An Coimisiún Pleanála

Record of Meeting
ABP- 310143-21 (PCX)

Case Reference / Description	Construction of a wind energy development comprising approximately 50-55 no. wind turbines In Ballydermot (and other townlands), Co. Offaly and Lullybeg (and other townlands), Co. Kildare.		
Case Type	Meeting under section 37C(4) of the P&D Act, 2000.		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1st Meeting		
Date	23rd July 2026	**Start Time**	12:00pm
Location	MS Teams	**End Time**	1:15pm

Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála
Una Crosse, Assistant Planning Director, Chair
Donal Donnelly, Senior Planning Inspector
Paula Kearney, Senior Ecologist
Maeve Maher-McWilliams, Senior Ecologist
Lauren Murphy, Executive Officer

Representing the National Parks & Wildlife Services
Eoin Connelly, NPWS

Introduction

The Commission's representatives referred to the provisions of section 37C(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, whereby this meeting has been held with the National Parks & Wildlife Services to discuss the proposed development of the proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm. It was stated that the Commission would prepare a record of the meeting which would be sent to the prospective applicant and placed on the file.

Discussion

Pre-Application Process to Date

- The Commission's representatives provided the NPWS with an update on the proposed development, and an overview of the pre-application consultation process undertaken to date between the Commission and the prospective applicant.
- The NPWS representative provided an overview of the pre-application consultation process undertaken between the NPWS and the prospective applicant.

Golden Plover

- NPWS representative highlighted that the prospective client must consider Bord na Mona's IPC Condition 10 cutaway bog rehabilitation plans, which in some circumstances may result in flooding of the cutover bog, altering existing habitats within the subject site and baseline assessment. The implementation of these plans may change golden plover and other birds' distribution on site and the effectiveness/appropriateness of proposed mitigation measures.
- Consideration could be given to the inclusion of contingency measures for active ornithological monitoring to inform adaptive management including turbine curtailment (possibly intermittently/seasonally), particularly where the predictions from modelling do not reflect the reality of the operational windfarm.
- Cumulative and additive impacts from multiple wind farms and projects within ZoI will require rigorous consideration.

Curlew

- NPWS representative noted that in previous meetings with the prospective applicant, the NPWS advised that if it is determined there is potential for either collision mortality, or disturbance and displacement impacts on breeding curlew it is recommended that those impacts are contextualised first in terms of the local and / or regional breeding population before they are then contextualised in terms of the national breeding population.
- The population of breeding curlew in Ireland is fragmented and unevenly distributed across the country. Adult breeding curlew have a high site fidelity, while juvenile curlew are likely to have a relatively high natal philopatry and a relatively low dispersal rate. Consequently, it is likely that immigration rates are a negligible factor in the current population dynamics of curlew in Ireland, which is likely dominated by adult survival and juvenile recruitment at the local level. Consequently, local and regional populations may be considered as sub-units for the purposes of analysis.
- Consequently, any potential mortality or displacement impacts on a local / regional populations may have a nationally significant effect if they result in the local loss of adult breeding birds, or decreased recruitment, as this may result in changes to the range of the species in a national context (i.e. impacts hasten the local or regional extinction of the species.

Other Matters

- Need to fully characterise the risk to species based on their seasonal ecology such as breeding and wintering populations.
- Need to fully articulate how the mitigation hierarchy has been considered.
- Mitigation measures such as curtailment and proposed measures to compensate (hereafter referred to as offset or offsetting) need to be contingent to the mitigation hierarchy and directly connected to the scale and degree of the adverse effect they are intended to address.
- Where measures are proposed to offset any significant adverse effects on habitats, the prospective applicant should provide a rationale for establishing habitat offsetting ratios relative to habitat loss. The ratios should account for

potential difficulties in recreating the habitat, temporal losses due to establishment and scientific uncertainty.

- Need for clear distinction between mitigation measures proposed to offset a significant adverse effect and measures proposed for enhancement.

The Meeting concluded at 1:15pm.

pp C Kellett 13/8/26

Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning