

Construction phase

Fieldstown, Gerrardstown and Ballaghaweary Solar Farms

North Dublin & Co. Meath



Keeping you updated



enÉrgia
Renewables

Dear Householder,

Energia Renewables are pleased to announce the start of construction of our Fieldstown, Gerrardstown and Ballaghaweary Solar Farms in North Dublin and Co. Meath.

This brochure provides an overview of the solar farm developments, the construction timeline and the nearby substation and grid connection works which are already under construction.

The three solar farms will export renewable energy into the national grid via the Fieldstown substation. 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 project will provide opportunities for a range of trades and services and we are keen to work with local businesses where possible.

During construction, we will operate a free text messaging service and will be posting regular updates on our website, www.fieldstownsubstation.ie, to let local residents, businesses and road users know when there may be a need for traffic management controls.

Yours sincerely,



Austin Rafferty
Construction Project Manager
Energia Renewables



Jeff McDonald
Senior Community Liaison Officer
Energia Renewables

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1. Meet the team



Energia Renewables

Energia Renewables are part of the wider Energia Group, a leading investor in renewable energy across the island of Ireland. We currently supply approximately 13% of the island's electricity requirements and own and

operate 18 onshore wind farms with a total generation capacity of over 400 MW. We are currently developing onshore wind energy, solar technology, green hydrogen production and battery storage projects.



Austin Rafferty
Construction Project Manager



Jeff McDonald
Senior Community Liaison Officer



Eiffage Energía Sistemas

Eiffage Energía Sistemas has been appointed as the main EPC (Engineering, Procurement and Construction) contractor for the project, undertaking full responsibility for detailed engineering, procurement, civil works and electromechanical installation. As a leading global energy contractor with over 7.7 GW of installed photovoltaic capacity and 4 GW of wind energy worldwide, Eiffage brings proven expertise in delivering utility-scale turnkey renewable infrastructure.

With an extensive international track record and a strong commitment to low-carbon construction, Eiffage Energía Sistemas ensures high operational efficiency, grid connection compliance with strict health, safety and environmental standards. From procurement and execution to final commissioning, Eiffage acts as a core partner in driving sustainable energy transition.



Álvaro López Parra
Head of Construction Ireland



Guadalupe Roldan Suarez
Project Manager



Suir Engineering

Suir Engineering has been appointed Electrical Engineering Contractor for the construction of the Fieldstown Substation and grid route. Suir is a leader in the energy, power and renewables sector, delivering innovative and reliable solutions to meet the evolving demands of the industry. With extensive experience in grid stability, renewable

energy integration, ICP works and advanced energy systems, Suir Engineering helps drive sustainable progress. From supporting emerging technologies to enhancing critical infrastructure, Suir Engineering is a trusted partner in powering the future, while ensuring resilience and efficiency in a rapidly changing energy landscape.



