



Appendix 2.3

Pre-Application Correspondence

Coolglass Wind Farm EIAR Volume 3

Coolglass Wind Farm Limited

SLR Project No.: 501.V00727.00006

26 June 2023

Laois Co Co Meeting Minutes 26/5/2022

Attendees:

Laois Co Co: Phillip McVeigh, Shane Booth, Farham Nasiem, Donnacha Reynolds, Rory O'Callaghan, Jon O'Hara, Dermot Leonard

SLR: Aislinn O'Brien, Crystal Leiker

Coolglass Wind Farm Limited: Killian Boland, Cathal Gallagher

SLR provided a comprehensive presentation of Coolglass Wind Farm to Laois County Council attendees.

Phillip McVeigh – roads

- No damage to existing road network – roads must be maintained to current existing condition. A pre-condition survey, road opening licence are required. Conditions to any planning permission will require a reinstatement, and a post- condition survey.
- Drainage from roads must be maintained so as to avoid going into the public road network. Turbine Delivery Route Nodes where works are required will need to be sent to the roads department for review and for any letters of consents required.
- Surveys of bridges and culvers will also be required. Sightlines must be maintained as per the 2007 Laois Road Guidelines: 180m Regional roads, 120m Local Primary Roads, 80m for Local Secondary Roads, and 60m for Local tertiary roads.
- Contact Dermot Leonard or Phillip McVeigh for any works which require permission for Laois County council roads department.

Rory O'Callaghan – Ecology / Environment

- Have regard for the Kyle Spring and Swan public water supplies – these two must be assessed as part of the EIAR.

Jon O'Hara – Planning

- Planning will not support wind farm development in areas which are not open to consideration
- Greatest concern of visual impact on Timahoe Town. Ensure they are included in any community benefit
- Ensure the following protected views are included in the EIAR0 Windy Gap at the N80 and the Rock of Dunamase.
- Consultation on the revised Wind Energy Strategy (subject to Ministerial Direction) is ongoing- CDP requires a revised Wind Energy Strategy within 1 year of the adoption of the current CDP. As of this point, no work has been undertaken, however, consultation may open towards the end of the year.

Meeting Concluded

19th April 2022

The Secretary,
An Bord Pleanála,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1

Our Ref: 501.00727.00006

Dear Sir/Madam

RE: PROPOSED 86 MW WIND FARM INCLUDING 13 NO. TURBINES, CO. LAOIS:

7TH SCHEDULE STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT – REQUEST FOR PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 37B OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT ACT 2000 (AS AMENDED)

SLR Consulting Ireland acts as planning and environmental advisors to Coolglass Wind Farm Limited. The purpose of this submission is to request a pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála (ABP) in accordance with Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and to seek a determination that the proposed development of an 86 Megawatt (MW) wind farm including 13 no. turbines and associated infrastructure in Co. Laois constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID).

The prospective applicant for the purposes of Section 37B is Coolglass Wind Farm Limited whose registered office is at Building 4200, Cork Airport Business Park, Co. Cork, T12 D23C, Ireland. Coolglass Wind Farm Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Statkraft Ireland Limited. The project contact person with the applicant is Mr. Cathal Gallagher, contactable at Cathal.Gallagher@statkraft.com. The proposed wind farm project is to be developed as a joint venture between Statkraft Ireland Limited and FuturEnergy Ireland.

SLR Consulting (Ireland) Limited, whose registered office is at 7 Dundrum Business Park, Dundrum Road, Windy Arbour, Dublin D14 N2Y7 and the undersigned are acting as the prospective applicant's agent for this project.

Please find enclosed an EFT receipt for the pre-application fee of €4,500.00 in accordance with the provisions of Section 144 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). Drawings of the overall development (site location plan and preliminary site layout) are enclosed and should be read in conjunction with this pre-application document.

A grid connection will be submitted under a separate planning process under the provisions of s. 182(A) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and does not form part of this planning application.

1. PROJECT INTRODUCTION AND SITE CONTEXT

The Coolglass Wind farm project is located in County Laois near the villages of Timahoe, Wolfhill and Swan and consists 13 no. turbines with a tip height of 180m and a rotor diameter of 150m within a 2 no. cluster wind farm. Each proposed turbine is capable of generating 6.6 MW of power and the proposed wind farm will provide a total output of 85.8 MW. Planning permission for the grid connection will be sought at a later stage as part of a separate planning consent process.

The subject site is located within an upland area of central County Laois. The application site itself is elongated in shape (approximately 6km roughly north – south), within 2 no. cluster areas. The clusters extend over an area known as Fossy Hill and Wolfhill. The site is located approximately 1km from the village of Luggacurren and 1km from the village of Swan, both in County Laois. The area in which the optioned lands exist contains a large quantum of commercial plantation woodland. The chosen location has the potential for good energy yields resulting from the high wind levels experienced in this part of Ireland.

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed development consists of a 13 no turbine wind farm development and associated works on land within the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard, Kylenebehy, County Laois. The site is approximately 731 ha in size. The development will consist of:

- 13 no. turbines, each with a height of 180m and rotor diameter of 150m and all associated site infrastructure including
- 110 kV electricity substation and switch room
- equipment compound
- turbine foundations
- 33kV collector cable circuit connecting the two clusters
- 2 no. temporary construction compounds,
- c. 12.7 kilometres of site access tracks
- underground electricity and communications cabling
- site drainage works
- 2 no. site entrances.

This planning application will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which includes an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed development as a whole and in combination with the relevant off-site or secondary developments which will occur as a direct result of the proposed development, including connection to the national electricity grid. The EIA process is ongoing and all feedback from the assessment will be incorporated into the final design of the project

The planning application will also be accompanied by a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

3. CLASSIFICATION AS STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Seventh Schedule to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) identifies various classes of infrastructure development which, if considered by ABP to be Strategic Infrastructure Development, requires a planning application to be made directly to it rather than to the relevant local planning authority.

To qualify as Strategic Infrastructure Development, Section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) stipulates that a project

- i. *falls within the scope of one or more of the development classes identified in the Seventh Schedule and any thresholds provided therein;*
- ii. *would satisfy one or more of the following criteria:*
 - a. *It is of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate;*
 - b. *It would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives of the National Planning Framework or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which the development would be situate;*
 - c. *It would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.*

The proposed development of an 85.8 MW wind farm is covered by the following class of development identified under the heading of ‘Energy Infrastructure’ in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended):

Energy Infrastructure

1. *Development comprising or for the purposes of any of the following (inter alia)*

"an installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total output greater than 50 MW."

In view of the proposed development having the capacity to “produce a total output greater than 50MW”, it is considered that the proposed project exceeds the threshold laid down within the class of development identified in the Seventh Schedule.

In addition, for the reasons set out below, it is submitted that the proposed wind farm development satisfies one of the additional three criteria set out in section 37A(2) and therefore is Strategic Infrastructure Development.

