

An Bord Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

11th March 2025

Our ref: HFSL-DN- pl023a Downestown
Local Authority ref: LS525011
Your ref:

AN BORD PLEANÁLA	
LDG-	078629-25
ABP-	
12 MAR 2025	
Fee: €	22000
Type:	CQ.
Time:	
By:	Post

Re: Referral of Section 5 declaration as to whether underground MV cabling and ducting linking existing and proposed substations is exempted development

Referring party: Highfield Solar Limited, Unit 17, The Hyde Building, The Park, Carrickmines, Dublin 18

Agent: Highfield Energy Services Limited, Unit 17, The Hyde Building, The Park, Carrickmines, Dublin 18

Dear Sir or Madam,

We, Highfield Energy Services Limited, act as agents for Highfield Solar Limited (hereafter "**HSL**"). HSL sought clarification from Meath County Council ("**MCC**") in relation to the planning exemption status of proposed underground works between Gillinstown and Downestown substations (Local Authority reference LS525011).

A declaration dated 25/02/2025 was subsequently received from MCC and is included in **Appendix A** (hereafter the "**MCC Declaration**"). This concludes that the proposed works are development and are not exempted development. Given that the MCC Declaration did not indicate any reason behind the decision, further clarification was sought from MCC, and a Meath County Council Planning Report (hereafter the "**Planners Report**") was received on 27/02/2025. The Planners Report, which will be referenced in this Referral, is attached in **Appendix B**.

The Planners Report included that the reasoning informing a non-exemption declaration is that;

- a) Underground MV Ducting and Cabling linking existing and proposed substation in the townlands of Downestown and Gillinstown, Duleek, Co. Meath is NOT exempted from the requirement of obtaining planning permission under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 9 (1) (iii) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).
- b) Insufficient information has been submitted to the Planning Authority to rule out that the proposed works would endanger public safety by reason of a traffic hazard (referencing Article 9 (1) (iii) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended)).

The final date for submitting a referral is 25/03/2025. Therefore, this letter has been submitted within the required period.

A cheque in the amount of the Referral Fee accompanies this letter.

Referral

The Planners Report refers to concerns specific to traffic hazard. With this Referral, HSL seeks clarity on the point surrounding Article 9 (1) (a) (iii), as the works proposed are underground works and do not result in any associated traffic hazard while in operation.

Notwithstanding that there is a provision to request any perceived deficiencies in information by way of a request for further information in advance of a declaration, HSL notes that the proposed works include approximately 1km of works immediately adjacent to the public road carriageway.

For further context, HSL estimates that the proposed works would take a maximum of 4 weeks to complete.

HSL submits that any disruption due to the proposed works would be extremely limited, and standardised traffic management measures are readily available to remove any perceived traffic hazard during the construction period. Indeed, traffic management measures required under the Department of Transport's Traffic Signs Manual (Part 8 - Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks¹ for the works proposed would be analogous to traffic management measures required along the road network for (for example);

¹ available at

<https://assets.gov.ie/34731/20abae155ee5458993122838cb317ca9.pdf>

- road re-surfacing works;
- footpath maintenance works;
- road line painting works; or
- railway bridge maintenance works generally exempted under Class 23, Part 1 of the Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- underground gas pipeline works generally exempted under Class 25, Part 1 of the Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- other electricity works generally exempted under Class 26, Part 1 of the Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- broadband/telecommunications ducting or overhead cabling generally exempted under Class 31, Part 1 of the Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- water services connection works generally exempted under Class 48, Part 1 of the Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- adjacent drainage maintenance works generally exempted under Class 51, Part 1 of the Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- adjacent drainage maintenance works generally exempted under Class 3, Part 3 of the Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Given the above examples and the fact that there are no implications for traffic during the operational period of the proposed works, HSL is of the opinion that the proposed works will not constitute a traffic hazard beyond a level considered negligible. A Traffic Impact Assessment is included in **Appendix C** confirming the minimal levels of the proposed works.

HSL also separately notes that the traffic management measures within the Department of Transport's Traffic Signs Manual (Part 8 - Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks include multiple options for appropriately managing traffic during the short construction period.

The examples listed above are carried out on a routine basis in the vicinity of public highways, and their exemption status is regularly relied upon. Should the MCC Declaration & Planners Report indeed be correct for the proposed works in this case, this may have implications for the exemption status relied upon for similar works, including those listed above.

Precedent declarations

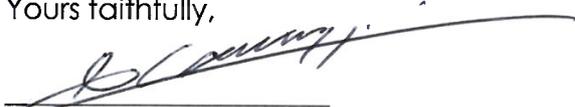
HSL also notes the following declarations in relation to similar underground cabling works which were deemed exempted development:

- 93.RL.3606: Waterford City and County Council
(20kV underground cabling is development and is exempted development)
- PL19.RL3503: Rhode, Co. Offaly
(110kV underground cabling is development and is exempted development)
- PL92.RL3436: Glenough Lower, Rossmore, Cashel, County Tipperary
(20kV underground cabling is development and is exempted development)
- PL17.RL3375: Raragh, Kingscourt, Co. Cavan, and Kilnalun, Co. Meath.
(20kV underground cabling is development and is exempted development)
- PL10.RL3377: Ballybeagh, Tullaroan, Co. Kilkenny
(20kV underground cabling is development and is exempted development)

Similar to the precedent cases provided it is HSL's understanding that the proposed works are development and are exempted development. HSL trusts that the details within this Referral, including the attached Traffic Impact Assessment in **Appendix C**, will inform the Board in relation to a suitable declaration.

If there are any issues with the information presented or you have any queries while processing this Referral please contact me as required and I will give every assistance possible, my details are below.

Yours faithfully,



Alex Casasayas
Highfield Energy Services
tel: 087 297 1547
email: alex.casasayas@highfieldenergy.com

Attachments:

- Appendix A: MCC Declaration
- Appendix B: Planners Report
- Appendix C: Traffic Impact Assessment

APPENDIX A

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Planning Department

Buvinda House

Dublin Road

Navan

Co Meath

046 - 9097500

Planning & Development Act 2000- 2022

DECLARATION

To: Highfield Solar Ltd
c/o Alex Casasayas
Unit 17
The Hyde Building
The Park, Carrickmines
Dublin 18
D18 H393

**PLANNING REFERENCE
NUMBER:** LS525011

APPLICATION RECEIPT DATE: 29/01/2025

**FURTHER INFORMATION
DATE:** N/A

In pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by the Planning and Development Act 2000-2023, Meath County Council has by order dated 11/02/2025 decided to Declare the proposed development is **development and is NOT EXEMPTED DEVELOPMENT** therefore is **DEVELOPMENT REQUIRING PLANNING PERMISSION**, in accordance with the documents submitted namely: **Underground MV ducting and cabling linking existing and proposed substations at Downstown & Gillinstown, Duleek, Co Meath**

Date: 25/02/2025 Triona Keating
On Behalf of Meath County Council

NOTE:

1. Any appeal against a Declaration of a Planning Authority under Section 5, sub-section 3(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 may be made to An Bord Pleanala by the applicant **WITHIN FOUR WEEKS** beginning on the date of issue of the Declaration.
2. Appeals should be addressed to An Bord Pleanala, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1. An appeal by the applicant should be accompanied by this form. The fee for an appeal against a Declaration of the Planning Authority is € 220.

For more information on Appeals you can contact An Bord Pleanala at:

