Addendum 3 – Response to Q18 of SID Application Form

Pre-Application Consultation

Pre-Planning Meetings

Offaly County Council

First Pre-Application Meeting (Section 247)

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives from OCC in accordance with Section 247 of the Planning Act via Microsoft (MS) Teams on 01st April 2021. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of OCC:

- Carroll Melia (OCC)
- John McNally (OCC)
- M Duffy (OCC)
- Andrew Murray (OCC)
- Hugh McConnell (OCC)

On behalf of Applicant and Agent:

- Paddy Rowland (BnM)
- Caitríona Carter (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Jimmy Green (MKO)
- Karen Mulryan (MKO ENV)
- Paul Sweeney (MKO PLN)

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

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

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

- Photomontage locations to be used.

- Welcomed potential amenity links and noted its importance.
- Noted the scale and cumulative impact the development might have on the landscape.
- Noise, ecology and other assessments to be robust.
- Confirmed consultations with Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) and Department of Defence (DoD).
- Continued engagement with OCC recommended.
- Discussed possibility of battery storage being included within the application.
- Discussion on grid connection.
- Discussion on availability of the layout and further engagement regarding the same.
- Turbine delivery route assessment and impact from accommodating works to be carried out.

Second Pre-Application Meeting (Section 247)

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives from OCC in accordance with Section 247 of the Planning Act via MS Teams on 22nd July 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of OCC:

- Enda Oliver Finlay (OCC)
- Peter Egan (OCC)
- Enda Daily (OCC)
- Deirdre McGrath (OCC)

On behalf of Applicant and Agent:

- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Ellen Hillard (BnM)
- Jerry Brennan (BnM)
- Ronan Dunne (MKO PLN)
- Shikha Gajula (MKO PLN)
- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Alan Lipscombe (Alan Lipscombe Traffic and Transport Consultants Ltd.)

The project team gave an overview of the Proposed Project and an update in relation to Traffic and Transport aspects of the Proposed Project following on from consultation with the OCC Roads Department as outlined in the Section below, in the form of a PowerPoint presentation which set out the following information:

- A high-level overview of the Proposed Project and the subject site including site location, site selection process, constraint assessment, proposed project details, transport delivery route, turbine accommodation areas, and proposed construction haul routes.
- Overview of the traffic assessment undertaken, including the proposed site entrances, the design of Site Entrance 1A, Site Entrance 4F, and Site Entrances 4G and 4H, as well as the associated link and junction capacity assessments.

- Overview of IPC licence and relevant planning policy including national and regional planning context, the local policy context, local wind energy zoning, and the landscape and visual assessment.
- Set out the approach to the EIA and provided an overview of the designated sites assessment.
- Update on the EIA scoping and pre-planning consultation process, community and stakeholder engagement activities, and concluded with an overview of the Proposed Project timeline.

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

- Impact of construction traffic on structural condition of existing roads network.
- Detailed Traffic Management Plan (TMP) would include pre- and post-construction surveys, ongoing monitoring, temporary repairs, and road reinstatement measures, with these commitments incorporated into the CEMP.
- TMP and CEMP to be agreed with OCC and KCC ahead of construction.
- Feedback received on the proposed relocation of a directional road sign affected by the access junction to inform discussions with the auditors. Potential being to install a replacement sign approximately 200 m along the L5006, subject to agreement on site.
- Need for a detailed cumulative impact assessment and robust LVIA highlighted, given the scale of the proposed development.
- Consideration of aviation safeguarding requirements.
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) and Flood Risk Assessment queried, given the presence of rivers, streams and drains within the bog environment. Confirmed that the WFD Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment, NIS and CEMP will form part of the planning documentation.
- Planning Statement to include an assessment against OCDP Development Management Standard 109 relating to wind farms.
- Emphasis on using best available turbine technology and appropriate setbacks from dwellings in relation to noise impacts.
- Discussion on public consultation undertaken in May 2026 and the response being generally positive, with feedback received and addressed through the assessments and mitigation measures.
- Queried the proposed construction programme. Construction timelines are within the EIAR, it is anticipated to commence construction in 2030, with an estimated 3-year construction period.
- Queried the appropriate contact regarding Ballinagar Park for TDR works. Advised that the Edenderry Office should be contacted.