4. ASSESSMENT OF SID CRITERIA

The proposed development of a wind farm which may be classified as SID is listed in the 7th Schedule of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). As outlined previously, in addition to its listing in the 7th Schedule, SID must also satisfy at least one of three further tests pursuant to Section 37A:

(1) An application for permission for any development specified in the Seventh Schedule (inserted by the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006) shall, if the following condition is satisfied, be made to the Board under section 37E and not to a planning authority.

(2) That condition is that, following consultations under section 37B, the Board serves on the prospective applicant a notice in writing under that section stating that, in the opinion of the Board, the proposed development would, if carried out, fall within one or more of the following paragraphs, namely—

- 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.*

We have set out below the reasons as to why criteria a), b) and c) are satisfied, such as to ‘qualify’ as strategic infrastructure.

The Strategic Economic or Social Importance of the Development

- 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 development has strategic economic and social importance to achieving both European and National renewable energy and decarbonisation objectives, as set out below via the REPowerEU statement from the European Commission, the European Green Deal (2019), REDII Legislation, and Investing in the Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society.

REPowerEU

Current geopolitical tensions have drawn a sharp focus on diversifying where European countries obtain their fuel and electricity required to power their homes, businesses, and transportation. On 8 March 2022, the European Commission proposed an outline of a plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels before 2030 in light of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. The REPowerEU plan will focus on

- the diversification of gas supplies,
- speeding up the rollout of renewable gases
- replace gas in heating and power generation
- reducing the use of fossil fuels
- boosting energy efficiency
- increasing renewables and electrification
- addressing infrastructure bottlenecks

While REPowerEU is not a formal policy yet, the intention of this plan by the European Commission is to reduce EU demand for Russian gas by two thirds before the end of 2022.

European Green Deal (2019)

The European Green Deal is a growth strategy for the EU which aims to transform the EU into a fair and prosperous society, improving quality of life with modern, resource-efficient and competitive economy where there are no net emissions of greenhouse gases in 2050 and where economic growth is decoupled from resource use. The EU aim to do this by becoming climate-neutral by 2050.

With regard to the supply of clean, affordable and secure energy, the European Green Deal underlines the fact that in order to meet the EU's climate and sustainability goals, all sectors must increase their use of renewable energy and phase out fossil fuels.

The EU aim to increase the greenhouse gas emission reductions targets for 2030 to 55%, compared to 1990 levels, in order to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. A key principle for achieving this will be to develop a power sector based largely on renewable resources.

Renewable Energy – Recast to 2030 (RED II) Legislation

In June 2018, an agreement was made in Europe between negotiators for the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council with regard to increasing renewable energy use in Europe. The new regulatory framework includes a binding renewable energy target for the EU for 2030 of 32% with an upwards revision clause by 2023. This agreement will help the EU meet the Paris Agreement goals. In terms of renewable energy production, the agreement has achieved:

- A new, binding EU renewable energy target of 32% by 2030, including a review clause by 2023 for an upward revision of the EU level target;
- Improved design and stability of renewable energy support schemes.

Investing in the Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society (2018-2027)

This strategy sets out a number of key objectives to reach a low carbon and climate resilient society by 2050. National Strategic Outcome 8 of the National Development Plan notes that €21.8 billion in funding has been set aside for Ireland's transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society during the lifetime of the Plan. In addition to low carbon investment, the Irish government is committed to carbon pricing to assist in the transition to a low-carbon economy by 2050. In relation to decarbonising electricity, the strategy states:

“Ireland's energy system requires a radical transformation in order to achieve its 2030 and 2050 energy and climate objectives. This means that how we generate energy, and how we use it, has to fundamentally change. This change is already underway with the increasing share of renewables in our energy mix and the progress we are making on energy efficiency.

Investment in renewable energy sources, ongoing capacity renewal, and future technology affords Ireland the opportunity to comprehensively decarbonise our energy generation.”

It is submitted that the proposed development if realised would provide a significant contribution with respect to achieving strategic European renewable energy and climate action targets, as set out in the REPowerEU statement, the European Green Deal and Recast legislation. The proposed development would provide a 13-no. turbine wind farm capable of generating a total of 85.8 MW of power by means

of renewable technology, therefore, contributing to EU wide renewable energy targets of 32% as set out in the Recast legislation and assisting in the strategic objective to make Europe carbon neutral by 2050 as set out in the European Green Deal.

Climate Action Plan 2021

The Government launched the national Climate Action Plan 2021 on 4th November 2021, an ambitious plan to put Ireland on a more sustainable path, cutting emissions, creating a cleaner, greener economy and society, and protecting us from the devastating consequences of climate change. Among the most important measures in the plan is to increase the proportion of renewable electricity to up to 80% by 2030 which includes the provision of 8 GW from onshore wind.

The Climate Action Plan follows the Climate Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. These targets are a key pillar of the Programme for Government. The emissions reduction targets by sector to 2030 are as follows:

- Electricity: 62-81%
- Transport: 42-50%
- Buildings: 44-56%
- Industry/Enterprise: 29-41%
- Agriculture: 22-30% reduction
- Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF): 37-58%

It is therefore considered that the proposed development meets the requirements for strategic economic and social importance by contributing to renewable electricity generation and carbon reduction targets set out by the in European and National policies and would contribute towards objectives set out in the REPowerEU European Commission statement.

Fulfilment of National and Regional objectives regarding Decarbonisation and Energy Transition

- 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,*

National Planning Framework

Section 9.2 Resource Efficiency and Transition to a Low Carbon Economy of the National Planning Framework (NPF) describes the national endeavour with respect to Climate Action and Planning. It is detailed that the Government is committed to a long-term climate policy based on the adoption of a series of national plans over the period to 2050, informed by UN and EU policy. This is being progressed through the National Mitigation Plan and the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework, both of which will be updated and reviewed periodically.

In addition to legally binding targets agreed at EU level, it is a national objective for Ireland to transition to be a competitive low carbon, economy by the year 2050. The National Policy Position establishes the fundamental national objective of achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050, guided by a long-term vision based on:

- an aggregate reduction in carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions of at least 80% (compared to 1990 levels) by 2050 across the electricity generation, built environment and transport sectors; and
- in parallel, an approach to carbon neutrality in the agriculture and land-use sector, including forestry, which does not compromise capacity for sustainable food production.

It is further described that meeting our commitments will require investment and ambitious and effective action across all sectors, as well as societal behavioural change. The planning process provides an established means through which to implement and integrate climate change objectives, including adaptation, at local level. Planning legislation also requires different levels of the planning process to address climate change at the local and national levels, but statutorily must be aligned with national requirements. With respect to the above the following National Policy Objective (NPO) is provided:

National Planning Objective 54

Reduce our carbon footprint by integrating climate action into the planning system in support of national targets for climate policy mitigation and adaptation objectives, as well as targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

Section 9.2 of the NPF also provides a section on Energy Policy and Planning which describes that Ireland's national energy policy is focused on three pillars: (1) sustainability, (2) security of supply and (3) competitiveness. It is stated that the Government recognise that Ireland must reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the energy sector by at least 80% by 2050, compared to 1990 levels, while at the same time ensuring security of supply of competitive energy sources to our citizens and businesses.

