



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

30th August 2024

Our Ref: 200513
Your Ref: ABP-319215-24

Re: Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended - Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála for a Proposed Development development in the townlands of Snaty (Massy), Hurdleston, Oatfield, Drumsillagh or Sallybank (Parker), Gortacullin, Aharinaghbeg, Knockshanvo, Cloontra, Cloghoolia, Ballycullen, Cloontra West, Formoyle More, Kilmore, Mountrice, Ballyvorgal South, Crag, Kyleglass, Glenwood, Snaty (Cooper), Ballykelly, Muingboy, Drumsillagh or Sallybank (Merritt), Kyle, Belvoir, Snaty (Wilson) and Cloontra East, Co Clare and in the townland of Court, Co. Limerick.

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, FuturEnergy Knockshanvo Designated Activity Company, please find enclosed a copy of a planning application for the proposed construction of a renewable energy development which will comprise 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure in in the townlands of Snaty (Massy), Hurdleston, Oatfield, Drumsillagh or Sallybank (Parker), Gortacullin, Aharinaghbeg, Knockshanvo, Cloontra, Cloghoolia, Ballycullen, Cloontra West, Formoyle More, Kilmore, Mountrice, Ballyvorgal South, Crag, Kyleglass, Glenwood, Snaty (Cooper), Ballykelly, Muingboy, Drumsillagh or Sallybank (Merritt), Kyle, Belvoir, Snaty (Wilson) and Cloontra East, Co Clare and in the townland of Court, Co. Limerick.

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. This position was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála to the applicant in correspondence dated the 21st May 2024 following pre-application consultations with the Board (Ref. ABP-319215-24). A copy of that correspondence is included in the application pack as an addendum to the application forms.

Section 37CC(1) Consultation

The Applicant also engaged with An Bord Pleanála under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), in respect of the level of design flexibility to be included in the application (as defined in 15I of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended (“the Regulations”) as “opinion on unconfirmed details”). This flexibility meeting request was made in accordance with the recently commenced (S.I No. 645 of 2023) legislative provisions relating to design flexibility introduced by the Planning and Development, Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022. The legislation provides for a process whereby prospective applicants may request a meeting with the Board for the purpose of receiving an opinion as to whether it is appropriate that an application for permission be made before certain details of the proposed development are confirmed.



A meeting under Section 37CC(1) Consultation was held with the Board on the 4th April 2024. The design team gave an overview of the details unlikely to be confirmed at application lodgement, which were set out as follows:

- Turbine total tip height
- Turbine rotor diameter
- Turbine hub height

The parameters within which the turbine specifications will fall were set out as follows:

- Total tip height range of 179.5m – 185m
- Rotor diameter range of 149m – 163m
- Hub height range of 102.5m to 110.5m

It was also explained to the Board that the design flexibility requirement arises as the exact make and model of the turbine cannot be confirmed prior to making the application as this will be dictated by a competitive tender process of the various turbines on the market at the time of procurement and construction, which necessitates the requirement for associated unconfirmed details to be included in the application.

On the 21st May, the Board issued an opinion under Section 37CD to the applicant and determined that if it is satisfied that it is appropriate that the proposed application be made and decided before the prospective applicant has confirmed certain details of the application which include the following:

The certain details include the following:

- Turbine Dimensions
 - Turbine Tip Height
 - Rotor Diameter
 - Hub Height

Proposed Wind Farm Description

A description of the Proposed Wind Farm as set out in the public planning notices, is as follows:

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

- I. *Construction of 9 no. wind turbines with a blade tip height range from 179.5m to 185m inclusive, a hub height range from 102.5m to 110.5m inclusive and a rotor diameter range from 149m to 163m inclusive with associated foundations, hard-standing and assembly areas.*
- II. *Construction of 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation including 2 no. control buildings, lightning protection, welfare facilities, car parking, and all associated electrical plant and apparatus, security fencing, external lighting, underground cabling, wastewater holding tank and all associated infrastructure, apparatus and landscaping;*
- III. *Underground electrical cabling (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed on-site 110kV electrical substation and associated ancillary works;*
- IV. *Erection of 1 no. Meteorological Mast of 105 metres above existing ground level for the measuring of meteorological conditions, including a lightning rod which will extend above the mast;*



- V. *Construction of new permanent access roads and upgrade of existing roads to provide access within the site and to connect the wind turbines and associated infrastructure;*
- VI. *Construction of 1 no. new permanent access to the site off the R465 regional road to serve as the sole entrance to the wind farm during its operational phase and to facilitate the delivery of the construction materials and turbine components to site during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases;*
- VII. *Construction of 2 no. new permanent access points off the L-3042 and L-30144-0 local roads to facilitate traffic movement across the site during construction, operation and decommissioning phases. Both accesses will be gated and opened when required during the operational phase;*
- VIII. *Development of 5 no. borrow pits;*
- IX. *Construction of 3 no. temporary construction compounds and associated ancillary infrastructure including temporary site offices, staff facilities and car-parking areas, all to be removed at end of construction phase;*
- X. *Temporary works at 3 no. locations along the R465 regional road associated with the facilitation of turbine component and abnormal load delivery to site. These works will primarily include the trimming of vegetation and strengthening of road verges;*
- XI. *Installation of a temporary transition compound to facilitate turbine blade delivery during the construction phase, within the townland of Court, Co. Limerick. The works will include installation of a temporary stone hard standing area and associated entrance and egress to and from the N69 national road and will be removed at the end of the construction phase.*
- XII. *Permanent amenity works comprising the construction of 1 no. new marked trail, the development of 2 no. new viewing areas and upgrade to 1 no. existing viewing area, including the installation of associated signage and seating;*
- XIII. *Permanent and temporary Site Drainage;*
- XIV. *Operational Stage Site Signage;*
- XV. *Ancillary forestry felling to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development;*
- XVI. *Biodiversity enhancement measures including the permanent clear-felling of land, and;*
- XVII. *All related site works and ancillary development including landscaping considered necessary to facilitate the proposed development;*