Tel: 01 - 8588100 or LoCall: 1890 275 175

Fax: 01 - 8722684

E-mail: bord@pleanala.ie

Web: www.pleanala.ie

APPENDIX B

Meath County Council

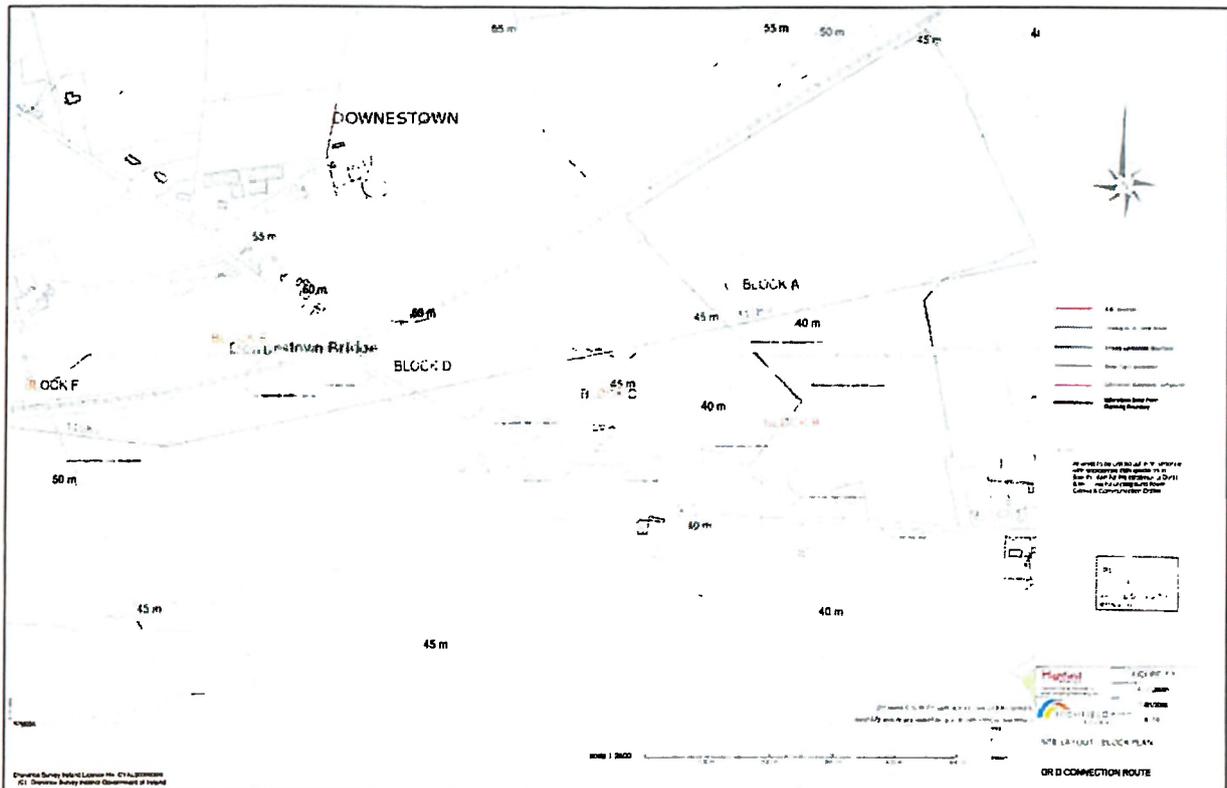


Planning Report

To:	Peadar McQuaid, Senior Executive Planner
From:	Nathan Cooney, Executive Planner
File Number:	LS525011
Applicant Name(s):	Highfield Solar Ltd
Development Address:	Downestown & Gillinstown, Duleek, Co. Meath
Application Type:	Section 5 of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended): Declaration on Development/Exempted Development
Development Description:	Underground MV Ducting and Cabling linking existing and proposed substations.
Report Date:	25/02/2025
Decision Due Date:	26/02/2025

1.0 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

The subject site is located in the townlands of Downestown and Gillinstown, Duleek, Co. Meath. The site relates to the permitted solar farms granted by Meath County Council under reference LB160898 (Gillinstown Solar Farm) and 22972 (Downestown Solar Farm). The proposed grid connection route is below.



2.0 PROPOSED DECLARATION

The referrer seeks a declaration as to whether or not, *“Underground MV Ducting and Cabling linking existing and proposed substations’ is development and if so is or is not exempted development.*

3.0 PLANNING HISTORY

22972 – Permission GRANTED for the development will consist of a 10-year permission for the construction of a solar PV energy development within a total site area of approximately 18.92ha, include solar PV panels ground mounted on steel support structures, IPP electrical control building and associated compound, electrical transformer/inverter station modules, battery storage modules, storage containers, CCTV cameras, access tracks, fencing and associated electrical cabling, ducting and ancillary infrastructure.

LB160898 – Permission GRANTED for permission for a period of 10 years to construct and complete the development of a Solar PV Energy development with a total site area of 150.29 hectares, to include two electrical substation buildings and associated compounds, electrical transformer and inverter station modules, storage modules, Solar PV panels ground mounted on support structures, access roads and internal access tracks, spare parts storage container, fencing, electrical cabling and ducting, including undergrounding of existing electrical cabling, CCTV and other ancillary infrastructure, additional landscaping and habitat enhancement as required and associated site development works.

4.0 REFERRALS

Transportation Department – Not Exempted Development

5.0 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

Planning and Development Act 2000-2023;

In this Act, except where the context otherwise requires –

Section 2(1)

"Works" includes any act or operation of construction, excavation, demolition, extension, alteration, repair or renewal...

