An Coimisiún Pleanála

Record of Meeting
ABP-314186-22

Case Reference / Description	Proposed development of 13 no. wind turbines together with all associated works. Killoshulan and adjacent townlands, Co. Kilkenny.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	2nd Meeting		
Date	22 June 2026	**Start Time**	2:30pm
Location	MS Teams	**End Time**	4:00pm

Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála
Una Crosse – Assistant Director of Planning
Alaine Clarke – Senior Planning Inspector
Fiona Patterson – Senior Ecologist
Finbarr Quigley – Senior Environmental Scientist
Ellen Moss – Executive Officer
Observing
Maeve Maher-McWilliams – Senior Ecologist

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Neil O'Brien – Atlantic Infrastructure
John Tierney – Atlantic Infrastructure
Francesca Rowson – MKO
Mike Amiel Mekell – MKO
Eoin McCarthy – MKO
Eoin McCarthy – MKO

Introduction

The Commission's representatives referred to the correspondence received from the prospective applicant requesting this second meeting and to the first meeting held on 13th October 2022.

The Commission's representatives referred to the general procedures for the pre-application consultation process outlined at the first meeting, which remain applicable.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant set out their presentation, which is on the file.

Discussion:

General Matters:

- The Commission's representatives requested a copy of the updated presentation for the file and reminded the prospective applicant that the Commission requests that a copy of the presentation is provided 3 working days in advance of the meeting to facilitate the review of same.

Grid connection

- The prospective applicant advised that they intend to seek closure of the current s.182E pre-application request and that it is intended that the grid connection will form part of the subject s.37E application. The Commission's representatives advised that the prospective applicant might consider withdrawing the s182E pre-application consultation request if it intends including the grid infrastructure in the subject application to avoid any confusion as to the extent of the proposed development.

Designated Sites / AA

- The Commission's representatives advised the prospective applicant that detailed mapping of the footprint of the proposed works near designated sites should be provided.

- The Commission's representatives noted the presence of both the Spahill and Clomantagh Hill SAC (adjacent) and the Loughans SAC near the proposed development. Having regard to the qualifying interests of both SACs, the Commission's representatives advised the prospective applicant that detailed ecological/hydrogeological surveys and analysis will be required such that a robust impact assessment can be carried out.

Biodiversity

- The Commission's representatives reminded the prospective applicant to include up-to-date detailed ecological surveys which have been carried out in accordance with best practice guidance and by competent experts.
- The Commission's representatives advised that biosecurity measures may be required for in-stream works to reduce the spread of crayfish plague.
- The Commission's representatives reminded the prospective applicant of the requirement for badger surveys.
- It was noted that there are old buildings on the proposed site that have been surveyed for bats.
- The Commission's representatives requested that an ecologist attend the next meeting.

Ornithology

- The Commission's representatives noted that Kingfisher survey was not listed. The prospective applicant noted that this was recently raised by the NPWS, and that surveys of the River Nore Crossing are to be conducted. The Commission's representatives reminded the prospective applicant that all river crossings should be surveyed for relevant species/habitats, having regard to the qualifying interests of the relevant SACs/SPAs.
- The Commission's representatives queried the issues raised by the NPWS with the prospective applicant outlining: freshwater pearl mussel and a gap in survey effort for birds.
- The Commission's representatives advised that the full extent of hedgerow removal should be considered in the EIAR.
- The Commission's representatives advised that a robust methodology for impact assessment (including cumulative) should be used throughout.
- The prospective applicant advised that at the consultation with Kilkenny County Council, their ecologist was not available; however, a response to scoping is expected.
- The Commission's representatives requested that an ornithology specialist attend the next meeting.

Hydrology

- The Commission's representatives reminded the prospective applicant that the WFD Impact Assessment should be a standalone document.
- The Commission's representatives advised that details of all water crossings should be included in any future planning application and that the methodology for installation should also be included.
- The Commission's representatives recommended that a surface water management plan be submitted.
- The prospective applicant advised that no peat is present on site.

Geology & Karst Investigations

- The Commission's representatives recommended that consideration be given to the recent further information requests issued by the Commission in karstified limestone areas, to ensure that the methodologies supporting site investigations and the information provided addresses the pertinent issues.
- The Commission's representatives recommended that conceptual models should be developed to demonstrate the hydrogeological landscape and potential impacts thereon.

Noise and Shadow Flicker

- The prospective applicant advised that baseline noise surveys have been completed at a number of locations.
- The Commission's representatives advised that the prospective applicant should discuss locations with the noise consultants and identify and screen out background noise levels.
- The Commission's representatives requested that mapping of receptors be included with Eircode's where possible.
- The prospective applicant advised that the 2006 guidance for shadow flicker is being applied.

Turbine Delivery Route

- The Commission's representatives queried what was raised in consultation with TII with the prospective applicant outlining that the discussion included cumulative impacts along the national road network and local/regional/national roads during construction.

Planning Application Documents

- The prospective applicant advised that an EIAR and NIS would accompany any future application.
- The prospective applicant advised it intends to submit an application in September/October 2026
- The Commission's representatives reminded the prospective applicant that the proposal description must be consistent with what is applied for at the application stage and asked whether the BESS element had been discussed at the first meeting. The prospective applicant advised that this had not been discussed. The Commission's representatives requested that a detailed description of the proposed development is presented at the next meeting.

AOB

- The prospective applicant requested that the next meeting be held in the next month, the Commission's representatives reiterated that the REDIII process does not include any ability to stop the clock and therefore the ability to seek further information is very limited and advised that consideration of the matters raised herein should be given in advance of the next meeting.

Conclusion:

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 16:00.

Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning