

An Bord Pleanála Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) Section 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1

> Our Ref: 210627 ABP Ref: ABP-315469-23

15th March 2024

Re: Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) - Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála for a wind farm development in the townlands of Laurclavagh, Cahermorris, Cluidrevagh, Kilcurriv Eighter, Bunnahevelly More, Pollacossaun Eighter, Pollacossaun Oughter, Kilcurrivard, Ballynacreg North.

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Laurclavagh Ltd, (Lissarda Business Park, Lissarda, Co. Cork) please find enclosed a planning application relating to the proposed construction of a renewable energy development which will comprise 8 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure in Laurclavagh and adjacent townlands, County Galway.

Background

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála as Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ('the Act'). This position was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála to the applicant in correspondence dated the 16th November 2023 following pre-application consultations with the Board (Ref. ABP-315469). A copy of that correspondence is included as an appendix to the SID Application Form.

The proposed development as set out in the public notices is as follows:

The proposed development will consist of the provision of the following:

- *i.* 8 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 185 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 163 metres; and hub height of 103.5 metres, and associated foundations, hard-standing and assembly areas;
- *ii.* A thirty-year operational life of the wind farm from the date of full commissioning of the wind farm and subsequent decommissioning;
- iii. Underground electrical cabling (33kV) and communications cabling;
- *iv.* A temporary construction compound;
- v. A temporary security cabin;

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McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No. 462657. VAT No. IE9693052R.

- vi. A meteorological mast with a height of 30 metres and associated foundation and hard-standing area;
- vii. A new gated site entrance on the L61461;
- viii. Junction accommodation works and a new temporary access road off the N83 to the L61461, to facilitate turbine delivery and construction access to the site;
- *ix.* Upgrade of existing site tracks/ roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas.
- x. Upgrade of the existing L61461;
- xi. Spoil Management;
- xii. Site Drainage;
- xiii. Tree and hedgerow removal;
- *xiv.* Biodiversity Enhancement measures (including the planting of natural woodland, hedgerows and species rich grassland for new habitat);
- xv. Operational stage site signage; and
- xvi. All ancillary works and apparatus.

A ten-year planning permission is sought.

The Proposed Grid Connection (subject of a separate application under Section 182A of the Act) includes a permanent 110kV on-site substation compound, a temporary construction compound and c. 14.3km of underground electrical cabling connecting into the existing 110kV Cloon substation in the townland of Cloonascragh.

Overview of Planning Policy

The Proposed Wind Farm is strongly supported in principle by EU and national policy and legislation relating to increasing the delivery of renewable energy and reducing carbon emissions. At EU level, the Proposed Wind Farm is supported by, *inter alia*, the EU Renewable Energy Directive and REPowerEU. At national level, the Proposed Wind Farm garners support from the National Planning Framework, Climate Action Plan 2024, and the National Energy Security Framework. In this regard, it is also imperative to note the legal obligations required by public bodies by the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended) in their assessment of applications for renewable energy development. Public bodies shall, in so far as practicable, perform their functions in a manner consistent with *inter alia*, the most recent approved climate action plan (Climate Action Plan 2021 – 2030) the furtherance of the national climate objective, and the objective of mitigating greenhouse gas emissions.

At the local level, the Local Authority's Renewable Energy Strategy (LARES) outlines the lands classified for the provision of renewable energy development. The subject site was previously classified as being "Open to Consideration" under the County Galway Wind Energy Strategy 2015-2021. In the current LARES, the site's wind energy classification has changed to "Generally to be Discouraged". However, as set out in the accompanying Planning Report, it is not clear why this change has occurred. Notwithstanding this, a robust analysis of the Proposed Wind Farm against all relevant wind energy constraints, guidance and development management standards was completed as part of the accompanying Planning Report which demonstrates that the proposed site has the potential to facilitate a wind energy development such as the one proposed.

It should be noted that the LARES does not specifically restrict applications for wind energy within the "Generally to be Discouraged" areas, but rather, they are assessed on their merits on the principles of proper planning and sustainable development in accordance with the LARES. The policy associated

with the relevant classification in the LARES states; "wind energy development proposals in areas that are identified as 'Generally to be Discouraged' for wind energy development will be considered in accordance with the LARES and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area." As such, and as set out in the accompanying Planning Report, it is considered that the Proposed Wind Farm is consistent with the policies and objectives of the LARES and the County Development Plan, the principal of development is acceptable and therefore it should be assessed on its merits by An Bord Pleanála.

Environmental Impact Assessment & Appropriate Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the Proposed Project and accompany this planning application.

As outlined in detail in the accompanying documentation, all elements of the Proposed Project, i.e. the Proposed Wind Farm (subject of this Section 37E application) and the Proposed Grid Connection (subject of a separate application under S182A of the Act), have been assessed as part of the EIAR and NIS lodged. As the project requires an EIAR, the application has been notified to the EIA Portal. The EIA Portal ID is 2024045 and the project details have been uploaded to the EIA Portal.

