

A comparison of the options being considered for this project

Consideration	Outcome of multi-criteria assessments to date	Capital cost	Environmental impact	Potential disruption during construction	Visual difference when construction completed	Meets technical requirements	Other notable points
Option 1 Connect two existing 220 kV overhead lines and up-voltage to 400 kV	Emerging best performing option	€239m	Least risk	Possible road closures, traffic and land access disruption	There will be changes to existing overhead infrastructure with minimal new infrastructure on the existing route. New infrastructure into Woodland station	Yes	Uses route along existing overhead lines and maximises use of existing infrastructure
Option 2 Build a 400 kV overhead line	Not emerging as a preferred option	€168m	Moderate risk	Possible road closures, traffic and land access disruption	New overhead infrastructure	Yes	
Option 3 Build a 220 kV underground cable	Not emerging as a preferred option	€372m	Moderate risk	Possible road closures, traffic and land access disruption	New underground infrastructure, mainly under existing roads. No new overhead infrastructure	Not to the same level as other options	
Option 4 Build a single conductor 400 kV underground cable in one route	Emerging best performing alternative	€356m	Moderate risk	Possible road closures, traffic and land access disruption	New underground infrastructure, mainly under existing roads. No new overhead infrastructure	Yes	Requires a 4 metre wide cable trench and overall work space of up to 12 metres in places
Option 5 Build a 400 kV underground cable using two conductors in two separate routes	Not emerging as a preferred option	€679m	Most risk	Possible road closures, traffic and land access disruption	New underground infrastructure, mainly under existing roads. No new overhead infrastructure	Yes	Requires the same as option 4 but along 2 routes

(A conductor is the metal that the current travels through.)