Kildare County Council

First Pre-Application Meeting (Section 247)

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives from KCC in accordance with Section 247 of the Planning Act via MS Teams on 13th April 2021. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of KCC:

- Gary Farrelly (KCC)

- Eoghan Lynch (KCC)
- Colm Lynch (KCC)
- Colm Flynn (KCC)
- Deborah Crummy (KCC)
- Helen Behan (KCC)
- Jane O'Reilly (KCC)

On behalf of Applicant and Agent:

- Paddy Rowland (BnM)
- Caitríona Carter (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Jimmy Green (MKO)
- Karen Mulryan (MKO ENV)
- Paul Sweeney (MKO PLN)

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

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

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

- Discussion on haul routes and quantity of material to be brought to site.
- Suitability of roads to be considered within EIAR.
- Point of contact to discuss traffic impact assessment.
- Locations of quarries, quantity of aggregate needed, and routes proposed from quarries to site to be provided. Traffic impact assessment to cover the same.
- Surface Water Management Plan for construction phase required.
- Noise impact and comprehensive hydrology assessment to be undertaken.
- Strategic location of development in terms of amenity agreed on. Welcomed a comprehensive amenity proposal for the area.
- Decommissioning detail discussed.
- Rewetting of bogs to be considered.
- Consultation with Water Supply Project team recommended.
- LVIA impacts to be considered.
- Consultation with Uisce Eireann (Formerly Irish Water) recommended.

Second Pre-Application Meeting (Section 247)

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives from KCC in accordance with Section 247 of the Planning Act via MS Teams on 16th September 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of KCC:

- Mary JG O'Connor (KCC)
- Jenny Donovan (KCC)
- Sylvia Martin (KCC)
- Senan Costigan (KCC)
- Louise Murphy (KCC)
- Annette Keaveney (KCC)
- Colm Lynch (KCC)
- Carroll Melia (KCC)
- Patricia Hyland (KCC)

On behalf of Applicant and Agent:

- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Ellen Hilliard (BnM)
- Anna Perdue (BnM)
- Ronan Dunne (MKO PLN)
- Shikha Gajula (MKO PLN)
- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Lakshmi Priya Mohan (MKO ENV)

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

- A high-level overview of the Proposed Project and the subject site including site location, site selection process, constraint assessment, proposed project details, transport delivery route, turbine accommodation areas, and proposed construction haul routes.
- Overview of IPC licence and relevant planning policy including national and regional planning context, the local policy context, local wind energy zoning, and the landscape and visual assessment.
- Set out the approach to the EIA and provided an overview of the designated sites assessment.
- Update on the EIA scoping and pre-planning consultation process, community and stakeholder engagement activities, and concluded with an overview of the Proposed Project timeline.

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

- Alignment with planning, climate and biodiversity objectives.

- Need for carbon balance and carbon budget following peatland restoration, including anticipated restoration timescales, with regard to the National Peatlands Strategy and the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Potential impacts on the Lullybeg Butterfly Conservation site in proximity to a proposed turbine and consultation with Butterfly Conservation Ireland (BCI).
- Consideration of the new Nature Restoration Law given the area's ecological sensitivity.
- Integration of biodiversity gain or management with the Proposed Project.
- Nature restoration at Ballynafagh Bog SAC. Detailed design and mitigation measures for potential effects of the grid connection. Works in this area confirmed to be within the public road corridor and subject to a road opening licence
- Discussion on watercourse buffers and potential impacts on the River Slate and its tributaries.
- Discussion on peat and soil management. Recommended that the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) take account of the mitigation measures during construction phase of the tributaries of the rivers within the site.
- Construction noise and dust constraints and mitigation measures discussed.
- Discussion on cumulative impact assessment.
- Requested that the public notices, development description and drawings clearly distinguish between the County Kildare and County Offaly elements.
- LVIA impacts to be considered including local receptors and open landscapes.
- Consideration of the Kildare Biodiversity Action Plan, Objective 1.6 and its relevance to the proposed National Peatlands Park.
- Discussion on the amenity proposals.
- Discussion on roads and traffic.