Contents of Application

The following documents are included in the application pack:

- > Planning Application Documentation
 - Planning Application Form;
 - Letters of consent from relevant landowners appended to this cover letter;
 - Copies of cover letters issued to Prescribed Bodies;
 - Site Notice (copy, as erected on site on the 15th March 2024);
 - Newspaper Notices Local Publication: *The Connacht Tribune*, and National Publication: *The Irish Independent* (both publications dated 15th March 2024);
 - EIA Portal Confirmation (ID: 2024045).
- > Planning Report;
- > Planning Application Drawings (Drawing Schedule included with the planning application form);
- > Red Line Boundary in CAD and shapefile format;
- > Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR);
 - Volume 1 Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Main Report
 - Volume 2 Photomontage Booklet
 - Volume 3 EIAR Appendices including confidential Appendices.
- > Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

8 no. electronic copies of the planning application pack and 2 no. hard copies as outlined above are enclosed with this letter, as agreed with An Bord Pleanála. Galway County Council have received 2 no. hard copies and 2 no. electronic copies of the application pack. All prescribed bodies as set out in the Board's SID confirmation letter, dated the $16^{\rm th}$ November 2023, have received a copy of the application.

All documentation associated with the application as lodged can also be found at the dedicated project website: www.laurclavaghplanning.com.

All planning drawings are provided at scales which have previously been agreed with An Bord Pleanála by email on 29/01/2024.

The planning application fee of $\notin 100,000$ has been paid via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) on the 13/03/2024 with the following details:

- Sender's name Ghrian Energy
- Sender's Reference Re Laurclavagh Ltd
- > Payment Reference 0LCG4ELM1A9ER7RC

Proof of payment is included as Appendix 1 of this cover letter.

I trust that the enclosed information is sufficient for your requirements, and that the planning application can be progressed accordingly, however, if you have any queries or wish to discuss any matter in relation to the subject application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

John Willoughly

John Willoughby BA, MSc, MIPI Project Planner, MKO

ENCL – Appendix 1 - Proof of Payment Appendix 2 - Landowner Consent Letters

Appendix 1 - Proof of Payment





Payment details

Amount	EUR 100,000.00
My statement message	ABP Fee Laurclavag
Payee message	Re Laurclavagh Ltd
Payment option	Standard
AIB reference no	0LCG4ELM1A9ER7RC
Payment status	Completed
Date	13/03/2024
Fee CCY	EUR
AIB fee	0.00
AIB fees paid by	You
Other fees paid by	Payee

Payer details

Name	GHRIAN ENERGY
Currency	EUR
Account	IE12AIBK93613826389007

Payee details

Name	An Bord Pleanala
Account	IE70AIBK93105500316067
Payee address	64 Marlborough Street Rotunda, Dublin 1, Ireland
Payee bank details	IE70AIBK93105500316067 AIBKIE2DXXX
	Ireland

Appendix 2 - Landowner Consent Letters



Martin Costello

Cluide, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Martin Costello, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY104112F, in the townland of Cluidrevagh, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Martin Costello Dated: 14-02-2024

LAND REGISTRY

COUNTY GALWAY

FOLIO GY22660

OPTION AGREEMENT

AGREEMENT made the 24 day of February 2020

BETWEEN

- (1) MARY FORDE of Cahermorris, Corrandulla in the County of Galway (hereinafter called "the Grantor" which expression shall where the context so admits or requires include her heirs, executors, administrators and assigns) of the One Part and;
- (2) ENERCO ENERGY LIMITED having its registered office at Lissarda Business Park, Lissarda in the County of Cork (hereinafter called "the Grantee" which expression shall where the context so admits or requires include its successors, nominees, licensees or assigns) of the Other Part.

WHEREAS





following option and ancillary rights for a period

the Grantor hereby grants to the Grantee the



5.

18 18





IN WITNESS whereof the parties hereto have hereunto set their hands and affixed their seals the day and year first herein written.

SIGNED AND DELIVERED as a Deed by the said MARY FORDE

in the presence of:-

Nic. Thom to

zle any GRANTOR

PRESENT when the common seal of **ENERCO ENERGY LIMITED** was affixed to this Deed and this Deed was delivered:-

Michael Minas (DIRECTOR) Holler J. Comp. (DIRECTOR / SECRETARY)



Mary & Michael Higgins

Kilcurriff, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Mary & Michael Higgins, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY110291F, in the townlands of Laurclavagh and Kilcurriv Eighter, County Galway ("the Property").

We understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

We hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, we consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Yours Sincerely,

Mary Higgins Dated: 22/12/2022

Michael Higgins

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Patrick, Michael & Jaurence Forde

Cahermorris, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Patrick, Michael & Laurence Forde, are the registered/beneficial owners of the lands contained in folios GY107095F, GY50356F, GY109603F, GY57463F, GY127205F, in the townlands of Bunnahevelly More, Laurclavagh and Bunnahevelly Beg, County Galway ("the Property").

We understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

We hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, we consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Michael Forde Michael Forde

Dated: 3/01

Forde Laurence Forde

Catherine Fahy

Ballinacregg North, Cummer, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Catherine Fahy, am the registered/beneficial owner of the lands contained in folio GY57235, in the townland of Ballinacregg North, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Catherine Fahy

Dated: 16/1/ 2023

Thomas Farrell

Cluide, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Thomas Farrell, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folios GY16774F, GY104113F, in the townland of Cluidrevagh, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

<u>Som</u> <u>Sciozell</u> Thomas Farrell

Dated: 09-02-23

Damien Hoade

Kilcurriv, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Damien Hoade, am the registered/beneficial owner of the lands contained in folio GY109746F, GY1872F, in the townland of Kilcurriv Eighter, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Damien Hoade Dated: 29/04/2022

Michael Daniels

Glenrevagh, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Michael Daniels, am the beneficial owner of the lands contained in folio GY22649, in the townland of Bunnahevelly Beg, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

ichael Daniels **Michael Daniels**

Dated: 13-07-23

Ulick Egan

Rusheens, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Ulick Egan, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY106171F, in the townland of Garraun South, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Yours Sincerely,

Ulick Egan

Dated: 23-08-23

Mary & Sean O'Brien

Carheens, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Mary & Sean O'Brien, are the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY44714F, in the townland of Laurclavagh, County Galway ("the Property").

We understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

We hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, we consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Mary D'Brien

Dated: 24-09-23

Seen OBmin

Sean O'Brien

Padraig Higgins

Caherlea, Cummer, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Padraig Higgins, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY2130. I am the beneficial owner, and person entitled to be the registered owner, of the lands contained in folio GY15033, in the townland of Cahermorris, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Padraig Higgins

Dated: 07-10-23

John Shaughnessy

Cluidrevagh, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, John Shaughnessy, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folios GY101952F, GY16736F, in the townland of Cluidrevagh, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Yours Sincerely John Shaughnessy

Dated: 09-10-23

Una Greaney

Glenaneenagh, Cummer, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Una Greaney, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folios GY2441, GY70038F, GY25064, in the townlands of Laurclavagh and Glennaneeny, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Yours Sincerely,

Una Greaney

Dated: 10-10-23

Martin Kirwan

Kilcurriff, Cummer, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Martin Kirwan, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY6371, in the townland of Kilcurrivard, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Yours Sincerely,

Martin Kirwan

Martin Kirwan

Dated: 23-10-23

Mary & Michael Burke

Cluide, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Mary & Michael Burke, are the registered owners of the lands contained in folios GY95833F, GY104109F in the townland of Cluidrevagh, County Galway ("the Property").

We understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

We hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, we consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Yours Sincerely, Milan Buk Michael Burke Dated: 04/11/2023

Mary Bunhe

Michael & Rita Conneely

Manusflynn, Belclare, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Michael & Rita Conneely, are the registered owners of the lands contained in folio GY95837F in the townland of Cluidrevagh, County Galway ("the Property").

We understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

We hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, we consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Michael Conneely Dated: ML Connech 12-11-28

Concely Rita Conneely

Catherine Farragher

Glenrevagh, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Catherine Farragher, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY104660F, in the townland of Cluidrevagh, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Yours Sincerely,

atter he Fangeler Catherine Farragher

Dated: 17-11-23

Patrick Burke

Cluide, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Patrick Burke, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY41213F, in the townlands of Cahermorris and Cluidrevagh, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

k Burke

Patrick Burke

Dated: <u>28 - 11 - 23</u>

Dolly & Patrick Connolly

Clough, Cummer, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, Dolly & Patrick Connolly, are the registered owners of the lands contained in folio GY6329, in the townlands of Pollacossaun Oughter and Pollacossaun Eighter, County Galway ("the Property").

We understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

We hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, we consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Dolly Connolly

Dated: 17-12-23

Fatured Com a G Patrick Connolly

Brian Cooley

Kilcurriv, Cummer, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Brian Cooley, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY3457F, GY86759F, in the townlands of Kilcurriv Eighter and Laurclavagh, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Yours Sincerely 9 Brian Cooley

Dated: 2/-12-23

Gerard Keane

Cluide, Corrandulla, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Gerard Keane, am the registered/beneficial owner of the lands contained in folios GY26507, GY91493F, GY90529F, in the townlands of Cluidrevagh, Cahermorris, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

Gerard Keane

Dated: <u>03-01-24</u>

Jim Mahon

Kilcurriff, Cummer, Tuam, Co. Galway

To the relevant authority,

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development ("the Development")

Dear Sir/Madam,

I, Jim Mahon, am the registered owner of the lands contained in folio GY6372, in the townland of Kilcurrivard, County Galway ("the Property").

I understand that Laurclavagh Limited ("the Company") will apply for planning permission for the Development, which will be partially located on the Property.

I hereby consent to the Company making all applications relating to the Development on the Property.

Additionally, I consent to the relevant Authority displaying all the information contained in this letter on the public Planning File.

<u>Sim Mahen.</u> Jim Mahon Dated: <u>11-01-24</u>