questions you may have before you submit your views.

If you would prefer to receive any information relating to the consultation through the post, or you need it in another format, please get in touch.

If you have any difficulty writing down your feedback, a member of the Public Engagement team will be able to take comments in-person or over the phone.

Information Events

Visit one of our face-to-face public information events being held at the following locations across the project study area to find out more and speak to experts within the team.

Online Webinars

Attend an hour-long online webinar where we will present details of the project followed by an open Q&A.

Find out more information and register for these webinars at www.eirgrid.ie/offshore.

Information Events

Location	Date	Time
Garryvoe Hotel, Garryvoe, Ballylongane, East, Co. Cork, P25 DR94	Tue 19 Nov	11am-6pm
Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark, Ballynasissala, Bunmahon, Co. Waterford, X42 T92	Wed 20 Nov	11am-6pm
St Mary's Community Hall, St. Mary's Community Hall, Fethard, Co. Wexford, Y34 HH58	Thu 21 Nov	11am-6pm
Halla Pobal Na Rinne, Maoil an Chóirne, An Rinn, Dún Garbhán, Co. Portláirge X35 XW29	Tue 26 Nov	11am-6pm
Aghada and District Community Centre, Aghada, Co. Cork P25 C576	Wed 27 Nov	11am-6pm
Carrig On Bannow Community Centre, Danescastle, Co. Wexford Y35 WF86	Tue 03 Dec	11am-6pm
Coastguard Cultural Centre, Doneraile Dr, Tramore West, Tramore, Co. Waterford, X91 HP63	Wed 04 Dec	11am-6pm
Churchtown South Community Hall, Ballycatoo, Cloyne, Co. Cork P25 AX24	Thu 05 Dec	11am-6pm

Online Webinars

Zoom Webinar	Thu 28 Nov	7pm-8pm
Zoom Webinar	Mon 13 Jan	7pm-8pm

Maritime Usage Licence Application

EirGrid has also applied for a Maritime Usage Licence Application to explore the suitability of the marine areas under consideration as part of this project. The MUL is a critical step for this project, enabling us to undertake surveys within the maritime area. Should the application for a MUL be successful, EirGrid will actively engage with local stakeholders, including fishing communities, representatives from the Seafood & Offshore Renewable Energy Working Group and local councils, providing regular updates on the MUL licensing activities. Further details of this MUL application are available on the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) website.

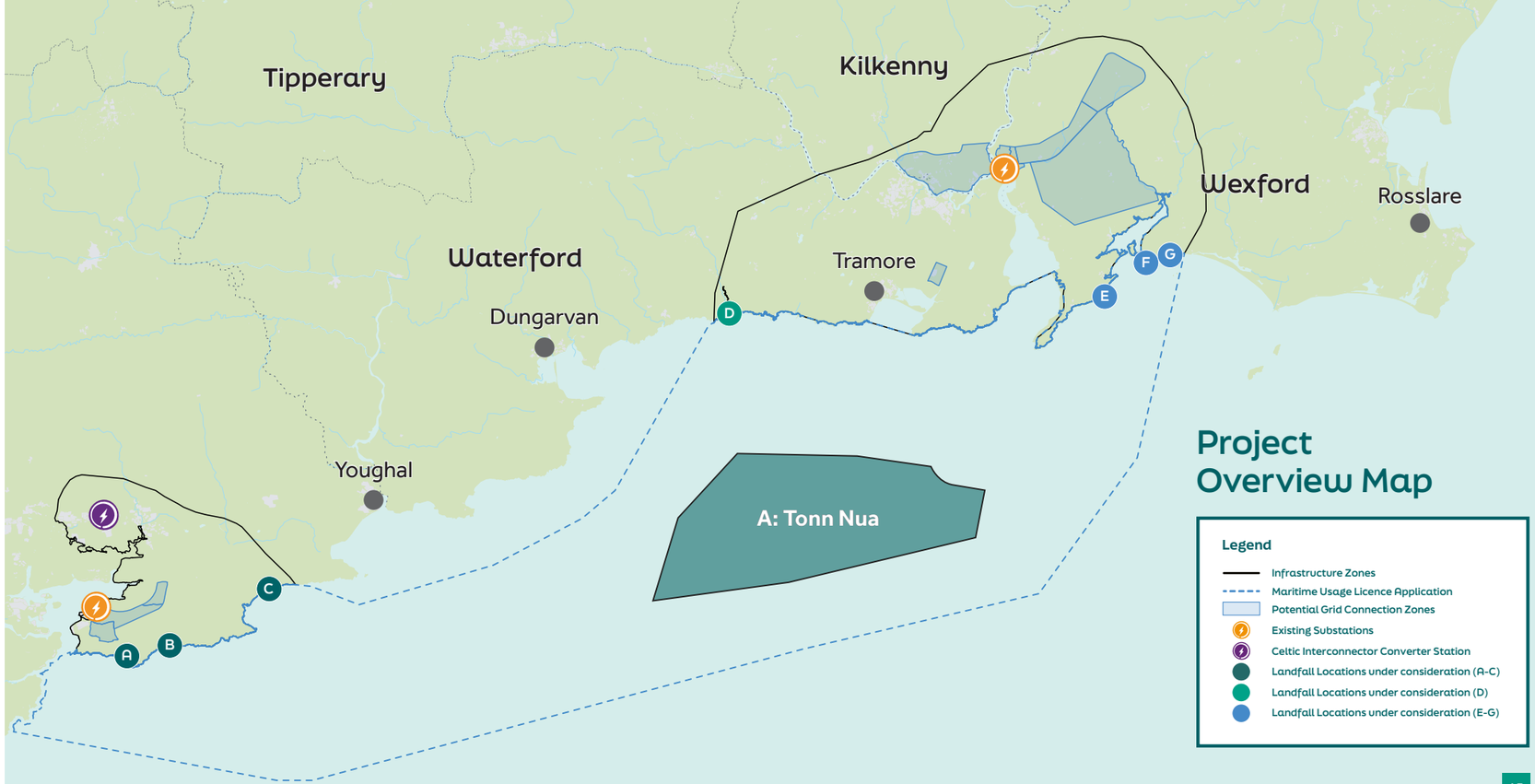
Project Overview

Project requirements in County Cork and in County Waterford/ Wexford, will include:

- Landfall locations
- New onshore substations
- Connections between landfalls and new onshore substations by underground cables