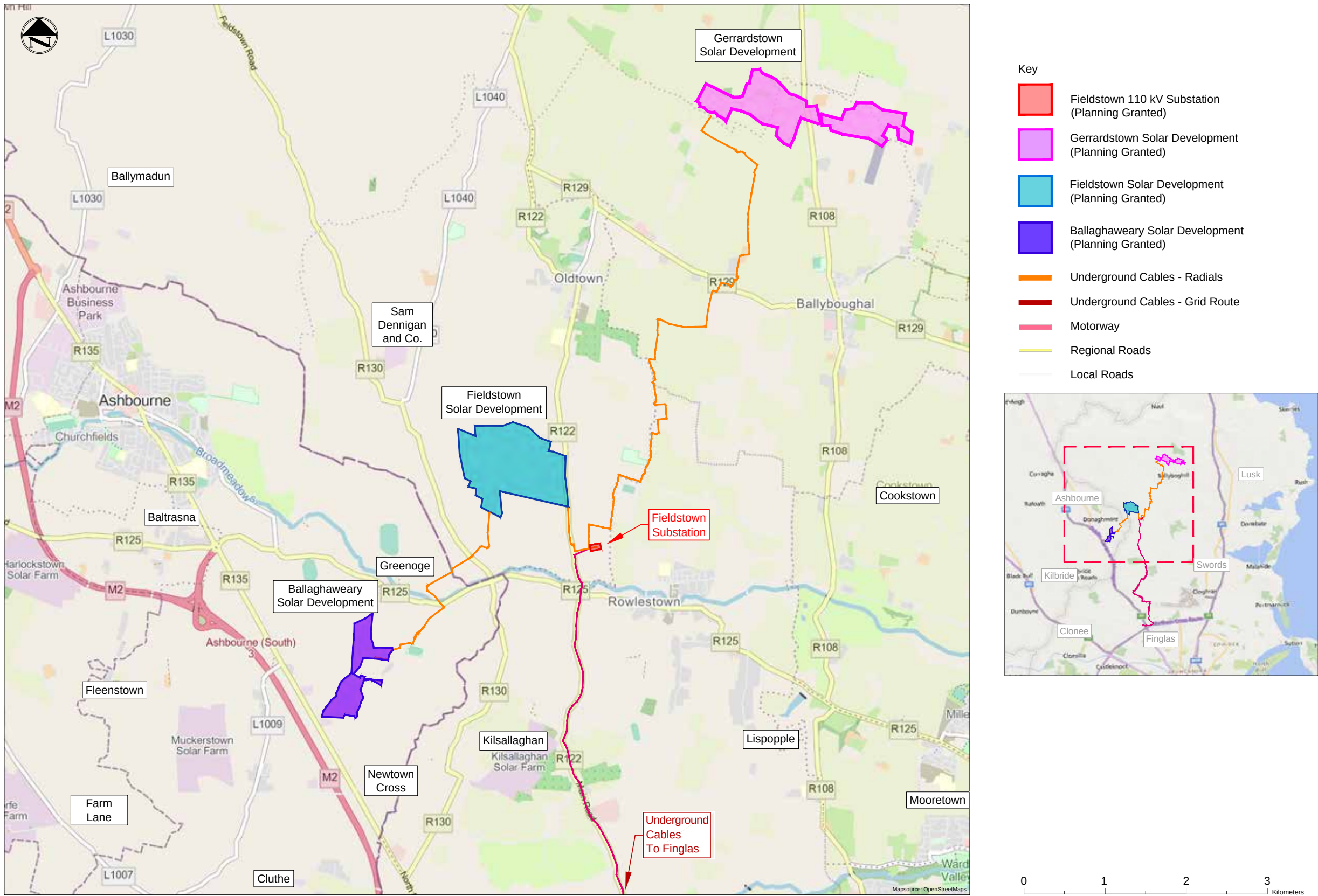
Willie Kelly
Suir Project Director



Craig Sheehy
Suir Project Manager



2. Map of consented solar developments and substation



3. Fieldstown Solar Farm



Fieldstown Solar Farm

This consented solar development is located in the townlands of Fieldstown and Whitestown, near Rolestown in North Dublin. It will have a maximum export capacity of up to 75 MW.

Planning permission was granted in September 2021. The start of construction is scheduled for October 2026 and is expected to take around 18 months.

Fieldstown Solar Timeline

2026

- April**
Start of substation construction works
- October**
Estimated date for start of construction of Fieldstown Solar Farm

2027

- January**
Start of underground cable work and first solar panel delivery

2028

- February**
First export of electricity to grid
- October**
Estimated date for start of official commercial operation

Key site statistics:

Up to **75 MW MEC**
(export capacity)

Equivalent to the energy needs of more than **21,000 homes**

Community benefit fund will support local community group projects.

CO₂ savings of around **30,000 tonnes** per annum

Equivalent to removing around **6,000 cars** from our roads every year

* Based on average household use.

4. Gerrardstown Solar Farm

Gerrardstown Solar Farm

This consented solar development is located in the townlands of Gerrardstown, Brownstown and Kinoud, near Ballyboughal in North Dublin. It will have a maximum export capacity of up to 60 MW. Planning permission was granted in October 2023. The start of construction is scheduled for November 2026 and is due to last approximately 17 months.

