

An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage



Your Ref: ACP-323985-26

Our Ref: SID-KK-2025-039

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

25 February 2026

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Via email to: laps@pleanala.ie

Re: Notification under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

**Proposed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID): Drumdowney Solar Farm
Limited substation and associated loop-in / loop-out grid connection**

A chara,

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

Archaeology

It is noted that the planning application documentation includes a desk-based Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA), which was carried out in relation to the proposed development by Rubicon Archaeology Ltd (dated 4 December 2025).

The proposed development is located in proximity to a number of Recorded Monuments, which are subject to statutory protection under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1930–2014. The AIA acknowledges that there is a potential that previously unknown sub-surface archaeological features or deposits may be present within the proposed development site. If present, these would be directly impacted by the proposed development.

It is noted that the assessment has been informed by a walkover survey only. There has been no advance prospection, such as archaeological geophysical survey or advance



archaeological test excavation, which would provide greater clarity as to the potential presence of sub-surface archaeological features or deposits. If such material is present, then additional mitigation measures to ensure the preservation in situ or preservation by record (i.e. full archaeological excavation) of such discoveries will be necessary. The Department advises that this can be addressed by the inclusion of an appropriate condition if the development is permitted.

The Department, therefore, advises that the following should be included as a condition of any grant of permission. Note these recommended conditions align with Sample Conditions C3, C5 and C6 as set out in OPR Practice Note PN03: Planning Conditions (October 2022), with appropriate site-specific additions/adaptations based on the particular characteristics of this development and informed by the findings of the AIA.

Archaeological Requirements:

1. All mitigation measures in relation to archaeology and cultural heritage as set out in the Archaeological Impact Assessment (dated 4 December 2025) shall be implemented in full, except as may otherwise be required in order to comply with the conditions of this Order.

2. The developer shall engage a suitably qualified archaeologist (licensed under the National Monuments Acts) to carry out a pre-development Archaeological Geophysical Survey and a pre-development Archaeological Test Excavation at all areas of proposed ground disturbance (including temporary measures such as construction compounds or crane bases) and to submit an archaeological impact assessment report for the written agreement of the planning authority, following consultation with the National Monuments Service of the Department, in advance of any site preparation works or groundworks, including site investigation works/topsoil stripping/site clearance and/or construction works.
 - a. The Archaeological Geophysical Survey must be carried out under licence from the National Monuments Service of the Department and in accordance with an approved method statement. Having completed the work, the archaeologist shall submit a written report to the National Monuments Service of the Department and the Planning Authority describing the results of the Archaeological Geophysical Survey.

 - b. The archaeologist shall liaise with the National Monuments Service of the Department to establish — based on the results of the Archaeological Geophysical Survey — the appropriate scope of the Archaeological Test Excavation to adequately



cultural heritage environment during all phases of site preparation and construction activity.

5. The planning authority and the National Monuments Service of the Department shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of all archaeological monitoring and any archaeological investigative work/excavation required, following the completion of all archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the developer.

Reason: To ensure the continued preservation (either *in situ* or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at: manager.dau@npws.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Yours faithfully,

Julie Sullivan
Assistant Principal
Development Applications Unit
Administration