

Highfern
Castlebank
Ardnacrusha
Co. Clare
V94 H6KT

28 September 2026

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

An Coimisiún Pleanála Case Reference VA03.324491

Clare County Council. Local Planning Register Reference: 2460485

Proposed Development: 10 year planning permission for a 110kV substation, underground grid connection and associated infrastructure. Electricity Development Application

Location of Development: ESB Private Road Access. Castlebank, Ardnacrusha

Dear Sir / Madam,

I wish to submit an observation regarding the planning application referenced above. Please find enclosed the statutory fee of €50.

While we, one of the residents of this private road are supportive of renewable energy infrastructure in principle, we wish to object to the current standalone execution of these works. We request that An Coimisiún Pleanála attaches strict conditions requiring a co-ordinated infrastructure approach for the following planning reasons:

1. Lack of Co-ordination and Cumulative Infrastructure Impact

Our private road serves five residential properties and is currently the target of multiple independent solar energy companies seeking separate grid connection routes. The current proposal lacks an integrated approach. Allowing individual developers to sequentially excavate the roadway, lay separate cables, and patch the road will cause prolonged, repeating, and unreasonable disruption to residents. To protect local infrastructure, we request a condition mandating the installation of a shared, multi-way underground ducting system during the initial excavation, which future developers can utilize without re-digging the road surface.

2. Damage to Residential Amenities and Infrastructure

The proposed route will require extensive excavation of the existing tarmac road surface and grass verges directly in front of residential homes. Consecutive rounds of excavation and reinstatement will permanently degrade the structural integrity of this private road, increase noise pollution, and restrict essential vehicular

access for residents. A unified ducting solution is required to prevent sustainable long-term damage to our residential amenity.

3. Ecological Disruption and Loss of Biodiversity

The proposed route involves the removal of established hedgerows and grass verges that line this narrow road and the pathway to the power station. These hedgerows serve as critical biodiversity corridors and habitats for local wildlife (as well as keeping the privacy for properties on the road, free from the esb walkway used by the public). Fragmenting this habitat multiple times for separate projects violates local development plan policies regarding biodiversity protection. Co-ordinating the works into a single, collective installation will minimize hedgerow removal and allow for a single, successful ecological reinstatement plan.

Conclusion:

To prevent disorderly development and unnecessary environmental damage, we respectfully request that An Coimisiún Pleanála attaches a planning condition requiring the applicant to co-ordinate infrastructure with other proposed operators in the area, ensuring a single shared ducting system is installed to minimize cumulative impact.

Yours Sincerely,
Mike & Rose Ryan