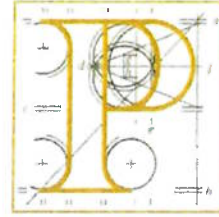


Our Case Number: ABP-318295-23

Planning Authority Reference Number: 22340



An
Bord
Pleanála

Carlow County Council
Planning Department
County Buildings
Athy Road
Carlow
Co. Carlow

Date: 20 May 2024

Re: Construction of five wind turbines, meteorological mast, electricity substation and associated site works. The application is accompanied by a Planning Report, Environmental Impact Assessment Report and a Natura Impact Statement.
Bilboa Wind Farm, land at Boolyvannanan and Coolnakisha, Bilboa, County Carlow.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has asked me to refer to the documents already received from you in relation to the above-mentioned appeal.

To enable consideration of the appeal to proceed, the following further documentation relevant to the application and to your decision is required: -

- 1. Submission from Development Application's Unit, Archaeological Observations submitted on 10/11/2022**
- 2. Report from Blackstaff Ecology received on 18/8/2023 which assesses the first party response to the request for additional information.**

Would you be good enough to have these documents forwarded by return of post please.

In relation to "history" documents relating to a grant of permission, please include details of the final grant.

Yours faithfully,

PP Fareed

Ian Kelly
Administrative Assistant
Direct Line: 01-8737216

BP10

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(01) 858 8100
1800 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CHEATHARLACH

CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Registered Post

Oifigí an Chontae,
Bóthar Átha Í,
Ceatharlach, R93E7R7

County Buildings,
Athy Road,
Carlow, R93E7R7

T: 059 9170300

E: See carlow.ie/contact-us

W: carlow.ie

20th May 2024

Mr. Ian Kelly,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

AN BORD PLEANÁLA

LDG- _____
ABP- _____

24 MAY 2024

Fee: € _____ Type: _____

Time: 9.30 By: *leg post*

Re:

Description of Development:

PL22/340 & ABP-318295-23

Development will consist of the erection of five wind turbines with turbine blade diameter of 117m and overall height to tip of 136.5m. one permanent meteorological mast, access road and internal tracks, electricity sub-station, temporary construction compound, turbine laydown area, control building, 1 borrow pit, crane hardstanding, underground cabling, up to approximately 18 hectares of forestry felling and all associated site works, with an operation lifetime of 30 years. The application is accompanied by a Planning Report, Environmental Impact Assessment, and Natura Impact Statement.

Location of Development:

Bilboa Wind Farm, Land at Boolyvannanan & Coolnakisha, Bilboa, Co. Carlow.

Applicant:

Boolyvannanan Renewable Energy Ltd.

Dear Mr. Kelly,

I wish to acknowledge your correspondence in relation to the above dated 20th May 2024 and the content therein.

As requested, please find enclosed the following:

1. Submission from Development Applications Unit Archaeological Observations submitted on 10/11/2022.
2. Report from Blackstaff Ecology received on 18/08/2023.

If you have any further queries in relation to this matter, please contact the undersigned at 059-9136229 or planningdevman@carlowcoco.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Shirley O'Neill
Shirley O'Neill,
Administrative Officer.

Alison Scanlon

From: PlanningDevMan
Sent: Thursday 10 November 2022 17:45
To: Referrals@npws.gov.ie
Cc: Alison Scanlon; Pádraig O'Shea
Subject: FW: Planning Application 22/340
Attachments: CW22340.pdf

A Chara,

I acknowledge the attached report with regard the above planning application,

Regards

Alison Scanlon

Oifigeach Riaracháin, An Roinn Pleanála
Administrative Officer, Planning Department

T: +353 59 9170346
E: planningdevman@carlowcoco.ie
W: carlow.ie



COMHAIRLE CONTAE
CIEATHARLACH
CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Oifigí an Chontae, Bóthar Átha Í, Ceatharlach, R93E7R7
County Buildings, Athy Road, Carlow, R93E7R7

From: Housing Referrals <Referrals@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 10 November 2022 14:20
To: PlanningDevMan <planningdevman@carlowcoco.ie>
Subject: Planning Application 22/340

A Chara,

Attached please find the archaeological observations/recommendations of the Department in relation to the aforementioned Planning Application.

Can you please confirm receipt of same?

Kind Regards,
Sinéad

—
Sinéad O' Brien
Executive Officer
—

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit
Ofíógí an Rialtais
Government Offices
Bóthar an Bhalle Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford Y35 AP90



Planning Ref: 22/340
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

10 November 2022

Director of Services – Planning
Carlow County Council
County Buildings
Athy Road
Carlow
R93 E7R7

Via email: planningdevman@carlowcoco.ie

Re: Notification under Article 28 (Part 4) or Article 82 (Part 8) of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.

Proposed Development: Planning Application Reg Ref 22/340 for permission for a development which will consist of the erection of five wind turbines with turbine blade diameter of 117m and overall height to tip of 136.5m. one permanent meteorological mast, access road and internal tracks, electricity sub-station, temporary construction compound, turbine laydown area, control building, 1 borrow pit, crane hardstanding, underground cabling, up to approximately 18 hectares of forestry felling and all associated site works, with an operation lifetime of 30 years at Bilboa Wind Farm, Land at Boolyvannanan & Coolnakisha, Bilboa, County Carlow

A chara

I refer to correspondence on 18th October received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are archaeological observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit.