Gerrardstown Timeline

2026

- April**
Start of substation construction works
- August**
Start of underground cable work
- November**
Estimated date for start of construction of Gerrardstown Solar Farm

2027

- January**
First solar panel delivery

2028

- February**
First export of electricity to grid
- October**
Estimated date for start of official commercial operation



Key site statistics:

 Up to **60 MW MEC**
(export capacity)

 CO₂ savings of around **20,000 tonnes** per annum

 Equivalent to the energy needs of more than **16,500 homes**

 Equivalent to removing around **9,500 cars** from our roads every year

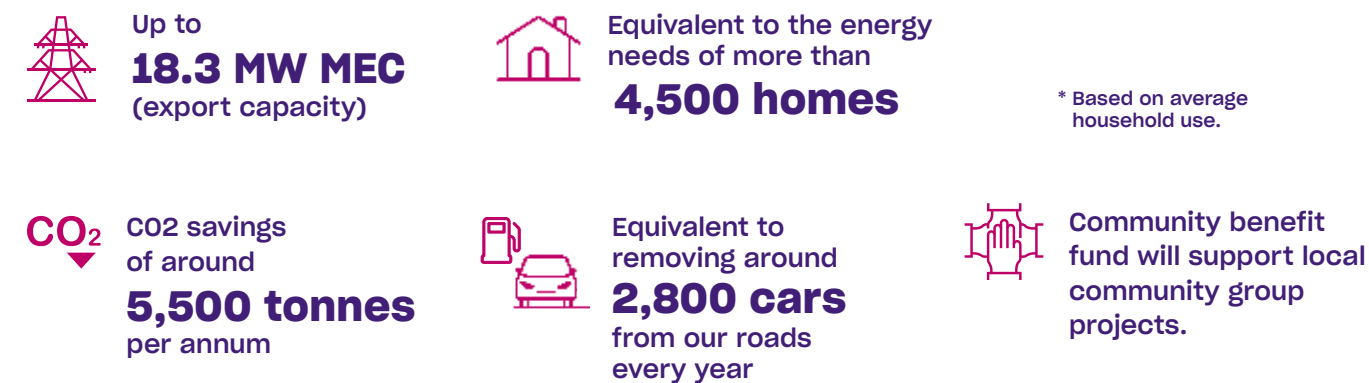
 Community benefit fund will support local community group projects.

* Based on average household use.

5. Ballaghaweary Solar Farm



Key site statistics:



Ballaghaweary Solar Farm

This consented solar development is located in the townlands of Ballaghaweary and Greenogue, near Ashbourne, County Meath. It will have a maximum export capacity of up to 18.3 MW. Planning permission was granted in January 2022 and a subsequent amendment granted in February 2026.

The start of construction is planned for June 2027 and is expected to last 10 months.

