

An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Commission Order
ABP-322060-25

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

Planning Authority: Meath County Council

Planning Register Reference Number: LS525011

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the underground MV cabling and ducting linking existing and proposed substations at, respectively, Gillinstown and Downestown, Duleek, County Meath, is or is not development or is or is not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS Highfield Solar Limited care of Highfield Energy Services Limited of Unit 17, The Hyde Building, The Park, Carrickmines, Dublin requested a declaration on the said question from Meath County Council, and the said Council issued a declaration on the 25th day of February 2025, stating that the said matter is development and is not exempted development:

AND WHEREAS Highfield Solar Limited referred the declaration for review to An Bord Pleanála on the 12th day of March, 2025:

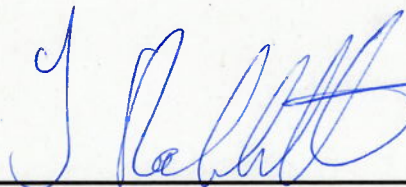
AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála, in considering this referral, had regard particularly to –

- (a) Section 2(1) and 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended,
- (b) article 6(1) and article 9(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (c) Parts 1 and 3 of Schedule 2 to the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended,
- (d) the planning history of the sites,

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála has concluded that -

- (a) the laying of the underground cables comes within the scope of Sections 2(1) and 3(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and therefore constitutes development,
- (b) the referrer in this case, Highfield Solar Limited, is a statutory undertaker and an electricity undertaking, within the meaning of Article 3(3) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (c) the carrying out by the referrer of the development in question comes within the scope of Class 26 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 to these Regulations and is, therefore, exempted development, and
- (d) the restrictions on exemption set out in Section 4(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and set out in Article 9(a)(vii) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended, do not apply in this instance.

NOW THEREFORE An Coimisiún Pleanála, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by section 5 (3) (a) of the 2000 Act, hereby decides that the underground MV cabling and ducting linking existing and proposed substations at, respectively, Gillinstown and Downestown, Duleek, County Meath is development and is exempted development.



Tom Rabbette

**Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún
Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Commission.**



Dated this 2nd day of July 2025.