An Coimisiún Pleanála

Section 37B Consultation

The Applicant engaged with ACP, under the provisions of Section 37B of the Planning Act, as to whether the Proposed Project would meet the thresholds of the Seventh Schedule of the Planning Act. The applicant opened consultations with the Commission in September 2021 in relation to a Proposed Project of 50-55 no. wind turbines with a maximum height of 220 metres, a 220kV substation and underground cabling, with a total output of c. 240MW, with the potential for the wind farm to generate greater than 50 Megawatts (MW) of electricity to the National Grid.

A SID meeting under the provisions of Section 37B was held with the ACP on 26th July 2021. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

- Ciara Kellett (Assistant Director of Planning)
- Donal Donnelly (Senior Planning Inspector)
- Niamh Thornton (Executive Officer)

On behalf of Applicant and Agent:

- Caitríona Carter (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)

- Sean Creedon (BnM)
- Jimmy Green (MKO)
- Karen Mulryan (MKO ENV)
- Paul Sweeney (MKO PLN)

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

- A High-level overview of the Proposed Project and the Project Site.
- Introduction to the applicant.
- Overview of planning policy including compliance with local wind energy policy.
- Provided specific details of the scheme relating to LVIA, Ecology and Aviation.
- Set out the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be undertaken.
- Discussed scoping & pre-application/public consultation undertaken to date.
- Set out the projected project timelines.
- Discussed the relevant Strategic Infrastructure Development criteria as set out in the 7th Schedule of the Planning Act.

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

- Noted that the turbine number and output mean the Proposed Project exceeds the 7th Schedule threshold.
- LVIA viewpoints to be chosen carefully, taking into account worst-case scenarios.
- Focus on cumulative impacts and ecological surveys.
- Condition of local roads to be considered when assessing haul routes.
- Recommended recent windfarm cases brought for Judicial review be looked at.

Second Meeting

A Second pre-application meeting was held with ACP via MS Teams on 10th March 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

- Lauren Murphy (ACP - Admin)
- Una Crosse (ACP - Assistant Director of Planning)
- Donal Donnelly (ACP – Senior Planning Inspector)
- Emmet Smyth (ACP - Senior Environmental Scientist)
- Paula Kearney (ACP – Senior Ecologist)
- Ian Boyle (ACP – Senior Planning Inspector)
- Adrian Ornsby (ACP - Planning Inspector)

On behalf of Applicant and Agent:

- Ronan Dunne (MKO Planning)
- Shikha Gajula (MKO Planning)

- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Ciaran Fitzgerald (MKO ENV)
- Kate O'Donnell (MKO ECO)
- Patrick Manley (MKO ORN)
- Caitríona Carter (BnM)
- Anna Perdue (BnM)
- Ellen Hilliard (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Julie Larkin (BnM)

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

- Introduction to the applicant.
- A High-level overview of the Proposed Project and the Project Site.
- Updates on Constraint Assessment & Design Process
- Overview of the Proposed Project
- Set out the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be undertaken.
- Overview of planning policy including compliance with local wind energy policy.
- Scoping & pre-application/public consultation undertaken to date.
- Discussed the relevant Strategic Infrastructure Development criteria as set out in the 7th Schedule of the Planning Act.
- Set out the projected project timelines.

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

- Evolution of the Proposed Project to be assessed along with the proposed turbine and substation locations and alternative considerations.
- EIA and AA to employ most up to date guidance for survey and assessment with clear and concise reporting.
- Lessons learnt from other windfarm developments to be included.
- Forward baseline assessment and future trends.
- Engagement with statutory bodies recommended.
- Ecological survey requirements discussed including receptor identification, buffer zones, vegetation management, baseline surveys, and ensuring IPC licence conditions align with biodiversity enhancement measures.
- Substitute consent application to be submitted.
- Water crossings to be agreed with IFI prior to submission of the planning application.
- Assessment of internal road network to be included.
- Recommended consultation with NPWS in relation to derogation licences, if required.
- Visual impact assessment to be undertaken.
- Haul route and turbine delivery route to be assessed for vegetation removal.
- Importance of cumulative impact assessment emphasised.
- Robust noise assessment to be undertaken, including mapping of distance from proposed turbines to residential dwellings.

Third Meeting

A Third pre-application meeting was held with ACP via MS Teams on 12th June 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

- Lauren Murphy (ACP - Admin)
- Una Crosse (ACP - Assistant Director of Planning)
- Donal Donnelly (Senior Planner Inspector)
- Emmet Smyth (ACP - Senior Environmental Scientist)
- Paula Kearney (Senior Ecologist)
- Maeve Maher-McWilliams (Ecologist)

On behalf of Applicant and Agent:

- Caitriona Carter (BnM)
- Anna Perdue (BnM)
- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Chris Cullen (BnM)
- Ronan Dunne (MKO PLN)
- Shikha Gajula (MKO PLN)
- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Kate O'Donnell (MKO ECO)
- Patrick Manley (MKO ORN)
- Aoife Joyce (MKO Bats)
- Molly O'Hare (MKO Bats)
- Michael Gill (HES)
- Conor McGettigan (HES)
- Ian Higgins (FTC)

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

- Update on the Proposed Project
- Update on the baseline environment
- Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Land, soils and peat
- Biodiversity
- Ornithology
- Proposed Project timelines

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

- Forward baseline assessment and future trends.
- Confirmed that PCAS is substantially complete at Lodge Bog.
- Trim GWB and groundwater contribution of phosphorus to surface waters to be addressed as part of the WFD assessment in the EIAR.

- Clarification on the assessment of water resources, surface water bodies and groundwater conditions along the Proposed Grid Connection and within the Proposed Wind Farm site.
- Overall peat stability risk considered to be low to negligible.
- Approach to assessing biodiversity impacts over the project lifecycle.
- Relationship between identified badger setts and Long Derries SAC, sett status and potential mitigation requirements.
- Consideration of future habitat condition and suitability following proposed enhancement measures.
- Prioritise retention of existing vegetation corridors, with trimming considered where possible instead of removal, and account for these impacts within the cumulative effects assessment and mitigation measures.
- Habitat loss calculations to be included within the Biodiversity Chapter of the EIAR, clearly explaining the approach taken, and identifying potential net biodiversity gain.
- The differentiation between mitigation, compensation/offsetting and enhancement measures within the EIAR.
- Calculations of habitat loss to be provided within the application along with calculations in relation to habitat loss from the deterrent measures with detail on how this is offset by the enhancement measures.
- Finalisation of habitat loss calculations and enhancement measures.
- Discussion on Whooper Swan and Hen Harrier and consultation with NPWS
- Consideration of Lodge Bog enhancement measures, including the expansion of breeding wader habitat, scrub management and use of protective measures such as predator-proof fencing.
- Golden Plover mitigation, deterrent measures and enhancement proposals. Collision risk modelling, habitat loss calculations, deterrent habitat design, mitigation hierarchy and effectiveness of proposed measures.
- Consideration of cumulative impacts with Cloncreen Wind Farm and potential further design optimisation.
- Discussion on calculation methodologies, habitat size, vegetation growth and relevant guidance.

Fourth Meeting

A fourth pre-application meeting was held with ACP via MS Teams on 28th August 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of ACP:

- Lauren Murphy (ACP - Admin)
- Una Crosse (ACP - Assistant Director of Planning)
- Donal Donnelly (Senior Planner Inspector)
- Emmet Smyth (ACP - Senior Environmental Scientist)
- Paula Kearney (Senior Ecologist)
- Maeve Maher-McWilliams (Ecologist)

On behalf of Applicant and Agent:

- Chris Cullen (BnM)
- Anna Perdue (BnM)
- Ellen Hilliard (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)

- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Caitriona Carter (BnM)
- Ronan Dunne (MKO PLN)
- Shikha Gajula (MKO PLN)
- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Ciaran Fitzgerald (MKO ENV)
- Patrick Manley (MKO ORN)
- Padraig Cregg (MKO ORN)
- Kathryn Sheridan (MKO ORN)
- Kate O'Donnell (MKO ECO)
- Jack Workman (MKO LVIA)
- Dija Mazonaite (MKO LVIA)
- Alan Lipscomb (Alan Lipscombe Traffic and Transport Consultants Ltd.)
- Dermot Blunnie (AWN Consulting)
- Miguel Cartyuvels (AWN Consulting)
- Miriam Carroll (Tobar Archaeology)
- Peter Foulsham (Cyrrus)
- Kevin Hayes (AI Bridges)

