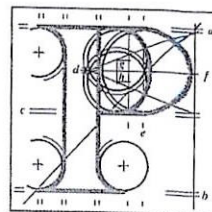


Our Case Number: ABP-316178-23



An
Bord
Pleanála

Chief Executive Officer
Mayo County Council
Áras an Chontae
The Mall
Castlebar
Co. Mayo

Date: 12 June 2023

Re: Proposed development of Oweninny Wind Farm Phase 3 consisting of 18 wind turbines.
Within the townlands of Laghtanvack, Croaghaun (also known as Croaghaun West), Moneynieran,
Corvoderry, Shanvolahan, Dooleg More, Shranakilly, Bellacorrick and Shanvodinnaun, Co. Mayo

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your submission in relation to the above mentioned proposed development and will take it into consideration in its determination of the matter.

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this matter.

Please be advised that copies of all submissions / observations received in relation to the application will be made available for public inspection at the offices of the local authority and at the offices of An Bord Pleanála when they have been processed by the Board.

More detailed information in relation to strategic infrastructure development can be viewed on the Board's website: www.pleanala.ie.

If you have any queries in the meantime please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,


Sarah Caulfield
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737287

PA09

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Sarah Caulfield

From: Sarah Caulfield
Sent: Monday 12 June 2023 09:58
To: James Russell
Cc: Mary Gordon; John McMyler
Subject: RE: ABP-315933-23 - Request for Report

Dear James,

The Board acknowledges receipt of Mayo County Council's submission in relation to ABP-315933-23 and ABP-316178-23.

Kind Regards,
Sarah

From: James Russell <jrussell@MayoCoCo.ie>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 4:19 PM
To: Sarah Caulfield <s.caulfield@pleanala.ie>
Cc: Mary Gordon <mgordon@MayoCoCo.ie>; John McMyler <jmcmyley@MayoCoCo.ie>
Subject: FW: ABP-315933-23 - Request for Report

Hi Sarah,

I have now also attached the Oweninny SID application with the Sheskin application as well.

Best Regards,

James

From: James Russell
Sent: Friday 9 June 2023 16:13
To: s.caulfield@pleanala.ie
Subject: RE: ABP-315933-23 - Request for Report

Hi Sarah,

Attached is the SID application, as requested. There may be an addendum of the Councillor views to follow after they consider the application on Monday, 12th of June.

Best Regards,

James

Senior Executive Planner

Validation Checklist

Lodgement Number : **LDG-064215-23**

Case Number: **ABP-316178-23**

Customer: **Mayo County Council**

Lodgement Date: **09/06/2023 09:47:00**

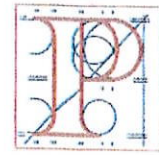
Validation Officer: **Sarah Caulfield**

PA Name: **Mayo County Council**

PA Reg Ref:

Case Type: **Private Development**

Lodgement Type: **Observation / Submission**



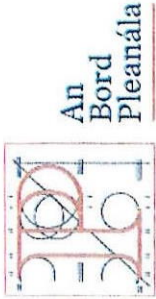
An
Bord
Pleanála

Validation Checklist	Value
Confirm Classification	Confirmed - Correct
Confirm ABP Case Link	Confirmed-Correct
Fee/Payment	Valid – Correct
Name and Address available	Yes
Agent Name and Address available (if engaged)	Not Applicable
Subject Matter available	Yes
Grounds	Yes
Sufficient Fee Received	Yes
Received On time	Yes
Eligible to make lodgement	Yes
Completeness Check of Documentation	Yes

Run at: 12/06/2023 09:50

Run by: Sarah Caulfield

Lodgement Cover Sheet - LDG-064215-23



Details

Lodgement Date	09/06/2023
Customer	Mayo County Council
Lodgement Channel	Email
Lodgement by Agent	No
Agent Name	
Correspondence Primarily Sent to	
Registered Post Reference	

Lodgement ID	LDG-064215-23
Map ID	
Created By	Sarah Caulfield
Physical Items included	No
Generate Acknowledgement Letter	
Customer Ref. No.	
PA Reg Ref	

Categorisation

Lodgement Type	Observation / Submission
Section	SIDs/LAPs

PA Name	Mayo County Council
Case Type (3rd Level Category)	Private Development

Fee and Payments

Specified Body	Yes
Oral Hearing	No
Fee Calculation Method	System
Currency	Euro
Fee Value	0.00
Refund Amount	0.00

Observation/Objection Allowed?	
Payment	
Related Payment Details Record	

Observation

PA Case Number	
PA Decision Date	
County	
Development Type	
Development Address	Within the townlands of Laghtanvack, Croaghaun (also known as Croaghaun West), Moneynieran, Corvoderry, Shanvolahan, Dooleg More, Shranakilly, Bellacorrick and Shanvodinnaun, Co. Mayo
Appellant	
Supporting Argument	n/a

Development Description	Wind Farm Phase 3 consisting of 18 wind turbines.
Applicant	
Additional Supporting Items	

Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

Strategic Infrastructure Act 2006

Report to Elected Members as required by Section 37E(4) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

An Bord Pleanála Reference ABP-309375-21

Application Details:

Applicant: Bord na Móna

Received 7th April 2023

Agent: Tobin Consulting Engineers

An Bord Pleanála

Reference Number: ABP- 309375-21

Proposed Development (Summary):

The Proposed Development will comprise:

- 18 no. wind turbines (including tower sections, nacelle, hub, and rotor blades) and all associated foundations and hard-standing areas in respect of each turbine;
- Decommissioning and removal of 21 no. existing Bellacorick Wind Farm wind turbines (including tower sections, nacelle, hub, and rotor blades);
- New internal site access roads (permanent and temporary), passing bays, car parking and associated drainage;
- An amenity route through the site from the N59 at the main site entrance to the existing Visitors Centre, and access from a local road off the N59 near Dooleeg;
- 2 no. borrow pits;
- 5 no. peat deposition areas;
- 1 No. permanent Meteorological Mast 120m high, and the decommissioning and removal of an existing 100m Meteorological Mast on site;
- 4 no. temporary construction compounds, including material storage, site welfare facilities, and site offices;
- 1 no. 110kV electrical substation compound, including an Air Insulated Substation (AIS), control buildings and electrical plant and equipment;
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed substation;
- All works associated with the connection of the proposed wind farm to the national electricity grid, including a 110kV underground electrical cable from the proposed onsite electrical sub-station to the existing sub-station at Bellacorick;
- Improvements to existing access junction on the N59 to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads and construction access;
- Improvements and temporary modifications to public road infrastructure to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads;

- All related site works and ancillary development including (but not limited to):
- Earthworks;
- Main and assist cranes;
- Peat management works;
- Site security;
- Groundwater management, as required;
- Overburden (soils/peat) storage and management; and
- Site reinstatement, landscaping and erosion control, to be aligned with the existing site rehabilitation plan.

Site Location: Laghtanvack, Croaghaun, Moneynieran, Corvoderry. Shanvolahan, Dooleeg More, Shranakilly, Bellacorrick and Shanvodinnaun, Co. Mayo

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1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

Having regard to the nature and scale of the proposed development and following consultation pursuant to Section 182E of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended), An Bord Pleanála has determined that this proposed development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development within the meaning of Section 182A of the Act. In such circumstances the normal mechanism of applying to Mayo County Council for planning permission does not apply with the proposal requiring a planning application to be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. Accordingly, Oweninny Windfarm, as required, has applied directly to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission.

The purpose of this report is to set out the Planning Authority's required views on the effects of the proposed development on the environment and on the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, having regard in particular to the matters specified in section 34(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) (hereafter referenced as the PDA 2000). The matters specified in section 34(2) are:

- (i) the provisions of the development plan,
- (ia) any guidelines issued by the Minister under section 28,
- (ii) the provisions of any special amenity area order relating to the area,
- (iii) any European site or other area prescribed for the purposes of section 10(2)(c),
- (iv) where relevant, the policy of the Government, the Minister or any other Minister of the Government,
- (v) the matters referred to in subsection [34](4),
- (va) previous developments by the applicant which have not been satisfactorily completed,
- (vb) previous convictions against the applicant for non-compliance with this Act, the Building Control Act 2007 or the Fire Services Act 1981, and
- (vi) any other relevant provision or requirement of this Act, and any regulations made thereunder.

When making its decision in relation to an application under this section, the planning authority shall apply, where relevant, specific planning policy requirements of guidelines issued by the Minister under section 28.

In the interests of clarification, there are no Special Amenity Area Orders (item ii above) in County Mayo. The matters referred to in section 34(4) of the PDA 2000 are those matters which the Planning Authority takes account of and may attach conditions relevant to, during the consideration of a normal planning application.

This report will be submitted for the consideration of An Bord Pleanála as required under Section 37E(4) of the PDA 2000.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

The proposed development comprises of the following components:

- 18 no. wind turbines (including tower sections, nacelle, hub, and rotor blades) and all associated foundations and hard-standing areas in respect of each turbine;
- Decommissioning and removal of 21 no. existing Bellacorick Wind Farm wind turbines (including tower sections, nacelle, hub, and rotor blades);
- New internal site access roads (permanent and temporary), passing bays, car parking and associated drainage;
- An amenity route through the site from the N59 at the main site entrance to the existing Visitors Centre, and access from a local road off the N59 near Dooleeg;
- 2 no. borrow pits;
- 5 no. peat deposition areas;
- 1 No. permanent Meteorological Mast 120m high, and the decommissioning and removal of an existing 100m Meteorological Mast on site;
- 4 no. temporary construction compounds, including material storage, site welfare facilities, and site offices;
- 1 no. 110kV electrical substation compound, including an Air Insulated Substation (AIS), control buildings and electrical plant and equipment;
 - All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed substation;
 - All works associated with the connection of the proposed wind farm to the national electricity grid, including a 110kV underground electrical cable from the proposed onsite electrical sub-station to the existing sub-station at Bellacorick;
 - Improvements to existing access junction on the N59 to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads and construction access;
 - Improvements and temporary modifications to public road infrastructure to facilitate the delivery of abnormal loads;
- All related site works and ancillary development including (but not limited to):
 - Earthworks;
 - Main and assist cranes;
 - Peat management works;
 - Site security;
 - Groundwater management, as required;
 - Overburden (soils/peat) storage and management; and
 - Site reinstatement, landscaping and erosion control, to be aligned with the existing site rehabilitation plan.

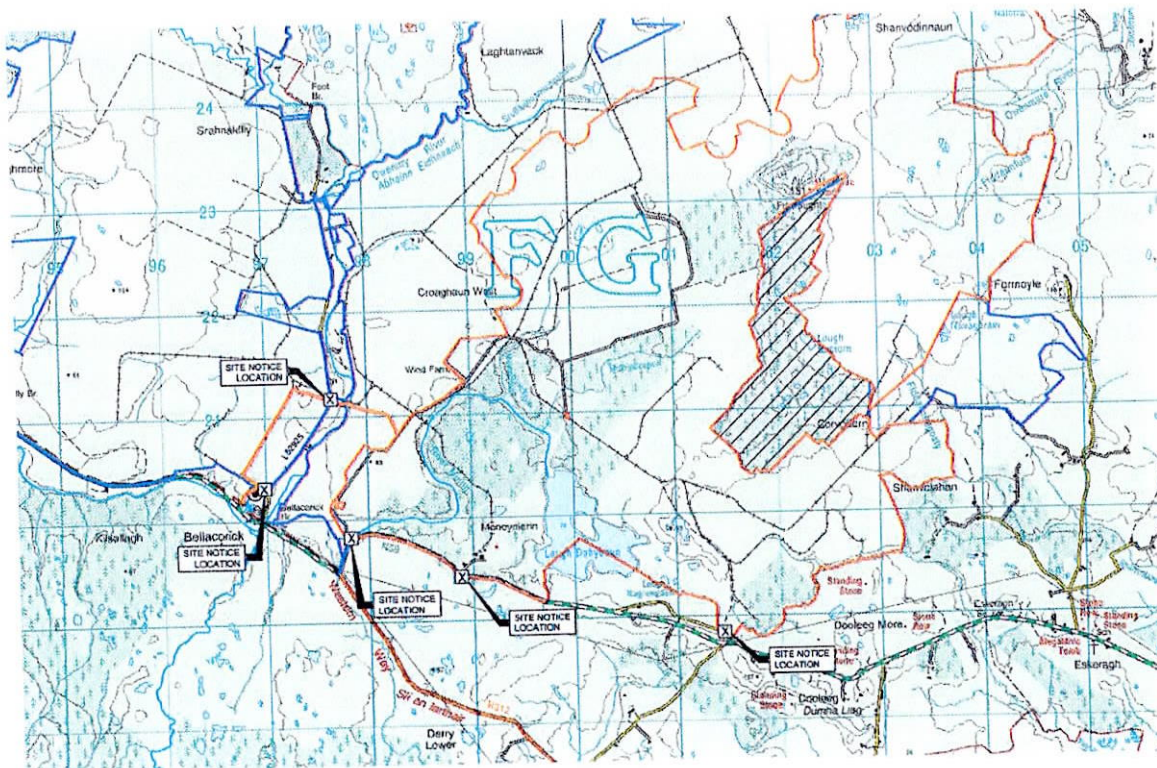
The turbines will have a tip height of 200m above the top of foundation level. The rotor diameter will be 158m. This rotor diameter corresponds to a blade length of 77.5m. The hub height will be 121m. The application is seeking a ten-year permission and 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm.

This application contains the following documentation:

- Completed planning application form;
- Site notice;
- Copy of newspaper notice (2 no.);
- EIA Portal Confirmation Notice;
- Planning Application Notification Letters issued to Mayo County Council
- Planning Application Notification Letter issued to each Prescribed Body;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report;
- Natura Impact Statement; and
- Schedule of Mitigation Measures.

3.0 SITE LOCATION

The Proposed Development is located at Oweninny Bog in North Co. Mayo, a relatively sparsely populated area. The closest settlement to the site is Bellacorrick village which is located approximately 2km from the southwestern extents of the Proposed Development. To the east of the site a local road (L5292) runs northwards from the N59 to the townlands of Shanvolahan and Formoyle. The site is located directly adjacent to the Oweninny River (Owenmore [Mayo] (EPA Code: 33O04), within the Blacksod-Broadhaven WFD catchment (33), flowing in a southerly direction, before discharging into the main tributary of the Owenmore River, at Bellacorrick.



4.0 RELEVANT POLICY

International Energy Policy Framework

Ireland is a party to the UN Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol which provide an international legal framework to address climate change. On November 4th 2016 Ireland and the EU ratified and made effective the Paris Agreement which aims to keep global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C. This is a legally binding agreement to achieve net zero emissions by the second half of this century, through increasing national determined contributions (NDCs) over time. The NDC for Ireland and all member states will be determined by the EU which has committed to reduce GHG emission by at least 40% by 2030 compared to 1990 levels.

In September 2015, Ireland adopted the non-legally binding United Nations' 2030 Agenda (Transforming Our World, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) along with all 193 Member States of the UN, which aims to deliver a more sustainable, prosperous and peaceful future for the entire world, and sets out a framework for how to achieve this by 2030. It sets out 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) covering the social, economic and environmental requirements for a sustainable future, including, inter alia mitigating climate change and providing affordable clean energy.

European Energy Policy European Green Deal (2019)

2020 Climate and Energy Package

This policy set three key targets -20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels); 20% of EU energy to be from renewables; and 20% improvement in energy efficiency, which was agreed in 2007 and enacted in legislation in 2009.

The EU's Effort Sharing Decision addresses the emissions including from housing, agriculture, waste and transport (excluding aviation) through binding annual national targets to 2020. Under the 2030 Climate and Energy Policy Framework (European Council, adopted 24/10/14, with targets revised 2018) binding EU targets of at least 40% reduction in GHG emissions and at least 23% share of renewable energy for all energy consumed in the EU by in 2030, and at least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency. The EU's Effort Sharing Regulation (EU) 2018/842 lays down obligations on Member States with respect to their minimum contributions for the period from 2021 to 2030 to fulfilling the Union's target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 30% below 2005 levels in 2030 in the various sectors and contributes to achieving the objectives of the Paris Agreement. A GHG reduction target of at least 30% applies to Ireland.

Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC (23/04/09)

Concerns the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources. Article 4 requires each member state to produce a national renewable energy plan to achieve an overall reduction in GHG emissions of 20%, a 20% increase in energy efficiency and 20% of energy consumption across the EU to come from renewable energy by 2020. Member states are to achieve their individual binding target across the heat, transport and electricity sectors and apart from a sub-target of a minimum of 10% in the transport sector that applies to all Member States. There is flexibility for each country to choose how to achieve their individual target across the sectors. Ireland's overall target is to

achieve 16% of energy from renewable sources by 2020.

Revised Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EU (January 2019)

Sets new target for share of energy from renewable sources in the EU of at least 32% for 2030, with a view to increasing the target through legislation by 2023. Member States are required to set national targets to meet, collectively, the binding Union target through integrated national energy and climate plans. The final share of energy from renewable sources for Ireland's gross final consumption of energy from 1st January 2021 must not be lower than 16% and Ireland will be obliged to take the necessary measures to ensure compliance with same.

National Energy & Climate Policy

Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021

Ireland has a legally binding path to net-Zero emissions no later than 2050, and to a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of this decade. A key element from a local authority perspective is the requirement for local authorities to prepare individual Climate Action Plans. These Plans will include both mitigation and adaptation measures and are required to be updated every five years.

Key components of the Act include:

- This Act embeds the process of setting binding and ambitious emissions-reductions targets in law,
- The Act provides for a national climate objective, which commits to pursue and achieve no later than 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity-rich, environmentally sustainable and climate-neutral economy,
- The Act provides that the first two five-year carbon budgets proposed by the Climate Change Advisory Council should equate to a total reduction of 51% over the period to 2030, relative to a baseline of 2018,
- The role of the Climate Change Advisory Council has been strengthened, enabling it to propose carbon budgets to the Minister which match our ambition and international obligations
- The government must adopt carbon budgets that are consistent with the Paris agreement and other international obligations. All forms of greenhouse gas emissions including biogenic methane will be included in the carbon budgets, and carbon removals will be taken into account in setting budgets,
- The Government will determine, following consultation, how to apply the carbon budget across the relevant sectors, and what each sector will contribute in a given five-year period,
- Actions for each sector will be detailed in the Climate Action Plan which must be updated annually,
- Government Ministers will be responsible for achieving the legally-binding targets for their own sectoral area with each Minister accounting for their performance towards sectoral targets and actions before an Oireachtas Committee each year,
- Local Authorities must prepare individual Climate Action Plans which will include both

mitigation and adaptation measures and will be updated every five years. Local Authority Development Plans must be aligned with their Climate Action Plan,

- Public Bodies will be obliged to take account of Climate Action Plans in the performance of their functions.

Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply

The Programme for Government commits Ireland to an average 7% per annum reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions from 2021 to 2030 (a 51% reduction over the decade) and to achieving net zero emissions by 2050. In order to contribute to the achievement of these targets, the Government has committed that up to 80% of electricity consumption will come from renewable sources by 2030 on a pathway to net zero emissions. Ensuring continued security of electricity supply is considered a priority at national level and within the overarching EU policy framework in which the electricity market operates.

The Policy Statement on Security of Electricity Supply sets out a number of updates to national policy in the context of the Programme for Government commitments relevant to the electricity sector, planning authorities and developers.

The policy statement includes explicit Government approval that:

- the development of new conventional generation (including gas-fired and gasoil/distillate-fired generation) is a national priority and should be permitted and supported in order to ensure security of electricity supply and support the growth of renewable electricity generation
- it is appropriate that existing conventional electricity generation capacity should be retained until the new conventional electricity generation capacity is developed in order to ensure security of electricity supply
- the connection of large energy users to the electricity grid should take into account the potential impact on security of electricity supply and on the need to decarbonise the electricity grid
- it is appropriate for additional electricity transmission and distribution grid infrastructure, electricity interconnection and electricity storage to be permitted and developed in order to support the growth of renewable energy and to support security of electricity supply
- it is appropriate for additional natural gas transmission and distribution grid infrastructure to be permitted and developed in order to support security of electricity supply

Climate Action Plan 2023

This provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 50% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting us on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.

