EirGrid

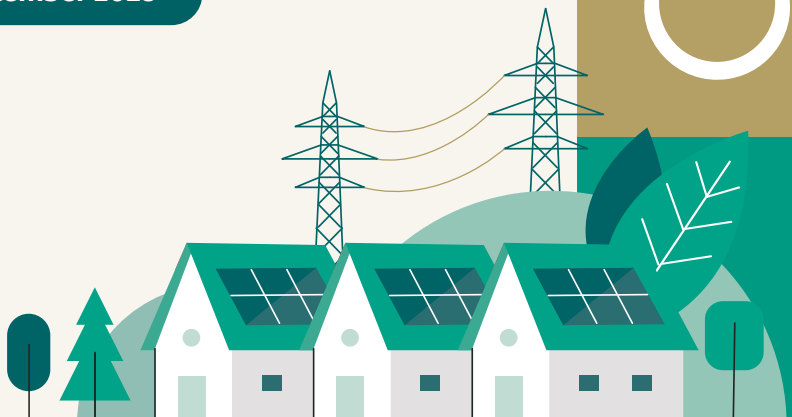
Powering Up the North West

Have your say

Project Overview September 2025







EirGrid.ie

EirGrid have identified the need to strengthen the electricity grid in the North West of Ireland and are looking at options to do so. This brochure presents the proposed options for the Srananagh to Clogher and Flagford to Srananagh 220 kV circuits, being delivered as part of the Powering Up the North West Programme, and EirGrid is seeking your feedback on these plans.

There is also information on our public consultation process, details of our public information events and how to get in touch with us at the end of this brochure.

Who is EirGrid and what do we do?

EirGrid is a state-owned company that develops, manages, and operates Ireland's electricity grid. 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 homes, businesses, schools and hospitals.

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

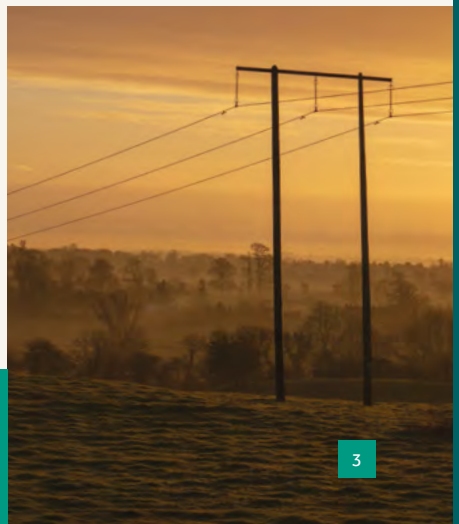


The Powering Up the North West Programme

To support the Government's renewable energy targets and meet the growing electricity demand across the country, we must significantly increase the amount of renewable energy on our network. That's why EirGrid is currently advancing the most ambitious programme of work ever undertaken on Ireland's transmission system. This includes reinforcements, upgrades, and new infrastructure across the country. Where possible, EirGrid is committed to enhancing and extending the life of existing infrastructure to minimise the impact on landowners and communities.

Powering Up the North West is a proposed programme of works designed to enable the integration of more renewable energy sources into the grid which will also enable higher electricity demand to be supplied in the North West in the future. This will help drive economic growth and development across the region.

The existing transmission infrastructure in the North West is nearing its capacity limit. To ensure a reliable and sustainable electricity supply for communities, residents, schools, and businesses, new infrastructure is urgently needed.



Project Benefits

These grid reinforcements will provide additional capacity to deliver electricity where it's needed most in the future. They are a critical addition to the electricity network, supporting growth and economic development across the region. By strengthening the grid, these projects will help businesses, schools, hospitals, homes, and farms to maintain a secure supply of electricity, while also enabling the integration of more renewable energy sources.

Economic

The project will facilitate the integration of more renewable electricity onto the grid which will contribute to the regional economy and support increased investment in the area.

Community

Support communities that host project infrastructure by delivering meaningful local benefits.

Local

Help to meet increasing residential, employment and housing requirements.

Sustainability

Help Ireland's transition to a low carbon energy future.

Security of supply

Improve security of electricity supply across the island of Ireland.



Plans in the North West

As part of this programme, two new 220 kV circuits are required in the Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal area. Taking into account geography, topography, and local needs it has been decided by EirGrid that these two proposed circuits are being progressed as separate projects, but both of equal importance:

Srananagh to Clogher Project

This will involve a new 220 kV circuit between Srananagh substation in Sligo and Clogher substation in Donegal.

Flagford to Srananagh Project

This will involve a partial replacement of the existing 110 kV circuit between Flagford substation in Roscommon and Sligo substation with a new 220 kV circuit, and the connection of this circuit into Srananagh substation in Sligo with new 220 kV and new 110 kV circuits.

What is a circuit?

When we talk about 'circuits' we are referring to the channels that carry electricity between two substations. Circuits are primarily delivered as overhead lines or underground cables. EirGrid is committed to studying all viable options when it comes to delivering a circuit.



Initially, EirGrid identified a broad study area for both of these projects, as shown in the map opposite. Our teams then performed extensive studies to determine the options available to meet the needs of these projects, both in terms of technology and viable routes for the delivery of these circuits.



Srananagh to Clogher Project

The electricity grid currently servicing Donegal and the wider North West region is considered a weak portion of the grid. While some of the 110 kV infrastructure in this region has been upgraded in recent years, there are still limitations on the capacity of the grid in the region. With both electricity use and renewable energy generation expected to increase in the coming years, it has become clear that further investment is needed.

To address this, a new 220 kV connection is being proposed between the Srananagh substation in Sligo and the Clogher Substation in Donegal. This will help strengthen the grid and ensure a more reliable supply of electricity for the region.



The following will outline the technology and route options considered by our team to deliver this project, presenting the emerging best performing technology option identified to meet the needs of this project.

Technology Options - Srananagh to Clogher Project

When planning new electricity infrastructure, EirGrid carefully considers all feasible technology options to ensure the best outcome for communities, the environment, and the electricity system.

For this project, we looked at several different ways to connect the Srananagh substation in Sligo to Clogher substation in Donegal.

We explored the possibility of placing the entire connection underground.



However, after detailed studies, we found that using a 220 kV underground cable would create serious challenges for how the grid operates in this region. It would affect the reliability and security of electricity supply, so this option was not considered viable.

A hybrid option was also considered, with a combination of underground and overground cabling. This option also considered the possibility of placing a portion of the cable on the seabed off the coast of Sligo and Donegal. Following a multi criteria assessment, this option was determined as undeliverable for a number of reasons. Further information on this can be found in our technical reports at EirGrid.ie/NorthWest.

Emerging Best Performing Option Srananagh to Clogher Project

Due to these factors, the best performing option, to meet the needs of this project is a 220 kV overhead line connecting the two substations. This has been identified as the Emerging Best Performing Technology Option for this project. You can find more information on the technology assessments performed for this project in our technical reports at EirGrid.ie/NorthWest.

Route Options - Srananagh to Clogher Project

Our project team has performed extensive studies of the region to determine any constraints which could impact the route of this circuit. A number of constraints have been identified which limit the route options. These constraints include:

- **Physical constraints:**
  The mountainous terrain in parts of the region makes certain areas more difficult to access. In addition, the border with Northern Ireland to the east of the study area limits options as it would not be practicable for the project to extend into Northern Ireland because of licensing agreements set by national governments of both jurisdictions.
- **Landscape and visual:**
  There are a large number of Landscape Character Areas, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, areas of High Visual Amenity, and Protected Views across the project study area in Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim. These are important to preserve and influence where infrastructure can be placed.
- **Cultural heritage:**
  There are a number of archaeological, architectural and cultural assets across the study area which have added to constraints to route options. In addition, the town of Ballyshannon has been designated by Donegal County Council as a Heritage Town. These cultural assets are an important part of the community and must be carefully considered in route planning.
- **People and the environment:**
  EirGrid seeks to minimise or avoid impact to people and the environment through careful routing. We will avoid towns and villages and maximise the distance from houses and areas with environmental sensitivities (e.g. woodland and bogs).



Flagford to Srananagh Project

A new 220 kV electricity line is needed to connect Flagford substation in Roscommon with Srananagh substation in Sligo. This work is being planned alongside upgrades to an existing 110 kV line between Flagford and Sligo. Together, these upgrades will strengthen the electricity grid in the region, helping to keep power supplies secure and support future growth.

Technology Options - Flagford to Srananagh Project

In assessing potential technology solutions for this project, EirGrid considered all feasible options.

An underground option was considered for this project, in which a new underground 220 kV line would be constructed between Flagford substation and Srananagh substation, however, this option would add significant risk to the reliability of the grid in this region. The Emerging Best Performing Option, described on page 14, partly replaces the existing 110 kV line and reuses its existing alignment, thus enhancing the use of existing infrastructure. Further information on this option can be found in our in our technical reports at EirGrid.ie/NorthWest.





Emerging Best Performing Option - Flagford to Srananagh Project

Following detailed studies, the following has been identified as the Emerging Best Performing Technology Option for this project:

- Replace part of the existing overhead 110 kV line between Flagford and Sligo with a new 220 kV line (shown as a blue line on the map opposite).
- Build a new 220 kV circuit line to connect to Srananagh substation (shown as a dark green arrow).
- Build a new 110 kV circuit line to connect to Srananagh substation (shown as a light green arrow).
- Remove a section of the existing 110 kV line between Flagford and Sligo.





Route Corridor Flagford to Srananagh Project

Our team has identified a route corridor to host the new lines associated with this option which is red shaded area in the map to the left. This corridor has been established to keep the replacement Flagford to Srananagh line as close as possible to the existing alignment. It will not always be possible to follow the existing alignment as changes to the landscape since the original construction of this line may pose obstacles.

The new lines connecting into Srananagh substation will fall within the shaded area in the map on the left.

What is happening now?

These projects are being developed in line with EirGrid's 6-Step approach to Grid Development (outlined below), which guides the process of identifying and delivering the most effective solution to meet the outlined needs.

Currently, both projects are in Step 3 of this process. The focus of Step 3 is to determine the best performing technology options and define the relevant study areas that will support the delivery of the projects.



Step One

How do we identify needs of the electricity grid?

Step Two

What technologies can meet these needs?

Step Three

What's the best option and what area may be affected?

Step Four

Where exactly should we build?

Step Five

Apply for planning permission

Step Six

Construct, energise (make live), and share benefits.

Have Your Say

When studying this area, our project teams identified a number of constraints which have influenced the potential route options of these new circuits. These constraints are highlighted in this brochure. We are now seeking public input on any further constraints which may impact the delivery of these circuits to help us identify a final route corridor during the next step of the projects.

The public consultation will take place from Tuesday 16 September to Tuesday 25 November.

We want to hear your views. You can get involved in the consultation and provide feedback in a range of ways:

Submissions can be made in person at our information events, online or by post and the deadline for submissions is 5pm on Tuesday 25 November.

Scan here to make a submission via EirGrid's consultations portal.

Email your submissions to: NorthWest@EirGrid.com

You can also submit your response in hard copy via free post to the following address:

Powering Up the North West,
EirGrid plc,
Freepost FDN 5312,
160 Shelbourne Road,
Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
D04 FW28

Submissions can be made either online or by post and the deadline for submissions is 5pm on Tuesday 25 November.

Information Events

Visit one of our face-to-face public information events being held at the following locations across the study areas to find out more. Come along, meet our team and have your say:

Location	Date	Time
Info Event 1 - Bee Park Community Centre, Manorhamilton, Co. Leitrim	Wednesday 1 October	11am - 6:30pm
Info Event 2 - Folk Park, Riverstown, Co. Sligo	Thursday 2 October	11am - 6:30pm
Info Event 3 - The Bush Hotel, Carrick-on-Shannon, Co. Leitrim	Wednesday 15 October	11am - 6:30pm
Info Event 4 - Coláiste Cholmcille, Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal	Thursday 16 October	11am - 6:30pm
Info Event 5 - Sligo Park Hotel, Co. Sligo	Wednesday 29 October	11am - 6:30pm
Info Event 6 - Leghowney Community Hall, Co. Donegal	Thursday 30 October	11am - 6:30pm

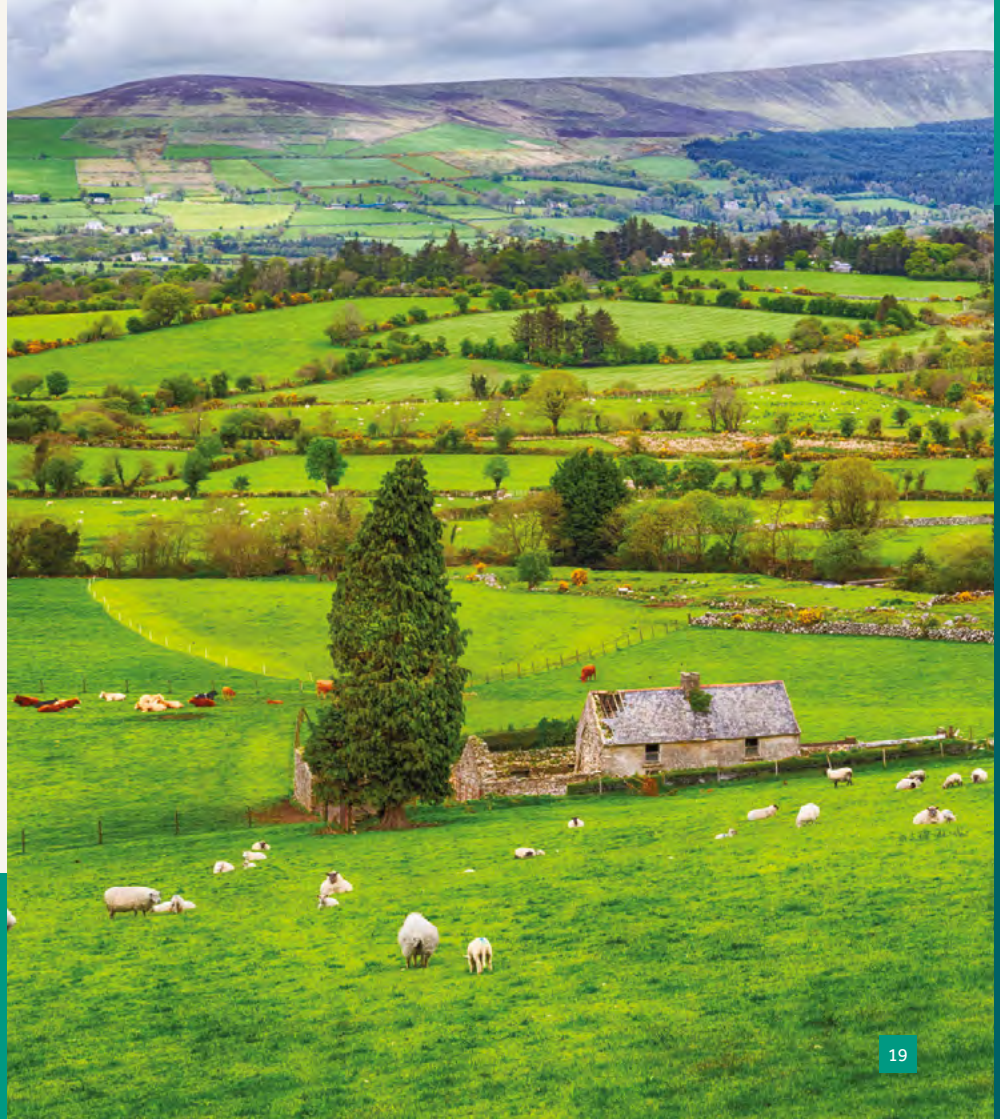


Online Options

We will be hosting two one hour-long online webinar where we will present details of the project followed by an open Q&A.