Ballaghaweary Timeline

2026

April
Start of substation construction works

2027

January
Start of underground cable work

June
Estimated date for start of construction of Ballaghaweary Solar Farm

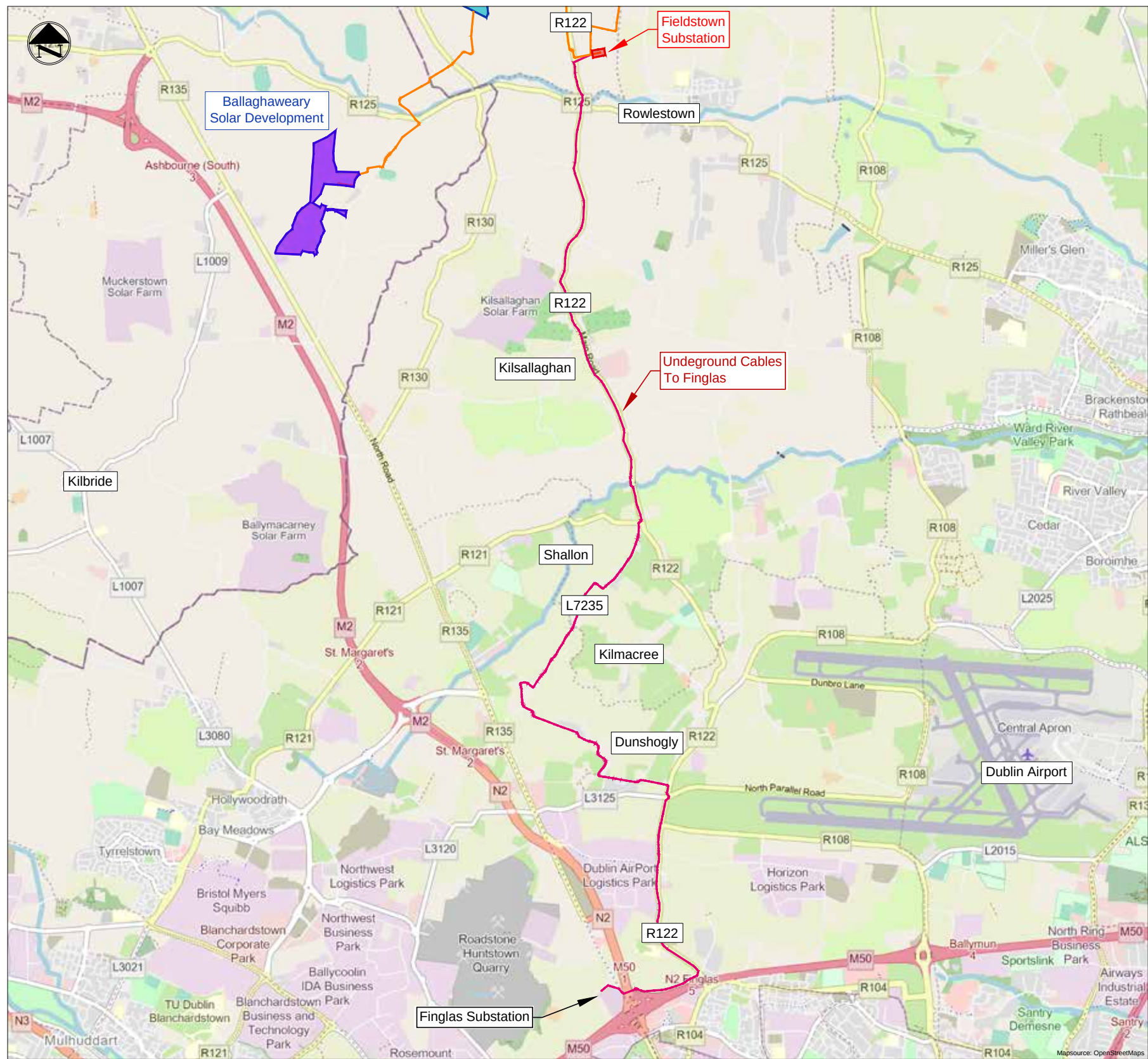
September
First solar panel delivery

2028

February
First export of electricity to grid

October
Estimated date for start of official commercial operation

6. Substation and grid connection



All the consented solar farms will connect to the grid via the Fieldstown substation which is currently under construction. The grid route will connect the Fieldstown Substation to the transmission network at Finglas 110 kV Substation via an underground cable extending south.

The grid connection is approximately 13.3 km in length and will follow the path of the R122 onto L7235 and L7231 before returning to the R122 and heading west alongside the M50, under the N2 to the boundary of Finglas Substation.

These road works will be carried out in phases. We will post updates on our website and will be operating a free text messaging service, which will provide details of traffic control measures. Find out how to register for this service on the next page.

- Key
- Fieldstown 110 kV Substation (Planning Granted)
 - Gerrardstown Solar Development (Planning Granted)
 - Fieldstown Solar Development (Planning Granted)
 - Ballaghaweary Solar Development (Planning Granted)
 - Underground Cables - Radials
 - Underground Cables - Grid Route
 - Motorway
 - Regional Roads
 - Local Roads



7. Construction updates

We will be posting regular construction and road works updates on our website.

We'll also be operating a free text messaging service for anyone who wants to sign up to get updates on their mobile. Just email clo@energia.ie with your name, phone number and Eircode. Please ensure you put 'Fieldstown Solar', 'Fieldstown grid works', 'Gerrardstown' or 'Ballaghaweary' in the subject line of your email.

To find out more, visit www.fieldstownsubstation.ie to get updates on project progress.

We've provided a QR code (below) for easy access to the solar farm web pages.