A thirty five-year operational life from the date of full commissioning of the entire wind farm is being sought and the subsequent decommissioning.

The application is seeking a ten-year planning permission. A planning application for underground electrical cabling (110kV) which will connect the wind farm to the existing Ardnacrusha 110kV electrical substation is also being lodged to An Bord Pleanála.

A design flexibility opinion issued by An Bord Pleanála (Case Reference ABP-319151-24) on 21st May 2024 accompanies this application. The details unconfirmed in this application are the turbine tip height, rotor diameter and hub height. The range of parameters under which the turbine dimensions will fall are specified on this site notice and in the design flexibility opinion that accompanies this application.

The proposed development is partly located within the demesne of a Protected Structure (Court country house - RPS Reg. No. 291).



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

As outlined in detail in the accompanying documentation, all elements of the Proposed Development, i.e. the Proposed Wind Farm (subject of this Section 37E application) and the Proposed Grid Connection (subject of a separate Section 182A application), 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 2024143 and the project details have been uploaded to the EIA Portal.

The following documents are included in the application pack:

- Planning Application Documentation;
 - Planning Application Form;
 - Form No. 22 Application Form to accompany an application that includes an opinion on Flexibility (Design flexibility opinion issued by An Bord Pleanála (Case Reference ABP-319151-24) included with the Form);
 - Letter of consent from relevant landowners – included with the planning application form;
 - Copies of cover letters issued to Prescribed Bodies;
 - Site Notice (copy, as erected on site on the 28th August 2024);
 - Newspaper Notices – Local Publication: *The Clare Champion* (Published 29th August 2024, Dated 30th August 2024), *Limerick Leader (County)* (Published 28th August 2024, Dated 31st August 2024) and National Publication: *The Irish Independent* (Published 30th August 2024, Dated 30th August 2024).
 - Planning Report;
 - EIA Portal Confirmation (ID: 2024143); included with the planning application form;
 - Planning Application Drawings (Drawing Schedule included with the planning application form);
- Red Line Boundary in DWG format;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR);
 - Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Main Report;
 - Volume 2 – Photomontage Booklet;
 - Volume 3 – EIAR Appendices;
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

8 no. electronic copies of the planning application pack and 2 no. paper copies as outlined above are enclosed with this letter, as agreed with An Bord Pleanála. Clare County Council have received 2 no. hardcopies and 1 no. electronic copy of the application pack Limerick County Council have also received 2 no. hardcopies and 1 no. electronic copy of the application pack. All prescribed bodies as set out in the Board's letter of the 21st May have received a digital copy of the application pack.

All documentation associated with this application as lodged can also be found at the dedicated project website: www.knockshanvoplanning.ie

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

The planning application fee of €100,000 has been paid via Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) on the 26/08/2024 under Payment Reference No. 3200476588.



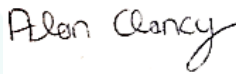
I trust that the enclosed information is sufficient for your requirements. If however, you have any queries or require to discuss any matter in detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

I trust that the enclosed information is sufficient for your requirements.

If you have any queries or require to discuss any matter in detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Clancy BA, MPlan,

Project Planner, MKO.

ENCL –

Appendix 1 – Proof of Payment





Danske Bank
Corporate & Institutional Banking
3rd Floor International House
3 Harbourmaster Place
IFSC, Dublin 1, D01 K8F1
Telephone 01 484 2660
BIC/SWIFT: DABAIE2D
www.danskebank.ie

Payment - Account transfer - External	
Payment saved in folder:	23082024-6W0851-40 Closed
Payment type:	Account transfer - External
Payment data	
Sender's account number:	FUTUREENERGY DEV DAC IE23 DABA 9518 2320 0018 21 EUR
Beneficiary's name:	An Bord Pleanála
Beneficiary's account number:	IE70 AIBK 9310 5500 3160 67
Amount:	100,000.00 EUR
Transaction date:	27-08-2024
Message to beneficiary:	FEI Knockshanvo Windfarm SID Planning App. Ref ABP-319215-24
Beneficiary reference:	FEI payment
Text on sender's account statement:	An Bord Pleanála
Status details	
Payment status:	Ready for processing (awaits due date)
Created:	23-08-2024 by 6W0851
Authorised:	26-08-2024 by 7A0239
Authorised:	26-08-2024 by 8B6958
Technical references	
Bank's archive reference no.:	3200476588
Print from District 16:47 - 26-08-2024 by 7A0239	