ELGIN ENERGY

PROPOSED CO-LOCATED SOLAR PV AND BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

Kilcock Solar Farm,

Kilcock,

County Kildare

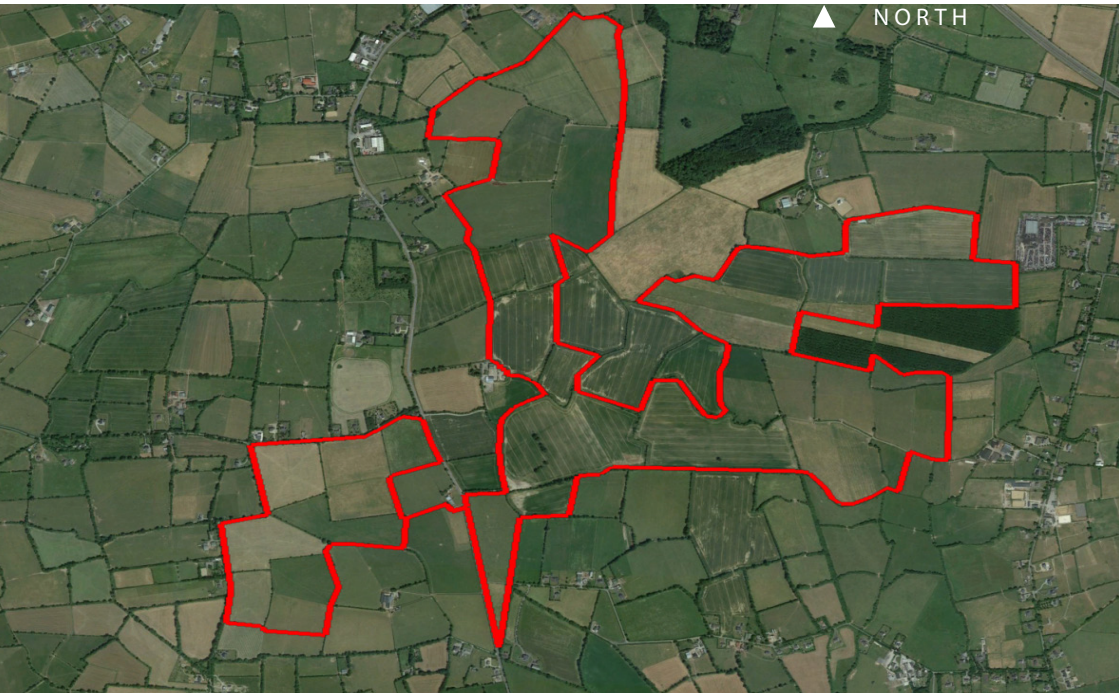
"Solar farms typically take up less than 5% of the ground they occupy, leaving huge scope for biodiversity enhancements in a protected space"

BRE National Solar Centre Biodiversity Best Practice Guidelines 2014

Introduction

Elgin Energy ESI Ltd is seeking to develop a co-located solar PV and battery storage project at Kilcock, County Kildare. We are seeking your views on this proposal ahead of submitting a planning application to Kildare County Council. The red line on the map below indicates the site boundary. A dedicated project website has been created to share information, including proposed project layouts, and to facilitate online feedback and comments via a digital version of the enclosed questionnaire.

In addition to the preceding initiatives, a community consultation event was held between 3pm – 6.30pm on Wednesday, the 4th of December 2024, at St. Coca's Hall, Kilcock. Please visit kilcocksolarfarm.com to learn more. Please note that partaking in this process did not affect your statutory rights to make representations to Kildare County Council in respect of the planning application when submitted.



Project overview

The development will occupy approximately 232 ha (573 acres) of agricultural land and is located approximately 1.1km southwest of Kilcock and in a rural area with several small surrounding settlements, including Tirmoghan 1.4km west and Rathcoffey 3.4km south. The site will be accessed for construction from R407.

The proposed project will accommodate approximately 200MW Solar PV and battery storage. A project lifetime of 40 years is proposed.

Public Consultation Process

Engaging with our host communities will be vital to the success of this carbon-saving facility. We would like to hear your views on the proposal and how it might benefit not only the wider environment but its immediate surroundings.

We would like to invite you to complete the survey provided on the consultation website. This will help us understand your views on renewable energy and will give you a chance to suggest how the development can best be made to work for the good of the community.

How long will this consultation take place for?

This consultation will run until Friday 24th January 2025. Following this, we will review all comments and make any amendments deemed necessary before the application is formally submitted.

Once the planning application has been submitted, there will be a further opportunity to comment on the proposed project directly to the local authority, Kildare County Council.

Who do I contact for more information?

You can get in touch with our project development team to request further information. Contact details can be found www.kilcocksolarfarm.com.

Local engagement

Elgin Energy is committed to the local communities in which we operate. We engage with communities on each project through a public consultation and try to identify local initiatives that we can support through a community benefit fund.

Local contractors and businesses will be engaged as far as possible during the installation phase. It is estimated that installation will take approximately 6-12 months. For the operational phase it is envisaged that local contractors and service providers will be engaged to maintain the solar farm.

Pre-planning process

A number of assessments are being conducted to establish any potential affects of the proposed development on the site and surrounding lands. These reports include ecology, archaeology & cultural heritage, construction access & traffic and flood risk. In addition, a landscape and visual impact assessment is being undertaken to identify any impacts on nearby viewpoints. A glint & glare assessment will also be carried out although glint & glare effects from PV panels are rare as they are designed, to absorb, not reflect, sunlight. This is evidenced by the installation of PV panels adjacent to the runways at Gatwick airport.

Existing field boundaries, trees, and hedgerows will be retained as far as possible. The provision of bird boxes, insect hotels, and wildflower meadows provide significant opportunities for biodiversity enhancements. Once the solar farm is operational, sheep farming can take place ensuring the land remains in agricultural use.

Physical elements of the development

The following components are proposed for this development:

- Solar panels will be arranged in rows facing southwards at an inclination of typically 25 degrees. The distance between the rows will be between 2.5- 6 metres (m). The panels are set at 0.8m above ground level and increase to 3.2m approximately.
- A mounting system comprising upright galvanised steel posts which are screwed or pushed into the ground and an aluminium support frame which is bolted together.
- Inverters measure approximately 12m x 2.5m x 3m high. They convert the DC electricty produced by the panels into grid-compatible AC current. They will be located throughout the site.
- A primary substation.
- Underground cable from the substation to the boundary of the POC location.
- Underground cabling from the panels/inverters to the substation.
- A 4m wide permeable access track will be installed to provide access to the compound and several permeable stone tracks to facilitate access to the inverters.
- Battery compound, comprising of;

  160 Battery storage containers

  80 Power Control System (transformer/inverters/monitoring system)

  Palisade fencing
- Parking facilities for limited maintenance vehicles.
- Rural 'timber & post' deer fence measuring 2.4m in height will enclose the site. A gap of 10cm at ground level will allow ecology to freely enter and exit.
- 3m high pole-mounted CCTV cameras inside the site to monitor the solar farm.

The solar farm requires no concrete foundations except for the inverter and substation bases. It is designed to be reversible and leave no trace when removed.

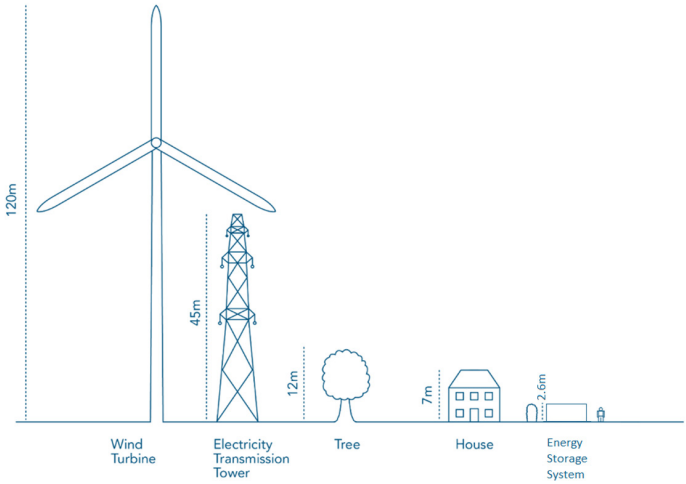
About Elgin Energy

Elgin is a leading international solar company, bringing projects from origination through development to energisation. The company has a portfolio of projects in late-stage development totalling 15GW+ across five key markets: the UK, Australia, Ireland, Italy and Germany, with an unparalleled 98% success rate in gaining planning permission across all its markets. Since being founded in 2009, Elgin has expanded internationally and has a team of over 115 professionals in its London, Dublin, Munich, Madrid, Rome and Sydney offices.

The company's initial development began in the UK in 2011, followed by Ireland in 2015 and Australian offices were opened in 2018.

Elgin Energy is committed to creating a sustainable future and is working towards this goal with our projects.

To learn more about Elgin Energy and the work we do, please visit our website: https://www.elgin.com/



Elgin Energy
4th Floor Hambledon House,
Pembroke Street Lower,
Dublin D02 WV96

T: +44 (0) 208 068 4240
E: office@elgin-energy.com
W: www.kilcocksolarfarm.com
W: https://www.elgin.com


https://www.elgin.com/