8. Working with local businesses

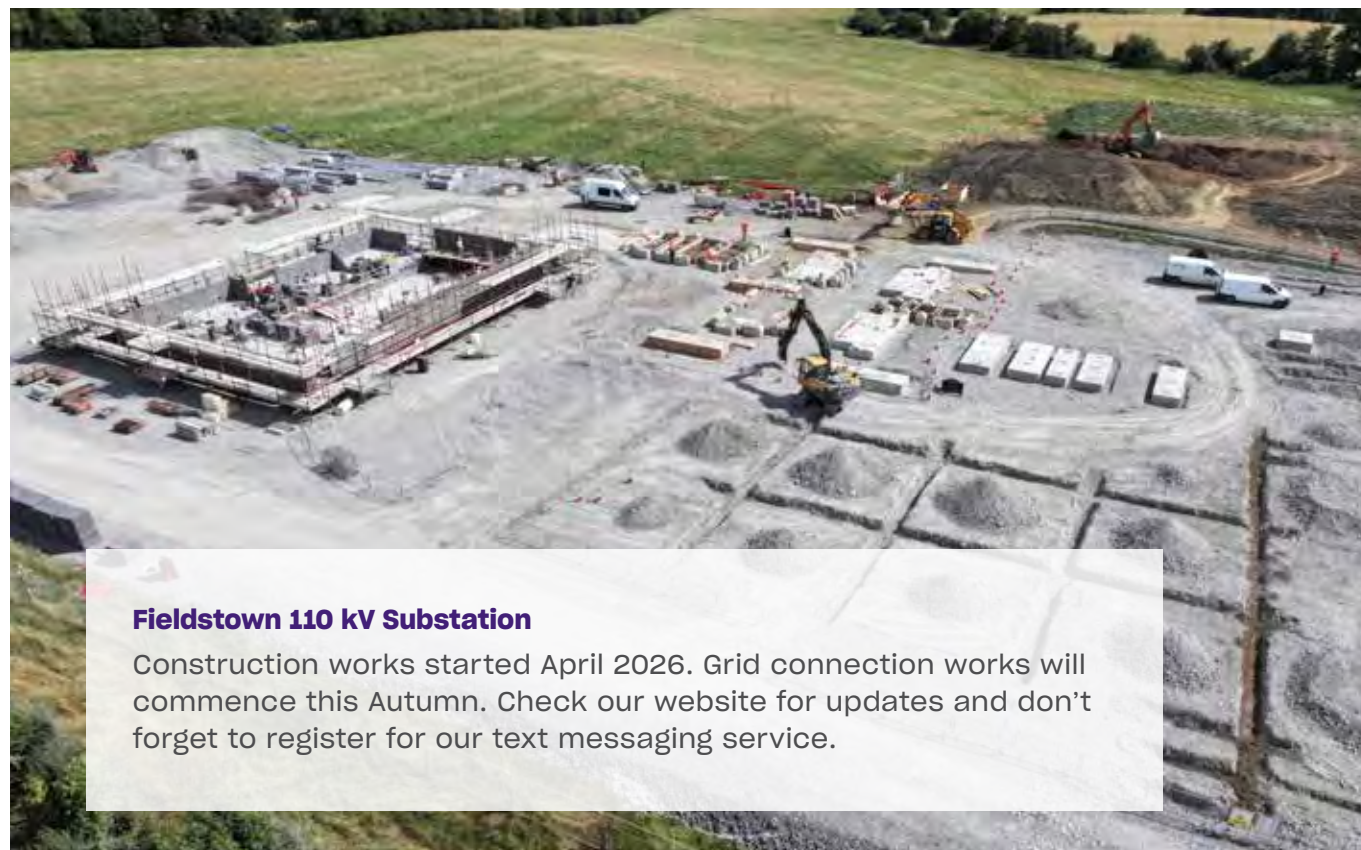
We want to ensure that our solar developments at Fieldstown, Gerrardstown and Ballaghaweary and the associated substation works will benefit the local area. That's why Energia, Eiffage and Suir are keen to hear from local businesses, suppliers and contractors.

The solar developments will require a range of trades and services and we are eager to use local employment as far as possible. Business opportunities during the construction phase include:

- Plant hire – Excavation, earthworks, craneage
- Labour hire – Engineers, plant operatives, construction workers
- Service suppliers – Fuel suppliers, garage services, catering, hotels and other accommodation providers

Projects of this nature inevitably require some workers from outside the local area and Energia, Eiffage and Suir are keen to hear from you if you have local accommodation to let.