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

- Overview of IPC licence and substitute consent application.
- Relevant Strategic Infrastructure Development criteria as set out in the 7th Schedule of the Planning Act.
- Overview of planning policy including national and regional planning context, the local policy context and local wind energy zoning.
- Clarifications from the third pre-application consultation relating to likely future receiving environment, timelines on baseline assessments, and other particular considerations including biodiversity, ornithology, geology, water and climate.
- Noise and vibration.
- Shadow flicker.
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
- Cultural heritage
- A high-level overview of traffic and transport including traffic counts, transport delivery route, proposed construction haul routes, junction design and capacity and site entrances.
- Other material assets including telecommunication and aviation assessment, telecom impacts and built services.
- Discussed consultation with statutory and public bodies undertaken.
- Set out the application contents including planning documents and planning drawing scales and the scope of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

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

- Transitional arrangements under the New Planning Act and RED III provisions to be incorporated via the New Regulations.

- Discussed the importance of distinguishing the current baseline from the likely future receiving environment, including natural revegetation and the cutaway bog rehabilitation measures. Recommended a clear comparison of the proposed measures and IPC measures.
- The use of 'offsetting' rather than 'compensation' in the EIAR terminology and keep mitigation, offsetting and enhancement clearly separated.
- The intact bog area excluded from deterrent planting to be clearly shown and verified against bird requirements.
- Discussion in relation to breeding curlew, vantage point surveys and associated feedback loop.
- Searcher proficiency and scavenger-removal trials with respect to carcass searches to be included in the EIAR.
- Discussion on cumulative effects, collision risk for golden plover, displacement and habitat loss.
- Discussion on cumulative noise effects, revised UK wind turbine noise guidance, baseline surveys and protocol for dealing with operational noise complaints.
- Different types of sensitive receptors in relation to shadow flicker to be clearly identified.
- Discussion on zero shadow flicker being technical best practice, to be included as embedded mitigation or otherwise justified.
- Future receiving environment to be considered with respect to LVIA. Implications of the revised Nature Corridor designation as per the OCDP Variation No. 1 be considered.
- Recommended clarifying the scope and locations of archaeological versus geotechnical investigations and determine whether additional pre-application archaeological testing is required.
- Discussion on the potential impacts on the Virgin Media link. If it remains operational following consent, the pre-agreed mitigation option will be selected, funded by the developer.
- Discussion on the Military Operating Area 4 and the potential impacts of the Proposed Project being located in low-flying area for helicopters.
- Consideration of red aviation lights on turbines impacting birds such as the use of flashing instead of static light.
- Drawing scaled to be agreed with ACP ahead of the application being lodged.
- A standalone schedule of significant effects, similar to the mitigation schedule to be included.
- Final description of the proposed project be forwarded to ACP.
- Consideration be given to orientation, spacing, etc in relation to wind farms in the vicinity of the Proposed Project.
- Brief credential, and relevant experience of ornithology surveyors be included.

SID Determination

A letter received from ACP dated 12th October 2026 stated that under Section 37B (4)(A), it is the opinion of the Commission that the Proposed Project falls within the scope of the paragraphs 37A(2)(a) and (b) of the Planning Act. This confirmed that the Proposed Project constitutes SID and therefore the planning application should be made directly to ACP.

Consultations with Other Statutory Consultees

Offaly County Council Roads Department

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives from OCC Roads Department via MS Teams on 4th September 2025. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of OCC Roads Department:

- John Mitchell (Senior Engineer in the Roads Section)
- Rory Moore (District Engineer in Edenderry Area)
- Enda Daly (Executive Engineer working in Edenderry District)
- Ben McArdle (Senior Executive Engineer Roads Section)

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Sean Creedon (MKO ENV)
- Susan Doran (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Kate Mahony (MKO)
- Alan Lipscombe (Alan Lipscombe Traffic and Transport Consultants Ltd.)
- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Jerry Brennan (BnM)
- John McDonagh (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)

Matters discussed include:

- Clarifications in relation to turbine delivery routes (TDR), haul routes and TDR works.
- Feedback requested in relation to safety concerns.
- Concerns raised in relation to the capacity of the L1001 road to hold up to construction traffic.
- Requested feedback to see if any modelling can be done in relation to the impact of the construction periods traffic and transport on the roads.
- Current Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) values and AADT values at mid-construction phase required to determine the uplift the road network.
- Requirement of a Road Safety Audit (RSA) given the scale of the Proposed Project. RSAs need to be undertaken at each access location.
- Concerns at bridges and culverts. Any infrastructure along these routes would have to be investigated for load carrying capacity.
- Detailed assessment of haul routes required.
- HGV traffic during construction period. Details on the programme and phasing of the construction phase required.
- Pre and post constructions surveys to be completed, agreed with Edenderry as the road's authority, before any works are carried out.
- Details of Access junctions 1 and 4 discussed.
- Restoration plan for the roads to be agreed with OCC.
- Details of traffic count surveys discussed.
- Raised concern that multiple large developments (wind farms, solar farms etc.) in the area may be drawing on the same suppliers and using the same road network simultaneously or in overlapping timeframes.

- Given the scale of investment required to repair and maintain roads to an acceptable standard, assurances that pre and post construction road surveys and budgeting are put in place to recover roads to a reasonable condition after works are complete.

Kildare County Council Roads Department

First Meeting

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives from KCC Roads Department in person on 22nd August 2025. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of KCC Roads Department:

- Daragh Conlan
- Alan Dunney
- Cyril Buggie
- Stephen Willoughby
- Breda Maher

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Kate Mahony (MKO)
- Sean Creedon (MKO ENV)
- Susan Doran (MKO ENV)
- Alan Lipscombe (Alan Lipscombe Traffic and Transport Consultants Ltd.)
- Caitríona Carter (BnM)
- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Jerry Brennan (BnM)
- John McDonagh (BnM)
- Paul Cash (BnM)

Matters discussed include:

- The impact of the underground grid cable, construction of the grid cable, and haul routes during the construction phase.
- KCC raised concerns about the roads' ability to handle the volume of construction traffic. Load assessments, route compliance and road maintenance plans were discussed.
- Diversion routes need to be revised and fully assessed.
- Concerns were raised around the constructability of the grid within the road corridor, given the fragile bog road and peat subsoil conditions. Potential issues were raised in relation to maintenance of the grid infrastructure and the road.
- KCC recommended that detailed assessments are to be covered in the EIAR on how the grid and roads are constructed.
- The cumulative impact of other projects in the area (by EirGrid and Uisce Éireann) was also highlighted.
- Recommended engagement with local councillors and maintaining road quality throughout project.

Second Meeting

Members of the project team and the Applicant met with representatives from KCC Roads Department via Microsoft Teams on 3rd September 2026. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of KCC Roads Department:

- Daragh Conlan (KCC)
- Cyril Buggie (KCC)
- Annette Keaveney (KCC)
- Ronan Toft (KCC)
- Mark Evan (KCC)

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Ellen Hilliard (BnM)
- Anna Perdue (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Jerry Brennan (BnM)
- Paul Cash (BnM)
- John McDonagh (BnM)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV
- Ciarán Fitzgerald (MKO ENV)
- Alan Lipscombe (Alan Lipscombe Traffic and Transport Consultants Ltd)

Matters discussed include:

- The Proposed Grid Connection, including the rolling construction methodology, diversion routes, traffic management options and other mitigation measures.
- Whether road widths and heights would allow a one-lane closure, the interaction with bridges along the grid route, and the condition of the road network.
- Wait time at closures discussed. KCC requested that obligations be written into contracts with any third-party construction contractors. The road opening licence requirements and the handover between BnM and KCC were highlighted as key points for the construction phase.
- Pre-commencement and post-construction road surface surveys were confirmed, with surveys to continue throughout construction. KCC stated it would seek a sectional completion condition in the road opening licence.
- KCC identified the road from Prosperous to the Project Site as critical and likely to be affected by the grid connection works. Also requested that all HDD locations be identified.
- The cumulative impact of the Drehid waste management facility, which shares similar haul routes.
- KCC confirmed that a landowner consent letter for the grid connection under the new Act would not be an issue.
- The Road Opening Licence process will be opened and consulted on with KCC.