Furthermore, it is emphasised that our transition to a low carbon energy future requires:

- A shift from predominantly fossil fuels to predominantly renewable energy sources;
- Increasing efficiency and upgrades to appliances, buildings and systems;
- Decisions around development and deployment of new technologies relating to areas such as wind, smart-grids, electric vehicles, buildings, ocean energy and bio energy; and
- Legal and regulatory frameworks to meet demands and challenges in transitioning to a low carbon society.

With respect to the above the following NPO is provided:

National Policy Objective 55

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

Regional Spatial Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Region (RSES) 2019-2031

With respect to renewable energy requirements within the Eastern and Midlands region, a key challenge that is noted within section 2.2 of the RSES is the transition to a low carbon society. The RSES notes: *The Region will need to shift from its reliance on using fossil fuels and natural gas as its main energy source to a more diverse range of low and zero-carbon sources, including renewable energy and secondary heat sources. Decentralised energy will be critical to the Region's energy supply and will ensure that the Region can become more self-sufficient in relation to its energy needs. Five primary*

areas of transition have been identified within the core of the RSES which include the need for renewable energy.

The key principle which underpins the transition to a low carbon society relates to climate action and the need to enhance climate resilience and accelerate the transition to a low carbon society. Of direct relevance to this project are regional strategic objective (RSO) 9:

RSO 9: support the transition to low carbon and clean energy

Pursue climate mitigation in line with global and national targets and harness the potential for a more distributed renewables focused energy system to support the transition to a low carbon economy by 2050.

It is submitted that the proposed development if realised would provide a significant contribution with respect to achieving national renewable energy and climate action targets, as set out in the NPF. The proposal would also support the overall transition to a low carbon society as set out in the RSES. The proposed development would provide a 13-no. turbine wind farm capable of generating a total of 85.8 MW of power by means of renewable technology, therefore, contributing to NPO 54 and 55 of the NPF and RSO 9 of the RSES.

Significant Effects on an Area of More than One Planning Authority

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

With respect to the location of the proposed development, the subject site is located in southern County Laois and is within 2km at its closest extent to County Kilkenny. No element of the proposed Coolglass Project will be located outside of County Laois. However, it is considered that landscape and visual, hydrological and other considerations has the potential to have significant effects within the Kilkenny administrative area. It is considered therefore, that the proposed Coolglass project also satisfies criteria c).

5. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set out in detail above it is considered that the proposed 85.8 MW wind farm in Co. Laois

- a) Is of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate;
- b) would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of the above-mentioned objectives in the National Planning Framework; and
- c) may have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

It is considered therefore that the proposed development constitutes SID in accordance with the requirements of Section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and the Board is requested to grant this pre-application request for consultations with respect to the proposed development.

Coolglass Wind Farm Limited respectfully asks that An Bord Pleanála consider this pre-application consultation request and schedule a meeting at its earliest convenience.

Yours Sincerely,
SLR Consulting Ireland

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Crystal Leiker'.

Crystal Leiker
Associate Planner

Cc Cathal Gallagher, Cathal.Gallagher@statkraft.com

Payment Details

Payment Reference No. 171845371

Printed On
Wednesday, April 13, 2022
01:45:28 PM

Pay From >

SLR IRELAND CURRENT ACCOUNT , 103 UPR LEESON
ST DUBLIN 4 , 47355482

Pay To >

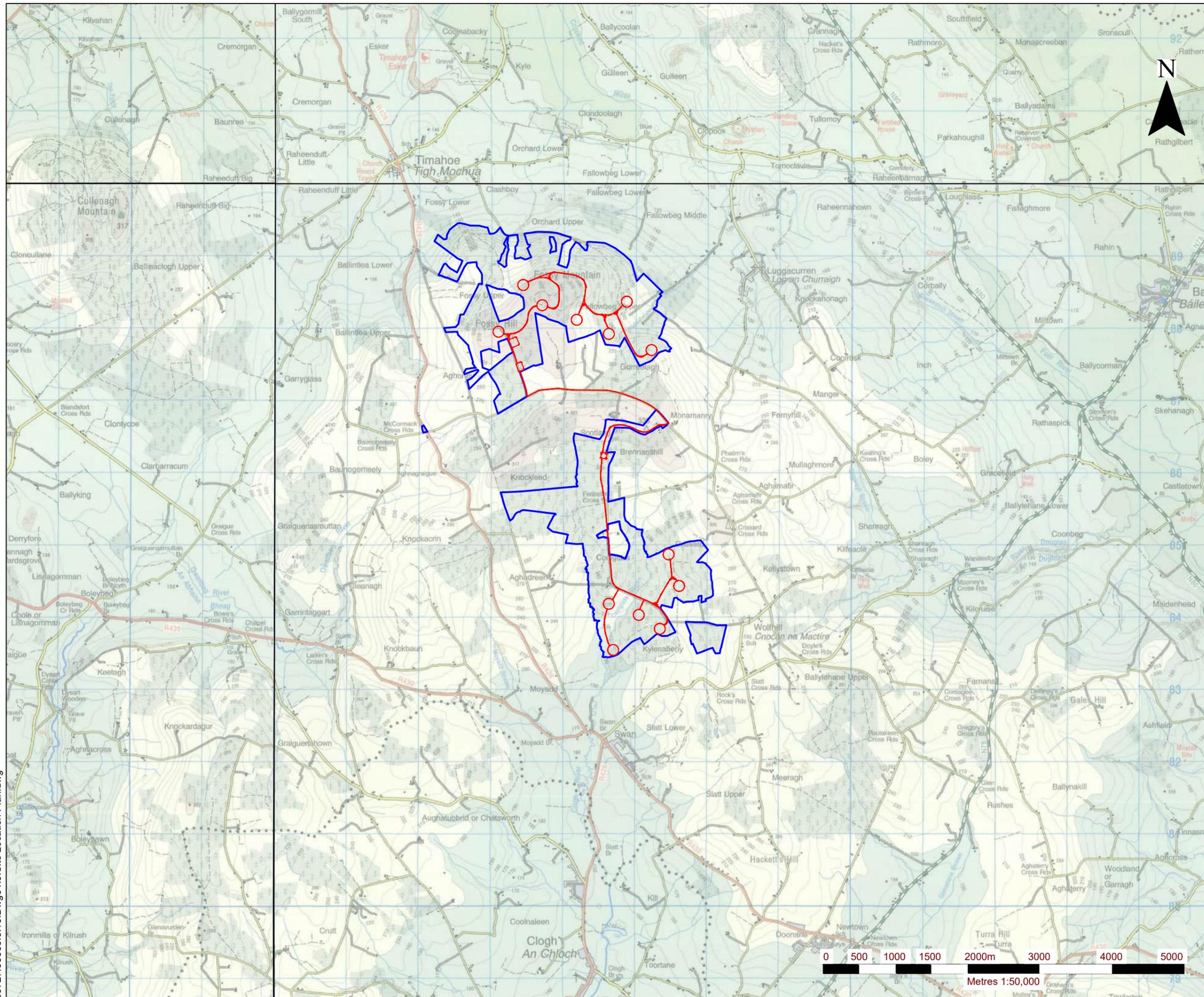
AN BORD PLEANALA , IBANIE70AIBK93105500316067