- Construction material suppliers
 - Concrete, aggregates, building materials



Fieldstown 110 kV Substation

Construction works started April 2026. Grid connection works will commence this Autumn. Check our website for updates and don't forget to register for our text messaging service.

9. Educational outreach



Once up and running, Energia will be happy to facilitate school and college visits to our local solar developments. In the meantime, the Energia Renewables and Operations teams are keen to arrange school workshops and classroom talks on renewable energy.

- **Learn**...about solar energy
- **Discover**...how we can harness the power of the sun
- **Explore**...the need for climate action and energy transition

10. Working with communities

The Fieldstown, Gerrardstown and Ballaghawearry Solar Farms will operate community benefit funds, which will support community, voluntary organisations and environmental projects in the local area.

Energia Renewables already operate a number of wind farm funds which are all administered on our behalf by independent charitable trusts. Our total benefit fund investment to date is over €6 million – and growing.

Funds are designed in conjunction with the local community to ensure that our funding has a positive and lasting impact and prioritises sustainability

goals. We will carry out a local scoping study, consulting community groups on how the scheme could be structured. In certain instances, where sites are situated close together, we may combine funds so that we are able to offer community groups an opportunity to apply for larger grants, whilst still making smaller amounts available for a wide range of activities and projects within a set radius of each of the three sites

The solar farm funds will begin allocating project grants one year after the start of commercial operation. We will advertise extensively through local media, local authorities and mailing list contacts.



Biodiversity garden planting scheme in Monaghan Town from Drumlins Park Wind Farm Fund (2025)



Newbliss Childcare Services extension grant from Drumlins Park Wind Farm in Co. Monaghan (2025)

11. FAQs

How long will construction last?

Construction activities commenced with the Fieldstown Substation in April 2026, with the solar farm developments being delivered in phases between October 2026 and 2028. The works will include site preparation, installation of access tracks, drainage and civil works, construction of electrical infrastructure, installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and mounting structures, cabling, substations, grid connection works and final commissioning of the facility.

How will the community benefit fund operate?

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What is the visual impact of a solar farm on the landscape?

The assessment of the visual impact of any solar farm is a key consideration in the planning application process. Developers are required to submit a robust visual, landscape and environmental impact report, together with detailed drawings.

Existing natural screening and additional planting is required to ensure the visual impact of a solar installation is negligible. Solar farms are considered temporary structures and will be removed when their useful life is over – typically after 35 years. They make no permanent change to the landscape.

Do solar farms create noise?

The solar panels themselves do not generate noise and solar facilities produce no discernible noise. The inverters generate a sound that might be described as a ‘soft hum’ or ‘buzz’. It should be noted that Energia Renewables use a design process to ensure that any associated noises are inaudible beyond the facility boundary. The proposed solar PV installations will be in operation during daylight hours only and noise will only be generated from sunrise onwards.

Can farming continue on the land?

Small livestock, such as sheep, can continue to graze around the solar panels for the lifetime of the solar farm. Panels are mounted approximately 800 mm to 1 m above the ground (maximum height 3.2 m – depending on the angle / frame design), providing clearance for vegetation and natural habitats to thrive.

Do solar farms create glare?

A common misconception about solar PV panels is that they create glare, posing a nuisance for residents and a safety risk for pilots. While in certain situations the glass surfaces of solar PV systems can produce a glint, or momentary flash of bright light and even a longer-lasting glare, it should be remembered that the panels are designed to absorb, rather than reflect light.

The panels are constructed of dark-coloured materials and are covered with anti-reflective coatings. Any reflection that may occur is limited by preserving existing foliage and planting new trees and bushes around the solar installation to help screen the panels from view and reduce the likelihood of residents, passers-by, or drivers experiencing glare.

What about construction traffic?

A traffic management plan will be put in place, setting out how we will manage site traffic during the construction of the project. Our construction and community engagement team will liaise with local residents and businesses to minimise disruption. To ensure you are kept informed, please sign up to our text message service for project updates by contacting our CLO.

12. Contact us



We want to hear from you

If you have any questions, please contact us:



Telephone our Community Liaison Officer on
+353 (0)87 946 0284



You can also email us at **clo@energia.ie**



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



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