

Fairgreen House
Fairgreen Road
Galway
H91 AXK8
Tel: + 353 (0)91
565211
Email: info@tobin.ie

Block 10-4,
Blanchardstown Corporate
Park
Dublin
D15 X98N
Tel: + 353 (0)1 8030401
Email: info@tobin.ie

Market Square
Castlebar
Mayo
F23 Y427
Tel: +353 (0)94 9021401
Email: info@tobin.ie

Unit 4, Crescent Court,
St. Nessan's Road,
Dooradoyle,
Limerick
V94 V298
Tel: +353 (061) 976 262
Email: info@tobin.ie

The Hanson Building, Cleveragh
Retail Park,
Doorly Park,
Sligo
F91 P7N2
Email: info@tobin.ie

Our Ref: 11981

14th September 2026

ACP Ref: ABP-324133-26

The Secretary,
An Coimisiún Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1
D01 V902

RE: Formal Request to close Pre-Application Consultation & Issue SID Determination for the Proposed Rooaunalaghta Green Energy Project located at Rooaunalaghta, County Mayo

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to our previous Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) pre-application consultation meetings held on 26th May 2026, 27th July 2026 and 31st August 2026, respectively, in relation to the Proposed Rooaunalaghta Green Energy Project located at Rooaunalaghta, County Mayo.

Minutes of Last Meeting

On behalf of our clients, Rooaunalaghta Green Energy Ltd. (hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant'), we wish to acknowledge receipt of the written record of the three pre-application consultation meetings held in relation to the proposed Rooaunalaghta Green Energy Project held on 26th May 2026, 27th July 2026 and 31st August 2026. With regard to the minutes of the final meeting, we wish to add a correction note to the file for an error with regard to Cultural Heritage. The National Monuments Service was consulted (via the DAU) as part of the informal EIAR scoping exercise. Their response has been considered in the assessment process.

Formal Request to Close Pre-Application Consultation and Issue SID Determination and Design Flexibility Opinion

As outlined during our previous meetings with ACP representatives, the proposed project will comprise thirteen (13) wind turbines, the construction of a 110kV Substation and a 110kV 'loop-in' connection to

Directors: M. Shelly (Chairman) C. McGovern (Managing Director) E. Connaughton (Company Secretary)
B. Downes D. Grehan M. McDonnell J. McGrath
B. Carroll S. Kelly S. Tinnelly J. O'Flaherty

Technical Directors: B. Gallagher B. Heaney C. Kelly T. Mackey D. Meade O. Fitzpatrick P. Cloonan P. Cunningham

Associate Directors: M. Casey E. Fenton L. Kennedy P. O'Connor B. Rudden M. Geraghty S. Ryan R. Murtagh K. Gallagher

the National grid via existing 110kV overhead lines. Overall, the proposed wind farm will have an estimated output capacity of 58.5 megawatts (MW).

Given a strong desire to progress this application, the applicant now wishes to formally close the pre-application consultation process and, as such, requests that the Commission carry out its determination under the provisions of Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

In light of the comprehensive studies that have been carried out and discussions that have taken place with ACP representatives and other stakeholders at the three pre-application consultation meetings, the Applicant now wishes to formally close the pre-application consultation process and, as such, requests that the Commission carry out its determination under the provisions of Section 37B(4) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

SID Determination Criteria

In order to be considered as SID, any development must meet the threshold established in the 7th Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended and also satisfy one or more of the three criteria set out in Section 37A(2).

The relevant threshold established in the 7th Schedule for wind farm developments is 'An installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total power output greater than 50 MW'.

The proposed Rooaunalaghta Wind Farm will exceed the above generating capacity threshold as it will have a total output of 58.5 MW.

In addition to meeting the 7th Schedule threshold, Section 37A(2) of the Act (as amended) provides that the following matters be taken into account in determining whether or not a development shall be regarded as SID:

- a) The development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate;
- b) The development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Planning Framework or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be situate,
- c) The development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

The consideration of the proposed Rooaunalaghta Wind Farm in the context of these criteria has been set out in detail in our previous correspondence, as acknowledged in the circulated minutes, but has also been set out here below:

Item (a) the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate.

The proposed Rooaunalaghta Wind Farm, with an output of 58.5 MW, will constitute a significant addition to Ireland's renewable electricity supply, contributing towards Ireland's target of 9 GW of onshore wind capacity by 2030 as set out in the Government's Climate Action Plan 2025. The wind farm will serve to provide a sustainable and renewable electricity source for the region in line with National and Regional renewable energy policy.

Due to the scale of the Wind Farm, the project is considered to be of strategic economic and social importance to the Region and the State. The capital investment required for a project of this scale, will represent a significant economic contribution to the region, including the provision of community



development funding upon commissioning of the wind farm. The development of the wind farm will include commitments to provide financial support for local residents and community projects which will deliver social benefits for the immediate locality and the region.

