

An Bord Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street Rotunda Dublin 1 TD01 V902

28th February 2023

Re: Section 37E Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála for a Wind Farm Development (and all associated works) at Sheskin, County Mayo

Our Ref:

Your Ref: ABP-310529-21

201119

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Sheskin South Renewables Power DAC, please find enclosed a copy of the planning application for the proposed construction of wind energy development (and all associated infrastructure) in the townlands of Sheskin, Co. Mayo.

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála (the Board) as 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ("the Act"). The SID status of the Proposed Development was confirmed by the Board by letter dated 9<sup>th</sup> August 2022 following pre-application consultations with the Board (ABP-310529-21 refers). A copy of the SID Determination letter is enclosed with the Planning Application Form.

The proposed development (as described in the public notices) will constitute of the following:

- I. Construction of 21 no. wind turbines and associated hardstand areas with the following parameters:
  - a. A total tip height of 200 metres,
  - b. Hub height of 115 metres, and
  - c. Rotor diameter of 170 metres
- II. All associated underground electrical and communications cabling;
- III. 1 no. Meteorological Mast of 115 metres in height, and associated hardstanding area;
- IV. Upgrade of existing tracks and roads, provision of new permanent site access roads, upgrade of 2 no. existing site entrances, construction of 1 no. new site entrance;
- V. 2 no. borrow pits;
- VI. 12 no. permanent peat placement areas;
- VII. 4 no. temporary construction compounds with temporary site offices and staff facilities;
- VIII. Permanent recreation and amenity works, including marked trails, seating areas, viewing point, amenity car park, and associated amenity signage;
  - IX. Site Drainage;
  - X. Site Signage;
  - XI. Ancillary Forestry Felling to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development;



- XII. All works associated with the habitat enhancement and biodiversity management within the wind farm site; and
- XIII. All associated site development works and ancillary infrastructure.

This application is seeking a ten-year permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the renewable energy development.

The Grid Connection, which will be subject to a separate planning application, includes for a 110kV on-site substation compound and a cable to connection to the existing Bellacorick 110kV substation, located c. 5km southeast of the intended on-site substation location, in the townland of Bellacorick. The intended grid connection route will be via underground cabling located within existing forestry tracks, local county roads and national secondary roads. The cabling route measures approximately 6.9km in total.

The majority of the area encompassed by the EIAR Site Boundary is currently used for commercial forestry, a small proportion of which will be felled to accommodate the wind farm development. A total area of approximately 117 hectares of commercial forestry will require replacement elsewhere in the State, subject to licence. Details regarding the area to be felled are outlined in Chapter 4 of this EIAR.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany the planning application.

As the project requires an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) the application has been notified to the EIA Portal. The EIA Portal ID is 2023027 and the project details have been uploaded to the EIA Portal. Confirmation of this is enclosed with the Planning Application Form.

The following documents are included in the application pack:

- Planning Application Documentation
  - o Planning Application Form.
  - Site Notice.
  - Newspaper Notices.
  - o EIA Portal Confirmation Notice (Portal ID 2023027).
  - o Planning Cover Letter (An Bord Pleanála).
  - Copy of Notification Letters issued to Prescribed Bodies.
  - o Confirmation of Payment of SID Planning Application Fee €100,000 (via EFT).
- Planning Application Drawings (Drawing Schedule included with Application Form).
- Red Line Boundary in DWG format
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)
  - O Volume 1 Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Main Report
  - O Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet
  - O Volume 3 EIAR Appendices
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)



2 no. hard copies and 8 no. electronic copies of the planning application pack as outlined above are enclosed. Mayo County Council have received 1 no. hard copy and 1 no. electronic copy of the application pack, as agreed with them by email 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023. The application will be available for inspection at their main office at Áras an Chontae, The Mall, Castlebar, County Mayo (9:30am – 1pm; 2:00pm-4:30pm, Monday - Friday). Copies of the application have also been provided to the relevant prescribed bodies as required.