It will put Ireland on a more sustainable path; cut emissions; create a cleaner, greener economy and society; and protect us from the devastating consequences of climate change. It is a huge

opportunity to create new jobs and grow businesses in areas like offshore wind; cutting-edge agriculture; and retrofitting, making our homes warmer and safer.

The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on our climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated annually to ensure alignment with our legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.

National Mitigation Plan (DCCAE, July 2017)

Specifies the policy measures that are required to manage GHG emissions and the removal of emissions to further the national transition objective, framed around decarbonising four main carbon emitting sectors, namely; electricity generation; the built environment; transport; and agriculture. It recognises that Ireland is not likely to meet its GHG emissions reduction target, with a reduction of only 4%-6% below 2005 levels for all sectors, with emissions exceeding the effort sharing decision limit by 13.7Mt, compared to the 20% target. It refers to quantity of carbon stored in Irish peatlands (64% of total soil organic carbon stock present) and to the National Peatland's Strategy as setting out how to sustainably manage and protect / conserve this national resource, but it does not include any explicit reference to the potential for peatland restoration / rehabilitation to contribute to climate change mitigation.

National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 - The National Landscape Strategy was published by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in June 2015. The main objectives include the development of a National Landscape Character Assessment, which would provide a framework for the protection and management of change within the landscape in terms of its cultural, social, economic and

environmental values. The aim is to seek to achieve a balance between the social, cultural and economic needs and the environment and the landscape. It is stated that a National Landscape Character Assessment would ensure consistency between and within public authority functions and areas, would inform LCA's at a local level and would guide the development of landscape policy.

National Planning Framework Project Ireland 2040 (2018)

It is a goal of the Framework to refocus planning to tackle Ireland's higher than average carbon-intensity per capita and enable a national transition to a competitive low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050, through harnessing our country's prodigious renewable energy potential, including, inter alia onshore and offshore wind energy.

The Government will support the roll-out of renewables and protection and enhancement of carbon pools such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands; and climate change being taken into account in planning-related decision-making processes. The NPF sets out a series of National Policy Objectives, the following being pertinent to the proposed development:

- National Strategic Outcome 8 - Transition to Sustainable Energy states that new energy systems and transmission grids will be necessary for a more distributed, more renewable focused energy generation system, harnessing both the considerable on-shore and off-shore potential from energy sources such as wind, wave and solar and connecting the richest sources of that energy. A target of 40% of the Country's electricity needs from renewable sources by 2020 is stated along with a strategic aim to increase renewable

deployment in line with EU targets and national policy objectives up to 2030 and beyond.

- National Policy Objective (NPO) 23 - Facilitate the development of the rural economy through supporting a sustainable and economically efficient agricultural and food sector together with forestry, fishing and aquaculture, energy and extractive industries, the bio-economy and diversification into alternative on-farm and off-farm activities, while at the same time noting the importance of maintaining and protecting the natural landscape and built heritage which are vital to rural tourism.
- NPO 52 - The planning system will be responsive to our national environmental challenges and ensure that development occurs within environmental limits, having regard to the requirements of all relevant environmental legislation and the sustainable management of our natural capital.
- NPO 54 - Reduce our carbon footprint by integrating climate action into the planning system in support of national targets for climate policy mitigation and adaptation objectives, as well as targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.
- NPO 55 - Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050.

Policy anticipates that the forthcoming Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework will aim to identify strategic areas for the sustainable development of renewable electricity projects of scale, in a sustainable manner, compatible with environmental and cultural heritage, landscape and amenity considerations, and that the development of the Wind Energy Guidelines and the Renewable Electricity Development Plan will facilitate informed decision-making in relation to onshore renewable energy infrastructure.

Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS 1) - RESS 1 is the first Renewable Electricity Support Scheme by the Government of Ireland and is a pivotal component of the Government's Climate Action Plan. RESS 1 uses a competitive auction process to determine which generators receive support. For projects that are successful in the RESS 1 Auction, this support typically applies for approximately 15 years.

Action Number 28 of the Climate Action Plan 2019 addresses the design and implementation of RESS. The action calls on the need to increase the volumes and frequencies of RESS auctions to deliver on the 70% renewable electricity target by 2030, ensuring an appropriate community/enterprise mix to achieve an efficient delivery of renewables. RESS 1 is the first step in this important component of the Climate Action Plan.

All RESS 1 Projects are required to establish a Community Benefit Fund prior to Commercial Operation of the project. The contribution will be €2/MWh of Loss-Adjusted Metered Quantity for all RESS 1 Projects.

Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2006 - These guidelines provide advice to the Board and to planning authorities on wind energy development through the Development Plan and the development management process. They are intended to provide for consistency in the approach to wind energy development in terms of the identification of suitable locations for such development and in the determination of planning applications. It is stated that

the assessment of such projects should be plan-led with clear guidance on where wind energy development should locate and what factors will be taken into account.

The matters to be considered in a planning application are set out in Chapter 4. These include potential impacts on the built and natural heritage, ground conditions and drainage, visual and landscape impacts, local environmental impacts, (including noise, shadow flicker, electromagnetic interference), and adequacy of local access road network. It is stated that best practice would suggest that an integrated planning application that include grid connection information should ideally be submitted and that developers should be encouraged to engage in public consultation with the local community.

The potential environmental impacts arising from wind energy developments are discussed in Chapter 5. Guidance is given on matters such as noise, shadow flicker, natural heritage, archaeology, architectural heritage, ground conditions, aircraft safety and windtake. Whilst a setback distance is not established, it is stated that noise is unlikely to be a significant problem where the distance to the residential property is more than 500m. In respect of noise, the recommended standard is a lower fixed limit of 45dBA or a maximum increase of 5dBA above background noise and nearby noise sensitive locations, apart from very quiet areas where the daytime level is limited to 35-40dB(A). A night-time limit of 43 dB(A) is recommended. In terms of shadow flicker, the recommended standard is a maximum of 30 hours per year or 30 minutes per day for dwellings and offices within 500m. It is further stated that at distances of greater than 10 rotor diameters, the potential for shadow flicker is very low.

Chapter 6 provides guidance on siting and design of wind energy development in the landscape. This includes advice on siting, spatial extent and scale, cumulative effect, spacing of turbines, layout of turbines and height of turbines. Advice is also given regarding landscape character types as a basis for application of the guidance on siting and design.

Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019 – It should be noted that the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government published Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines in December 2019. A public consultation period was held until the 19th of February 2020.

The proposed key revisions include the following:

- **New noise standards:** The draft guidelines include proposed new standards aimed at reducing noise nuisance from wind energy developments for local residents and communities. The proposed new standards are in line with international standards, as incorporated in the 2018 World Health Organisation Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region. The permitted noise levels will take account of certain noise characteristics specific to wind energy projects i.e. tonal, amplitude modulation and low frequency noise and provide penalties for tonal noise and amplitude modulation and a threshold for low frequency noise above specified limits which, if breached, will result in turbine shut down. The implementation of a new robust noise monitoring framework is also proposed.
- **Setback distance:** The draft guidelines require a setback distance for visual amenity purposes of four times the tip height between a wind turbine and the nearest point of the curtilage of any residential property in the vicinity of the proposed development, subject to a minimum mandatory setback distance of 500 metres. This setback requirement is also

subject to the need to comply with the proposed noise limits outlined above.

- Automatic shadow flicker control mechanisms: Automatic shadow flicker control mechanisms will be required to be in place for the operational duration of a wind energy development project. It will be a specific condition of planning permissions that should shadow flicker occur and impact existing properties, the relevant wind turbines must be shut down.
- Community consultation: Wind energy developers will be mandatorily required to engage in active public consultation with the local community at an early stage. In this regard, they will have to prepare and submit a 'Community Report' as part of their planning application outlining how they have consulted and engaged with the local community regarding the proposed development and how they will work with the local community to allow for the free flow of information between the community and the developer at all stages in the project.
- Community dividend: Wind energy developers will have to provide an opportunity for the proposed development to be of enduring economic or social benefit to the local community, whether by facilitating community investment/ ownership in the project, other types of benefits/ dividends, or a combination of the two.
- Grid connections: The draft guidelines contain updated guidance regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment-related requirements in respect of wind energy development projects and their related grid connections, arising from a High Court Judicial Review (*O Grianna and others v. An Bord Pleanála*).

The draft is subject of SEA, with the aim to issue the finalised Guidelines, following detailed analysis and consideration of the submissions and views received during the consultation phase.

Regional Policy

North Western Regional Assembly – Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020 -2032

The primary purpose of the RSES is to support the implementation of Project Ireland 2040 and the economic policies and objectives of the Government by providing a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the development of the Region.

The adopted RSES (2020-2032) for the Northern and Western Region provides for a growth framework to transform the region based on 5 Growth Ambitions: Vibrant Ambition - Economy and Employment, Natural Ambition - Environment, Connected Ambition – Connectivity, Inclusive Ambition - Quality of Life and Enabling Ambition – Infrastructure. Underpinning these growth ambitions are a series of Regional Policy Objectives (RPO's). The following RPO's are of particular relevance to the proposed development:

- **RPO 4.16:** *The NWRA shall co-ordinate the identification of potential renewable energy sites of scale in collaboration with Local Authorities and other stakeholders within 3 years of the adoption of the RSES. The identification of such sites (which may extend to include energy storage solutions) will be based on numerous site selection criteria including environmental matters, and potential grid connections.*
- **RPO 4.17:** *To position the region to avail of the emerging global market in renewable energy by stimulating the development and deployment of the most advantageous renewable energy*

systems, including:

- Stimulating the development and deployment of the most advantageous renewable energy systems;
 - Raising awareness and public understanding of renewable energy and encourage market opportunities for the renewable energy industry to promote the development and growth of renewable energy businesses; and
 - Encourage the development of the transmission and distribution grids to facilitate the development of renewable energy projects and the effective utilisation of the energy generated from renewable sources having regard to the future potential of the region over the lifetime of the Strategy and beyond.
- **RPO 4.18:** Support the development of secure, reliable and safe supplies of renewable energy, to maximise their value, maintain the inward investment, support indigenous industry and create jobs
 - **RPO 8.3:** The Assembly support the necessary integration of the transmission network requirements to allow linkages with renewable energy proposals at all levels to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner.
 - **RPO 8.4:** That reinforcements and new electricity transmission infrastructure are put in place and their provision is supported, to ensure the energy needs of future population and economic expansion within designated growth areas and across the Region can be delivered in a sustainable and timely manner and that capacity is available at local and regional scale to meet future needs. Ensure that development minimises impacts on designated areas.

