

CLASSIFIED EXTRA

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**Planning and Development Act 2000 as Amended.
Notice of Direct Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in respect of a Strategic Infrastructure Development.
County Carlow (Carlow County Council)**

In accordance with section 182A of the Planning and Development Acts (as amended) Ballyloo Solar Farm Limited gives notice that it proposes to seek the approval of An Coimisiún Pleanála for a period of 10 years for development at Ballyloo, Castletown, Graiguenaspiddoge, Kellistown East, Kellistown West, Kilballyhue, Knockbower, Leigh Or Ballybeg, Linkardstown and Moyle Big (townlands), County Carlow.

Certain details of the proposed development are unconfirmed in this planning application and an opinion on unconfirmed details from the Commission (Case Reference: ABP-321858-25) pursuant to section 287B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) accompanies this planning application. The details unconfirmed in this application are the voltage and corresponding switchgear of the substation, the voltage and corresponding specification of the underground cable grid connection, and the route of the final c.0.35-0.6 km section of the underground cable grid connection to the existing 110/220kV Kellis substation. The range of parameters under which the design will fall are specified on this site notice and in the design flexibility opinion that accompanies this application.

The proposed development comprises of:

- 1) A 220kV Air Insulated Switchgear (AIS) or Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) electricity substation or a 110kV AIS electricity substation, including two control buildings, associated electrical structures and apparatus, lightning protection, telecom pole, perimeter security fencing, security lighting, water and drainage infrastructure, temporary construction compound to connect to and serve solar farms;
- 2) Associated grid connection between the proposed substation and the existing 110/220kV Kellis substation comprising 220kV or 110kV underground electricity cables (reflecting final substation option) of c.8.9 km or c. 8.65 km in length to be provided in an excavated trench including associated fibre cable and ducting, and all associated site development and reinstatement works. Two options are proposed after the first c.8.3 km of underground grid connection and for the final c.0.35 – 0.6 km of the underground cable grid connection route comprising (i) cabling in the L30535 public road, or (ii) cabling in private agricultural land;
- 3) Temporary construction and permanent operational access to the substation from the L3050, vehicular entrance and access track from this public road;
- 4) All ancillary site development, excavation, construction, landscaping and reinstatement works;
- 5) The development subject to this application forms part of grid connection and access arrangements which will facilitate the connection of the permitted Ballyloo Solar Farm (Carlow County Council Reference 24/60043 / An Coimisiún Pleanála Reference ABP-322347-25), permitted Park Solar Farm (Carlow County Council Reference 24/60205), and proposed Ballybannon Solar Farm (Carlow County Council Reference 25/60137) to the national electricity grid via the existing 110/220kV Kellis substation.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been prepared in respect of the proposed development. The NIS includes consideration of the permitted Ballyloo and Park Solar Farms and the proposed Ballybannon Solar Farm which are located in County Carlow. The planning application and the NIS may be inspected free of charge or purchased on payment of a specified fee (which fee shall not exceed the reasonable cost of making such copy) during public opening hours for a period of seven weeks commencing 14th November 2025 at the following locations:

- The offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902.
- The offices of Carlow County Council, County Buildings, Athy Rd, Carlow, R93 E7R7.

The application may also be viewed on the following website: www.ballyloosubstation.ie

Submissions or observations may be made in writing to An Coimisiún Pleanála ('the Commission') 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1, D01V902, or online at www.pleanala.ie, during the above-mentioned period of seven weeks relating to -

- (i) the implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development, and
- (ii) the likely effects on the environment of the proposed development, and
- (iii) the likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, if carried out.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies) and must be received by the Commission **not later than 5.30 p.m. on the 12th January 2026.**

Such submissions / observations must also include the following information:

- The name of the person making the submission/observation, the name of the person acting on his/her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent;
- The subject matter of the submission/observation; and
- The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full.

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Commission. The Commission may at its absolute discretion hold an oral hearing on the application. (For further details see 'A Guide to Public Participation in Strategic Infrastructure Development' on the Commission's website www.pleanala.ie).

The Commission may in respect of an application for permission/ approval decide to-

- (a) (i) grant the permission/approval, or
 - (ii) make such modifications to the proposed development as it specifies in its decision and grant permission/approval in respect of the proposed development as so modified, or
 - (iii) grant permission/approval in respect of part of the proposed development (with or without specified modifications of it of the foregoing kind),
- and any of the above decisions may be subject to or without conditions, or
- (b) refuse to grant the permission/approval.

Any enquiries relating to the application process should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Section of An Coimisiún Pleanála (Tel. 01- 8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision by the Commission by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S. I. No.15 of 1986, as amended), in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Information on cases / Weekly lists - Judicial review of planning decisions on the Commission's website www.pleanala.ie or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie.

Signed: Conor Frehill (HW Planning, Agent)

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