- Loop-in connections to the existing electricity transmission network from the new substations by either underground cables or overhead lines.

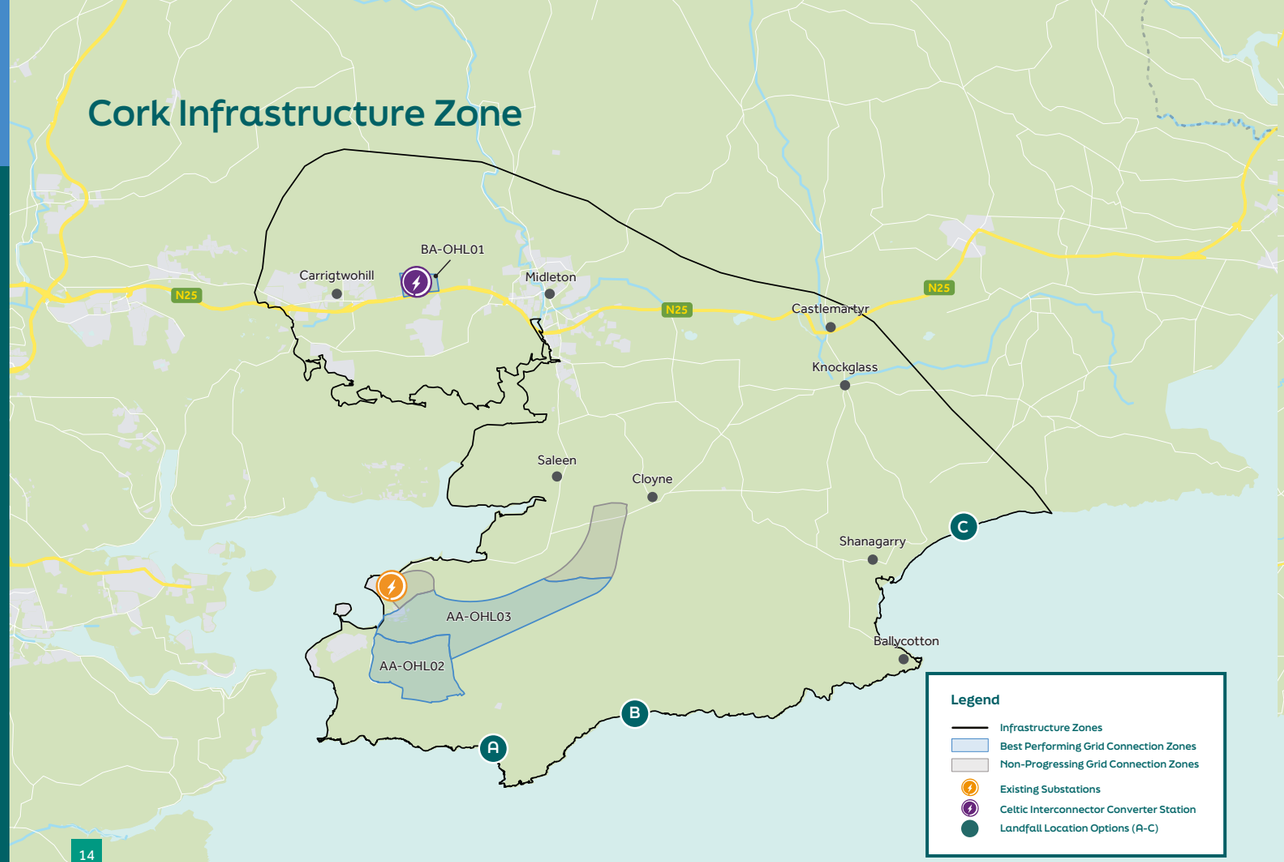
This infrastructure will be located within the infrastructure zones, illustrated in this map, in Cork and Waterford/Wexford.

The Step 3 Report which provides the project details can be found at www.eirgrid.ie/offshore.

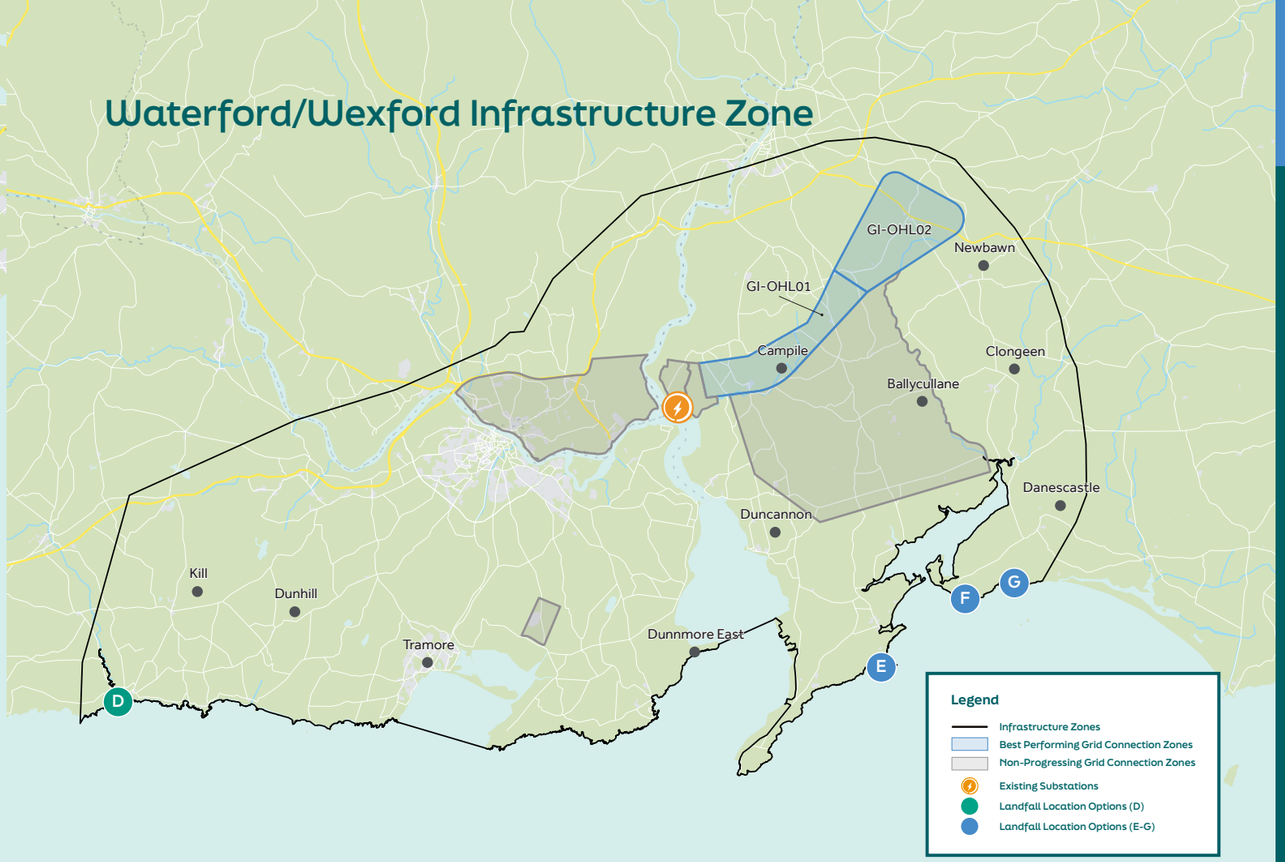


Project Overview Map

Cork Infrastructure Zone



Waterford/Wexford Infrastructure Zone



What is a Landfall Zone?

A Landfall Zone is where the offshore transmission cable will come ashore and connect to the land cable. Two landfall locations from the short list below are required:

one in County Cork (A, B or C) and

one in County Waterford/ Wexford (D, E, F or G)

At each Landfall Zone, underground Onshore Transition Joint Bays (TJBs) will connect the offshore cable to the onshore underground cable (UGC). The TJB is placed underground and is made up of a single concrete chamber for cable joints, and communication connections. Once the work is completed the area will be fully reinstated.

Landfall Zones Options

Zone	County	Location
A	Cork	Located within the townlands of Ballintra East, Inch, and Lahard.
B	Cork	Located in the townlands of Ballybranagan, Ballycroneen West, Ballyrobin South and Ballycroneen East.
C	Cork	Located within the townlands of Garryvoe Lower, Ballybutler and Ballycrenane.
D	Waterford	Located within the townlands of Knockmahon, Templeyvrick, Ballynasissala and Ballynagigla.
E	Wexford	Located within the townlands of Ramstown.
F	Wexford	Located within the townlands of Bannow.
G	Wexford	Located within the townlands of Blackhall, Haggard, Ballymadder, Loftusacre.

What is a Grid Connection Zone?

These Grid Connection Zones are the proposed locations for the siting of new substations. The electricity coming from the offshore wind generation will connect into these new substations which will then connect into the national electricity network.

The areas of focus for Grid Connection Zones are located in proximity to:

- The existing Aghada 220 kV Substation and Aghada-Knockraha double overhead line in County Cork.
- The IDA site at Ballyadam, County Cork.
- Existing Great Island 220 kV Substation, Great Island-Kellis and Great Island-Lodgewood 220kV Overhead Lines in County Wexford.



Community Forum

Community Forums are an important part of all EirGrid projects. The purpose of the Forum is to make sure that the voices of local communities, and those impacted most by our infrastructure, are listened to. The forums provide for open dialogue between the project team and stakeholders interested in the project.

EirGrid will establish a Community Forum for Powering Up Offshore - South Coast to help us to engage meaningfully on key project developments such as:

- how we communicate and engage with impacted communities;
- what we need to consider in developing the project; and
- how we can deliver meaningful community benefit to the area where our infrastructure is hosted.

The Community Forum will be chaired by an independent facilitator and will act as a consultative body; this will not replace any other engagement and consultation that EirGrid carries out.

To find out more about EirGrid's existing Community Forums please click here.

To express your interest in joining a community forum for this project, please scan the QR code below or visit our website to complete the Expression of Interest form.

To be kept informed of forum activity throughout this grid development, please visit our website at www.eirgrid.ie/offshore.

Community Benefit Fund

EirGrid establishes a community benefit fund on all projects. A Powering Up Offshore - South Coast Community Benefit Fund will be confirmed during Step 4 and 5 of the project and made available in Step 6.

The Community Forum will be integral to the design of the community benefit strategy and will play a key role in helping to identify the needs of the area.



Further Information

If you have any queries, please contact:

Cork



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South Coast



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