

An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ACP-323167-25

Case Reference / Description	Proposed development of a 110kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) tail fed substation with associated grid connection located in the townlands of Beenaspuck, Pilgrimhill, Shronebeirne, Lacka East and Trien in County Kerry		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Date	30 September 2025	Start Time	3:00pm
Location	MS Teams	End Time	3:45pm

Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála

Una Crosse (Assistant Planning Director) Chair

Barry O'Donnell (Senior Planning Inspector)

Ellen Moss (Executive Officer)

Representing the Prospective Applicant

Fionan McCarthy (Knockanure Renewables Kerry Limited)

Patricia McCarthy (JOAM Consulting)

Declan O'Hara (AROH Solutions)

Introduction

The Commission referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 18th July 2025, requesting pre-application consultations under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Commission; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Commission. The Commission's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Commission will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Commission once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Commission will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Commission and public consultations may also be directed by the Commission.
- The Commission may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Commission in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant began their presentation by providing a background to the proposed development, comprising a 110kV substation and grid connection to serve a 354-hectare solar farm in Knockanure, located circa 9 kilometres east of Listowel, 9 kilometres south-west of Tarbert, and 13 kilometres north-west of Athea.

The suitability of the land and the existing Knockanure 220/110kV GIS substation informed the site location.

The design of the proposed substation and location of the proposed grid connection was outlined. Two options were outlined as follows:

Option 1 comprises a 110kV Air Insulated Switchgear tail-fed substation, with an associated grid connection comprising 110kV or 220kV underground cabling that will connect to the existing 220/110kV Knockanure substation. The substation site is located approx. 2.7km northeast of Knockanure substation, in the townland of Beenaspuck.

Option 2 comprises an under the fence connection to Knockanure substation via a 110kV underground cable that connects to a 110kV Gas Insulated Switchgear switching station adjacent to Knockanure substation and an IPP transformer that is located on the Option 1 site.

Discussion:

The Commission's representatives began the discussion by mentioning that in the original submission, two options were outlined and queried whether the second option was still being considered. The prospective applicant advised that both options were being considered and provided an overview of the 2 options being

considered. The prospective applicant queried whether both options would constitute SID and if a determination could be made on both.

The Commissions representatives advised that it was their preliminary view that Option 1 would appear to come within the scope of strategic infrastructure but reminded the prospective applicant that the final determination is a matter for the Commission. Option 2 would require further consideration and the prospective applicant was requested to submit further detail in respect of the nature of the proposed development. It was outlined that the consultation could remain open until such time as they decide which option will be progressed.

The Commissions representatives reminded the prospective applicant that design flexibility can be sought while the consultation remains open.

The Commission's representatives queried the route of the cabling with the prospective applicant noting that the route was dictated by archaeological remains with consultation with the National Monuments Service advised.

The Commission's representatives noted the alignment of the L10071 and advised consulting with the planning authority's roads department. The prospective applicant outlined the survey work undertaken of the public road network concerned with a traffic management plan being advanced to accompany any future application.

In relation to the proposed river crossing, it was advised that the consideration of appropriate assessment screening should address same with in-combination effects with other relevant developments to be addressed. Other matters which were advised to be considered include the consideration of flooding.

In terms of EIA Screening, noting that the proposed development would not itself constitute a class for the purposes of EIA, the Commissions representatives outlined the consideration required in respect of rural restructuring and hedgerow removal. In

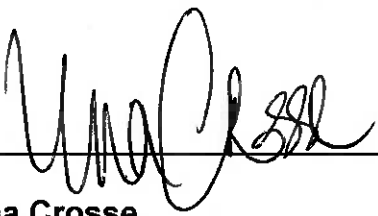
response to a query on whether the access track would constitute a private road, the Commission's representatives advised that access tracks for solar farms are not private roads for the purposes of EIA.

The Commission's representatives queried whether the solar farm application had been lodged with the Planning Authority. It was advised that it had not yet been submitted but would be lodged in the coming weeks.

Conclusion:

The Commission's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The Commission's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will be issued in the meantime and that the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 15:45.


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Una Crosse', is written over a horizontal line.

Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning