



An Board Pleanála
66 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Date: 23rd November 2018

Our Ref: 160815

Your Ref:

Re: Planning Application for a new Wind Farm (and all associated works) at Ardderroo, County Galway

Dear Sir/Madam

On behalf of our Client, Ardderroo Windfarm Ltd, please find enclosed a Planning Application for the proposed construction of a wind energy development and all associated infrastructure in the townlands of Ardderroo, Letter and Finnaun, County Galway.

This application is being made directly to An Bord Pleanála as 'Strategic Infrastructure Development' (SID) under the provisions of Section 37 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, and the associated Planning Regulations. This position was confirmed by An Bord Pleanála to the applicant on 8th May 2017 (following pre-application consultations with the Board, (Ref: 07.PC0227 refers), a copy of that decision is appended to this letter for completeness.

The proposed development will constitute the provision of the following:

- i. Construction of up to 25 No. wind turbines with a maximum overall blade tip height of up to 178.5m
- ii. 1 no. permanent Meteorological Mast with a maximum height of up to 112 metres.
- iii. 1no. 110kV electrical substation with 2 no. control buildings with welfare facilities, 6no. battery containers, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing, all associated underground cabling, waste water holding tank and all ancillary works
- iv. Underground cabling connecting the turbines to the proposed substation and connection from the proposed substation to the national grid at the existing Eirgrid substation in the townland of Letter
- v. Upgrade of existing tracks, roads and provision of new site access roads and hardstand areas;
- vi. 3 no. borrow pits.
- vii. 2 no. temporary construction compounds.
- viii. Recreation and amenity works, including marked trails, conversion of one temporary construction compound into a permanent amenity car park, provision of a toilet/shelter building and associated waste water holding tank, and associated recreation and amenity signage.
- ix. Site Drainage.
- x. Forestry Felling.
- xi. Permanent Signage.
- xii. All associated site development works

A ten-year planning permission and 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm is being sought. The application documentation includes an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

As the project requires Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) the application documentation includes a copy of the confirmation notice which issued from the Department of Housing Planning and Local Government on the 22nd of November 2018. The correspondence issued confirms the EIA portal ID number for the project (2018064) and that the details have been uploaded onto the Department's portal. This complies with the requirements of article 22(2)(ga) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations) 2018).

The currently proposed development represents the second SID planning application for a wind farm development on this site. Previously, An Bord Pleanála refused planning permission for the Ardderroo Wind Farm (07.PA0036 refers) on 21st December 2015. That scheme was for a total of up to 29 turbines, with a maximum tip height of 156.6m. There were two reasons for refusal given. The first related to insufficient evidence to conclude that the integrity of the statutorily designated European sites around the wind farm would not be adversely affected by the proposal; and secondly that information lodged in respect of birds and bats in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), particularly the duration and scope of surveys, was insufficient. Notwithstanding this, both the Planning Inspector and the Board concurred with the majority of the findings of the previously submitted EIS and considered that a wind farm development of the scale proposed at this location was acceptable in principle. The previous reasons for refusal were fully assessed and a comprehensive additional suite of bird and bat monitoring has been developed, carried out and assessed within the EIAR. Accordingly, the conclusions and findings of the EIAR and NIS of the current application have been fully informed by an additional two years of additional ecological monitoring.

The current proposed development generally differs from that previously proposed insofar as:

- The number of turbines has been reduced from 29 to 25;
- The overall tip height of the proposed turbines has increased from 156.5 metres to 178.5 metres
- The proposed met mast has increased in height marginally from 110 metres to 112 metres;
- The proposed substation has been revised with a reduction in the overall footprint and the inclusion of additional and revised grid services equipment and plant.
- Minor amendments to proposed internal access road arrangements
- Permission is sought for an operational life span of 30 years, (as opposed to the previously sought 25).

In relation to the delivery route for the wind farm components, it is the applicant's preference to use the existing N59 / L53453 Doon Road junction and Doon Road. This route was used to facilitate the existing Galway Wind Park development. The local road provides existing access to the site and can facilitate the delivery of construction materials and abnormal loads (turbine components). This route was the means of access assessed and considered during the previous application for the Ardderroo Wind Farm and no significant issues were identified. However, during the public consultation process residents living along the L53453 local road raised concerns regarding potential nuisance caused by any further use of the existing local road for wind farm construction traffic. In response to this, an alternative access route was identified, and a feasibility study was carried out in consultation with the relevant authorities. The alternative construction access junction, off the N59, would be located in the townland of Knockaunranny and would run northwest for approximately 830m before emerging on to the local road, west of the residential area, in the

townland of Doon. This route was previously subject to a planning application under Pl. Ref. 15/813 which was refused by Galway County Council in January 2016. Following further public consultation and views expressed during that process, the consensus emerged that the use of the existing road would in fact be more favourable provided the needs of the local residents were respected in its use. The alternative construction access road, while not forming part of the current planning permission, is considered in conjunction with the proposed wind farm development in the submitted EIAR. The use of this construction access road may be brought forward in the future should consensus or circumstances change. However, it must be noted that the preference is to use the existing Doon Road and junction.

The following documents are included in the application pack:

- Planning Application Form
- Planning Application Drawings
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in 3 volumes:
 - Volume 1 – EIAR text including Non-Technical Summary (NTS)
 - Volume 2 – Photomontages
 - Volume 3 – EIAR Appendices
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS)
- Newspaper Notices (circulated in both national and local papers, and published in both English and Irish)
- Site Notices (erected in both English and Irish)
- Copies of notification letters sent to relevant bodies as prescribed by An Bord Pleanála
- SID Planning Application Fee (paid by Electronic Fund Transfer)

It is confirmed that 3 hard copies and 7 electronic copies of the Application Pack are enclosed with this letter. The Local Authority have received 5 hard and 5 electronic copies also. All prescribed bodies as identified in the schedule attached to the application form in respect of part 18 are being provided with application documentation in the format they have requested.

I trust that you have all the information you require to progress the application. If, however, you have any queries or require to discuss any matter in detail, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



J. Green, B.A., M.R.U.P., M.I.P.I.
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan