



# Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole Local Area Plan Submission - Report

<b>Who are you:</b>	State Body
<b>Name:</b>	EirGrid PLC
<b>Email Address:</b>	[REDACTED]
<b>Reference:</b>	GDKLAP-151053
<b>Submission Made</b>	January 31, 2024 3:14 PM

## Topic

Infrastructure - Sustainable Movement - Transportation

## Submission

Thank you for this opportunity to make a submission to the Pre-Draft Local Area Plan for Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole.

EirGrid is the Irish electricity Transmission System Operator (TSO), with a statutory mandate to ensure a secure and reliable transmission grid, now and in the future. The transmission grid refers to the higher-voltage grid that serves as a backbone to the lower-voltage distribution grid operated by ESB Networks.

EirGrid has identified a need for the electricity network in the Greystones and Delgany area to be reinforced to be able to accommodate forecasted increase in demand including over the lifetime of the forthcoming Local Area Plan. This forecasted demand relates to new residential and commercial loads, and this reinforcement will provide for future demand growth in the North Wicklow area. In addition, the reinforcement is required to facilitate the electrification of the heat and transport sectors; this latter demand arises as a result of the Government's Climate Action Plans 2023 and 2024.

For clarity, EirGrid is at this point in time terming the identified grid infrastructure reinforcement as The North Wicklow Project.

The North Wicklow project is in early stages of the grid development process, and we are working through a number of viable solutions to meet the identified need. These solutions could result in new substations, cables or overhead line infrastructure, but this is all yet to be determined. The progression of the project will include proactive engagement with communities, local authorities, landowners and any other stakeholders affected by, or relevant to the proposed infrastructure development.

No potential sites and alignments of planned infrastructure have been identified at this early stage in the project development process; however, given the stated need for the project, we consider that the electrical infrastructure development may occur in whole or in part within the area of the LAP.

At this point in time, EirGrid is also not currently in a position to provide a definitive timeline for project completion; It is anticipated that EirGrid will be able to provide more detail as the project progresses, which will complement the period for drafting and adoption of this LAP, as well as the next review of the Wicklow County Development Plan.

For the information of Wicklow County Council, this project feeds into a wider ambition by EirGrid to reinforce and strengthen the electricity network in the Wicklow area and wider region - to facilitate a range of demands such as forecasted growth, the connection of renewable energy sources, and the connection of offshore renewable energy. There are currently two separate projects being progressed (outside the area of the Greystones-Delgany & Kilcoole LAP) namely:

Arklow Ballybeg Carrickmines Capacity needs project - involving the upgrading of the existing Arklow Ballybeg Carrickmines 110kV line to 220kV operation, and the construction of a new 220kV/110kV substation in Ballybeg to accommodate future capacity in the area. Target energisation for this project

is 2030 with a consent application expected to be submitted in 2025.

Arklow Station redevelopment - Arklow 220 kV Station is nearing its end of life and requires comprehensive redevelopment. In addition, it requires expansion as it has insufficient capacity for known future connection needs, which include projects that enable offshore wind development. The solution caters for all current and known future transmission needs at Arklow substation. Target energisation for the project is 2029 with a consent application expected to be submitted in 2024.

Having regard to all the above, as part of this plan-making process, or indeed outside of this process, EirGrid advises Wicklow County Council that it would be delighted to meet and discuss any matters that the Council might wish regarding the planned enhancement of electricity transmission infrastructure, both in or proximate to the LAP area, and within County Wicklow and surrounding areas as whole.

For the purposes of the LAP, and having regard to Objective CPO 16.18 of the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028, EirGrid requests the provision of a specific Objective in the forthcoming LAP as follows: "To support the development and expansion of the electricity transmission and distribution grid in the Greystones-Delgany area, and in particular having regard to EirGrid's North Wicklow grid project, including the development of new lines, pylons and substations as required".

EirGrid again thanks Wicklow County Council for taking this submission into consideration at this early step in the plan-making process, and we reiterate that we will make ourselves available at any time of the convenience of the Council and its officials to discuss any matter of grid infrastructure development in the LAP area, and the County as a whole.

**File**