



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

**Record of Meeting  
ABP-318372-23 (PC)**

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	Proposed 77MW Wind Farm of up to 11 No. Turbines, Grid Connection, Turbine Delivery Route and 110kV Electricity Substation with Battery Energy Storage, County Mayo.		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Meeting		
<b>Date</b>	09/04/2025	<b>Start Time</b>	11:00am
<b>Location</b>	MS Teams	<b>End Time</b>	11:40am

**Representing An Bord Pleanála**

Una Crosse, Assistant Planning Director

Alaine Clarke, Senior Planning Inspector

Fiona Patterson, Senior Ecologist

Lauren Murphy, Executive Officer

Sinead White, Executive Officer

**Representing the Prospective Applicant**

Sean Galvin, RWE

Michael James, RWE

Cliona O'Sullivan, RWE

Gareth Hughes, SLR Consulting

Donna Ryan, SLR Consulting

## **Introduction**

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025, requesting a second pre-application consultation meeting under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

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

The presentation began by providing a brief introduction to the prospective applicant and the proposed project updates including an updated site location map was presented.

Furthermore, the prospective applicant discussed in detail the proposed site location, identifying surrounding and nearby townlands and other wind energy developments in proximity to the proposed development site.

The prospective applicant discussed the proposed Turbine Delivery Route and the proposed grid connection route, with drawings to support.

The prospective applicant discussed the project updates since the 1<sup>st</sup> pre application meeting. These include, further survey and study work carried out including 3-4 years of bird surveys, meetings held with EirGrid, Mayo County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Services and the collation of responses received to their scoping documents which was issued to 69 statutory and non-statutory bodies.

The prospective applicant outlined their ongoing survey work as it related to ecology, soils and geology, hydrology and water, archaeology and cultural heritage, transport and roads.

Following on the prospective applicant outlined the proposed design update and rationale for same, presenting comparison drawings of the originally proposed Landscape and Visual Assessment (LVIA) image to the updated LVIA image.

The prospective applicant concluded the presentation by outlining relevant legislative and policy considerations including the Draft National Planning Framework, Climate Action Plan 2024 and the Mayo County Council Development Plan 2022-2028.

### **Discussion:**

- The board's representatives began the discussion by outlining the requirements for applications situated within a Gaeltacht. The applicant was invited to contact the Board's administrative services for further clarity in this regard.
- Following a query raised by the board's representatives the prospective applicant advised that the capacity of the Battery Energy Storage System

(BESS) proposal is intended to match the output of the wind farm but this has yet to be finalised.

- The board's representatives noted that the proposed site comprises elevated ground to the east and sought clarity on whether it is a rock outcrop and whether any rock removal is required. The prospective applicant advised that the preliminary view of the geotechnical team was that no rock removal would be required.
- Following on from a query, the prospective applicant advised that the proposed development is located within the Tier 1 (preferred area for large wind energy developments) area as set out in the Mayo County Council Development Plan 2022-2028.
- The prospective applicant advised that following the consultation with Mayo County Council, where concerns were raised in relation to viewpoints affecting the Wild Atlantic Way, the prospective applicant added viewpoint 7 to their LVIA and advised that the maximum tip height is proposed at 180 metres.
- The board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to address the potential effects on tourism and ensure that this is clearly examined in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).
- The board's representatives advised the prospective applicant that best practice (biodiversity) guidance should be used and that sufficient biodiversity data should be collected in particular in respect of proximate Natura 2000 sites. The applicant was advised to examine the National Biodiversity Action Plan in respect of the proposed development.
- The prospective applicant advised the board's representatives of concerns raised by the NPWS during the consultation period and advised that they have an experienced ornithology and ecology team dedicated to this project who are undertaking surveys using best practice guidelines.
- Following on the board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to ensure they carry out sufficient ornithology surveys and studies to determine bird usage of the site and surrounding area, taking into account local and county bird populations, nocturnal/crepuscular species and migratory species. They also advised the prospective applicant to ensure peat slippage, hydrology

connections, downstream impacts and managing water quality are clearly assessed.

- The board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to ensure that they include clear mapping of the entire development footprint identifying habitat loss and enhancement areas.
- Following a query raised by the board's representatives the prospective applicant advised that no issues were raised by the National Monuments Service following scoping consultations with them.
- The board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to ensure that the proposed grid connection is considered appropriately in the EIAR and NIS.
- The prospective applicant sought clarity on whether the BESS element of the proposed development could be included with the application submitted under s37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended with the board's representatives stating that it would be accepted under that provision.

**Conclusion:**

The Board's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The Board's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will be issued in the meantime and that the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting.

The Meeting concluded at 11:40am.



**Una Crosse**

**Assistant Director of Planning**