



An  
Coimisiún  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting ACP-324001-26 (VC)

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	Proposed Grid Connection for the development of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) at Derrinlough Wind Farm and Surrounding Townlands, County Offaly.		
<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>	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting Record		
<b>Date</b>	18/03/2026	<b>Start Time</b>	11:30am
<b>Location</b>	MS Teams	<b>End Time</b>	12:00pm

### Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála

Sarah Lynch, Assistant Director of Planning, Chair

Ellen Moss, Executive Officer

### Representing the Prospective Applicant

Ciara Gilligan, Jennings O'Donovan

Amy McLoughlin, Jennings O'Donovan

Hugo Travers, Bord na Móna

Andrew Reynolds, Bord na Móna

Michael Lohan, Bord na Móna

## Introduction

The Commission referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025, requesting pre-application consultations under section 182A 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 Commission; 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 Commission. The Commission's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process.

- The Commission 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 Commission once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Commission 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 Commission and public consultations may also be directed by the Commission.
- The Commission may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Commission 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 prospective applicant began their presentation by discussing the proposed development.

**Discussion:**

- It was clarified that the proposed BESS is not intended to facilitate or support the operation of the existing wind farm.
- The BESS is directly connected to the existing substation and will be serviced by this substation.
- Preliminary opinion provided that the proposed development does not fall within the scope of strategic infrastructure, but final determination is a matter for the Commissioners.

**Conclusion:**

The Commission's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant to request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The Commission'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 12:00 pm.



**Sarah Lynch**

**Assistant Director of Planning**