Local Policy and Guidance Documents

The Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028

The Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028 is the overarching plan with respect to land use in the County and outlines the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Mayo. The relevant policies and objectives for wind energy developments contained in the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028 include the following:

Chapter 4 - Economic Development

EDO 3 - To continue to promote the county to attract enterprise and investment into Mayo through the Enterprise & Investment Unit and/or Local Enterprise Office, with a focus on a number of established and emerging sectors including tourism, manufacturing, marine, renewable energy, ICT, food and agri-food.

EDO 54 - To facilitate rural enterprises, and resource development (such as agriculture, agri-food sector, agri-tourism, commercial fishing, aquaculture, rural tourism, forestry, bio- energy, the extractive industry, recreation, cultural

heritage, marine enterprise sector, research and analysis) and renewable energy resources (such as wind/solar/ocean energy) that are dependent on their locality in rural locations, where it can be demonstrated that the development will not have significant adverse effects on the environment, including the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, residential amenity or visual amenity. Where proposals demonstrate measures to promote environmental enhancement through improved ecological connectivity, such as measures in the Pollinator Plan, additional native species planting or blue and green infrastructure measures, these will be favourably considered.

EDO 69 - To support and facilitate renewable energy initiatives that facilitate a low carbon transition.

Chapter 7 Infrastructure

INP 21 - To support the provision of high-quality, electricity infrastructure and development of an enhanced electricity supply, to serve the existing and future needs of the county and to facilitate new transmission infrastructure projects, including the delivery and integration of renewable energy proposals to the electricity transmission grid in a sustainable and timely manner, whilst seeking to minimise any adverse impacts on local communities and protect and maintain biodiversity, wildlife habitats, scenic amenities, including protected views and nature conservation.

INO 39 - To seek the delivery of the necessary integration of transmission network requirements to facilitate linkages of renewable energy proposals to the electricity transmission grid, in a sustainable and timely manner.

Chapter 11 Climate Action and Renewable Energy

CAP 1 -To support and enable the implementation and achievement of European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following

documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage);

- • Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions);
- • National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions).
- • Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply with the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and Mayo Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019-2024 and any subsequent versions).

CAP 4 - To support local, regional, national and international initiatives for climate adaptation and mitigation and to limit emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources, which make use of all natural resources, including publicly owned lands, in an environmentally acceptable manner.

CAP 6 - To support the transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency and supporting nature-based solutions to climate adaptation and mitigation that provides co benefits.

CAP 9 - To support Ireland's renewable energy commitments outlined in national policy by facilitating the development and exploitation of all appropriate renewable energy sources at suitable locations within the county, where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment (including water quality), landscape, biodiversity or local

amenities, so as to provide for further residential and enterprise development within the county.

CAO 1 -To support and advance the provision of renewable energy resources and programmes in line with the Government's National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), the Governments' Energy White Paper "Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future" (2015-2030) and any other relevant policy adopted during the lifetime of this plan.

REP 1 - To support Ireland's renewable energy commitments outlined in national policy by facilitating the development and exploitation of a range of renewable energy sources at suitable locations within the county, where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment (including water quality), landscape, biodiversity or local amenities to ensure the long-term sustainable growth of the county.

REP 3 - To actively encourage and support the sustainable development, renewal and maintenance of energy generation infrastructure in order to maintain a secure energy supply, while protecting the landscape, archaeological and built heritage and having regard to the provisions of the Habitats Directive.

REP 4 - To ensure that developers of proposed large-scale renewable energy projects carry out community consultation in accordance with best practice and commence the consultation at the initiation of project planning.

REP 5 – To promote the use of efficient energy storage systems and infrastructure that supports energy efficiency and renewable energy system optimisation, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development

of the area and consideration of environmental and ecological sensitivities.

REP 6 – To work with relevant stakeholders and industry to establish Mayo as a centre of excellence for renewable energy research and development activities.

REP 7 - To promote the harnessing of wind energy to contribute toward decarbonising County Mayo, including new emerging by-product markets

REO 3 - To encourage and facilitate, where possible, the production of energy from established and emerging renewable technologies

REO 6 - To ensure all renewable energy proposal comply with the provisions of the Mayo County Council Renewable Energy Strategy 2011-2022 (or as updated).

REO 8 - To encourage the development of wind energy, in accordance with Government policy, and having regard to the *Landscape Appraisal of County Mayo* and the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) and Mayo Renewable Energy Strategy, or any revisions there of or future guidelines, and ensure consistency with the provisions of RPO 4.16 and RPO 5.2(b) of the RSES (2020-2032).

Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) for County Mayo

Mayo County Council adopted a Renewable Energy Strategy for County Mayo on the 9th May 2011. The Strategy sets out a path to allow County Mayo to contribute to meeting the national legally-binding renewable energy targets and sets out opportunities for individuals, communities and businesses to harness renewable energy in a sustainable manner and to assist in combating climate change. The policies and objectives of the RES relevant to the subject site and surrounding area are as follows:

Policies and Objectives of the Strategy

In order to achieve the vision and aim of this Strategy the policies and objectives in this section shall apply. Policies and objectives have been prepared in accordance with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, including reduction of green houses gases, maximising community benefit, ensuring minimal adverse environmental impact and taking full account of the presence and requirement to protect all Natura 2000 sites. All relevant policies and objectives in the County Development Plan 2008-2014 (or subsequent plan) will also apply when assessing planning applications for renewable energy developments.

Objective 1.1 *It is an objective of the Council to assist in achieving national targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production by encouraging and promoting the reduction in energy consumption and by encouraging renewable energy developments at appropriate locations within the County, having regard to relevant planning guidance and the principles of proper planning and sustainable development and through the implementation of this Strategy.*

Objective 1.2 *It is an objective of the Council to encourage renewable energy production from wind, wave, tide, biomass, biofuel, biogas, solar power, tidal, hydro and geothermal sources in the County, particularly at locations set out in the Maps accompanying this Strategy and having regard to principles of proper planning and sustainable development.*

Objective 1.3 *It is an objective of the Council to assist in achieving the target that a minimum of 16% of the County's overall energy requirements and 42.5% of the County's electricity requirements will be provided from renewable sources by 2020 by implementing this Strategy.*

Objective 1.4 *It is an objective of the Council to encourage energy efficiency, low energy design and integration of renewable energy techniques into new and existing developments.*

Objective 1.5 *It is an objective of the Council to continue to ensure energy efficiency, low energy design and integration of renewable energy techniques into the Council's own operations, construction programmes and running of vehicle stock.*

Objective 1.6 *It is an objective of the Council to utilise renewable energy technologies at the sites of its major infrastructure (e.g. sewage treatment plants, water treatment plants etc) where feasible.*

Policy 2 The Natural and Built Environment

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that a balance between the provision of renewable energy developments and the preservation and conservation of the natural and built environment is maintained, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives.

Objective 2.1 *It is an objective of the Council to ensure full compliance with European and National legislation in relation to renewable energy production and protection of the environment.*

Objective 2.2 *It is an objective of the Council to follow a sustainable plan led approach to renewable energy development within County Mayo through the implementation of this Strategy, in particular guiding renewable energy developments to preferred locations as set out in Section 6.4 and requiring all renewable energy developments to comply with standards and mitigation measures outlined in Section 6.5.*

Objective 2.3 *It is an objective of the Council that all proposed renewable developments will be assessed on the principles of proper planning and sustainable development, ensuring minimal adverse environmental impact to biodiversity, flora and fauna; population and human health; soil; water; air and climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage; and landscape. Full account shall be taken of the presence and requirement to protect all Natura 2000 sites, natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, the national Park and Nature Reserves. Projects will be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment where considered appropriate.*

Objective 2.4 *It is an objective of the Council to ensure that renewable energy developments do not interfere with, damage, remove, or impinge on the visual amenity of, existing rights of way, public walking and cycling routes, scenic routes and scenic views, architectural heritage including protected structures and Architectural Conservation Areas, archaeological heritage including recorded monuments, Ballycroy National Park and vulnerable or sensitive landscapes in the County.*

Policy 3 Strategic Infrastructure

It is the policy of the Council to encourage and assist in the provision of strategic infrastructure at appropriate locations to facilitate the provision and exporting of renewable energy.

Objective 3.1 *It is an objective of the Council to actively pursue the upgrading of the national grid and for the provision of a 400kV line in Mayo with the Minister, The Commission for Energy Regulation and EirGrid.*

Objective 3.2 *It is an objective of the council that the final route of any new 110/220 or 400 kV transmission lines be selected in line with best International Practice. Among other things, this process will require that a highly detailed study be carried out incorporating technical and environmental considerations to assist in selecting the most appropriate route. As part of this process the feasibility of using all existing linear infrastructure corridors such as road and rail as well as the existing transmission corridors for the 110 kV and 38 kV circuits or their established way leaves should be given due consideration. The existing transmission corridors for the 110kV and 38kV circuits shall be followed as far as technically and environmentally practicable.*

Policy 4 Community Benefit

It is the policy of the Council to require that renewable energy developments are carried out in a manner that promotes economic and social benefits for the community of Mayo as a whole.

Objective 4.1 *It is an objective of the Council to ensure that the advantages presented by renewable energy development outweigh the disadvantages for the majority of the community residing in the area of any proposed renewable energy development, and for the wider environment, when assessing planning applications for renewable energy development.*

Objective 4.2 *It is an objective of the Council to encourage community based renewable energy developments in the County having regard to the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.*

Objective 4.3 *It is an objective of the Council to require developers to incorporate the concept of community benefit into any renewable energy development proposal. Details of the particular form/model of community benefit proposed by the developer shall be submitted with the planning application for agreement by the Council at planning stage.*

5.0 EIA SCREENING

The proposed development falls within the definition of a project under the EIA Directive as amended by Directive 2014/52 and falls within the scope of Class 3 under Part 1 Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, (as amended), Development for the Purposes of Part 10:

Energy Industry (j) Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) with more than 5 turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts.