Payment Details >

€4,500.00 on 13/04/2022, SEPA Payment

Status >

Payment Processed



NOTES

EXTRACT FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND DISCOVERY SERIES SHEET NO. 54, 55, 60 AND 61

CYAL50248253
(C) ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND/GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

LEGEND

-  SITE BOUNDARY
-  APPLICATION AREA

SLR CONSULTING IRELAND
7 DUNDRUM BUSINESS PARK
WINDY ARBOUR
DUBLIN 14
T: +353-1-2964667
F: +353-1-2964676
www.slrconsulting.com

COOLGLASS WIND FARM LTD.

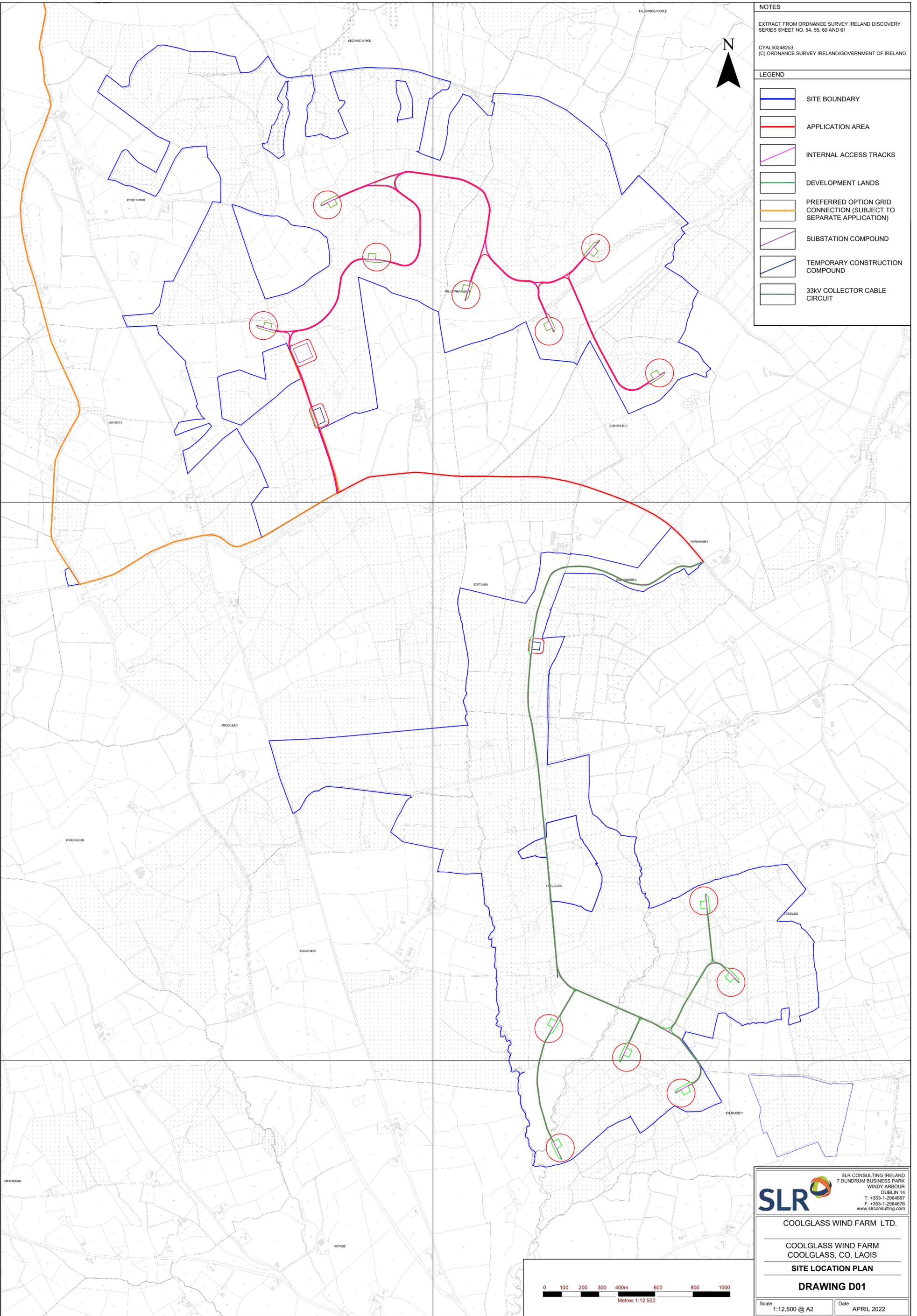
**COOLGLASS WIND FARM
COOLGLASS, CO. LAOIS**

SITE LOCATION PLAN

DRAWING D01

Scale 1:50,000 @ A3 Date APRIL 2022

00727.00006.0.16.Dwg01.0.Site Location Plan.dwg



NOTES

EXTRACT FROM ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND DISCOVERY SERIES SHEET NO. 54, 55, 60 AND 61

CYAL50248253
(C) ORDNANCE SURVEY IRELAND/GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND

LEGEND

- SITE BOUNDARY
- APPLICATION AREA
- INTERNAL ACCESS TRACKS
- DEVELOPMENT LANDS
- PREFERRED OPTION GRID CONNECTION (SUBJECT TO SEPARATE APPLICATION)
- SUBSTATION COMPOUND
- TEMPORARY CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND
- 33kV COLLECTOR CABLE CIRCUIT



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COOLGLASS WIND FARM LTD.

COOLGLASS WIND FARM
COOLGLASS, CO. LAOIS

SITE LOCATION PLAN

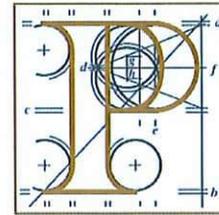
DRAWING D01

Scale: 1:12,500 @ A2 Date: APRIL 2022

00727.00006.0.16.Dwg01.0.Site.Layout.Plan.dwg

Our Case Number: ABP-313375-22

Your Ref: Coolglass Wind Farm Limited



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

RECEIVED

25 APR 2022

Crystal Leiker
SLR Consulting
7 Dundrum Business Park
Windy Arbour
Dublin 14
D14 N2Y7

Date: 21st April 2022

Re: Proposed 13 turbine wind farm development of 86 megawatts and associated works.
Townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry,
Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your request to enter into pre-application consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended in respect of the above mentioned proposed development.

