

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Kildare County Council

Planning Authority Reference Number: ED1280

WHEREAS a question has arisen as to whether the development of a 33kV underground cable to connect the permitted Swordlestown Solar Farm to the existing Dunnstown 400kV substation site, County Kildare is or is not development or is or is not exempted development,

AND WHEREAS Strategic Power Projects Limited care of Peter Thomson Planning Solutions requested a declaration on this question from Kildare County Council and the Council did not issue a declaration on the matter,

AND WHEREAS Kildare County Council referred the question to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 3rd day of October, 2025,

AND WHEREAS in considering the referral the Commission had regard to:

- (a) Sections 2, 3 and 4 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,

- (b) Class 26 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- (c) Articles 6 and 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and, in particular, Article 9(1)(a)(vii), and
- (d) the relevant policy and objectives contained in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 and specifically Objective BI O49 of the said development plan,

AND WHEREAS An Coimisiún Pleanála has concluded that:

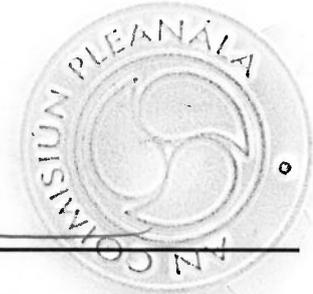
- (a) the proposed works would ordinarily fall within Class 26 being works being carried out by an undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service,
- (b) however the works would be de-exempted by reason of falling within the restriction placed under the provisions of Article 9(1)(a)(vii) by reason of Objective BI O49 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 which seeks to protect wetland sites, including Harristown Commons North cNHA, which is located in proximity to the south-western end of the proposed underground cables, and
- (c) the Commission was not satisfied, on the basis of the information submitted to Kildare County Council on the 4th day of September, 2025, that, notwithstanding the additional set-back of the underground cabling from the boundary of the Harristown Commons North cNHA by 87 metres, the cabling would not still fall within the zone of influence of the said cNHA and, therefore, could potentially adversely affect the said cNHA and, therefore, be contrary to Objective BI O49,

NOW THEREFORE An Coimisiún Pleanála, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, hereby decides that the development of a 33kV underground cable to connect the permitted Swordlestown Solar Farm to the existing Dunnstown 400kV substation site, County Kildare is development and is not exempted development.



Paul Caprani

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



Dated this 5th day of February 2026.