"statutory undertaker" means a person, for the time being, authorised by or under any enactment or instrument under an enactment to—

- (a) construct or operate a railway, canal, inland navigation, dock, harbour or airport,*
- (b) provide, or carry out works for the provision of, gas, electricity or telecommunications services,*
- or*
- (c) provide services connected with, or carry out works for the purposes of the carrying on of the activities of, any public undertaking;*

Section 3(1)

"Development" in this Act means, except where the context otherwise requires, the carrying out of any works on, in, over or under land or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land.

Section 4(2)(a)

"The Minister may by regulations provide for any class of development to be exempted development for the purposes of this Act where he or she is of the opinion that –

- (i) by reason of the size, nature or limited effect on its surroundings, of development belonging to that class, the carrying out of such development would not offend against principles of proper planning and sustainable development, or*

(i) *“the development is authorised, or is required to be authorised, by or under any enactment...”*

Section 4(2)(b)

“Regulations under paragraph (a) may be subject to conditions and be of general application or apply to such area or place as may be specified in the regulations.”

Section 4(2)(c)

“Regulations under this subsection may, in particular and without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (a) provide, in the case of structures or other land used for a purpose of any specified class, for the use thereof for any other purposes being exempted development for the purposes of this Act”.

Section 4 (4)

‘Notwithstanding paragraphs (a), (i), (ia) and (l) of subsection (1) and any regulations under subsection (2), development shall not be exempted development if an environmental impact assessment or an appropriate assessment of the development is required.’

Section 177U(9)

“In deciding upon a declaration for the purposes of Section 5 of this Act a planning authority or the Board, as the case maybe, shall where appropriate, conduct a screening for appropriate assessment in accordance with the provisions of this Section.”

Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024;

Article 3(3)

“Electricity undertaking” means an undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service’.

Article 6(1)

“Subject to article 9, development of a class specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 shall be exempted development for the purposes of the Act, provided that such development complies with the conditions and limitations specified in column 2 of the said Part 1 opposite the mention of that class in the said column 1”.

Schedule 2, Part 1 Exempted Development – General (Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

Class 26 relates to:

‘The carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking.’

Conditions and Limitations (Column 2)

There are no conditions or limitations relating to this class.

Article 9(1)

“Development to which Article 6 relates shall not be exempted development for the

purposes of the Act – 9(1)(a) – if the carrying out of such development would” conflict with the restriction on exemptions as outlined between (i) – (xii) of the regulations. (Most relevant include)

(i) contravene a condition attached to a permission under the Act or be inconsistent with any use specified in a permission under the Act.

(iii) endanger public safety by reason of traffic hazard or obstruction of road users,

(v) consist of or comprise the carrying out under a public road of works other than a connection to a wired broadcast relay service, sewer, water main, gas main or electricity supply line or cable, or any works to which class 25, 26 or 31 (a) specified in column 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 2 applies,

(vii) consist of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition (other than peat extraction) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological, geological, historical, scientific or ecological interest, the preservation, conservation or protection of which is an objective of a development plan or local area plan for the area in which the development is proposed or, pending the variation of a development plan or local area plan, or the making of a new development plan or local area plan, in the draft variation of the development plan or the local area plan or the draft development plan or draft local area plan,

(viiA) comprise of or comprise the excavation, alteration or demolition of any archaeological monument included in the Record of Monuments and Places, pursuant to section 12(1) of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994, save that this provision shall not apply to any excavation or any works, pursuant to and in accordance with a consent granted under section 14 or a licence granted under section 26 of the National Monuments Act 1930 (No 2 of 1930) as amended.

(viiB) comprise development in relation to which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority in relation to appropriate assessment and the development would require an appropriate assessment because it would be likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site,

(c) if it is development to which Part 10 applies, unless the development is required by or under any statutory provision (other than the Act or these regulations) to comply with the procedures for the purposes of giving effect to the Council Directive”.

Article 132 C

“Where a request is made to a planning authority or a referral is made to the Board, the authority or the Board, as appropriate, shall carry out a preliminary examination of, at the least, the nature, size or location of the relevant development”.

