

Addendum 3 - Response to Q18 of SID Application Form – Consultation

Pre-Planning Meetings

An Coimisiún Pleanála

First Pre-Application Meeting - Section 37B

The Applicant engaged with An Coimisiún Pleanála under the provisions of Section 37B of the Planning Act as to whether the Proposed Wind Farm would meet the thresholds of the Seventh Schedule of the Planning Act. A SID pre-application meeting under the provisions of Section 37B was held with the Commission via Microsoft (MS) Teams on the 19th of June 2023. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

- Paul Caprini (Assistant Director of Planning)
- Karen Hamilton (Senior Planning Inspector)
- Ashling Doherty (Executive Officer)

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Grace Curran (Neoen)
- Owen Cahill (MKO)
- Ronan Dunne (MKO)
- Colm Ryan (MKO)
- Sanghamitra Dutta (MKO)

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project in the form of a PowerPoint presentation which set out the following information:

- An introduction to the Applicant and Project Team.
- A high-level overview of the Proposed Project and the subject site.
- Overview of relevant planning policy including compliance with local wind energy policy.
- Set out the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be undertaken.
- Provided specific details of the scheme relating to LVIA and Ecology.
- Discussed scoping and pre-application/public consultation undertaken to date.
- Set out the projected project timelines.

Following this presentation, there was further discussion held between the project team and the representatives of ACP. Matters discussed included:

- Requirement of clear justification for the location of three turbines outside the area open to consideration.
- Potential impacts due of the Proposed Wind Farm due to the presence of peat on the Site.
- Requirement of constraints mapping of rural dwellings illustrated with buffers overlapping with proposed turbines.
- Further consultation with Local Authorities.
- Forestry felling and the potential for impacts on bats.
- The potential for impacts on the river catchment and sub catchment.
- Recommended engagement with National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS).
- Haul routes for turbine delivery should be identified and align with standard road approaches.
- Assessment of Natura 2000 sites.

Second Pre-Application Meeting – Section 37B

The Applicant engaged with An Coimisiún Pleanála for a second pre-application meeting under Section 37B of the Planning Act. The second meeting was held on the 10th of July 2025 via Microsoft (MS) Teams. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

- Una Crosse
- Donagh O'Donoghue
- Sinead White

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Ronan Dunne (MKO)
- Hannah Rice (MKO)
- Eoin McCarthy (MKO)
- Brandon Taylor (MKO)
- Evan Connolly (MKO)
- Niall Quane (Neoen)

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project in the form of a PowerPoint presentation which set out the following information:

- An introduction to the Applicant and Project Team
- Updates on the Proposed Project design
- An updated planning policy context and compliance with local wind energy policy
- The scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report and progress to date
- An update on the scoping, pre-application, and public consultation undertaken to date
- Set out the projected project timelines

Discussion was held between the project team and the representatives of ACP on the following matters:

- Local planning policy and wind energy zoning
- Peat within the site and the need for peat stability assessments.
- The ecological surveys carried out to date
- Biodiversity enhancement areas
- Proximity to Natura 2000 sites, ecologically sensitive areas
- The impact of construction traffic and potential road upgrades
- Nearest sensitive receptors
- Public consultation carried out to date
- Scoping carried out to date and responses received
- Extent of the Landscape and Visual Assessment

Section 37CC Consultation – Design Flexibility

A design flexibility meeting under Section 37CC(1) Consultation was held with the Commission on the 10th of July 2025 (ACP Ref: 322632), under the provisions of Section 37CC of the Planning Act, in respect of the level of design flexibility to be included in the application. This flexibility meeting request was made in accordance with the legislative provisions (S.I No. 645 of 2023) relating to design flexibility introduced by the Planning and Development, Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022. The legislation provides for a process whereby prospective applicants may request a meeting with the Board for the purpose of receiving an opinion as to whether it is appropriate that an application for permission be made before certain details of the Proposed Development are confirmed. The design team gave an overview of the details unlikely to be confirmed at application lodgement, which were set out as follows:

- Turbine rotor diameter
- Turbine hub height

The parameters within which the turbine specifications will fall were set out as follows:

- Rotor diameter range of 150m – 162m
- Hub height range of 99m to 105m

Discussion was held between the project team and the representatives of ACP on the following matters:

- Background to Design Flexibility
- Design Flexibility Process
- Unconfirmed Details subject of the application
- Rationale for Design Flexibility
- Assessment of Unconfirmed Details

A design flexibility opinion was issued by An Coimisiún Pleanála on 19th September 2025 and accompanies the Wind Farm application. The details unconfirmed in this application are the hub height and rotor diameter of the turbines. The range of parameters under which the turbine dimensions will fall are specified on the site notice and in the design flexibility opinion that accompanies this application.

Galway County Council

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives from Galway County Council (GCC) in accordance with Section 247 of the Planning Act via Microsoft (MS) Teams on the 6th of March 2024. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of GCC:

- Liam Hanrahan
- Eimear O'Doherty
- Patrick O'Sullivan

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Grace Curran (Neoen)
- John Willoughby (MKO)
- Owen Cahill (MKO)
- Eileen Corley (MKO)
- Saoirse Fitzsimons (MKO)
- Ronan Dunne (MKO)

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project in the form of a PowerPoint presentation which set out the following information:

- An introduction to the Applicant and Project Team.
- A high-level overview of the Proposed Project and the subject site.
- Overview of relevant planning policy including compliance with local wind energy policy.
- Set out the SID process and timeline
- Set out the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be undertaken.
- Provided specific details of the scheme relating to LVIA and Ecology.
- Discussed scoping and pre-application/public consultation undertaken to date.

Following this presentation, there was further discussion held between the project team and the representatives of GCC. Matters discussed included:

- Wind energy zoning of the site
- Buffers from designated sites
- Pre-application and community consultation carried out to date
- Potential impact of the Proposed Project on land and soils, archaeology and telecoms
- Operational lifetime and decommissioning

Community Consultation

The Community Liaison Strategy for the Proposed Project was based around engaging with the local community in an open, honest and transparent manner with the aim to not only provide clear and understandable information but also to gain feedback to understand the views of the local community. This feedback and information was used to inform the design process. The community consultation effort was led by Neoen Renewables Ireland Ltd.

To inform local residents about the Proposed Project, a project Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed, and an introductory information leaflet was delivered via door-door consultation to all householders within a c.1km radius of the site, in September 2025, and a further leaflet drop to all households within c. 2km radius. All the information sent to the local community was also made available for public viewing on the project information website. The information leaflet distributed to each household consisted of the following:

- A company brochure, which provided an overview on Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited and some general information about wind energy;
- A site location map;
- A map highlighting the potential developable area which was under review at that time;
- Dedicated contact details (name, phone and email) for the CLO in relation to the project, along with a web address for the dedicated project website.

Following the initial notification of the proposal to the local community, the CLO liaised with interested parties in helping them to understand the proposal and respond to any queries or concerns raised. As more project information became available, further consultations were organised, with the CLO attending in-person meetings with individuals to answer queries relating to the Proposed Project.

On 31st of January 2024 a public information event was held in the Barnaderg Community Centre, Co. Galway, the closest town to the Proposed Wind Farm site. The objective of the consultation was to ensure that the views and concerns of all were considered as part of the Proposed Project Design and EIA process.

Active engagement and consultation with the local community has taken place from an early stage during the pre-application phase of the Proposed Project. The consultation process has been an extremely valuable exercise and has provided a detailed, and enhanced understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community, which have ultimately shaped the final project proposal. Due to the time passing between previous consultations and the time of submission, updated information was issued via post to the wider community in September 2025. The details included the full description of the Proposed Project, as well as a map of the final layout of the Proposed Wind Farm. It is the intention of the applicant to continue with the consultation for the entire lifespan of the Proposed Project.

The development of the Proposed Project will provide an enduring economic benefit to the communities surrounding the Proposed Project, through the potential community benefit package for residents and community groups, employment during the construction and operation of the Proposed Project and through the annual rates payable to the Local Authority.