EIA is required, and the applicant has submitted an EIAR.

6.0 RELEVANT PLANNING HISTORY

Oweninny Windfarm

01/2542 – Granted by Mayo County Council and Modified by An Bord Pleanála for Change of use of 5,011 h.a. (12,377 acres) of land from its current use as for industrial peat production to include use as a wind farm. The wind farm shall comprise 210 wind turbines with a maximum total generating capacity of 320 mw of electricity.

ABP PA0029 – Granted by An Bord Pleanála Proposed Oweninny Windfarm and associated works.

ABP 307261 – Alter decision not a material alteration - Section 146B Planning application for amendments to ABP PA0029 for Oweninny Windfarm.

90/1077 – Granted by Mayo County Council - Bellacorrick Windfarm 21 turbines

90/355 - Granted by Mayo County Council Windfarm control building

01/1975 – Granted by Mayo County Council Bord Gáis Éireann Temporary site compound associated with the construction of the Galway – Mayo gas pipeline.

01/2826 - Granted by Mayo County Council 3 no x 50m high wind measuring masts.

12/544 - Granted by Mayo County Council Retention of 4 temporary meteorological masts.

Corvoderry Windfarm

11/838 – planning permission granted 15/10/2012 for Corvoderry Windfarm Ltd. 10 turbines with overall height of up to 100 metres.

09/1086 – Granted by Mayo County Council for 200 megawatt natural gas fired peaking power plant comprising of the electricity generating station, an above ground natural gas installation and electrical switchyard, access road and associated infrastructure,

Surrounding Area

Current SID application for Sheskin South Windfarm for

Construction of 21 no. wind turbines and associated hardstand areas with the following parameters:

- I. a. A total tip height of 200 metres,
b. Hub height of 115 metres, and
c. Rotor diameter of 170 metres
- II. All associated underground electrical and communications cabling;
- III. 1 no. Meteorological Mast of 115 metres in height, and associated hardstanding area;
- IV. Upgrade of existing tracks and roads, provision of new permanent site access roads, upgrade of 2 no. existing site entrances, construction of 1 no. new site entrance;
- V. 2 no. borrow pits; VI. 12 no. permanent peat placement areas;
- VII. 4 no. temporary construction compounds with temporary site offices and staff facilities;
- VIII. Permanent recreation and amenity works, including marked trails, seating areas, viewing point, amenity car park, and associated amenity signage;
- IX. Site Drainage;
- X. Site Signage;
- XI. Ancillary Forestry Felling to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development; XII. All works associated with the habitat enhancement and biodiversity management within the wind farm site; and
- XIII. All associated site development works and ancillary infrastructure.

P03/1298 – Planning permission for a wind farm development of 31 turbines on an adjoining site refused permission by An Bord Pleanála.

P15/825 – 10 year permission granted for 8 Wind turbines with associated hardstanding, construction of new internal access tracks, upgrading existing access tracks, underground cabling, permanent meteorological mast and associated hardstanding, electrical substation, recreational walking trail, site compound and associated works. Each turbine will have an overall height of 150 metres, comprising a Tower 95-105 m high, to which three blades of 45-55m length will be attached.

19/457 permission granted for Amendments to existing planning permission p15/825. Amendments include an increase in the overall height of the turbines from 150m to 176m and from 150m to 165m (turbines 4-8) comprising a tower 95-120m high to which three blades of 55-70m length will be attached. An increase in the maximum height of the permanent met mast from 100m to 120m. An increase in the diameter of the foundation base from 22m to 26m. An amendment to condition no 46 to revise the community benefit payment to 2 euro/mwh to be consistent with government guidance

set out under the renewable electricity support scheme. The red line boundary and all other aspects of the permitted development will remain unchanged.

20/834 Permission refused by MCC for 10 year permission to develop an electricity service, entailing the laying of approximately 10.4 kilometres of 38kv underground cable from the granted Sheskin wind farm to connect the windfarm to the national grid at the existing Bellacorrick 110kv ESB station. Granted by An Bord Pleanala (ABP 311157).

P18/873 Permission granted to modify existing permission P08/1997 to erect 3 1mw turbines, control house and ancillary associated works.

20/467 Permission granted for single turbine generator and 20kv grid connection to Bellacorrick 110kv substation.

ABP 312282 Pre application lodged with AN Bord Pleanala for Proposed Kilsallagh Wind Farm consisting of 13 wind turbines and ancillary equipment including 110kV substation infrastructure.

11/832 MCC - Permission granted to erect an electricity generating wind farm consisting of 10 wind turbines each with an overall height of up to 100 metres, hardstanding, an electrical compound and substation building, 4 car park spaces associated site roads, drainage and site works.

ABP 311157 – ABP – Permission granted 10 Year permission to develop an electricity service, entailing the laying of approximately 10.4km of 38KV underground cable from the granted Sheskin Wind Farm to connect the wind farm to the national grid at the existing Bellacorick 110KV ESB Station. A Natura Impact Statement was lodged with the planning application.

22/502 Southwest of Subject Site - **MCC** Further Information requested on single storey process building of 13.3m height; 16 no. fin fan coolers of 6.9m height; hydrogen storage area with area of 4650m²; gas injection compound with area of 1000m²; 2 no. gas agi buildings, each of 3m height; electrical substation with area of 2407.6m²; 2 no substation buildings, each of 4m height; raw water and fire water storage tank with volume of 879.6m³; pump house of 5m height; water abstraction chamber with volume of 2.9m³; resurfacing, repair and improvement of existing site entrance; replacement bridge; internal access roads and associated grid connection works within the I52925 public roadway. the development will include the provision of 12 no. parking spaces, footpaths, landscaping, fencing and all other associated site development plant and equipment and other works including surface water and foul wastewater drainage infrastructure within a total overall application boundary of 6.51ha

2360028 – Southwest of Subject Site - **MCC** Further Information requested on Gas Peaking Plant which consists of a 114 Megawatt gas fired peaking power plant (which will be capable of running on a mix of natural gas and hydrogen) comprising the 'electricity generating station'. The electricity generating station will comprise of 2 no. open cycle gas turbine (OCGT) generators each consisting of an air intake filter system, exhaust stack (28 metres high), air vent stack, inter cooler system, turbine control room and transformers. In addition the development will include:

- Above Ground Installation (AGI) to facilitate connection to the Gas Network, with compound area

of 1,600 m²;

- 3 no. Gas AGI buildings;
- Admin & welfare block;
- Electrical Substation with area of 3,800 m²;
- 1 no. Substation building;
- Electrical building;
- 3 no. Secondary fuel storage tanks with volume of 3,600 m³;
- Fire Water Storage Tank & Pumphouse;
- Sludge Tank & Pump House;
- Resurfacing, Repair and Improvement of Existing Site Entrance;
- Replacement Bridge;
- Gatehouse;
- Internal Access Roads; and
- Associated Grid Connection Works within the L52925 Public Roadway.

The development will include the provision of 12 no. parking spaces, footpaths, landscaping, fencing and all other associated site development plant and equipment and other works including surface water and foul wastewater drainage infrastructure. The development includes for the demolition and removal of a dwelling (112 m²) and associated farmyard barn and outbuildings (94 m², 15 m², 17 m² and 45 m²), all within a total overall application boundary of 4.35 ha. It should be noted in respect of this planning application that permission is sought for a period of 25 years.

7.0 ENFORCEMENT INFORMATION RELATING TO THE SUBJECT SITE

None

8.0 DESIGNATED SITES

EUROPEAN – Special Protected Areas (SPA's) and Special Areas of Conservation (SAC's)

The list below identifies all designated sites within approximately 15km of the site.

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

Site Name	SAC Site Code
Bellacorrick Iron Flush	0466
Lough Dahybaun	02177
Bellacorrick Bog	01922
Owenduff/Nephin Complex	0534
River Moy	02298
Carrowmore Lake	0476

Broadhaven Bay	0472
Slieve Fyagh Bog	0542
Glenamoy Bog Complex	0500

Special Protection Areas (SPA)

Site Name	SPA Site Code
Owenduff/Nephrin Complex	004098
Lough Conn and Lough Cullin	004228
Carrowmore Lake	004052
Blacksod Bay/Broadhaven	004037

Ramsar Sites

Site Name	Ramsar Site Code
Blacksod Bay and Broadhaven	844
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary	843
Knockmoyle/Sheskin	372
Owenboy	371
Owenduff Catchment	336

NATIONAL DESIGNATED SITES - Natural Heritage Areas

The list below identifies all designated sites within approximately 15km of the site.

National Heritage Areas (NHA)

Site Name	NHA Site Code
Forrew Bog	002432
Ummerantarry Bog	001570
Inagh Bog	002391

Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA)

Site Name	SAC Site Code
Bellacorrick Iron Flush	0466
Bellacorrick Bog	01922

Owenduff/Nephin Complex	0534
River Moy	02298
Carrowmore Lake	0476
Broadhaven Bay	0472
Slieve Fyagh Bog	0542
Glenamoy Bog Complex	0500

Nature Reserves

Knockmoyle Sheskin Nature Reserve
Owenboy Nature Reserve

National Parks

Ballycroy National Park

Ballycroy National Park is located approximately 5 kms south of the subject site.

Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive

An Appropriate Assessment was carried out for the Proposed Development in compliance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. As part of this assessment, the potential for the Proposed Development to have an effect on any European sites in the Zone of Influence (Zoi) was considered.

The Screening for Appropriate Assessment concluded as follows:

In view of best scientific knowledge and in the absence of mitigation measures, potential likely significant effects from the proposed development cannot be ruled out for six of these European sites:

- Lough Dahybaun SAC,
- Owenduff/Nephin Bog Complex SAC,
- River Moy SAC,
- Lough Conn and Lough Cullin SPA
- Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA and
- Blacksod Bay/Broad Haven SPA

As a result, an Appropriate Assessment of the Proposed Development is required and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has been submitted as part of this SID.

The Board should satisfy itself that the Natura Impact Statement on the proposed Windfarm and the and the Screening for Appropriate Assessment adequately address the likely impact on the Natura 2000 sites identified, either alone in combination with other plans or projects and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant.

