



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

**Record of Meeting  
ABP-309259-21 2<sup>nd</sup>  
meeting**

<b>Description</b>	ABP-309259-21- Proposed Coumragappul Wind Farm consisting of up to 11 turbines, Co. Waterford		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application Consultation under Section 37B of the P&D Act 2000, as amended.		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting		
<b>Venue</b>	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
<b>Date</b>	25/05/2022	<b>Time</b>	11:00am – 11:56am

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>		
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)		
Sarah Lynch, Senior Planning Inspector		
Máire Daly, Planning Inspector		
Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer	s.caulfield@pleanala.ie	01-8737287
<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>		
Michael O'Connor - Coumragappul Wind Farm Limited		
Rita Mansfield - Fehily Timoney		
Anthony Ryan – Fehily Timoney		

## **Introduction**

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2021 and the record of this meeting. The Board asked if the prospective applicant had any comments it wished to make on the record of this meeting; the prospective applicant wished to clarify that an information leaflet was circulated in the local community rather than a scoping document.

## **Presentation by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant provided a brief recap on the first meeting and gave an overview of the proposed development. Following additional surveys, the prospective applicant said there has been some changes made to the design and location of turbines across the site. The current proposal now consists of 10 turbines (a decrease of 1 turbine), with a maximum tip height of 184 metres. It was submitted that the Vesta V162 is the expected turbine model which has a flexible power rating of 6.5MW, 6.8MW and 7.2MW. The final turbine rating has not yet been confirmed.

The prospective applicant provided several maps which detailed the initial turbine layout and the current proposal.

In relation to turbine delivery routes, the prospective applicant said a route assessment analysis and a swept path analysis has been completed which highlighted a number of pinchpoints along the route where works will be required. The delivery route is expected to run from Waterford Port, along the N25, turning right onto the N72 and onto local and regional roads before accessing the site from the west.

In relation to the grid connection, the prospective applicant said the proposed 110kV onsite substation would connect into the Dungarvan 110kV substation via an underground cable. It was submitted that 3 options were considered, and a preferred route was selected which would only require 1 HDD bridge crossing.

The prospective applicant said several studies have been completed including landscape and visual impact assessment, ecology, ornithology & bats, cultural heritage, shadow flicker, baseline noise and modelling and water & hydrology.

Following detailed surveys and analysis, the prospective applicant decided to remove turbine number 9 from the development. Turbine number 3 was also relocated and labelled as turbine number 12.

The prospective applicant said there are 2 residential properties within 1 kilometre of the turbine locations, 38 properties within 2 kilometres and no properties within the recommended 4-times tip height distance (740 metres).

It was submitted, given the low population density in the area, that there will not be an impact due to noise. There are 4 noise monitoring locations and noise modelling is currently ongoing based on the new layout and turbine model.

The prospective applicant said the proposed site has been assessed as low to moderate suitability for bats. Static bat monitoring has been completed.

In relation to Ornithology, the prospective applicant said there is suspected kestrel nesting in the area but anticipates the risk level to be low. However, given this sensitivity, the prospective applicant decided to relocate one turbine to the north, in order to limit the amount of felling required and to protect this habitat.

It was submitted that there is a high level of burning in upland areas which has caused significant damage on the landscape and scarring of habitats. As a result, the prospective applicant said there is low level mammal activity on the site. Additionally, the prospective applicant said there is no invasive species within the site or on the access road leading to the site.

In relation to Archaeology, the prospective applicant said there is no national monuments recorded within the footprint of the turbine array. It was noted that the turbine delivery route and cable route will be assessed from an archaeological perspective also.

The prospective applicant said two consultation meetings have taken place with Waterford City & County Council. On both occasions the local authority highlighted the area as an important fisheries catchment with water quality and hydrology as two main considerations. The prospective applicant said aquatic surveys have been carried out and there is no evidence of Pearl Mussel in any watercourse draining the

site or along the proposed cable route. Given the salmonid watercourses, the prospective applicant said mitigation measures will be included within the EIAR. It was submitted that there are no significant concerns relating to drainage, hydrology or water quality.

The prospective applicant said a peat stability risk assessment will be carried out but that the risk of peat slippage is low, given the average peat depths on the site of approximately 0.15 metres.

It was submitted that two scoping exercises were completed, one during 2020 and the second in 2021. It said a number of responses were received and will be taken into consideration. The prospective applicant said certain prescribed bodies, as well as Bird Watch Ireland and Bat Conservation Ireland noted that they don't have the resources to respond to individual scoping requests.

The local authority scoping response was received which highlighted a number of key items including landscape, public consultation and traffic management.

The prospective applicant said it hopes to schedule a meeting with the Irish Raptor Study Group in the coming weeks.

In relation to public consultation, the prospective applicant said engagement is ongoing with the local community and it anticipates hosting a webinar within the next 4-6 weeks, an additional leaflet drop to a wider catchment area and face-to-face meetings before an application is submitted.

The prospective applicant gave an overview of the community fund associated with the proposed development and said it would be calculated in accordance with the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS).

## **Discussion**

The following matters were discussed:

- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said it anticipates that the grid connection element will form part of the application.

- The prospective applicant said monitoring will be conducted in relation to proposed enhancement lands. In relation to hydrological monitoring, the prospective applicant said this would be conducted in accordance with the Water Framework Directive Hydrological Monitoring baseline. A hydrometric station is not proposed as part of this development.
- The prospective applicant said 3 borrow pits have been identified and the reinstatement of these pits are currently being assessed.
- The Board's representatives advised including an analysis of the carbon losses and gains of the proposed development in its entirety within the climate chapter of the EIAR.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said the construction compound is located close to a minor forestry drain and a 50-metre set back distance will be applied for all watercourses.
- In response to a query relating to the requirement of third-party lands for the turbine delivery route, the prospective applicant said these are currently being assessed.
- The prospective applicant said a cumulative and in-combination assessment will be completed on any proposed/existing wind farms in the area.
- In relation to the turbine output ranges, the Board's representatives advised that if a specific power rating is not finalised and ranges are brought forward, these ranges should be fully considered in the EIAR to allow the Board to examine and fully evaluate the likely impacts.

## Conclusion

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it requires a further meeting or if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.

*C Kellett* 2/6/22

**Ciara Kellett**

**Assistant Director of Planning**