A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

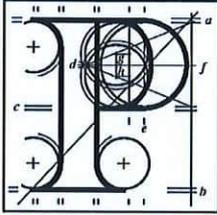
Please be advised that the amendments introduced by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act, 2010 provide for the Board to recover its costs in conducting pre-application consultations. These costs together with costs incurred by the Board in determining any application made to it will be included in the Board's decision. The Board will offset any application fees paid by the applicant against its costs.

Further advice or details in relation to the above will be provided by the Board at pre-application consultation meetings (if held).

The Board will revert to you in due course in respect of this request.

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902



An
Bord
Pleanála

Táille Reachtúil
Statutory Receipt

ABP-313375-22

Ainm an Chustaiméara: Name of Customer:	Coolglass Wind Farm Limited
Gníomhaire: Agent:	SLR CONSULTING (IRELAND)
Íocaíocht Faighte: Payment Received:	€4500
Modh Íocaíochta: Payment Method:	Wire Transfer
Uimh. Aitheantais Lóisteála: Lodgement ID:	LDG-051398-22
Cineál na Lóisteála: Lodgement Type:	Application
Iarratas ar éisteacht ó bhéal Oral Hearing Request:	No
Dáta Faighte: Date Received:	20/04/2022
Faighte ag: Received by:	Kieran Somers

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel (01) 858 8100
LoCall 1890 275 175
Fax (01) 872 2684
Website www.pleanala.ie
Email bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

To: Killian Boland, Cathal Gallagher **At:** Statkraft Ireland
From: Crystal Leiker, Aislinn O'Brien **At:** SLR Dublin and Cork
Date: 17/6/2022 **Ref:** Coolglass Wind Farm
Subject: 313375-22 ABP SID PREAPP MEETING MINUTES – COOLGLASS WIND FARM

Attendees:

SLR: Aislinn O'Brien, Crystal Leiker

Statkraft (Coolglass Wind Farm Limited): Cathal Gallagher, Killian Boland

An Bord Pleanála: Stephen Kay, Kieran Somers, Maire Daly

Minutes by Topic

Ecology:

- Consultation with NPWS to commence immediately due to hydrological connections to River Barrow/River Nore SAC and downstream sensitive interests (pearl mussel, etc)
- Ensure that the site drainage is factored into the NIS, given downstream interests

Transport / Planning:

- There is an avenue of trees on the northern approach to Timahoe. I have explained to the Board that the trees may be trimmed but they will not be removed to facilitate turbine delivery.
- The Board has warned of protected trees in Timahoe, so a planning review to identify these trees will need to be undertaken to ascertain if any of our TDR nodes are adjacent to these

Population and HH / Landscape:

- Consideration of walking routes / trails within and adjacent to the proposed development.
- Potential effects on tourism assets forming part of Ireland's Ancient East brand.

Landscape:

- Ensure that Kilkenny viewpoints are carefully considered as the site is 2km from Kilkenny – check protected views / scenic routes which may intersect with the site or have full visibility. Consider cumulative effects to the southeast and southwest.

- Be conscious of Fossy Mountain viewpoints to north, northwest and northeast given its elevated prominence.
- Note that, should the wind energy strategy not be changed in time for lodgement, that the landscape section will need to be very strong to support the overall development

Archaeology:

- Its noted that no recorded archaeology is within the site, however, there is a potential for archaeology to be found during construction. Please make sure that monitoring in case of this occurrence is included in your chapter
- Noted that Timahoe Town is a heritage town- ensure assessment takes this into consideration

Water (Hydro and Hydrogeology):

- Noted that current water quality is considered good- but ensure that at risk waterbodies are considered and assessed (specifically Stradbally) in accordance with WFD
- Nature based solutions for drainage where possible, given the hydrological connections to the River Barrow/River Nore SAC from the site.
- Apply the 50m buffer to all aspects of the development i.e. Site compounds and borrow pits (if applicable)

Air/Climate:

- Ensure that lifecycle and transportation of replant lands is assessed in this chapter

Planning:

- Have full consideration of policy WES 4 and CMRE7, Wind Energy Strategy (engagement piece separate work with Statkraft) and planning precedents around wind farms consented within/adjacent to lands not open for consideration to strengthen the case of this project should WES not be revised in time for lodgement.
- Strengthen the SID case around the project's social and economic importance

To: An Bord Pleanála **At:** An Bord Pleanála
From: Ciarán O’Sullivan/ Crystal Leiker **At:** Dublin
Date: 01.07.2022 **Ref:** ABP-313375-22 1st Meeting
Subject: **Response and Clarification to Items Raised in Record of Meeting ABP-313375-22 1st Meeting (Pre Application Consultation)**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide clarification and further rationale regarding criteria (a) pursuant to section 37A(2) as whether “*the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate*”, for a proposed 13 no. turbine wind farm development in the townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brannanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

This clarification is provided in response to Items Raised in the Record of Meeting ABP-313375-22 1st Meeting (Pre Application Consultation) with respect to whether the proposed development is or is not Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID).

It should be noted that with respect to the presentation delivered to An Bord Pleanála on 16.06.2022, there was a calculation error in relation to the percentage of the private housing stock that the proposed development has the capacity to power, within County Laois. It had been stated that the proposed development has the potential to power 71% of private households in County Laois. This is incorrect and the proposed development would have the capacity to power 100% of said stock in the County. A correction of the calculation and the related methodology used to arrive at conclusions made has been described herein.

2.0 SOCIO ECONOMIC RATIONALE

The Strategic Economic or Social Importance of the Development

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

Sustainable Power Generation

In response, with respect to the strategic or social importance to the region in which it would situate, the proposed development would generate 85.8 MW of renewable energy, which in turn would have the potential to power 59,055 homes or households and the entirety of the 29,107 unit housing stock in County Laois.

The rationale for the above stated sustainable power generation figures is based on the following methodology, $A \times B \times C = \text{megawatt hours of electricity produced per year}$ where:

- A = the number of hours in a year: 8760 hours.
- B = the capacity factor¹, which takes into account the intermittent nature of wind, the availability of wind turbines and array losses. An assumed capacity factor of 33% is applied here.
- C = rated capacity of the wind farm: 85.8 MW. Each turbine has the potential to provide 6.6MW of renewable energy.

Therefore, $8,760 \text{ hours} \times 33\% \times 85.8 \text{ MW} = 248,030.64 \text{ MWh}$. On 21st March 2017, the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER), published the 'Review of Typical Domestic Consumption values for Electricity and Gas Customers'². This decision paper updated the recommended typical annual consumption figure for electricity to 4,200 kWh³. This means that 248,030.64 MWh of electricity produced by the proposed windfarm would be sufficient to supply approximately 59,055 Irish households with electricity per year, based on the average Irish household using 4.2 MWh of electricity per year.

As per the Laois County Development Plan 2021 – 2027, it is projected that the population of the County will increase from 84,697 people to 94,700 people by 2027, and 97,500 people by 2031. This represents an increase of 10,003 people, and 12,803 people, respectively, using the 2016 Census population figure as the baseline. To accommodate this population growth, it has been forecast that additional housing stock is required. Using the census 2016 figure of 29,107 households as the

¹ The capacity factor is the actual output over a period of time as a proportion of a wind turbine or facility's maximum capacity. For example, if a 1.5MW turbine generates power over one year at an average rate of 0.5 MW, its capacity factor is 33% for that year.

² CER (2017), Review of Typical Domestic Consumption Values for Electricity and Gas Customers, Decision Paper, Reference: CER/17042.

³ Based on the range of feedback received through the consultation, from price comparison websites, Non-Governmental Organisations, suppliers and ESNB, the CER reviewed the options presented in its consultation paper and decided to use a single revised average value for typical consumption for electricity. The figure is 4,200 kWh. This figure represents an overall decrease in comparison with previous typical consumption figures. It should be noted that the previous figure of 5,300 kWh was used for a typical household rather than an average household and therefore would have not included all connected dwellings in the calculation.

baseline, it is projected that 35,126 households will be required by 2027, an increase of 6,019 households.

As emphasised the proposed development has the potential to power 59,055 homes. This is enough to power 100% of the current housing stock of County Laois, as well as the projected increase of 6,019 households by 2027, leaving capacity to power an additional 29,948 households. Effectively, the proposed development would have the capacity to power approximately two times the number of households in County Laois with renewable energy, including the additional required housing stock, based on the forecast requirement.

Furthermore, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) has defined three separate planning areas within its administrative boundary including the Dublin Region, Eastern Region, and Midland Region. County Laois forms part of the Midland Region, which also includes Longford, Westmeath, and Offaly. As per the 2016 census, there are 292,300 people and 103,385 private households in this area.

Therefore, the proposed development would have the capacity to power 57% of the Midland region, as defined, with renewable energy and thus, it is submitted that the proposed development would be of strategic economic and social importance to the State and the region in this regard.

Employment

In addition, the scale of the proposed project would also generate a potential 309 direct jobs for the County and/or Region. According to the Institute for Sustainable Futures⁴, 3.2 person years⁵ are created per MW of wind energy development during the construction and installation phase. Based on this employment estimate, approximately 275 person years or full time equivalent workers would be required during the construction phase of the proposed development.

Furthermore, the same study estimates that that the operational and maintenance job output for a wind farm is 0.3 job per MW of total installed capacity. Based on this estimate, the proposed development (with an installed capacity of 85.8MW) could be expected to contribute to 25.74 long term jobs. Similarly, according to the European Wind Energy Association (EWEA)⁶, 0.4 long-term jobs are created per MW of total installed capacity. These jobs include operations, maintenance, back office support and indirect jobs created by other activities related to installed turbines including IPP/utilities, consultants, research institutions, universities, and financial services. Based on this study, the proposed development has the potential to create 34.31 jobs.

It is therefore considered that the proposed development has the potential to create 275 direct jobs during the construction phase and between 26 and 34 long term jobs during the operational and maintenance phase of the proposed development. It is thus submitted, that the proposed development has the potential to create 309 jobs at the higher end of the estimate and would be of

⁴ Rutovitz, J., Dominish, E. and Downes, J. (2015), *Calculating global energy sector jobs: 2015 methodology*. Prepared for Greenpeace International by the Institute for Sustainable Futures, University of Technology Sydney.

⁵ Person Year: (also Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) One person year of employment is equivalent to the number of hours that an individual would work on a full time basis for one year.

⁶ European Wind Energy Association (2009), *Wind at Work, - Wind Energy and Job Creation in the EU*.

strategic economic and social importance to the region in which it would be situated, due to significant job creation in the local area and the wider region.

Emission and Cost Savings

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) (2020)⁷ states that wind energy provided Ireland with 28% of its electricity in 2018. The use of renewables in electricity generation reduced CO₂ emissions by 4.9 million tonnes in 2018, avoiding approximately €623 million in fossil fuel imports for that year. It is estimated that wind energy alone resulted in a reduction of 3.1 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions, displacing consumption of 1.3 million tonnes of fossil fuels and resulting in the avoidance of €432 million in fossil fuel imports in 2018 (SEAI, 2020 & 2020a).

These savings will continue to rise with the installation of further renewable energy developments. It is therefore submitted that the proposed development would be of strategic economic and social importance to the region and state, given the emissions savings and related evasion of fossil fuel imports that such renewable energy developments ensue.

⁷ Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (2020), *Renewable Energy in Ireland – 2020 Update*.

Coolglass TDR Meeting

MINUTES

18.01.23

1030 - 1130

MICROSOFT TEAMS

ATTENDEES	<p>SLR Consulting: Crystal Leiker Ger O'Reilly Joanna Read David Price</p> <p>Laois Co. Council Philip McVeigh Dermott Leonard</p>
APOLOGIES	
NOTE TAKER	Ger O'Reilly

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Introductions	Introductions to the members of the team and a recap on the project details.	
Discussion on the confirmation of the TDR route	<p>Walkthrough of TDR, exiting at J16 from M7. Utilised largest tower sections and varying blade lengths to present worst case scenario. Potential impacts on street furniture and trimming back of trees etc. Once final turbine selected TDR to be reexamined to finalise potential impacts. Reports are and will be robust and subject to site inspections.</p>	
Confirmation of site access points	<p>2 site access points identified as nodes 13 and 14. DP talked through the potential sight lines at both areas. Sight lines to be in accordance with LCC Roads and Parking Standards</p>	
TDR nodes-confirmation process of LCC ownership / process for obtaining LOC	<p>SLR have confirmation of private landowners where appropriate. Nodes 1 – 4 to be confirmed ownership. Node 4 crosses roundabout at N80. Roads at these points would be in LCC ownership but lands either side likely to be private owned. Nodes 1 – 4 possibly within LCC central Engineering Area. SLR to provide Swept Path Analyses along side TDR Works Report and mapping to allow LCC to provide letters of consent. On site meeting necessary.</p>	
Q&A	<p>LCC: Have old stone bridges and culverts been considered in the load assessment? SLR: Works report and drive through will ID these structures. LCC: Current status of application? SLR: Pre application, with aim to submit in March. LCC: Pre commencement road survey and post development surveys likely to be conditioned.</p>	Might be helpful can provide info

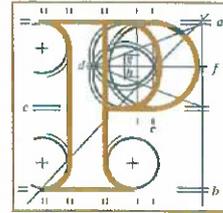
	<p>SLR: Standard for this type of development. LCC: PSCI Survey along entire route will identify any structural issues which need full condition survey. Surveys should include PSCI survey with a focus on under 4 rating / structural issues, stone culverts are of concern. SLR: Noted LCC: Grid Route. Coolnabacky Route of concern south of Timahoe due to subsurface conditions and recent road works on this route. Marginal grounds will result in uneven settlement. Road opening licence required and will likely require full road or lane reinstatement as opposed to trench reinstatement. SLR: Grid route will be subject of separate application and may coupled with future amenity trail. Possible to bypass south of Timahoe through amenity trail. LCC: requested that no grid connection within the R426 south of Timahoe. LCC: Surface water and road verge drains not to be impacted on or blocked.</p>	
AOB	Organise site visit dates. SLR to provide dates with aim for end of January to mid February.	