PROTECTED STRUCTURES/ACA/SPECIAL AMENITY AREA ORDERS:

Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)

The following 3 Recorded Monuments and Places (RMPs) are located within the subject site.

Site Name	Townland	Monument Type
MA027-003	Tawnaghmore	Cist
MA028-001	Shanvodinnaun	Megalithic Tomb – Court Tomb
MA 028-007	Corvoderry	Ringfort - unclassified

SMR, Protected Structures and ACAs

There is 1 listed in the Sites and Monuments (SMRs) located within the subject site.

Site Name	Townland	Monument Type
MA027-005	Tawnaghmore	Roadway - trackway

There are no Protected Structures within the site and the site is not located within an Architectural Conservation Area.

9.0 PUBLIC SERVICES

Public Water Supply. There will be a non-potable water from rain-water harvesting and private well.

Sanitary Facilities Wastewater from the control building will be stored in a sealed tank and will be tankered off-site as required by a local licensed waste collector. Water supply and wastewater management proposals of this nature are common practice for wind farm developments. Temporary portaloo chemical toilets to be provided for construction staff will be sealed units to ensure that no discharges escape into the local environment. These will be supplied and maintained by a licensed supplier.

Surface Water. All surface water run-off from the development (including during construction) work will pass through will pass through either temporary or permanent settlement ponds. During the operational phase of the project, the management of surface water will be carried out in accordance with the proposed design and associated management features. The design of the wind farm has been developed following a detailed examination of the existing drainage on site. The drainage design ensures that any surface water arising from the proposed wind farm during operation will be contained and treated to ensure it can be dispersed out from the proposed development without any significant impact.

10.0 FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT

Flood risk assessment is addressed in Chapter 11 of the EIAR. Areas of the proposed development as being at risk of flooding were informed by consulting, Office of Public Works (OPW) series of maps showing the estimated 100-year flood plain from the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)

study and Mayo County Councils Flood Risk Assessment of the Mayo County Development Plan.

Based on the results of the Flood Risk Assessment, the risk of flooding associated with the development site is minimal. The substation is located outside of the predicted fluvial flood extents and will not impede flow paths or floodplain storage during extreme flood events. The layout of the substation and overall development will minimise the flood risk to people, property, the economy, and the environment.

11.0 WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

The proposed development is located in five Sub basins

- Owenmore 010
- Owenmore 020
- Muing 010
- Shanvolahan 010
- Cloonaghmore 020

River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) have been published for all River Basin Districts in Ireland in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and outline the water quality objectives for each waterbody.

A WFD assessment report was prepared for the Oweninny Phase 3 Wind farm as part of the EIAR process and concluded that, following the implementation of design and mitigation measures that the proposed wind farm is fully compliant with WFD and therefore does not require assessment under Article 4.7 of the WFD.

12.0 ENVIRONMENT IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR)

The following section gives the Planning Authority's views in relation to the adequacy of the EIAR submitted as part of this planning application. Where possible it has been attempted to keep the planning assessment separate from those comments specifically relating to environmental impact, it should be noted that there is somewhat of a crossover.

In this case, An Bord Pleanála is the competent authority for the purposes of carrying out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). The EIAR submitted by the applicant informs this EIA, as does information available to the Board and information given by the Local Authority.

The Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (August 2018) specify that (as per EU Directive 2014/52/EU) there is a requirement for the EIAR to be prepared by component experts. For the most part, the EIAR is set out in a clear format and consists of a wide-ranging, comprehensive assessment of the full range of issues and factors that could reasonably be anticipated for a wind farm development of this scale. The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) is considered adequate.

The section below provides a brief summary of the environmental impacts of the proposal as outlined in the chapters contained in the EIAR.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

The introduction is clearly set out and refers to the legislative context of the Environment Impact Assessment with regard to Strategic Infrastructure Development under Section 37A of the Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended.

Reference is made to the scoping process carried out along with interaction undertaken with the various stakeholders during the consultation process.

Chapter 1 of the EIAR states that each chapter has been completed by a component expert(s) and a 'Statement of Authority' has been provided in some of the chapters. The level of expertise of the component experts appears reasonable however this is a matter for the Board to determine.

This chapter concluded that no general difficulties or limitations were encountered in compiling the information required to be provided in this EIAR.

Chapter 2 Background

The chapter identifies the primary driver behind the Proposed Development which is the need to provide additional renewable energy to offset the use of fossil fuels within the electricity generating sector. The chapter outlines the historical use of the area. Increasing electricity generation from wind power represents the most economical renewable option to reduce emissions within the power generation sector and is the most mature technology available to achieve national targets that have been established for decarbonisation.

Chapter 3 Description of the Proposed Development

In Chapter 3 of the EIAR a detailed description of the proposed development is provided along with development layout configuration.

Particulars are provided regarding community benefit, development layout, development components including turbines type and capacity, as well as access and transportation surface water management, construction management and methodologies, environmental management, health and safety, windfarm operation and decommissioning.

Chapter 4 Consideration of Reasonable alternatives

This chapter of the EIAR includes a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the environmental effects. The consideration of alternatives typically refers to alternative design, technology, location, size and scale.

Chapter 5 Policy Planning and Development Context

This review of relevant policy contained in this Section of the EIAR sets out how the proposed Oweninny Wind Farm is consistent with the overarching planning framework with regard to facilitating

the move away from dependency on fossil fuels and the promotion of proper planning and sustainable development.

Chapter 6 Population and Human Health

Chapter 6 identifies, describes and assesses the potential effects of the Proposed Development on population and human health. The key issues examined in this chapter of the EIAR include population, human health, encompassing employment and economic activity, land-use, residential amenity (noise, visuals, setbacks), , tourism, property values, shadow flicker and health and safety.

Chapter 7 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

This chapter assesses the likely significant effects (both alone and cumulatively with other projects) that the proposed development may have on Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna and sets out the mitigation measures proposed to avoid, reduce or offset any potential significant effects that are identified.

Chapter 8 Ornithology

Chapter 8 provides an overview of the potential effects associated with the Proposed Development on ornithological features present at the proposed Oweninny Wind Farm development. Field surveys were completed in order to determine the current breeding and non-breeding assemblage within the study area and were undertaken between April 2019 and September 2022.

Chapter 9 Soils and Geology

This chapter provides an assessment of the likely and significant effects of the proposed Oweninny Wind Farm and its associated grid connection infrastructure on the land, soil and geological environment. It concludes that there are no significant Impacts on the land and soils and geology environment are anticipated during construction, operation, or during decommissioning phases of the proposed development.

Chapter 10 Hydrogeology

This chapter assesses the likely significant effects that the proposed development may have on hydrogeology and sets out the mitigation measures proposed to avoid, reduce or offset any potential significant effects that are identified. There are no groundwater wells or public water supplies impacted from the proposed development. It concludes that with the implementation of mitigation measures, the proposed development will not give rise to any significant cumulative impacts with regards to hydrogeology.

Chapter 11 Hydrology and Water Quality

This chapter assesses the likely significant effects that the proposed development may have on water environment and sets out the mitigation measures proposed to avoid, reduce or offset any potential significant effects that are identified. There are no surface water supplies affected from the proposed development.

No significant residual effects on any ecological receptor or WFD surface bodies were identified. No significant residual effects were reported for any receptors within any of the nearby wind farm/other assessment reviewed.

Chapter 12 Air Quality and Climate

Chapter 12 identifies, describes and assesses the potential significant direct and indirect effects on air quality and climate arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development.

It is concluded that construction of the proposed development will have a Short-Term, Imperceptible Negative Effect as a result of greenhouse gas emissions from construction plant and vehicles. Operation of the proposed development will have a direct long-term moderate positive impact on climate as a result of reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

Chapter 13 Noise and Vibration

Chapter 13 assessed the potential noise and vibration impacts associated with the development of the proposed Oweninny Wind Farm.

It is not considered that a significant effect is associated with the operation of this development, since the predicted residual noise levels associated with the proposed development will be within the relevant best practice noise criteria curves for wind farms.

Chapter 14 Shadow Flicker

Chapter 14 assessed the potential shadow flicker impacts associated with the proposed Oweninny Wind Farm.

It is concluded that implementation of mitigation measures to screen shadow flicker effects from sensitive receptors and/or implement wind turbine control measures in accordance with a defined Turbine Shutdown Scheme will ensure that any residual shadow flicker impacts from the proposed project will be eliminated at any shadow flicker receptors.

Chapter 15 Landscape and Visual

Chapter 15 of the EIAR provides both a cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment (LVIA) of the proposed Oweninny Wind Farm development.

The EIAR considers that, the proposed development will not give rise to significant cumulative impacts. It concludes that it is a landscape of vast scale that can absorb a strategic scale of wind energy development, and this is reflected in the Wind Energy Strategy where the northern basin is generally classed as a 'Strategic' location for 'Large-scale' wind energy development and no significant landscape effects will arise as result of the Proposed Development.

Chapter 16 Material Assets – Aviation and Telecommunications

This chapter of the EIAR conveys the likely significant effects of the proposal on telecommunications and aviation during the construction and operational stages of the development.

The EIAR concludes that the proposed development would not have any unacceptable direct or

indirect impacts in terms of material assets and that cumulative effects are not likely to arise.

Chapter 17 Transport and Transportation

This chapter assesses the impact of traffic and transportation on the construction phase and operational, decommissioning phases of the proposed development. It considers that the junction on the N59, indicates that the junction (i.e. site access) will operate with a slight impact during the temporary peak traffic volumes from September to November 2025. On average the traffic impact will be not significant and of a short-term duration.

Chapter 18 Cultural Heritage

Chapter 18 of the EIAR describes the likely significant effects of the development on any architectural, archaeological or cultural heritage.

Potential indirect negative impacts may occur in relation to the setting of AH1 but these are considered to be not significant in nature due to the fact that the remains of the court tomb are currently not identifiable above ground and the site is surrounded by existing commercial forestry. Potential indirect negative impacts may occur in relation to the setting of AH3 but these are considered to be slight in nature due to the fact that the remains of the tomb are located c. 1.1km to the east of the nearest proposed turbine. It considers that there are no predicted operational impacts to the setting of BH1, or the remaining AH sites, due to the distance of separation from the proposed turbines and the relevant site.

