

Why Ballyleagry Road?

Site selection

When identifying a potential solar farm site, ABO Energy considers several different factors.

These include, but aren't limited to:

- Grid connection
- Proximity to dwellings
- Planning history
- Energy yield
- Topography
- Area of land available
- Site access
- Nature conservation designations and ecological impacts
- Land use designations
- Location of archaeological and cultural heritage features; and
- Safety considerations.



Site location plan.

About the proposed site

The application site is located at lands extending between the east of 10a-16 Ballyleagry Road, to the north of 23 Ballyleagry Road and to the west of 112-122 Edenmore Road, Limavady.

It is approximately 31 hectares in size and is relatively flat with some local undulations. The land comprises seven agricultural fields currently used for grazing sheep. Grazing can continue when the project is built and operational as to not impact on the existing agricultural use.

Ballyquin Road is located approximately 500m west of the site at its closest point. Existing roadside development screens the site from here, as does intervening mature vegetation.

The site bounds Ballyleagry Road and is set one field back from Edenmore Road, both lightly trafficked rural roads. To limit glint and glare and reduce the overall visual impact of the project, landscaping is proposed to the site boundaries to supplement existing hedgerows and trees.

Most residential dwellings in the vicinity of the site are orientated away from the proposed solar farm, have mature screening on the boundaries or there are intervening field boundaries with mature hedgerows. Additional landscaping to site boundaries will also be proposed to further screen the site.

The proposed site falls within 1km of the existing substation where it is anticipated the project will connect to the electricity grid (subject to grid connection application process).

Having considered the combination of factors listed above, the following can be outlined for the project:

- There will be future grid connection availability and capacity in the vicinity of the site
- The application site has a suitable yield for solar generation
- The controlled lands allow for the avoidance of sensitive areas identified through the baseline surveys already completed whilst still enabling the erection of the proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure
- The area within the controlled lands will allow for a habitat management, restoration and bio-diversity enhancement
- The site has good access linkages for delivery of components to the site; and
- The proposal is an appropriate distance from airports, towns, villages, roads and other infrastructure

Considering all these factors, ABO Energy believes the proposed site is suitable for a solar farm and intends to take forward a planning application in the coming months.

Existing lands at proposed site.