Next Actions

- SLR to provide Swept Path Analyses along side TDR Works Report and mapping to allow LCC to provide letters of consent.
- SLR to provide dates for site visit to LCC.
- PSCI Survey to be included in TDR assessment and condition assessment.

Our Case Number: ABP-313375-22

Your Ref: Coolglass Wind Farm Limited



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

SLR Consulting
7 Dundrum Business Park
Windy Arbour
Dublin 14
D14 N2Y7

Date: 14th December 2022

Re: Proposed 13 turbine wind farm development of 86 megawatts and associated works.
Townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry,
Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the second meeting of the 16th November, 2022.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

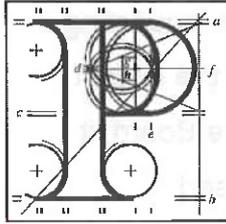
Yours faithfully,

Doina Chiforescu
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737133

PC07

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-313375-22 2nd meeting

Case Reference / Description	ABP-313375-22 Proposed 13 turbine wind farm development of 86 megawatts and associated works in townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry, Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2nd		
Date	16/11/22	Start Time	11:00
Location	Virtually	End Time	12:10

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Staff Members

Stephen Kay, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)

Máire Daly, Planning Inspector

Doina Chiforescu, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant

Cathal Gallagher - Coolglass Wind Farm Limited

Crystal Leiker - SLR Consulting

Aislinn O'Brien - SLR Consulting

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant requesting a pre-application consultation and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board mentioned general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process as follows:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or any legal proceedings.

The Board's representatives referred to the last meeting in June, 2022 and welcomed the prospective applicant to the second consultation meeting. The Board's representatives asked if the prospective applicant had any comments it wished to make on the record of this meeting. The prospective applicant asked if the response and clarification to items raised in record of the 1st pre application consultation was received by the Board. The Board's representatives confirmed that further information on Economic and Social implications of the project was received in July, 2022.

Presentation by the prospective applicant

The prospective applicant opened the presentation with a brief introduction to the prospective applicant company and stated that the main topics to be discussed included consultation scoping responses, evolution of the proposed development, and further recent and significant legislative updates including the project's design envelope.

The prospective applicant provided the Board's representatives with an overview of the scoping responses, how they have addressed these responses and how they have fed into the evolution of the proposed development. It was highlighted that two rounds of scoping have been carried out on the proposed project.

Round 1 was undertaken on 17th June 2022, with the Design Iteration 2 layout which was used in the initial presentation to the Board, some minor design revisions which have led to the current design configuration, referred to as Design Iteration 3. A second round of scoping was then carried out on 17th October 2022 and concluded 5th November 2022.

In relation to the consultation responses, the prospective applicant listed the consultees, their responses and the actions taken for each one.

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) requested that biological and physico-chemical surveys are undertaken, and the prospective applicant stated that these surveys are ongoing. Redesign of access tracks have been undertaken to minimise the number of watercourse crossings.

The prospective applicant stated that they had not received official engagement from National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) since the scoping report was issued, however their project ecologist had engaged with NPWS prior to scoping and that the NPWS highlighted that aquatics was the chief concern. The prospective applicant stated that they believe the Inland Fisheries Ireland's response largely covers what the NPWS would have requested. Micro siting of turbines has been implemented as a result of the IFI response.

The prospective applicant also received a response from Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) and stated that the majority of information contained in this response was information that they were already aware of, however concerns were highlighted in relation to the two Public Water Schemes that are in proximity of the proposed development (Kyle & Orchard Springs and Swan Water Supply Scheme). Ground investigations are ongoing. Stated that micrositing of turbines has occurred to facilitate key concerns from GSI.

Laois County Council have issued a comprehensive response, most of which the prospective applicant is aware of and shall be addressed in the EIAR. The first pre-application consultation with Laois County Council was driven by traffic and transport issues. Laois County Council noted that the landscape assessment should be robust and consider cumulative impacts and listed a number of planning policies which the prospective applicant should consider in any case within their assessment. Currently engagement with Laois County Council Roads department is ongoing. Concerns were raised in relation the potential impacts on the River Barrow and River Nore Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). The visual impacts of the proposed development and cumulative visual impacts with existing and permitted windfarms shall also be taken into account in the overall assessment of the proposed windfarm. All information contained in this scoping response is noted and will be adhered to and included in their assessment.

A submission from the Department of Defence was received shortly after the presentation was sent to the Board, and their main concern relates to ensuring that a proper lighting scheme is installed on the turbines.

Regarding the overall evolution of the project, the prospective applicant noted two previous design iterations which had reduced the number of turbines from 23 to 16

as part of the first design iteration. The second design iteration resulted in two turbines in the southernmost cluster being dropped due to a number of environmental factors. An additional turbine was also dropped due to unacceptable visual clutter across the landscape resulting in a further reduction in the number of turbines from 16 to 13.

The prospective applicant noted that the initial design iteration 2 submitted to ABP for an SID pre-application comprised a 13-turbine wind farm development within 2 no. clusters with an associated grid connection. Each turbine has the potential to generate 6.6MW of power. Each turbine has a tip height of 180m and a rotor diameter of 150m. Preliminary Design and Environmental Assessment remains the same and encompasses 13 wind turbines, access tracks, turbine delivery route, internal substation and internal electricity grid route. Grid Connection of 110 kV is proposed via underground connection to a substation and two grid connection options are under consideration. The preferred option will be assessed as part of the EIAR but does not form part of this application.

The prospective applicant gave a brief description on the post scoping, design iteration 3 of the wind farm. The design iteration has kept all infrastructure indicated in the first pre-application meeting. Non-material changes incorporated include a re-design of the internal access tracks between several turbines in both clusters which minimises watercourse crossings in the design, re-orientation of temporary construction compound 1 and the project substation, and increasing separation distances to nearest residential receptors. Bat buffers have also been applied and micro-siting of some turbines were noted (e.g. T5).

Regarding the turbine delivery route, as part of the scoping process, the design team has decided to add an additional TDR to the assessment of this project. The TDR Route 1 arriving from Dublin Port, approaching the site from the M7 and the R426 (this was the initial TDR route). In addition, the TDR Route 2A arriving from Dublin Port, approaching the site from the M9, N78 and R426, and the TDR Route 2B: approaching from M7, N80, N78 and R426 are also being assessed.