National Parks and Wildlife Service

Members of the Project Team, including Environmental Scientists, Ecologists and Ornithologists met with the NPWS on 26th May 2026 via MS Teams to discuss the Proposed Project. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of NPWS:

- Eoin Connolly (Ecologist Grade II)

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Sarah Mullen (MKO ECO)
- Kate O'Donnell (MKO ECO)
- Katy Beckett (MKO ECO)
- Padraig Cregg (MKO ORN)
- Patrick Manely (MKO ORN)
- Aoife Joyce (MKO Bats)
- Molly O'Hare (MKO Bats)
- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Ellen Hilliard (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Chris Cullen (BnM)

The main topics discussed in the meeting included the following:

- An overview of the Proposed Project.
- Ecological surveys which have been undertaken to date and their findings.
- Ornithology surveys which have been undertaken to date and their findings.
- Proposed plans for habitat enhancement and management measures.
- The interaction between IPC rehabilitation proposals and enhancement and mitigation measures associated with the Proposed Project.

Further detail on this meeting can be found in Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 of the EIAR.

Department of Defence

Members of the Project Team, including Environmental Scientists and aviation experts met with the DoD on 19th May 2026 via MS Teams to discuss the Proposed Project. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of DoD and Irish AirCorps:

- Eoin McDonnell
- Sarah Kelly
- Philomenta Evans
- Christina Hickey
- Stewart Begley
- Warren Downey

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Ciarán Fitzgerald (MKO ENV)
- Peter Foulsham (Cyrrus)
- Kevin Hayes (AI Bridges)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Caitríona Carter (BnM)

The main topics discussed in the meeting included the following:

- An overview of the Proposed Project.
- Aviation assessment, aviation designations and low-flying training areas
- Aerodrome safeguarding
- Radar impact assessment
- Cumulative effects

Further detail on this meeting can be found in Chapter 16 of the EIAR.

Eirgrid & ESB

Members of the Project Team met with the Eirgrid and the ESB on 16th December 2025 via MS Teams to discuss the Proposed Project. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of EirGrid and ESB:

- Fay Lagan (EirGrid)
- Ciaran O'Reilly (EirGrid)
- Loretta Flynn (EirGrid)
- Roy Coldrick (ESB)
- John Gibbons (ESB)

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Ciarán Fitzgerald (MKO ENV)
- Aisling Thompson (MKO ENV)
- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Paul Cash (BnM)
- John McDonagh (BnM)

The main topics discussed in the meeting included the following:

- An overview of the Proposed Project
- Construction phasing and timelines
- Traffic and transport impacts
- Cumulative impacts
- Abnormal loads

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Members of the Project Team met with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) on 5th October 2026 via MS Teams to discuss the Proposed Project. Those in attendance were:

On behalf of IFI:

- Donnachadh Byrne (Environmental Officer for the Area)
- Lonan O'Farrell (Development Inspector for the Southeast)

On behalf of Agent and Applicant:

- Julie Larkin (BnM)
- Ellen Hilliard (BnM)
- Anna Perdue (BnM)
- Muriel Ennis (BnM)
- Enda McDonagh (BnM)
- Ellen Costello (MKO ENV)
- Catherine Johnson (MKO ENV)
- Ciarán Fitzgerald (MKO ENV)
- Kate O'Donnell (MKO ECO)
- Katy Beckett (MKO ECO)
- Bill Brazier (Triturus – Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Surveyors)
- Ross Macklin (Triturus – Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Surveyor)

The main topics discussed in the meeting included the following:

- An overview of the Proposed Project
- Fisheries and aquatic ecology surveys
- River condition and water quality
- Riparian and river restoration
- Watercourse crossing and culvert design
- Mitigation, offsetting and enhancement

Other Relevant Bodies

BnM met with representatives from Butterfly Conservation Ireland, Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) and Lullymore Heritage Park on 23rd February 2023 at Lullymore Heritage Park to discuss the Proposed Project.

Consultations with the Local Community

Between October 2020 and 2026, the Applicant, undertook an extensive and structured community engagement programme for the Proposed Project. This Programme was adapted throughout to reflect evolving Covid 19 public health restrictions and incorporated household outreach, virtual platforms, online and in-person clinics, communication with elected representatives and community groups, public information events and ongoing correspondence.

