Cappakeel 110kV Substation

In the townland of Morett,
Co. Laois

Public Consultation Brochure



Dear Householder,

Ørsted Onshore Ireland Midco Limited are working on plans for a 110 kV transmission substation in the townland of Morett, Co. Laois.

The proposed Cappakeel 110 kV Substation will facilitate the export of renewable energy from the Cappakeel Solar Farm project into the national grid. This will help Ireland to reach its 80% renewable electricity target by 2030, reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and increasing security of energy supply.

This information brochure provides an overview of the proposed substation development. A planning application is due to be submitted in the coming months.

Please don't hesitate to contact the project team with any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely,

Jack O'Donovan
Planning & Environmental Specialist
Project Development
Commercial

Contents

1. Meet the Team
2. Project Overview
3. Project Website
4. Planning Process
5. FAQs
6. Contact Us



1. Meet the Team

The Ørsted Ireland team of over 100 people proudly to operate 21 windfarms in Ireland. We have two solar farms and one windfarm currently in construction and a multi-technology renewable pipeline en-route for investment.

Our existing wind farms generate 373 MW of clean energy, enough to power the equivalent of 250,000 Irish homes. We have invested over €800m in Irish energy infrastructure to date and look forward to continuing to play a significant role in the delivery of a cost competitive, secure and stable energy system for Ireland.

Our Cork office is the HQ for Ørsted Onshore Europe, and we develop and operate renewable energy projects in Spain, the UK and Germany.

Our Cappakeel project team, below, will keep you informed throughout the development process.

The Team



Jack O'Donovan
Project Manager



Edward Cummins
Community Liaison Officer (CLO)

Ørsted

2. Project Overview

About the Site

The site has undergone extensive technical and environmental evaluation and was selected due to its proximity to the existing Cushaling to Portlaoise 110 kV overhead transmission line for grid connection. It is accessible and close to main transport routes for the delivery of electrical components.

Associated Solar Farm

The Cappakeel Solar site comprises of 5 no. parcels, totalling c. 249 hectares situated adjacent to the proposed substation.

The planning application for the associated solar farm was submitted on 24/03/2025. Following a request and response of Further Information, Laois County Council decided to permit this solar farm on 18/09/2025.

This solar farm has since been appealed and is with An Coimisiún Pleanála for a decision.

Project details are correct at time of publication and may be subject to further development and alteration prior to the submission of the planning application

Proposed Substation

The proposed Cappakeel 110kV Substation will connect to the existing Cushaling to Port Laoise 110 kV overhead transmission line and Coolnabacky 110kV Substation and will comprise:

- A compound enclosed by security fencing and gates, containing electrical plant and equipment
- An electrical control building containing electrical plant and equipment
- Two interface masts, approximately 15 m high, and underground electrical cable to facilitate connection to the existing 110 kV overhead transmission line
- Ancillary infrastructure within the compound will include busbars, line bays, surge arrestors, insulating and earthing equipment, circuit breakers, lighting stands and lightning masts
- Landscaping and screening measures, including the planting of hedgerows
- Approximately 14km of underground electricity cable, connecting the substation to Coolnabacky 110kV Substation.

The site has been subject to a comprehensive landscape and visual impact study to assess potential impacts on the landscape and sensitive receptors.

3. Project Website

We have created a project website, where you can view all drawings, documents and planning reports.

This website is: www.cappakeelsid.ie



4. Planning Process

A planning application for the proposed Cappakeel 110 kV Substation will be lodged in the coming months.

We are currently in consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) to determine if the project will be classified as a Strategic Infrastructure Development, or SID.

Where projects are designated SID, the planning application must be submitted directly to ACP.

Laois County Council will submit a report on the application to ACP as one of the statutory consultees.

Once the planning application has been submitted to ABP, all associated documents will be available to view at the following locations:

- Laois County Council offices
- The Offices of An Coimisiún Pleanála
- An Coimisiún Pleanála Online Planning Portal
- Project website: www.cappakeelSID.ie



5. Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this substation necessary?

Once operational, the proposed Cappakeel 110 kV Substation will facilitate the export of renewable energy from the Cappakeel Solar Farm. The substation will help Ireland to reach its Climate Action targets and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels, while increasing security of energy supply.

How big is the site?

The footprint of the Cappakeel 110 kV Substation compound will cover approximately 17,200 m2, which is just over 1.6 hectare's (circa 4.2 acres).

What about visual impact?

The retention of all existing hedgerows and boundary vegetation at the substation site will support the screening of potential residential views of the proposed substation. The site will also benefit from additional landscape planting post construction, which will support/ infill existing hedgerow boundaries with appropriate native species in addition to the planting of new hedgerows.

Will new overhead lines be created?

No additional overhead lines will be installed. Two Cable Interface Masts will be installed beside the substation to facilitate a connection to the existing Cushaling to Portlaoise 110 kV overhead line. All cables from the Coolnabacky 110kV Substation into the proposed Cappakeel 110 kV Station will be underground and along the public road.

How close to properties will the substation and new infrastructure be?

The nearest residential property is approximately 350 m from the main substation site.

Is there audible sound from a substation?

Noise surveys and reports will be completed as part of the planning application and will be available for review. It is assured that the proposed Cappakeel substation will meet all thresholds and requirements.

5. Frequently Asked Questions

Will there be a fence around the substation?

A 2.6 m high palisade fence will be installed around the substation compound with an additional 1.4 m high post and rail fence positioned 3.5 m along the outer perimeter boundary in line with EirGrid policy.

Will the substation be lit up at night?

Construction will be scheduled to take place during daylight so that wildlife is not disturbed. If artificial lighting is required at any point during construction, it will be both temporary and directional and will only illuminate the section of the site where work is continuing. Once energised and operational, the substation will be lit up at night.



What about construction traffic?

A traffic management plan will be put in place, setting out how we will manage construction traffic during the construction of the project. Our construction and community engagement team will liaise with local residents and businesses to minimise disruption.

How often will maintenance be carried out?

Scheduled maintenance is generally completed on a monthly basis, with more intensive maintenance scheduled annually.

6. Contact us

We want to hear from you

If you have any questions, please contact us:



Call our Community Liaison Officer on 086 1030464



Email the project team at EWRCU@orsted.com



And don't forget to check the website for updates: www.cappakeelSID.ie