

SITE NOTICE

An Coimisiún Pleanála

Notice of Planning Appeal

Donegal County Council

Application lodged on 23rd September 2024

Planning Register Reference Number: 2461497

Appeal Reference Number: ABP-321384-24

An appeal has been made to An Coimisiún Pleanála against the decision made on 15th November 2024 by Donegal County Council bearing the above planning register reference number which decision was to grant permission with conditions to Futureenergy Ireland Development DAC. The application to the planning authority was described as permission for a 10-year permission for the development of a Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) Compound with a total surface area of c.2.9ha containing 248no. Battery energy storage units in the form of metal shipping containers [approximately 12.2m (L) x 2.6m (W) and 2.9m (H) each] and associated ancillary control and ventilation equipment; Installation of an onsite transformer compound (c.3,600sq m) to facilitate an under-the fence connection to the adjacent Trillick 110 kV substation. The transformer compound will include a control building of c.27sq m, a 110 kV transformer, associated electrical equipment, and an up to 18m high lightning protection monopole mast. A temporary construction compound with a total surface area of c.1,500sq m. c.515m of new and upgraded access tracks; 3no. Entrances from the L-7231 public road comprising the upgrade of 1no. existing entrance and creation of 1no. new permanent access and 1no. new temporary access for the construction and operation of the facility; underground electrical and communications cabling between the proposed LDES compound and the proposed on-site transformer compound which will cross under the L-7231 public road; security lighting; pole mounted cctv and communications mast; on-site freshwater storage tank including fresh water treatment unit in the form of a metal shipping container; on-site drainage system and associated vegetated attenuation pond; a storage container in the form of a metal shipping container; sound reflective barriers to a height of 4m; security fencing and gates; and all associated ancillary site development, services and clearance works including tree felling of c.4.7ha of conifer plantation; landscaping and planting. The proposed LDES facility will be operational for a period of 30 years on a site with an overall site area of c 5.8ha in the townland of Ballynahone near Buncrana, Co. Donegal.

Following a request by An Coimisiún Pleanála significant further information was submitted to the Commission on 26th March 2026, containing revised proposals which comprise the following:

The proposed development remains predominantly as previously proposed and listed above, with only the following revisions:

- Increase in the total number of proposed entrances from 3 no. to 4 no. with an additional proposed entrance from the L-7221 public road for emergency vehicle access only with associated emergency entrance gate with attached signage;
- 4 no. additional water tanks for the purpose of static fire water supply.

The application and revised proposals may be inspected at the offices of Donegal County Council, County House, The Diamond, Lifford, Co. Donegal, F93 Y622

This notice is being published at the request of An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Any person may make written submissions or observations to the Commission in relation to the further information within four weeks beginning on the date of publication of this notice. Any such submissions or observations must be accompanied by the statutory fee of €50, unless the submissions or observations are made by certain prescribed bodies or existing participants, and should be addressed to The Secretary, An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.

This notice was erected on 15th July 2026.