6.0 ASSESSMENT

(i) Does the proposal constitute development:

Having regard to the definition of 'development' within the Planning and Development Act 2000-2023, "*the carrying out of works on, in, over or under lands or the making of any material change in the use of any structures or other land*"; It is considered the works detailed would constitute development for planning purposes. Therefore, the focus, is on whether or not the proposed development constitutes exempted development.

(ii) Does the proposal constitute exempt development:

As regards Section 4(2)(a)(i) of the Act, and the regulations made there under, the relevant class of development is Class 26, Part 1 Schedule 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2024. This refers to "*The carrying out by any undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking*".

It is considered that the proposal is a "*development consisting of the laying underground of...cables... for the purposes of the undertaking*". The proposal would comprise laying of underground MV ducting and cabling linking existing and proposed substations.

It is further considered that the proposed development is for the purposes of the undertaking.

As stated under Article 3 (3) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2024, "*electricity undertaking*", means an undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service". It is considered there is no definition as to what exactly is meant by this although Section 2 (1) of the Electricity Regulation Act, 1999, which provides the following definition:

"electricity undertaking" means any person engaged in generation, transmission, distribution or supply of electricity, including any holder of a licence or authorisation under this Act, or any person who has been granted a permit under section 37 of the Principal Act;

The broad definition of "*statutory undertaker*" within the Planning and Development Act 2000-2023, is, "*statutory undertaker*" means a person, from the time being, authorised by or under any enactment or instrument under an enactment to –

(b) Provide, or carry out works for the provision of, gas, electricity or telecommunications services,"

In light of these definitions, it is considered the applicant (Highfield Solar Ltd) would fall within the category of a statutory undertaker on foot of its authorisation under the Planning Act to construct a solar farm that is a project for the provision of electricity. On this basis, it is considered that the proposed development falls within the scope of Class 26.

However, the Transportation Department (MCC) have reviewed the submitted documentation and made the following comments; "*The applicant proposes to lay an underground MV connector cable, in the public road, between the substations for approximately 1 km.*

It is proposed to provide 3 No. joint bays in the public road. No details of the joint bays or the duct trench have been submitted. It is unclear from the information submitted that the proposed works would not create a traffic hazard."

Based on the limited information submitted with application and having regard to the referral response of the Transportation Department, I am satisfied that the proposal would endanger public safety by reason of a traffic hazard. Therefore, I consider the proposed works to fall within the scope of Article 9 as outlined below.

(iii) Environmental Impact Assessment

Section 4(4) of the Act essentially de-exempts any development which attracts a requirement for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Appropriate Assessment (AA). *"development shall not be exempted development if an environmental impact assessment or an appropriate assessment of the development is required"*.

The proposed development does not fall within a class of development for the purposes of EIA with reference to Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended). Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposal, it is considered that it would not result in a real likelihood of significant effects on the environment. The need for environmental impact assessment can be excluded at preliminary examination and a screening determination is not required.

I am satisfied that the provisions of Part 1, Section 4(4) of the Act with respect to EIA do not apply in this instance.

(iv) Appropriate Assessment:

Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (as amended) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ('the Habitats Directive') requires that any plan or project that is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 site concerned but is likely to have a significant effect on it, on its own or in combination with other plans and projects, is to be authorised only if it will not adversely affect the integrity of that site. The application site is not within any designated Natura 2000 site. The nearest sites located within 15km of the subject site are as follows:

- River Boyne And River Blackwater SAC (Site Code 002299)
- River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (Site Code 004232)
- River Nanny Estuary and Shore SPA (Site Code 004158)
- North-west Irish Sea SPA (Site Code 004236)
- Boyne Coast and Estuary SAC (Site Code 001957)
- Boyne Estuary SPA (Site Code 004080).

The Planning Authority's Screening for Appropriate Assessment has considered the potential effects including direct, indirect and in-combination effects of the proposed development, individually or in combination with the permitted developments and cumulatively with other plans or projects on European Sites. The Planning Authority concludes that the proposed development (entire project), by itself or in combination with other plans and developments in the vicinity, would not be likely to have a significant effect on European Site(s). In light of this, it is considered that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment (Natura Impact Statement) is not required in this instance.

(iv) Restrictions on Exemptions:

On the issue of Article 9 (1) De-Exemptions as listed above in this report. It is considered that the development falls within the scope of the de-exemptions under Article 9 (1) (viiB) as the proposed development would constitute a traffic hazard.

7.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is therefore recommended that a declaration of Exemption be **REFUSED** for the development set out hereunder.