Item (b) the development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Planning Framework or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be situate.

The Government's Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework sets out the overarching policy and planning framework for the social, economic, and cultural development of the country. The Plan covers a wide range of national policy objectives and National Strategic Outcomes (NSO) and in respect of the proposed development, sets out the following key objectives:

- **National Policy Objective 70**

Promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a climate neutral economy by 2050.

- **National Policy Objective 71**

Support the development and upgrading of the national electricity grid infrastructure, including supporting the delivery of renewable electricity generating development.

The revised NPF also introduces regional renewable energy capacity allocations for both onshore wind and solar. This sets the Northern and Western region the target to increase their onshore wind capacity by an additional 1,389 MW by 2030, helping to meet the national target of 9GW of onshore wind by 2030.

The planning application for the proposed Wind Farm will be supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), Appropriate Assessment Screening Report (AASR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The proposed wind farm will be designed and assessed having regard to the requirements of National Wind Energy Guidelines.

Item (c) the development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

The wind farm site is located predominantly within the administrative area of Mayo County Council, with minor elements of the Proposed Development proposed within the administrative area of Galway County Council.

The proposed wind farm site is located within the townlands of Cloghmoyne, Carrowoughteragh, Toorard, Rooaunalaghta, Brodullagh South and Kinlough, County Mayo. The proposed underground 33 kV GCR associated with the grid connection traverses the townlands of Brodullagh South, Kinlough, Cloonbanaun, County Mayo, and the townlands of Largan, Joyce's Park, Shrulegrove, Carrowmore, Tonacooleen, Ralusk, Abbeytown, Ballinvoher, Killamanagh and Bunnasillagh, County Galway.

The proposed 110 kV loop-in substation and associated 110 kV cables and interface masts to connect to the existing overhead line are located in the townlands of Killamanagh and Bunnasillagh, County Galway (the substation itself is within the former townland).

There is one location which requires small scale temporary additional works to accommodate oversize/abnormal load delivery to site (for turbine components) from Galway Harbour. This involves modifying a small area of footpath to support the vehicle in the townlands of Ballybaan Beg, within Galway City. Hedgerow/vegetation trimming and temporary demounting of signage will also be required at various locations along the route prior to delivery.



A summary of the Proposed Development is as follows:

- 13 no. wind turbines with a blade tip height of 150 m, a rotor diameter of 136 m, a hub height of 82 m, and all associated foundations and hard-standing areas in respect of each turbine;
- Creation of two new site entrances onto the R334 Regional Road;
- Construction of two temporary construction compounds with associated temporary site offices, parking areas and security fencing;
- One borrow pit. All works associated with the opening, aggregate and spoil extraction, and decommissioning of the borrow pit;
- Construction of two temporary soil storage areas including associated drainage;
- Construction of new internal site access tracks to include passing bays and all associated drainage;
- Construction of a temporary new access track to connect to the adjacent operating quarry;
- Construction of drainage and sediment control systems;
- Construction of new on-site control building
- Construction of one permanent loop-in 110 kV electrical substation compound including
 - One control building containing worker welfare facilities;
 - Electrical infrastructure and grid ancillary services equipment
 - Parking
 - Lighting
 - Fencing
 - Wastewater holding tank
 - Rainwater harvesting equipment
 - Communications equipment and storage
 - Associated electrical plant
 - All associated infrastructure, services, and site works including landscaping
- All works associated with the connection of the proposed wind farm to the proposed 110 kV loop-in substation, which will be via 33 kV underground cable connection (circa 8.3 km in length), including 6 no. watercourse crossings, and the onward connection from the substation to the existing overhead line via 110kV cables and steel lattice interface masts;
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed wind farm control building;
- All associated infrastructure and services including site works and signage;
- Construction of a lidar unit, and associated foundation and hard-standing area;
- All related site works and ancillary development including site drainage, security gates, fencing, permanent and temporary signage, berms, tree / hedgerow / wall removal, landscaping, soil



excavation and biodiversity mitigation and enhancements, including hedgerow and tree planting.

SID Determination Criteria Remarks

As the proposed development exceeds the relevant threshold as set out in the 7th Schedule and satisfies one or more of the three criteria as set out in section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, it is contended that the proposed Rooaunalaghta Wind Farm does constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development, as such we look forward to the determination of the Commission in this regard. Subject to determination by the Commission that the proposed development constitutes a Strategic Infrastructure Development, we intend to submit one planning application for the proposed wind farm development, 110 kV loop-in substation, 33 kV underground cable and all other onsite/ancillary infrastructure under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act (as amended).

As discussed at our pre-application consultation meetings, we understand that the Commission will issue any further direction in terms of notices, procedures, and consultees etc. in writing. We trust the above is in order and request that a determination issue on this case at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



John Staunton

Associate Director – Environment & Planning

For and on behalf of TOBIN (agent)

Email: John.Staunton@tobin.ie