The Community Engagement 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. The feedback and information have been used to inform the design process.

The Proposed Project was launched in October 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Household outreach commenced on 5th October 2020 and concluded on 13th November 2020, during which Project Information Packs were delivered to residences within approximately 1.5 km radius of the area of the site. The information contained in the pack consisted of the following:

- Introductory Letter.
- Accompanying Letter outlining engagement approach post 14th October due to additional Covid-19 measures announced by the Government.
- Details of Virtual Consultation Room.
- Project Information Brochure – including Community Liaison contact details for any follow up queries or concerns.
- An A2 double-sided map – outlining the study area for the Proposed Development.
- A Feedback Questionnaire – to submit any comments/suggestions or identify other
- people/groups who should be included on the circulation list for project updates.
- A Consent form – to join the Proposed Development's postal system.
- A Freepost envelope – to facilitate the return of completed Feedback Questionnaire;
- Communications Opt-Out form and Consent form to the Project Team.
- A Community Engagement Clinic Flyer – with details on how to book by appointment only session.

To ensure continued communication, the Project Team implemented a suite of alternative engagement measures, including a dedicated project website, a 3D virtual consultation room, and appointment-only online Community Engagement Clinics. A dedicated project website and 3D virtual consultation room were launched in October 2020, with the virtual room remaining available until 30th January 2021. Feedback questionnaires were available in print and online between October 2020 and January 2021. Appointment based online Community Engagement Clinics commenced on 1st February 2021 and were held over a two-week period.

A dedicated Community Liaison Team was appointed in October 2020 to provide an accessible and consistent point of contact for local residents and stakeholders. Between 8th June 2021 and 11th August 2021, an updated Project Information Pack was delivered to approximately 1,014 homes. The information contained in the pack consisted of the following:

- The draft Turbine Layout
- Project information booklet
- Photomontage booklet
- A2 Draft layout map
- Feedback questionnaire

The dedicated project website and 3D virtual consultation room were updated with the Phase 2 consultation material, and the virtual room remained available until 2nd September

2021. Appointment-only Community Information Sessions were held at Allenwood Development Association on 30 June and 21 July 2021 and at Rathangan Community Centre on 7 July 2021. The sessions were also promoted through advertisements in the Leinster Leader and Kildare Nationalist and radio broadcasts on Midlands 103 and KFM. 19 no. expressions of interest were received; 15 no. clinics were held and 39 no. completed feedback questionnaires were received between June and September 2021.

Between 19th August 2022 and 15th September 2022, a further Project Information Pack was delivered to approximately 800 homes within approximately 2 km of the proposed turbine locations. The information contained in the pack consisted of the following:

- The Final turbine layout
- Infrastructure and proximity maps
- The Draft Amenity Plan
- An amenity questionnaire

Relevant County Councillors and TDs were provided with the same project-stage information in August 2022. In August and September 2024, a project update letter outlining the anticipated planning application submission timeline was delivered to approximately 800 homes within 2 km of the proposed turbines and was also issued to relevant elected representatives.

Between 13th April and 8th May 2026, information on the proposed grid connection route was distributed to approximately 1,150 homes within approximately 2 km of the proposed turbine locations and adjacent to the proposed route. Community Information Sessions were held in Prosperous on 18 May 2026 and Allenwood on 20 May 2026

Community Information Sessions were held in Prosperous, Co. Kildare on 18th May 2026 and Allenwood, Co. Kildare on 20th May 2026, with more than 30 people attending across the two events, providing an opportunity for direct engagement with the Project Team and specialist consultants. Throughout the pre-planning period, engagement was further supported through ongoing correspondence, meetings with residents and community groups, and continuous availability of a dedicated CLO.

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. Appendix 2-2 of this EIAR contains a full and detailed Community Report. The report was prepared to record the consultation carried out with local community in respect of the Proposed Project.

Active engagement and consultation with the local community have 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 understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community, which has ultimately shaped the final project proposal. Following lodgement of the planning application, the refined layout map will be provided to residents within approximately 2 km of a proposed turbine and to relevant elected representatives, together with information on where the planning application documentation can be viewed.

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. Please refer to the Community Engagement Report at Appendix 2-2 of the EIAR for further details.