WHEREAS the question has arisen as to whether the proposal is or is not exempt development.

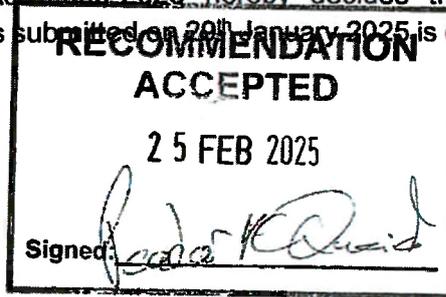
AND WHEREAS Meath County Council in consideration of this question has had regard particularly to:

- (a) Sections 2(1), 3(1), 4 & 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2023
- (b) Article 3, 6 & 9 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2024
- (c) Schedule 2, Part 1, Class 26 (Exempted Development – General) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2024
- (d) Information provided.

AND WHEREAS Meath County Council has concluded: -

- (a) Underground MV Ducting and Cabling linking existing and proposed substations in the townlands of Downestown and Gillinstown, Duleek, Co. Meath is NOT exempted from the requirement to obtain planning permission under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) as it comes within the scope of Section 4 (4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and Article 9 (1) (iii) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (as amended).
- (b) Insufficient information has been submitted to the Planning Authority to rule out that the proposed works would endanger public safety by reason of a traffic hazard.

NOW THEREFORE Meath County Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 5(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000-2023, hereby decides that the said development as detailed on plans and particulars submitted on 20th January 2025 is development and is not exempted development.



Nathan Coane

Executive Planner
25/02/2025

Peadar McQuaid
A/Senior Executive Planner
25/02/2025

APPENDIX C

March 2025

Downestown Solar Farm Traffic Impact Assessment for public road works



Prepared By:



Highfield Energy Services Limited
info@highfieldenergy.com

For:



Highfield Solar Limited
Unit 17
The Hyde Building
The Park Carrickmines
Dublin 18 | D18 H393 | Ireland

REVISION HISTORY

Date:	Change Log:	Approved:
11/03/2025	Additional Information for Referral	DK

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 SITE LOCATION AND REPORT PURPOSE

1.1.1 The Downestown Solar Farm is located in the rural townlands of Gillinstown and Downestown, Duleek, Co. Meath. The proposed cable route connection works consist of underground MV cabling and ducting linking existing and proposed substations at, respectively, Gillinstown and Downestown.

1.1.2 The proposed cable route runs immediately adjacent to the local road L5609 road surface. The purpose of this report is to provide details of where the proposed cable, joint bays and associated infrastructure will be located. It follows up on an application for exempted development submitted to Meath Council, which was rejected on the basis of insufficient traffic management information.

The report also outlines volumes of construction traffic involved and how the traffic relating to the works shall be managed during the construction phase of the works.

1.1.3 It is intended that this document be used as a reference document to finalise more detailed traffic movement arrangements as part of a road opening license application with the roads authority immediately prior to construction.

1.1.4 The works will be carried out by an undertaker authorised to provide an electricity service of development consisting of the laying underground of mains, pipes, cables or other apparatus for the purposes of the undertaking. A civil contractor will be selected for the construction of the cable route. Similarly, contracts will be put in place for the cabling works. It will be a contractual requirement for the successful contractors to adhere to the commitments made herein, or any imposed within the conditions of the road opening license.

2 TRANSPORT MOVEMENTS - CONSTRUCTION STAGE

2.1 GENERAL

- 2.1.1 The ducting works will be required to conform to the ESNB standards for MV ducting and cabling¹. This includes for ducting materials, appropriate protective surround and backfill.
- 2.1.2 There are civil works required in the development of ~1km of underground MV ducting and cabling. Civil works proposed consist primarily of excavation, the laying of duct surround, ducting and warning tape, and backfilling/reinstatement.
- 2.1.3 A conservative estimate of projected progress would be 50m per day of ducting works. As noted below in **Table 1.0**, the construction is intended to take approximately 4 weeks. Immediately prior to works commencing, a pre-condition road survey shall be undertaken in conjunction with the road authority along the local road network and agreed in writing.
- 2.1.4 Local residents are to be informed by the Civil Contractor of the proposed construction traffic delivery routes and movements of larger delivery vehicles. In addition, emergency services vehicle access will be addressed within a Pre-Construction Health & Safety Plan. The contractor will liaise with all of the emergency services prior to the works commencing, to ensure that access for emergency services will be maintained at all times during the construction period.
- 2.1.5 The construction materials will be delivered from local quarries and suppliers along the primary road networks. Potential supply quarries and concrete plants (where required) will be discussed with the local Area Engineer and agreed as part of the road opening license application process.
- 2.1.6 Temporary car parking and temporary storage facilities for any deliveries will be provided within the private landholding at the southern section of the cable route.
- 2.1.7 Signage on approach to the works will comply with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual. This is outlined in more detail in **Section 2.3** below.
- 2.1.8 The relevant contractor will liaise directly with Meath County Council in relation to any road opening licence requirements at the proposed site entrance for the solar farm or along any proposed cable route. All works along the route shall comply with Chapter 8 of the Traffic Signs Manual. This is outlined in more detail in **Section 2.3** below.

2.2 TYPICAL PROGRAMME OF TRANSPORT MOVEMENTS DURING CONSTRUCTION

2.2.1 The table below sets out typical transport movements on a week-by-week basis during the short construction period:

Traffic Management Calculation - Heavy Goods Vehicles with standard aggregates for maintenance roads and compound area etc.								
Project Site:	Downestown - Solar Farm							
Revision Index:	0							
Status:	Referral - Section 5							
Purpose	Week of construction period							Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Site facilities	1							1
Traffic Management measures	1			1				2
Groundworks	5	7	7	7				26
Ducting and jointing requirements	5	2						7
Ducting and jointing surround	3	4	4	4				15
Backfill and reinstatement	2	3	3	3				11
Site maintenance, waste disposal				1				1
Estimated deliveries per week	17	16	14	16				63
Estimated average deliveries per day	4	4	3	4				15
Estimated average movements per day	8	8	6	8				30

Table 1.0 – Typical Volumes of Heavy Goods Vehicles

2.2.2 Approximately 3-4 HGV deliveries per day are proposed for the works and this does not present a significant number of deliveries.

2.2.3 The impact on traffic volumes as a result of deliveries for the proposed ducting works is considered negligible.

2.3 TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT MEASURES

- 2.3.1 The proposed works are to last approximately 4 weeks and being immediately adjacent to a local road (L5609), will require appropriate traffic control measures.
- 2.3.2 As outlined above, signage on approach to the works and control measures at the location of the works themselves are to comply with the Department of Transport's Traffic Signs Manual (Part 8 - Temporary Traffic Measures and Signs for Roadworks)¹.
- 2.3.3 In accordance with Table 8.2.1.1 of the Traffic Signs Manual, the Road Classification for which traffic control measures will be designed shall be LV2 (Single Carriageway).
- 2.3.4 In accordance with Section Table 8.2.1.2, the roadwork type designed shall be Type A.
- 2.3.5 This is an outline document. The appointed Contractor shall be required to produce a detailed Traffic Management Plan in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual when carrying out works on or near the public road network.
- 2.3.6 The Traffic Management Plan shall include for Static Operations in accordance with 8.4 of the Traffic Signs Manual and the specifications for all Static Signs and speed limits used for the duration of the works, shall be in accordance respectively with 8.3.1 and 8.2.3 of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 2.3.7 Temporary signs in the area of works shall be designed in accordance with 8.3.1 of the Traffic Signs Manual, and sized and positioned in accordance with 8.3.2 of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 2.3.8 Variable message signs are to be used in accordance with 8.3.4 of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 2.3.9 The work area is to be suitably protected using delineation devices in accordance with 8.3.5 of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 2.3.10 Temporary Traffic Control and Temporary Lighting shall be done in accordance with 8.3.7 and 8.3.8 of the Traffic Signs Manual, to be implemented to suitably control traffic movements during construction.
- 2.3.11 Suitable temporary Speed Limits on approach to the works and adjacent to the works area (in accordance with 8.2.3 of the Traffic Signs Manual) are to be suitably signposted.

¹ available at <https://assets.gov.ie/34731/20abae155ee5458993122838cb317ca9.pdf>

2.3.12 Management of the traffic flow within the area of work shall be done in accordance with section 8.4.4.17 - Stop and Go traffic control of the Traffic Signs Manual. Figure 8.4.4.4 of the Traffic Signs Manual below illustrates the traffic control method proposed while works are undertaken. Additionally, as per 8.4.4.31 of the Traffic Signs Manual, an Garda Síochána must be consulted prior to the implementation of temporary traffic signals.