Chapter 19 Interactions of foregoing

Chapter 19 of the EIAR potential interactions between the various aspects of the environment.

Tables are presented which highlights the occurrence of potential positive or negative impacts during both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development. Where any potential interactive impacts have been identified, the EIAR considers that appropriate mitigation is included in the relevant sections.

Where any potential interactive impacts have been identified, appropriate mitigation is included in the relevant section.

Chapter 20 Schedule of Mitigation Measures

Chapter 20 provides a list of all mitigation measures proposed within the relevant chapters of the EIAR, which will be implemented during the pre-construction, construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the development.

Comments on the Adequacy etc, of the EIAR submitted with the application.

‘The Council is satisfied that the EIAR complies with Schedule 6 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2022 sets out the information to be contained in an EIAR,

13.0 CARRYING CAPACITY AND SAFETY OF ROAD NETWORK

Please refer to the details contained in Chapter 14 Material Assets and Roads Department reports under Section 16.

14.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE SUBJECT SITE AND SURROUNDING AREA

It is considered that previous comments on the EIAR as set out under Section 13 address this matter.

15.0 REPORTS OF RELEVANT LOCAL AUTHORITY SECTIONS

Road Design

A report from Road Design dated 24/04/2023 has outlined the following issues:

- Visual and Falling Weight Deflectometer surveys are to be undertaken to all roads used as haul routes for this project in advance of the project commencing and again at the completion of the project. These surveys are to be submitted to Mayo County Council. Any pavement damage or deterioration which is identified by the surveys and is clearly as a result of this project is to be repaired by the developer in consultation with Mayo County Council.
- Bridge structural surveys are to be undertaken to all bridges along haul roads associated with this project in advance of the project commencing and at monthly intervals as the project is under construction. These surveys are to be forwarded to Mayo County Council and any deterioration in a bridge structure identified as the project proceeds is to be repaired by the applicant in consultation with Mayo County Council.
- Use of the R312 Castlebar to Bellacorrick road as a haul road is not permitted due to its poor alignment and structural capacity.
- A traffic management plan for the project is to be agreed with Mayo County Council prior to the project commencing and in particular at the site entrance to this project on the N59. All proposed haul routes are to be detailed in this plan and must be agreed by Mayo County Council in advance of project commencement.
- Abnormal load permits will be required for all oversize deliveries associated with the project. All costs associated with the re location of road infrastructure to facilitate oversized loads are the responsibility of the developer.
- Road surface water drainage is to be maintained at all times during this project.
- A refundable cash deposit of €300,000 is to be paid by the Developer to Mayo County Council to cover any costs incurred by the local authority in repairing the road infrastructure as a result of this project.

Archaeology Department

A report from Mayo County Council Archeologist dated 09/05/2023 has no objection to the proposed development subject to a number of conditions.

16.0 THIRD PARTY OBSERVATIONS/SUBMISSION SUBMITTED TO AN BORD PLEANALA

The closing date for submissions to An Bord Pleanala is 26th of May 2023 and as of the date of this report no third-party submission has been received from the Board.

17.0 PLANNING AUTHORITY'S ASSESSMENT

Principle of Proposed Development:

[illegible]

Planning History

Residential Amenity:

1. *Staphylococcus aureus* (100%)

Shadow Flicker:

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2689-2693.

effect known as 'shadow flicker' occurs where the blades of a wind turbine cast a shadow over a window in a nearby house and the rotation of the blades causes the shadow to flick on and off. Generally only properties within 130 degrees either side of north, relative to the turbines, can be affected at these latitudes in Ireland, turbines do not cast long shadows on their southern side.

The DoEHLG Wind Energy Guidelines (2006) state that shadow flicker lasts only for a short period of time and occurs only during certain specific combined circumstances, as follows:

- the sun is shining and is at a low angle in the sky, i.e. just after dawn and before sunset, and
- the turbine is located directly between the sun and the affected property, and
- there is enough wind energy to ensure that the turbine blades are moving, and
- the turbine blades are positioned so as to cast a shadow on the receptor.

The DoEHLG 2006 wind energy guidelines recommend that shadow flicker at dwellings within 500 metres of a proposed turbine location should not exceed a total of 30 hours per year or 30 minutes per day. There are no occupied dwellings within 100 metres of any proposed turbine location

There are 78 properties within 1.58km (Shadow Flicker Study Area) of the Proposed Development and the results concluded that no properties have the potential to experience cumulative shadow flicker impacts.

The DoHPLG 'Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines' December 2019 recommend local planning authorities and/or An Bord Pleanála impose conditions to ensure that:

"no existing dwelling or other affected property will experience shadow flicker as a result of the wind energy development subject of the planning application and the wind energy development shall be installed and operated in accordance with the shadow flicker study submitted to accompany the planning application, including any mitigation measures required."

Visual Amenity:

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines set out guidance for the siting and design of wind energy developments in various landscape contexts by defining six landscape character types that represent most situations where wind turbines may be proposed. The guidance is intended to be indicative and general, and notes that it represents the 'best fit' solutions to likely situations. However, regarding these six landscape character types, the Guidelines also note that it is common for a wind energy development to be located in one landscape but visible from another and recommends that the entire visual unit should be taken into consideration.

As noted in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) there is a need to balance the preservation and enhancement of nature conservation and habitat protection against the need to develop key strategic infrastructure in a manner that is consistent with proper planning and sustainable development. The proposal would have a visual impact from roads in the immediate vicinity and from residential properties therein, in locations where screening is not available or maintained. It is considered that direct effects on landscape character are highly localised with visual impacts ranging from imperceptible to moderate significance.

Impact on the Roads Infrastructure

The construction phase is the critical period with respect to the traffic effects experienced on the surrounding road network in terms of both the additional traffic volumes that will be generated on the network, and the geometric requirements of the abnormally large loads associated with the wind turbine plant.

The National Secondary Route N59 will be the route regularly used during construction. The EIAR indicates that the N59 will have sufficient capacity to accommodate construction traffic

Mayo County Councils Road Design Department consider that the use of the R312 Castlebar to Bellacorrick road as a haul road should not be permitted due to its poor alignment and structural capacity.

It should be noted that the Roads Department have proposed a number of conditions in relation to the proposed development.

It is the considered view of Mayo County Council that subject to the mitigation measures proposed in the EIAR the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the road's infrastructure or traffic safety in the area.

Impact on The Environment

The EIAR identifies comprehensively the potential environmental impacts arising from the development. Furthermore, The EIAR sets out in detail proposed mitigation and monitoring measures which when implemented will reduce or avoid significant environmental impacts.

It is the considered view of Mayo County Council, that subject to the mitigation measures proposed in the EIAR, the proposed development will not have a significant impact on the environment of the area.

18.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

Mayo County Council are supportive of the development of renewable energy projects at this location. The location is on a landscape that can assimilate wind turbines without a negative impact on the landscape character of the area. It has become a centre for renewable energy projects both existing and proposed.

Mayo County Council considers at this stage, with all existing and proposed renewable energy projects that a dedicated access from the N59 should be explored and utilized for all projects at this location. This access would cater for construction phases and operational phases of all renewable developments proposed at this location and would also provide undergrounding options for connections to the National Grid.

Recommendation 1

Request applicants to examine the feasibility of co-operating with adjoining renewable energy providers to develop single access point to all renewable energy projects for construction, supply and maintenance purposes. To avoid multiple access locations and avoid potential impacts on residential properties.

It is also noted that the visual analysis of the proposed development is from a daylight perspective, there is no indication what, if any, the proposal in isolation or cumulatively of red flashing warning lights on top of the turbines will have on the environment or human population.

Recommendation 2

Consideration should be given to the potential impact, if any, that the red flashing warning lights cumulatively with other developments at this location may have on the local population and on light sensitive species

Recommendation 3

In the event of a grant of planning permission Mayo County Council considers that the following conditions should be applied:

Reasons and Considerations

Having regard to national policy and the creation of sustainable development resources; the general suitability of the site for a wind powered electricity generating facility; the nature of the landscape in the area; the provisions of the current Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028; and the proposed mitigation measures outlined in the EIAR it is considered that, subject to compliance with the conditions set out below, the proposed development would not seriously injure the visual amenities or the landscape character of the area, would be acceptable in terms of traffic safety and convenience, would not be likely to have a significant detrimental effect on ecology or protected species and would, therefore, be in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

Conditions Relating to Roads Infrastructure

1. Visual and Falling Weight Deflectometer surveys are to be undertaken to all roads used as haul routes for this project in advance of the project commencing and again at the completion of the project. These surveys are to be submitted to Mayo County Council. Any pavement damage or deterioration which is identified by the surveys and is clearly as a result of this project is to be repaired by the developer in consultation with Mayo County Council.
Reason: In the interests of traffic safety.
2. Bridge structural surveys are to be undertaken to all bridges along haul roads associated with this project in advance of the project commencing and at monthly intervals as the project is under construction. These surveys are to be forwarded to Mayo County Council and any deterioration in a bridge structure identified as the project proceeds is to be repaired by the applicant in consultation with Mayo County Council.
Reason: In the interests of traffic safety.
3. Use of the R312 Castlebar to Bellacorrick road as a haul road is not permitted due to its poor alignment and structural capacity.
Reason: In the interests of traffic safety.
4. A traffic management plan for the project is to be agreed with Mayo County Council prior to the project commencing. All proposed haul routes are to be detailed in this plan and must be agreed by Mayo County Council in advance of project commencement.

Reason: In the interests of traffic safety.

5. Abnormal load permits will be required for all oversize deliveries associated with the project. All costs associated with the re location of road infrastructure to facilitate oversized loads are the responsibility of the developer.

Reason: In the interests of traffic safety.

6. Road surface water drainage is to be maintained at all times during this project.

Reason: In the interests of traffic safety.

7. A refundable cash deposit of €300,000 is to be paid by the Developer to Mayo County Council to cover any costs incurred by the local authority in repairing the road infrastructure as a result of this project.

Reason: To ensure satisfactory completion of the development and protection of public infrastructure.

Conditions Relating to Archaeology

8. The developer is required to employ a suitably qualified archaeologist to monitor under license from The National Monuments Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage all ground disturbance works associated with the proposed development.

Reason: In the interests of proper planning and development.

