



MKO
Planning & Environmental Consultants
Tuam Road
Galway
Co. Galway
H91 VW84

Date: 14 May 2024

Re: Proposed development of 26 no. wind turbines and associated works.
at the Ballivor Bog Group, Co. Meath and Co. Westmeath.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above mentioned proposed development which is before the Board for consideration.

Please be advised that the Board, in accordance with section 37(F)(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, hereby requires you to furnish the following further information in relation to the effects on the environment of the proposed development: .

1. Collision Risk - Having regard to the submitted EIAR and supporting information with regard to Ornithology and noting submissions received from the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage, (NPWS), in relation to information received by the NPWS of records of electronically tagged Greenland White Fronted Geese passing near the proposed wind farm site during migrations from their most important wintering sites in Ireland on the Wexford slob and their summering areas in Greenland, the Board notes the request of the Department for a more thorough analysis, based on additional survey using radar or other techniques of the potential for night migrants especially Greenland white fronted geese colliding with wind farm turbines and details of mitigation to ensure that the possibility of such collisions might be reduced. You are invited to respond to this submission.

2. Marsh Fritillary Butterfly Annex II Species - Key Ecological Receptor - Regarding Marsh Fritillary Butterfly, Annex II listed species, (Categorised as inadequate status in Department of Culture Heritage and Gaeltacht. The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland, 2019) and noting the submissions to the Board of Mr Jesmond Harding, Butterfly Expert, on behalf of DRB Community Company Limited and the subsequent inclusion of the Marsh Fritillary as a Key Ecological Receptor, the Board notes concerns raised with regard to the 490sq.m categorised by you as "potential habitat" located within the proposed development footprint (T13 -T14) and the issues raised with regard to the timing and time constrained nature of the survey and potential for wider spatial distribution and quantity of the species. The classification of this area as "potential breeding habitat" rather than "likely breeding habitat" and the characterisation of its loss as "slight in nature" has been disputed and concerns raised that removal of part of this habitat might remove the population. It is further submitted that no evidence is

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provided that 'suitable habitat is abundant in the wider landscape' and the issue of sequencing is also raised. It has been suggested that the design should be applied to avoid any loss of Marsh Fritillary habitat and mitigate potential for drying out of habitat. You are invited to respond to this submission.

3. ZTV Mapping - The applicant is advised to note that the ZTV mapping colour banding error evident on the initial half blade ZTV map Fig 13-1 (digital and hard copy), a digital malfunction as referenced by you in the response to the observations, is also evident within the digital copy of further information on the standalone website - Response to Observations Received (ballivorwindfarmplanning.ie) at Fig 5 and Fig 13.1, though the colour banding is present on the hard copy documents submitted to the Board. It is acknowledged that the colour banding is evident (digital and hard copy) on several of the other mapping figures included within the EIAR including the LVIA baseline map Fig 13-5, and landscape character areas Fig 13-11.

The further information referred to above should be received by the Board within 3 weeks from the date of this notice (i.e. no later than 5.30 p.m. on the 5th June 2024).

In this regard, please submit 3 hard copies and one electronic copy of the above information.

Please note that following its examination of any information lodged in response to this request for additional information, the Board will then decide whether or not to invoke its powers under section 37(F)(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requiring you to publish notice of the furnishing of any additional information and to allow for inspection or purchase of same and the making of further written submissions in relation to same to the Board.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter 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,



Ashling Doherty
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737160

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