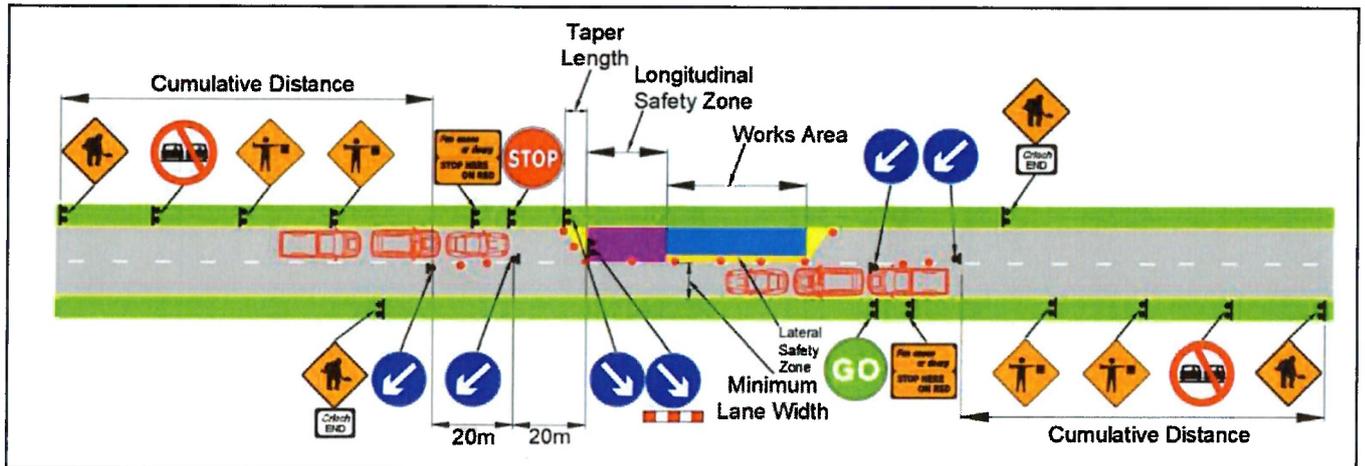


Figure 8.4.4.4 of the Traffic Signs Manual (page 72). Stop and Go traffic method for Type A works on a Level 2 road

- 2.3.13 Operation and Maintenance of the Temporary Traffic Measures during the construction period shall be carried out in accordance with 8.1.9 of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 2.3.14 All measures are to be agreed with the roads authority in advance of the works commencing as part of the road opening license application procedure.
- 2.3.15 Night work is not envisaged, unless agreed in advance with the roads authority as part of the road opening license application procedure. Where night works are required, these shall be carried out in accordance with 8.2.6 of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 2.3.16 The works are also to be managed in such a way that excavations are not left open or unprotected overnight. The work plan is to include for suitable sequencing of backfilling and reinstatement works in a structured manner to manage this.
- 2.3.17 Construction vehicle and equipment movements are to be managed in accordance with 8.4.2 of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 2.3.18 Pedestrians and cyclists are to be accommodated during the construction works in accordance with 8.2.8 - Vulnerable Road Users, of the Traffic Signs Manual.
- 2.3.19 Other measures to be implemented include Measures to prevent the accumulation of mud and debris on the road surface.

3 TRANSPORT MOVEMENTS - OPERATION STAGE

3.1 GENERAL

- 3.1.1 Post completion of the installation works, no vehicular movements or deliveries connected to the works are envisaged.

4 TRAFFIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT - CONCLUSION

4.1 CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC VOLUMES

- 4.1.1 There are minimal increased volumes associated with the delivery of materials for the proposed cable route and the construction works. The corresponding impact on traffic is considered negligible.

4.2 OPERATIONAL TRAFFIC VOLUMES

- 4.2.1 There are no traffic volumes or impacts associated with the operational period of the works.

4.3 IMPACTS OF CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS ON TRAFFIC

- 4.3.1 Given:

- the very short duration of construction;
- the existing available road width along the cable route;
- the road verge and hard shoulder availability; and
- readily available approved measures to control traffic during construction and properly managed in accordance with the Traffic Signs Manual

the construction works proposed shall have a negligible impact on traffic and will not result in a traffic hazard.