The webinars will be held on Tuesday 23 September and Tuesday 4 November on Zoom from 7pm to 8pm.

Find out more information and register for this webinar at EirGrid.ie/NorthWest.



Community Forum

EirGrid will establish a Community Forum for the Powering Up the North West Programme. The purpose of this forum is to make sure that the voices of the local communities, and those impacted most by our infrastructure, are listened to. The forum will provide for open dialogue between the project team and stakeholders interested in the project.



The Community Forum will engage with EirGrid on key project developments such as:

- how we communicate and engage with the public;
- 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 for the Powering Up the North West Programme 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.

Scan here to find out more about EirGrid's existing Community Forums.

To express your interest in joining one of the community forums for this project, please scan the QR code to complete the Expression of Interest form.

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

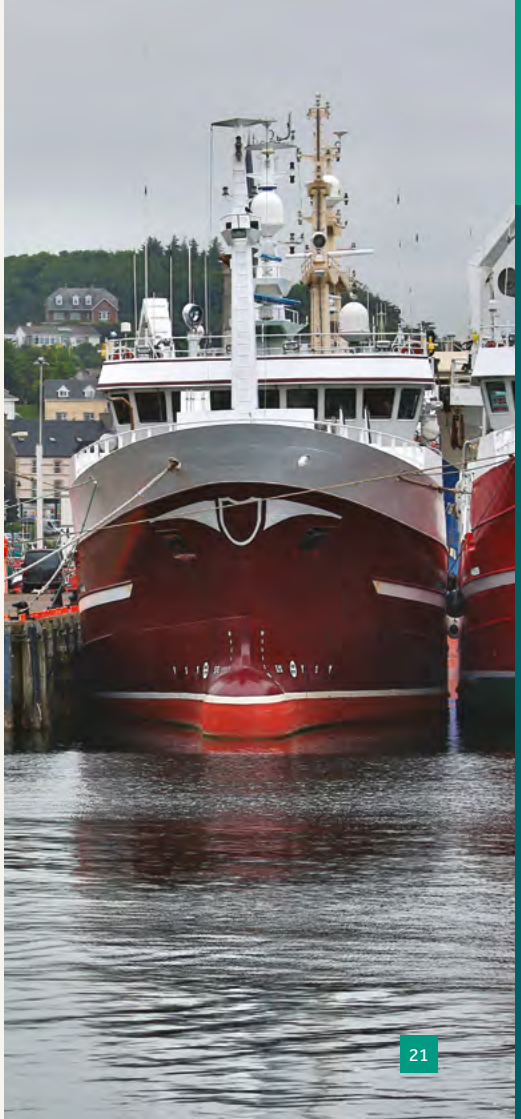
Community Benefit Fund

We recognise the importance of local communities and businesses who facilitate the upgrading of the electricity transmission network and the community benefit fund reflects this.

While the Powering Up the North West programme is being developed, we will work to support communities as part of our community benefit policy. A dedicated fund for the area will be made available to provide direct benefits to communities who are closest to the new infrastructure. This fund, which is proportional to the scale of the project, supports local good causes and helps communities transform their area. The overall aim is to leave a positive legacy in the communities where the electrical infrastructure is in place.

Work on the community benefit scheme commences if and when a project receives planning permission.

The first step is the appointment of an independent community benefit fund administrator who will work with the Community Forum and EirGrid to co-develop a community benefit strategy. These funds will provide support to local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and social enterprises that operate in or service communities near the new infrastructure.



What happens next?

Once feedback has been gathered on route options, further studies will be performed by EirGrid to determine a next step design for these projects. We will continue to engage and update communities with more information as the project progresses.

Further information:

If you have any queries, please contact:



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