All documentation associated with the application as lodged can also be found at the dedicated project website: <a href="https://www.sheskinsouthwfplanning.com">www.sheskinsouthwfplanning.com</a>.

All planning drawings are provided at scales which have previously been agreed with An Bord Pleanála.

Payment of the required fee of  $\in 100,000$  has been paid to An Bord Pleanála on the  $21^{st}$  December 2022 with the following details:

- > Senders Name SSE Renewables
- Senders Reference 'An Bord Pleanála'
- > Payment Reference REQ1542373

A receipt was issued by An Bord Pleanála dated 25th January 2023 by email and a copy of this is attached for reference.

I trust that the Board now have all the information required to progress the application. If, however, there is anything further or you have any query on any matter in relation to this application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

John Willoughby, BA, MSc, MIPI

**Project Planner** 

**MKO** 





## APPENDIX I – LANDOWNER CONSENT







Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) An Bord Pleanála 64 Marlborough Street Dublin 1 Our Ref: CLS ABP LTR 559

17<sup>th</sup> February 2023

Re: Letter of consent regarding the Planning Application by Sheskin South Renewables Power DAC for the Sheskin South Wind Farm as it relates to Coillte property in Co. Mayo

Dear Sirs,

This letter refers to the estate right and title of Coillte Cuideachta Ghniomhaiochta Ainmnithe ("Coillte CGA") in the property known as Sheskin outlined in blue on the indicative map("Map 1") attached hereto (hereinafter called "the Property").

We refer to the proposal by Sheskin South Renewables Power DAC to locate 21 turbines, associated roading and cabling requirements, a substation, a met mast, 2 borrow pits and temporary construction compounds on the Property as part of the Sheskin South Wind Farm. We wish to advise that we have no objection in principle to the submission of a planning application which solely relates to the proposal to locate 21 turbines, associated roading and cabling requirements, a substation, a met mast, 2 borrow pits and temporary construction compounds on the Property in the manner illustrated in Map 1 and hereby furnish this letter for the purposes of consent only to the submission of this application by Sheskin South Renewables Power DAC.

Please note that I have no authority to bind Coillte and no binding agreement shall exist or be deemed to exist until such a time as a formal contract has been agreed between all parties, executed and exchanged and all sums due there-under paid in full. Please note that this letter is not and shall not constitute a note or memorandum in writing for the purposes of Section 51 of the Land and Conveyancing Law Reform Act, 2009.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Molloy
On behalf of Coillte CGA
Sent by email, no signature

Coillte, Dublin Road, Newtownmountkennedy, Co. Wicklow, A63 DN25, Ireland.

T 0818 367 378 E info@coillte.ie W www.coillte.ie

Map 1: Map illustrating proposed location of turbines, substation, borrow pit, roading and temporary construction compounds as they concern Coillte Property (lands outlined in blue) as part of the Sheskin South Windfarm proposal Sheskin Windfarm Sliabh Fioch **Site Layout Map** Legend Turbine Location An Seisceann Met Mast Export Grid Cable Proposed Construction T11 Compound Hardstands Forest Roads - Upgrade New Roads T20 Borrow Pit Gleann Chuilinn Proposed Substation Uachtarach Coillte Property T10 Futur=nergy Scale @ A3: 1:20,000 T16 0.25 0.5 لتتالكتنا Created by: FEI GIS SRAH Date: 16/02/23 Produced on FEI GIS - Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No EN 0014714 (Digital Contract) @ Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland

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## APPENDIX II – CONFIRMATION OF PAYMENT







SSE Renewables

Date: 25th January 2023

Re: Receipt for payment of Application Fee made to An Bord Pleanála

Dear Tom,

In response to your telephone call on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2023, please accept this letter as receipt of the belowmentioned fee payment to An Bord Pleanála.

• €100,000 received 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022

If you have any further queries, please contact the Finance section at (01) 858 8100 or <a href="mailto:finance@pleanala.ie">finance@pleanala.ie</a>.

Kind regards,

Stephen Deighan

Executive Officer Finance section 01 858 8100