Archaeology

It is noted that the proposed development site encompasses an area of approximately 25.2ha. Given the scale, extent and location of the proposed development it is possible that subsurface archaeological remains could be encountered during the construction phases that involve ground disturbance.

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has reviewed the documentation provided in the planning application including the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) prepared by Arcus Environmental Services Ltd. It is noted that Chapter 10 of the EIAR pertains to Archaeology and Cultural Heritage.



On the basis of the information provided in the EIAR and the proposed archaeological mitigation outlined therein (Chapter 10, Section 10.8, (a) to (c); pages 10-8 to 10-9), it is the recommendation of this Department that the proposed mitigation measures for archaeological monitoring outlined in the EIAR are carried out in full. Therefore, the following condition pertaining to Archaeological Monitoring should be included in any grant of planning that may issue.

Archaeological Requirements:

1. The developer shall engage a suitably qualified Archaeologist to monitor (licensed under the National Monuments Acts) all site clearance works, topsoil stripping, groundworks, and/or the implementation of agreed preservation *in-situ* measures associated with the development. No sub-surface work shall be undertaken in the absence of the archaeologist without his/her express consent. The use of appropriate machinery to ensure the preservation and recording of any surviving archaeological remains shall be necessary.
2. Archaeological Monitoring must be carried out under licence from this Department and in accordance with an approved method statement; note a period of 5-6 weeks should be allowed to facilitate processing and approval of the licence application and method statement.
3. Should archaeological remains be identified during the course of archaeological monitoring, all works shall cease in the area of archaeological interest pending a decision of the planning authority, in consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, regarding appropriate mitigation (preservation *in-situ*/excavation). The developer shall facilitate the Archaeologist in recording any remains identified.
4. Any further archaeological mitigation requirements specified by the planning authority, following consultation with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, shall be complied with by the developer.
5. Following the completion of all archaeological work on site and any necessary post-excavation specialist analysis, the planning authority and the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage shall be furnished with a final archaeological report describing the results of the monitoring and any subsequent required archaeological investigative work/excavation required. All resulting and associated archaeological costs shall be borne by the developer.

Reason:

To ensure the continued preservation (either *in situ* or by record) of places, caves, sites, features or other objects of archaeological interest.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at referrals@npws.gov.ie, where used, or to the following address:

The Manager, Development Applications Unit (DAU), Government Offices, Newtown Road
Wexford, Y35 AP90



Is mise, le meas

Sinéad O'Brien

Sinéad O'Brien
Development Applications Unit
Administration

Review of Arcus Consultancy response to request from Carlow County Council for Further Information with regard to Bilboa Wind Farm application.

Introduction

This report refers to the Further Information required by Carlow County Council in consideration of a planning application to construct a five no. turbine wind farm at Boolyvannanan/Coolnakisha, Co. Carlow, to be known as Bilboa Wind Farm. The Further Information required has been addressed by Arcus Consultancy in a document dated 31.05.23. The present document reviews the responses of Arcus Consultancy as they refer to Biodiversity and Ornithology.

Review

Section 3.4: Section 7.1 is requested to be amended to include the level of experience and qualifications of the field survey team that carried out the survey work that informed this chapter of the EIAR in accordance with SNH guidance.

Arcus Response: A table is provided that comprehensively outlines the experience of the relevant field survey team.

Section 3.5: It is considered there are some limitations to the performance of the surveys...there is a relative lack of survey data from early and late in the day...(and) the applicant is requested to clarify if the breeding bird surveys were truncated or sufficiently cover the entire site. The applicant should also provide an explanation as to why Vantage Point watches weren't spread through the day...

3.5.1 Arcus Response: A rationale for the breeding and wintering bird survey methodology is provided, based on sampling of the habitats present on the site. Although the response does not confirm whether the surveys that were carried out extended to the actual proposed turbine locations, the conclusion of the 2011 EIS that the site is primarily a highly modified habitat (i.e. coniferous forest) with no significant intrinsic ecological value and that areas of higher value habitat were avoided remains valid. It is likely that the sampling methodology used therefore describes the likely bird population of the site, including turbine locations.

3.5.2 Arcus Response: It is assessed that there are no habitats on the site that are suitable for use by the locally most likely available target species – swans and hen harrier. While it remains the case that relatively few VP watches were carried out at dawn and dusk (which, elsewhere, has led to reservations from statutory and non-statutory bodies) the absence of habitats likely to be used by target species, in tandem with the results from hinterland surveys, indicates that conclusions drawn from the VP watch data are likely to be appropriate.

Section 3.6: The applicant is requested to submit (Summary of Construction Stage Impacts) as part of a further information request.

Arcus Response: The mentioned Impacts report has been submitted as an appendix.

Section 3.7: ...The NIS should be amended to exclude references to the former CDP and the Draft CDP and to include the most up to date policies applicable as contained in the Carlow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Arcus Response: The NIS has been amended as requested.