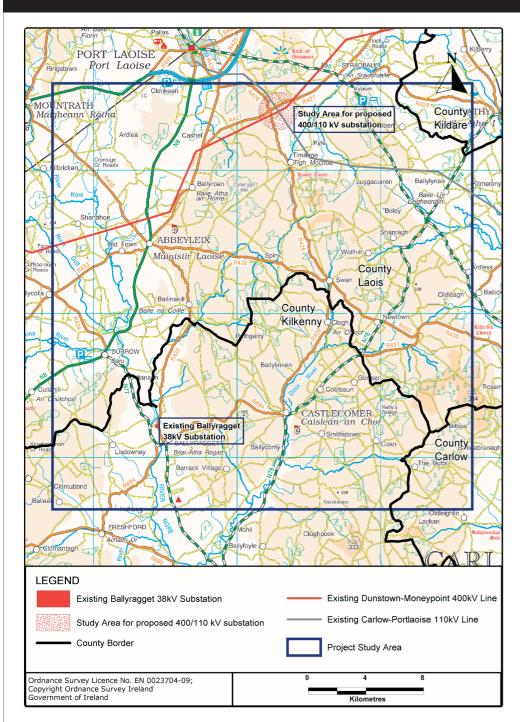


PROPOSED LAOIS-KILKENNY ELECTRICITY REINFORCEMENT SCHEME PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON A CONSTRAINTS STUDY AREA



EirGrid is the state-owned independent electricity Transmission System Operator and Market Operator in Ireland. It is EirGrid's role to deliver quality connection, transmission and market services to electricity generators, suppliers and customers utilising the high voltage electricity system.

It is in this capacity that EirGrid are proposing this Laois-Kilkenny electricity reinforcement.

Demand in the greater Kilkenny area has placed continuing pressure on the transmission network with the result that the existing 110 kV network is approaching its technical limit and additional reinforcement is now required.

The proposed new transmission infrastructure will consist of the following:

- A 400/110 kV substation situated to the south east of Portlaoise. Location to be determined.
- A 110 kV substation located adjacent to the existing 38 kV electricity substation at Ballyragget, County Kilkenny.
- A 110 kV circuit between the proposed 400/110 kV substation and the proposed 110 kV substation

This stage in the planning process is to identify any existing constraints within the study area that could affect route selection. This will result in a 'Constraints Map'. We are now seeking public input into this stage by way of comments, information, submissions or queries. The input into the constraints map will allow us to proceed to the next stage in the process which is to identify potential route corridors within the study area.

It is anticipated that a planning application will be lodged with the relevant planning authority in late 2010.

You are now invited to view the study area provided and any submissions, comments, information or queries on the stage 1 constraints consultation should be made through the following communications channels before 5pm on Friday the 27th November 2009:

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