Regarding the grid connection, the cable route options remain unchanged and will continue to be assessed as part of this EIAR.

Regarding the relevant legislative and policy context, the prospective applicant referred to recent and significant proposals and updates with respect to renewable energy and the REPowerEU Plan which focuses on accelerating the rollout of renewables. The prospective applicant noted that on 9th November 2022, the European Commission published Council Regulation under Article 122 of the Treaty, entitled 'Proposal for a Council Regulation Laying Down a Framework to Accelerate the Deployment of Renewable Energy'. This temporary emergency legislation will apply for one year in response to the increasing severity of the energy crisis, covering the time needed for the adoption and transposition of the Renewable Energy Directive. This regulation doubles down on the "overriding public interest" concept in the rollout of renewable energy.

The prospective applicant also highlighted changes to Irish legislation. The Planning and Development, Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022 was signed into law on 24th July 2022 and among the main changes, this legislation provides an option to obtain an opinion from An Bord Pleanála on design flexibility and design options for Schedule 7 Strategic Infrastructure Developments. To date however the relevant provisions of the Act (s.37CC and CD) have not been commenced and the associated regulations have not been produced. The presentation made by the prospective applicants identified three turbine types of varying dimensions which were indicated by the prospective applicant as potential options.

The prospective applicant advised that its revised timeline for submission to An Bord Pleanála is Q1 2023.

Discussion

The Board's representatives sought clarification from the applicant regarding the identification of turbines / turbine numbering from the first pre-application meeting to the second pre-application meeting. The prospective applicant clarified that turbine Nos. 1 to 7 are to be located in the norther cluster and 8 to 13 in the southern cluster. The original turbine 8 has been removed.

Clarifications were sought from the prospective applicant regarding micro-siting and bat buffers. In relation to the micro-siting, the prospective applicant briefly explained some details largely in response to the scoping responses from IFI, which was to minimise the impact of crossing watercourses and to move turbines further away from the watercourses. During the investigations into the northern cluster, it was noted that a couple of historic watercourses, as well as previously known watercourses that required micro-siting. Nothing has changed in the southern cluster. In relation to bat buffers, the prospective applicant said that bat surveys had been carried out.

The Board's representatives raised concern and sought clarity in relation to the current Laois CDP 2021-2027 wind energy policy. Specifically, the Board representatives noted that part of the proposed development is located in an area that is identified as 'open for consideration' for wind energy and partly in an area 'not open for consideration' as per the 2021-2027 Plan. The Board representatives also noted the Ministerial Direction in which the Minister has ordered the deletion of the setback distance of 1.5 km from Section 6.1 of the plan – Buffer Zones.

The prospective applicant stated that it was a draft Ministerial Direction which is now an actual Ministerial Direction and is aware that the proposed development is partially in an 'areas not open for consideration'. Stated that in the first design iteration process the location of the development relative to these designations was examined. The prospective applicant also stated that it believed that in this instance national policy should take precedence over the Local Policy and also that the recent provisions set out in European REPowerEU would be taken into account in the assessment undertaken by the Board.

The prospective applicant stated that they consider that the proposal is in alignment with European REPowerEU objectives of "overriding public interest". They also noted the fact that there is an objective in the development plan that the renewable energy strategy would be revised within one year of the adoption of the plan (Objective CMRE1) and that the plan policy may therefore have changed by the time that an application was made and was being assessed by the Board. The Board's representatives noted this response and stated that the issue of compliance with the wind energy strategy set out in the plan and any justifications for departing from the

provisions set out in the Plan, specifically the siting of part of the proposed development in an area currently indicated as 'not open for consideration' for wind energy development, would have to be detailed in any application submitted.

Regarding the LVIA (Landscape Visual Impact Assessment) the Boards representatives advised the prospective applicant to ensure that all assessments are robust and that all policies are up to date. The Board's representatives advised that formal contact with NPWS should occur before the application is submitted.

The Board's representatives stated that they considered that enough information was provided regarding the design, the design iterations, consultations that were done and the various changes on routes and access and grid connection in order to make a recommendation to the Board if the proposed development is or is not SID.

With regard to the design options presented as part of the submission made by the prospective applicant, no discussion as to the merits or otherwise of these options was undertaken at the meeting. The Board representatives noted that the provisions relating to design options for Seventh Schedule SID projects contained in the Planning and Development Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2022 have not to date been commenced, that associated regulations are required and that further guidance and advice from the Department as to implementation is required. The Board has also to determine its procedures around how these new provisions will operate. In view of these factors, the Board representatives advised that the Board is not currently in a position to advise regarding design options for the proposed development.

The Boards representatives advised that they did not know when the design options provisions of the legislation would be operational. In the interim, the Board's representatives advised that the prospective applicant could proceed to request closure of the pre application process and submit an application accompanied by an EIAR that covered the specific design options identified by the applicant. Alternatively, the prospective applicant could leave the pre application process open and wait to see when the legislation relating to design options is enacted and the Board is in a position to engage with this process.

In response, the prospective applicant requested that the current pre-app case be kept open for the present time while they considered their options and that they would revert to the Board with how they wished to proceed.

Conclusions

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if they wish to do so. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it requires a further meeting or if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.

The meeting concluded at 12:10 pm

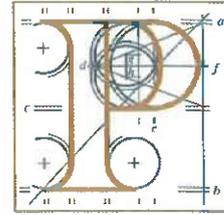


Stephen Kay

Assistant Director of Planning

Our Case Number: ABP-313375-22

Your Ref: Coolglass Wind Farm Limited



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

SLR Consulting
7 Dundrum Business Park
Windy Arbour
Dublin 14
D14 N2Y7

Date: 11th May 2023

Re: Proposed 13 turbine wind farm development of 86 megawatts and associated works.
Townlands of Fossy Upper, Aghoney, Gorreelagh, Knocklead, Scotland, Brennanshill, Monamantry,
Coolglass, Crissard and Kylenebehy, Co. Laois.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board hereby serves notice under section 37B(4)(a) that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Any application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Board considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed.

Attached is a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development.

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board will make available for inspection and purchase at its offices the documents relating to the decision within 3 working days following its decision. This information is normally made available on the list of decided cases on the website on the Wednesday following the week in which the decision is made.

The attachment contains information in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Niamh Thornton
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737247

PC09

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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Prescribed Bodies

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Development Applications Unit)
- Minister for Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Minister for Transport
- Irish Water
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- The Heritage Council
- An Taisce
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Office of Public Works
- Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly
- Kilkenny County Council
- Laois County Council

Further notifications should also be made, where deemed appropriate.

Note 1: The prospective applicant should be advised to submit a standalone document (which may form part of the EIAR) with the planning application, which outlines the mitigation measures, in the interest of convenience and ease of reference.

Note 2: In addition to setting out the overall height of the turbines, the prospective applicant is advised to submit drawings and documents, including turbine dimensions, sufficient to describe the nature and extent of the development.

