



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Commission Order ACP-324135-26

Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended

Planning Authority: Kilkenny County Council

(Associated application reference number: ABP-309306-21)

REQUEST received by An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 9th day of March, 2026 from Springfield Renewables Limited care of Tobin, Block 10-4, Blanchardstown Corporate Park, Dublin, under section 146B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, to alter the terms of a strategic infrastructure development, granted under An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number ABP-309306-21 for the development of a windfarm comprising 21 number wind turbines and all associated works located within the townlands of Castlecoster, Derrynahinch, Kiltorcan Coolroe Beg, Baunskeha, Castlebanny, Kilvinoge, Cappagh, Coolnahau, Ballytarsna, Mullennakill, Glenpipe, Ballymartin, Ballyvatheen, Ballynoony West, Derrylackey, Garrandarragh, Ballygegan and Ballyvool, County Kilkenny.

WHEREAS the Commission made a decision to grant permission, subject to conditions, for the above-mentioned development by Order dated the 26th day of September, 2022.

AND WHEREAS the Commission has received a request to alter the terms of the development, the subject of the permission,

AND WHEREAS the proposed alterations are described as follows:

- Amend the onsite 110 kilovolt substation footprint and inner components in line with current EirGrid specifications for 110 kilovolt substations and to slightly alter the orientation of the permitted substation; and
- Add a turbine type to the list already permitted, comprising a turbine with dimensions of a tip height of 185 metres, a hub height of 110 metres and a rotor diameter of 150 metres.

AND WHEREAS having regard to the issues involved, the Commission decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, not to invite submissions or observations from the public in relation to the matter,

AND WHEREAS the Commission decided, in accordance with section 146B(2)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the proposed alterations would not result in the making of a material alteration to the terms of the development, the subject of the permission,

AND WHEREAS having considered all of the documents on file and the Inspector's report, the Commission considered that the making of the proposed alterations would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment or on any European Site,

AND WHEREAS the Commission decided, to amend Condition number 8 so that it shall read as follows:

The following design requirements shall be complied with:

- (a) The wind turbines will be constructed to one of the following fixed dimensions:
 - Tip height of 185 metres, hub height of 107.5 metres, rotor diameter of 155 metres.

- Tip height of 185 metres, hub height of 110.5 metres, rotor diameter of 149 metres.
 - Tip height of 182.5 metres, hub height of 105 metres, rotor diameter 155 metres.
 - Tip height of 185 metres, hub height of 110 metres, rotor diameter of 150 metres.
- (b) Cables within the site shall be laid underground.
- (c) The wind turbines shall be geared to ensure that the blades rotate in the same direction.
- (d) No advertising material shall be placed on or otherwise be affixed to any structure on the site without a prior grant of planning permission.

Reason: In the interest of clarity and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

NOW THEREFORE in accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Commission hereby alters the abovementioned decision so that the approved development shall be altered in accordance with the plans and particulars received by An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 9th day of March 2026, for the reasons and considerations set out below.

REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS

In coming to its decision, the Commission had regard to the following:

- (a) The nature and scale of the proposed alterations,
- (b) The documentation on file, and
- (c) The report of the Inspector.

Having regard to:

- The nature and scale of the wind farm development permitted under An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number ABP-309306-21,

- The examination of the environmental impact, including in relation to European Sites, carried out in the course of that application,
- The limited nature and scale of the alterations when considered in relation to the overall permitted development,
- The location of the proposed alterations, within the footprint of the existing wind farm development site,
- The absence of any significant new or additional environmental impacts arising as a result of the proposed alterations, and
- The report of the Commission's Inspector, which is adopted,

The Commission was satisfied that the information before it was adequate to undertake a screening for appropriate assessment, an appropriate assessment and a screening for environmental impact assessment in respect of the proposed alterations.

Appropriate Assessment: Stage 1

In conducting a screening exercise for Appropriate Assessment, the Commission considered the nature, scale and context of the proposed alterations, the documentation on file including the Addendum Natura Impact Statement submitted with the application and the assessment of the Inspector in relation to the potential for effects on European Sites. In undertaking the screening exercise, the Commission accepted the analysis and conclusions of the Inspector.

The Commission concluded that, both by itself and in combination with other development in the vicinity, the proposed alterations would not be likely to have significant effects on four number European Sites in view of their conservation objectives.

The Commission considered that the Hugginstown Fen Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 000404) and the Thomastown Quarry Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002252) could be screened out from further assessment and that the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002162), the River Nore Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004233), the Lower River Suir Special

Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002137), and the Saltee Islands Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004002) required further investigation.

In reaching this conclusion, the Commission took no account of mitigation measures intending to avoid or reduce the potentially harmful effects of the development on any European Site.

Appropriate Assessment: Stage 2

The Commission considered the Addendum Natura Impact Statement and all other relevant documentation on the file and carried out an Appropriate Assessment of the implications of the proposed alterations for the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002162), the River Nore Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004233), the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002137), and the Saltee Islands Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004002).

The Commission considered that the information before it was adequate to allow the carrying out of an Appropriate Assessment, as well as the report of the Inspector. In completing the assessment, the Commission considered the likely direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed development both individually or in combination with other plans or projects, the mitigation measures which are included as part of the approved Castlebanny Wind Farm granted under An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number ABP-309306-21, and the conservation objectives for the European Sites.

In completing the Appropriate Assessment, the Commission accepted and adopted the Appropriate Assessment carried out in the Inspector's report in respect of the potential effects of the proposed development on the aforementioned European Sites, having regard to the sites' conservation objectives.

In overall conclusion, the Commission was satisfied that the proposed development would not significantly affect the integrity of the River Barrow and River Nore Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002162), the River Nore Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004233), the Lower River Suir Special Area of Conservation (Site Code: 002137), and the Saltee Islands Special Protection Area (Site Code: 004002) or any other European Site in view of the sites' conservation objectives.

Environmental Impact Assessment Screening

The Commission considered the potential environmental impacts that may arise due to the proposed alterations, both by itself and in combination with other development in the vicinity. Having regard to the characteristics of the receiving environment and the characteristics of the proposed alterations, the Commission is satisfied that the proposed alterations would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The Commission concurred with the analysis and conclusions of the Inspector in this matter. The Commission, therefore, concluded that the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report is not required, either by means of any mandatory requirement or following sub-threshold analysis.

Having regard to:

- The parent permission approved under An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number ABP-309306-21, which the subject alterations seek to amend,
- the modest nature and scale of the proposed alterations,
- the location of the proposed alterations, within the footprint of the permitted development site,
- the pattern of development in the surrounding area,
- the location of the development outside of any sensitive location specified in Article 109(4)(a)(v) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,
- the guidance set out in the 'Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development', issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2003), and
- the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended,

It is considered that, following the Environmental Impact Assessment Screening Determination, the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report would not, therefore, be required.

Conclusions on Proper Planning and Sustainable Development

Having regard to:

- The nature and details of the parent permission approved under An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number ABP-309306-21,
- the character of the alterations, including their scale and form,
- The location of the proposed alterations, within the footprint of the existing permitted development site,
- the limited visibility of the proposed alterations outside the confines of the site,
- the absence of any significant new or additional environmental impacts arising as a result of the proposed alterations, including landscape or visual effects or effects on archaeology, and
- the report of the Commission's Inspector, which is adopted,

The Commission concluded that the making of the proposed alteration would be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. In accordance with section 146B(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Commission hereby makes the said alteration.



Patricia Calleary

**Planning Commissioner of An Coimisiún
Pleanála duly authorised to authenticate
the seal of the Commission.**

Dated this 30 day of September 2026