9. The degree, extent and frequency of the monitoring shall be determined by The National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and agreed to by the licensed archaeologist. All geotechnical trial holes and associated works must also be monitored by a suitably qualified licensed archaeologist.

Reason: In the interests of proper planning and development.

10. Should archaeological material be uncovered during the course of the archaeological monitoring, the archaeologist shall have work on the site stopped, pending a decision as to how best to deal with the archaeology. The developer shall be prepared to be advised by the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with regard to any necessary mitigating action (e.g. preservation in situ, or excavation) and shall facilitate the archaeologist in recording any material found. The Planning Authority and the National Monuments Section of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage shall be furnished with a report describing the results of the monitoring.

Reason: In the interests of proper planning and development.

General Conditions

11. Construction operations shall be restricted to between 0800 hours and 2000 hours Monday to Friday and 0800 hours and 1800 hours on Saturdays.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development and residential amenities.

12. Prior to commencement of development, a detailed reinstatement program for the decommissioning of the wind farm shall be submitted to Mayo County Council for written agreement. The said program shall apply to full or partial decommissioning of the wind farm, or if the wind farm ceases operation for a period of more than one year. The said program

shall provide for the dismantling and removal from the site of masts, turbines, and buildings including foundations and roads. The site shall be reinstated in accordance with the said program (including all access roads) and all decommissioned structures shall be removed within three months of decommissioning.

Reason: To ensure the satisfactory decommissioning of the project.

13. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall agree a protocol for assessing any impact on radio or television or other telecommunication reception in the area. In the event of interference occurring, it shall be the responsibility of the developer to mitigate such interference according to a methodology to be agreed with Mayo County Council.

Reason: In the interest of orderly development.

14. All cabling from the turbines to the substation shall be placed underground.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity

Environmental Conditions

15. Costs incurred by Mayo County Council Environment Staff in carrying out any necessary monitoring, monitoring checks, inspections and environmental audits, shall be reimbursed by the developer.

Reason: In the interest of clarity, and the protection of the environment during the earthworks and construction phase.

16. Prior to commencement of the development, an Environmental Monitoring Committee (EMC) shall be established to assess and monitor the surface water run-off, drainage control, traffic management, road maintenance, dust control, noise monitoring and other environmental issues during the period of construction. The EMC shall comprise two representatives of the developer, two representatives of Mayo County Council, and an invitation shall be extended to Inland Fisheries Ireland and National Parks & Wildlife Service to provide a representative for the committee. In addition, one representative of the local community, selected in accordance with procedures to be agreed with Mayo County Council, shall be invited to serve on this committee. The EMC shall have the right to co-opt other members as required.

Reason: To ensure effective monitoring during construction phase in the interest of the proper planning and the protection of the environment.

17. The site preparation and the construction shall adhere to best practice and shall conform to the following Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance "Requirements for the Protection of Fisheries Habitat during Construction and Development Works at River Sites".

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

18. In the event that works give rise to siltation of watercourses the environmental Clerk of Works or supervising Hydrologist will stop all works in the immediate area around where the siltation is evident and additional drainage measures installed. All water pollution incidents must be recorded and reported to Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

19. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall agree a management plan for construction works on the site. This shall include access arrangements for construction materials, the storage of materials on site; details for the control of run-off from the site, extraction and infilling of borrow pits (if any), the removal of all machinery, spoil and waste material from the site following completion and the restoration of vegetation and landscaping; and provisions for emergencies.

Reason: In the interest of visual amenity, public safety and the prevention of pollution.

20. An Emergency Response Procedure shall be prepared, with Inland Fisheries Ireland included as a notifiable body in the case of an environmental emergency.

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

21. Measures should be put in place to prevent the spread of invasive species

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

22. The water quality monitoring locations, parameters and schedules should be agreed with Inland Fisheries Ireland. Daily surface water monitoring should be carried out during construction.

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

23. The use of poor tensile strength rock such as shale as road construction material is not permitted.

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

24. The schedule of works shall show that all silt mitigation and surface water control measures, such as silt fences and settlement ponds, are in place prior to the ground works commencing. All drainage channels should be constructed in advance of construction works to allow the channels to grass over prior to flooding. Peat storage areas should be reseeded or have vegetated turf placed on them once completed.

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

25. An emission limit value of 25mg/l suspended solids shall apply to all discharges from the site to watercourses. The developer shall submit to Mayo County Council, for written agreement, at least six months prior to the commencement of the development details for continuous monitoring of suspended solids, in addition to turbidity, at representative locations. The monitoring equipment shall be operational at the agreed locations at least three months prior to the commencement of development

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

26. The monitoring results and the interpretation of the monitoring shall be available on site and shall also be submitted to Mayo County Council on a monthly basis in both hardcopy and electronic format.

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

27. The developer shall appoint a suitably qualified and experienced Environmental Scientist or Environmental Engineer for the period of the earthworks and construction phase. As part of his/her duties, the Environmental Officer shall liaise with Mayo County Council in relation to the implementation of the required environmental monitoring, and shall be responsible for reporting to Mayo County Council –

- (a) any malfunction of any environmental system,
- (b) any occurrence with the potential for environmental pollution,
- (c) any emergency which could reasonably be expected to give rise to pollution of waters.

28. The Environmental Officer shall maintain a record of any such occurrences and any action taken. The records shall be available for public inspection at the developer's site offices during normal office hours.

Reason: In the interest of proper environmental control during the earthworks and construction phase.

29. During construction and haulage, noise levels shall be kept to a minimum. Any activity that will result in a significant increase in the ambient noise levels, for example, piling or rock breaking, shall be notified to Mayo County Council in advance.

Reason: In the interest of public health and residential amenity.

30. Dust levels shall not exceed 350 mg/m² (TA Luft Air Quality Standard) per day averaged over thirty days when measured at the site boundaries. Any activity, which could reasonably be expected to exceed that dust level and proposed mitigation measures, shall be notified to Mayo County Council in advance.

Reason: In the interest of public health and residential amenity.

31. All tank and drum storage areas on the site shall, as a minimum, be bunded to a volume not less than the greater of the following –

- (a) 110% of the capacity of the largest tank or drum within the bunded area, or
- (b) 25% of the total volume of substance which could be stored within the bunded area.

32. All fuel storage areas and cleaning areas, particularly for concrete trucks, shall be rendered impervious to the stored or cleaned materials and shall be constructed to ensure no discharges from the areas.

Reason: To prevent surface and ground water pollution.

33. The developer shall maintain on the site for the duration of the construction period, oil abatement kits comprising of booms and absorbent materials. The precise nature and extent of the kits shall be agreed in writing with Mayo County Council prior to commencement of development.

Reason: To prevent water pollution.

35. Prior to commencement of development, the developer shall submit, and obtain the agreement of Mayo County Council to a plan containing details for the management of waste (and, in particular, recyclable materials) within the development, including the provision of facilities for the storage, separation and collection of waste and, in particular, recyclable materials, and for the ongoing operation of these facilities.

Reason: To provide for the appropriate management of waste and, in particular, recyclable materials, in the interest of protecting the environment.

36. No stream diversions, culvert installations or replacements should be carried out without prior consultation and agreement with Inland Fisheries Ireland Galway. Clear span structures to be used where possible.

Reason: In the interests of prevention of water pollution.

37. The construction of the development shall be carried out only outside the breeding season of locally sensitive bird species.

(b) No works or site preparation shall be carried out during the bird-nesting season in the first year of construction.

(c) no re-commencement of construction works shall be permitted during the bird-nesting season in subsequent years after any significant periods of inactivity.

(d) An annual monitoring program of birds in accordance with the methodology used to gather baseline data in the EIS to review interaction by birds with the wind farm, to survey species and to document bird casualties shall be submitted to Mayo County Council for written agreement prior to commencement of development. This program shall be developed in consultation with Mayo County Council and the Heritage Division of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and shall cover the entire period of the operation of the wind farm and the program shall be forwarded to Mayo County Council.

Reason: To provide for the mitigation of effects of the development on avian species.

38. Prior to commencement of development, a detailed conservation plan for the rehabilitation of the site following completion of construction shall be submitted to Mayo County Council for written agreement. The conservation plan shall be prepared by a suitably qualified Ecologist. The conservation plan shall include for habitat management and enhancement measures on the site, the reinstatement of hedgerows and embankments removed to facilitate construction and an agreed monitoring period. The implementation of the conservation plan shall be monitored by a suitably qualified Ecologist, and a copy of this plan

and monitoring reports shall be submitted to Mayo County Council and the National Parks & Wildlife Service.

Reason: To provide for the mitigation of effects of the development on the ecology of the area.

Financial conditions

39. Mayo County Council is currently updating the Development Contribution scheme. Any contributions should reference this document

Reason: To comply with Mayo County Council's Development Contribution Scheme.

40. The developer shall lodge with Mayo County Council, a cash deposit, a bond of an insurance company, or such other security as may be acceptable to Mayo County Council, to secure the satisfactory reinstatement of the site, couple with an agreement empowering Mayo County Council to apply such security or part thereof to the satisfaction completion of the reinstatement, including all necessary demolition and removal. The security shall be lodged as follows:

a) a cash sum of €240'000 to be applied by Mayo County Council at its absolute discretion if not completed to its satisfaction

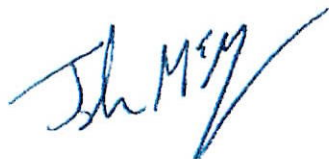
or

b) such other security as may be accepted in writing by Mayo County Council

Reason: To ensure the satisfactory completion of the project.

41. The developer shall pay to Mayo County Council an annual contribution of €10,000 per megawatt of electricity produced from the development, to a Community Fund to be established by Mayo County Council in accordance with the policy on community benefit contributions required for certain major developments adopted on 11/04/2014, towards the cost of the provision of environmental improvements, recreational or community amenities, cultural and heritage facilities and social inclusion and community development in the locality.

Reason: It is considered reasonable that the developer should contribute towards the cost of environmental, recreational or community amenities which will help mitigate the impact of the transport of waste peat on the local community.



John McMyler
Senior Planner

6th June 2023

Date



Catherine McConnell
Director of Services

06th June 2023

Date



Kevin Kelly
Chief Executive

8th June 23

Date