

Response to Observations

Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm
SID (ABP-309121-21)





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INTRODUCTION

MKO have been instructed by our client, Curns Energy Limited (the Applicant) to prepare a response to the request issued by An Bord Pleanála (the Board) on the 15th of May 2023 in respect of the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning application (ref: ABP-309121-21) regarding the proposed renewable energy development (the Proposed Development) in the townlands of Lyrenacarriga, Co. Waterford and Lyremountain, Co. Cork.

The development description as per the public notices is as follows:

- i. Construction of up to 17 no. wind turbines with a maximum overall blade tip height of up to 150 meters;*
- ii. 1 no. Meteorological Mast with a maximum height of up to 112 meters;*
- iii. Construction of 1 no staff welfare and storage facility including wastewater holding tank;*
- iv. 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation with 2 no. control buildings with welfare facilities, 10 no. battery containers, battery switchgear building, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing, all associated underground cabling, wastewater holding tank and all ancillary work;*
- v. Underground cabling connecting the turbines to the proposed substation and connection from the proposed substation to the national grid via a 110Kv loop in connection;*
- vi. Upgrade of existing tracks, roads and provision of new site access roads and hardstanding areas;*
- vii. Construction of an access track in the townlands of Breeda and Rearour South to facilitate turbine delivery;*
- viii. Junction improvement works in the townland of Killea to facilitate turbine delivery;*
- ix. 3 no. borrow pits;*
- x. 2 no. temporary construction compounds*
- xi. Site Drainage;*
- xii. Forestry Felling;*
- xiii. Signage; and*
- xiv. All associated site development works*

A 10-year planning permission and 30-year operational life is being sought and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) were prepared to accompany the planning application.

The report is structured as follows:

- Section 1- Introduction and background to the Proposed Development
- Section 2- Response to Statutory Consultees Submissions
- Section 3- Response to Observations: Third Parties
- Section 4- Conclusion

1.1

Background

The planning application for the Proposed Development was lodged with the Board on the 8th of January 2021 where it was assigned the case reference ABP-309121-21. A request for further information in accordance with Section 37F(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) which sought further information on 10 items in relation to the Proposed Development was issued to the Applicant by the Board on 8th April 2022. One of the requests made by the Board was that the applicant respond to points raised in the submissions received by the Board during the statutory public

consultation. A response to this request was submitted to the Board on 10th November 2022 which comprehensively addressed the items raised by the Board.

The response prepared by MKO in response to the request for further information dealt with both the submissions received from statutory bodies and third-party submissions. The response included 11 no. Appendices which were comprised of technical notes and reports from relevant disciplines, which include hydrology, ecology, landscape and visual, archaeology and cultural heritage and noise. These were complimented by a drawing pack produced for the response to further information.

Following the submission to the request for further information, the Board received an additional 196 no. submissions from members of the public and 3 no. submissions from statutory bodies; An Taisce, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) and the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA). On the 15th of May 2023, the Board issued a request to the Applicant to respond to the additional submissions received. MKO have prepared this response to the submissions made in relation to the Proposed Development.

It is the case that the matters raised in observations have been carefully considered by the project team and applicant. The documentation submitted to date demonstrates that the Proposed Development is appropriately located and designed. This submission and information provided in the accompanying appendices satisfactorily address the matters raised in the observations received and should be read in conjunction with the information previously submitted.

2. RESPONSE TO STATUTORY CONSULTEE SUBMISSIONS

2.1 An Taisce

An Taisce issued the following submission to the Board on the 10th of November 2022 in relation to the Proposed Development:

1) Legal issue on article 3 and 5 of the EIA directive compliance

'The public notice on this further information response, raises particular and multiple issues on the provisions of Articles 3 and 5 of the EIA directive in public participation, as well as access to information

In contrast to a planning application to a local authority where

1. Application information including scanned copy of actual newspaper notice lodged in advance or if FI deemed significant

2. Requests for and responses to Further Information

3. Follow up compliance documentation of a permission if granted is scanned on the local authority website and available in hard copy An Bord Pleanála operates a different procedure for Strategic Infrastructure Applications.

The procedure adopted by An Bord Pleanála in having the web accessible application particulars and any FI request and response is available only on a private developers website for Strategic infrastructure applications is fundamentally problematic

In this case while the text of the newspaper notice on the FI is provided, there is no indication as to what newspaper or papers it was placed in, to confirm that it was placed in three newspapers used for the advertisement of the initial application.

There is no list of or indication of what parties or bodies were specifically notified on the FI response and consultation.

While a hard copy of the FI may be viewed in the Boards office and the two relevant local authorities, in addition and problematically the An Bord Pleanála website information on this application fails to provide notice that public consultation on a FI submission response has been initiated.'

2.1.1 Item 1) Response

In response to point 1 of An Taisce's submission it is noted that MKO were instructed by the Board on the 20th of October 2022, to advertise the further information in the same newspapers as the original application and re-erect site notices, as the further information submitted was deemed significant in nature. MKO confirm that the three newspapers used for advertisement were the same publications as the original application, this included the Evening Echo, Dungarvan Leader and Irish Independent. A copy of each newspaper notice was submitted to the Board on the 4th of November 2022 (See correspondence Appendix 1) and also to the prescribed bodies and relevant local authorities. New site notices were erected on site on the 4th of November 2022, and these were also sent to the Board on the same day. It is noted that this information was also made available on the dedicated website for the application which is linked below:

<https://www.lyrenacarrigawindfarm.com/further-information>

Copies of the newspaper notices and site notices can be found in Appendix 2

2) Landscape and Cultural Heritage of Blackwater Valley

The Particular concern raised by An Taisce in our initial submission was on the landscape and cultural heritage of the Blackwater Valley which is notable for its castles, country houses, historic designed demesne landscapes and other sites

The Board requested FI on this issue and we note the response from Tobar Archaeological Services.

In relation to country houses in particular it is unclear if the assessment provided relates to the physical location of the actual house, or considered the demesne or grounds in which the house was set including avenue approaches. This is important as the grounds or demesnes of house on the east or west of the river have demesne land integral in importance in forming their setting at a higher contour level."

2.1.2 Item 2) Response

The An Taisce submission, point no. 2 raises concern with regard to the cultural heritage assessment carried out by Tobar. This issue has previously been addressed in detail in Appendix 6 of the Further Information 2022 (FI 2022) and in Section 3.6 of the document. The below response (as also included in section 3.6) is as follows:

As part of the response to the request for FI 2022, Tobar prepared an archaeological and cultural heritage response, which was included as Appendix 6 of the FI 2022. Section 1.1.1.4 of this response document prepared addresses concerns raised with regard to Houses, Demesnes and general built heritage along the Blackwater valley from Villierstown to Youghal Bridge. In assessing the impact of the Proposed Development on the cultural heritage of the Blackwater Valley, the assessment considered both Houses and Demesnes (including grounds and avenue approaches) as set out in the document in Sections 1.1.1.3, 1.1.1.4, and 1.1.1.5. The conclusion of this assessment was stated in the document as follows:

"Molana Abbey and Ballynatray House (NIAH ref 22903718) in Ballynatray demesne were located within the 5km assessment zone and therefore included in the analysis. Both are located in an area of the Zone of Theoretical Visibility that has no visibility of the proposed turbines."

The reason being that the Blackwater River Valley is 'topographically lower than the surrounding landscape' (see Section 1.1.1.4 of Appendix 6 of FI 2022). Table 1 of the Tobar response (Appendix 6 of FI 2022) has detailed Houses, Castles and Demesnes along the Blackwater valley, detailing the registration numbers on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and/or Record of Monuments and Places and the zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) result.

2.2 Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) issued the following submission to An Bord Pleanála on the 10th of November 2022 in relation to the Proposed Development:

"Having regard to the above development, Transport Infrastructure Ireland wishes to advise that its comments remain as previously advised on 28 January 2021."

As contained in TII's submission issued to the Board on the 28th of January 2021 it is important to note that TII did not raise any objections to the Proposed Development and supported the mitigation

included in the EIAR. However, they included 2 no. Conditions to be considered by the Board if permission is granted, they are as follows;

“The applicant/scheme promoter consult with the relevant road authorities on any works proposed that affect the national roads and associated junctions in terms of operational requirements such as delivery timetabling, potential costs and associated requirements prior to the commencement of any development permitted. Any works, including reinstatement works, to existing junctions on the national road network shall comply with standards outlined in TII Publications and shall be subject to Road Safety Audit as appropriate.”

“Prior to the commencement of development the developer, a full assessment of structures on roads of any proposed haul route shall be undertaken to confirm that all the structures can accommodate the proposed loading associated with the delivery of turbine components where the weight of the delivery vehicle and load exceeds that permissible under the Road Traffic Regulations which shall be submitted to the satisfaction of the planning authority.”

As detailed within the EIAR this has been fully assessed and considered and all structures can accommodate the proposed loading. The applicant has no objection to the planning conditions proposed by the TII as noted above.

2.3

Irish Aviation Authority

The Irish Aviation Authority noted within their response that they do not get involved in the planning process however they provided the following response:

*‘According to S.I. 215 of 2005, Irish Aviation Authority (Obstacles to Aircraft in Flight), the IAA ANSD requires any person who seeks to erect a manmade object to notify the aerodrome operator of the intended operation **at least thirty days** in advance if the structure is to be erected in the vicinity of the aerodrome or the areas around the aerodrome and other protected structures associated with the aerodrome. Aerodrome operators can be contacted via [IAA AIP AD 1.3 INDEX TO AERODROMES AND HELIPORTS](#), to evaluate the impact of the intended operation on the protected airspace established for the aerodrome.*

*Additionally, any person who seeks to erect a manmade object in excess of 45 metres anywhere within the state above ground or water surface level must also notify the IAA ANSD of the intended crane erection **at least thirty days** in advance, as a crane operating at or above this height may constitute an obstacle to air navigation. The IAA ANSD can be contacted via airspace@iaa.ie*

The State requires electronic terrain and obstacle data (eTOD) in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Annex 15 requirements which shall be surveyed by Ordnance Survey Ireland OSi. The cost of this OSi surveyed data is to be borne by the developer. Additionally, the following data is to be supplied once construction is planned or commenced or available to the airspace team via airspace@iaa.ie:

- *The WGS84 coordinates (In degrees, minutes and seconds) for each turbine?*
- *Height above ground level (to blade tip) and elevation above mean sea level (to blade tip)?*
- *Verification if its a standalone wind farm or is merged with others. Does the wind farm have any alternative names?*
- *Horizontal extent (rotor diameter) of turbines and blade length where applicable?*
- *Lighting of the wind farm, which turbine(s) is/are lit and what type of lighting?*

2.3.1 Response

As IAA were included in the scoping carried out for the Proposed Development the responses received in this round of submissions mirrored that of their response to the scoping. Section 15.2.4.2.3 of the EIAR was prepared on the basis of these responses and in full consideration of such. It is important to note that the nearest operational airport to the Proposed Development is Cork Airport which is approximately 40 kilometres southwest of the site. Section 15.2.5.3.2 sets out the mitigation proposed and states the following:

‘The scoping response from the IAA set out lightning requirements for the turbines as detailed above. These requirements will be complied with for the Proposed Development. The coordinates and elevations for built turbines will be supplied to IAA, as is standard practice for wind farm development.’

The applicant has no objection to the planning conditions proposed by the IAA as noted above. As concluded within the EIAR there will be no significant effect on aviation due to the Proposed Development.

3. RESPONSE TO THIRD-PARTY SUBMISSIONS

3.1 Hydrology, Drainage and Water Quality

A number of submissions raised concerns about the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the water quality of the Youghal water supply as well as the impact on water supply during the construction phase of the project. Concerns were also raised in relation to the potential impact of surface water run off into the Blackwater Special Area Conservation (SAC). Chapter 10 Water of the EIAR submitted as part of the application related to water and was prepared by Hydro Environmental Services (HES). In addition, as part of the response to the request for Further Information, HES prepared a response related to hydrological and hydrogeological matters raised in 3rd party submissions. HES has extensive wind farm drainage and hydrogeological experience relevant to this project. HES have extensive experience in the area of wind farm projects in Ireland and Northern Ireland. HES experience covers the key areas of water quality and drainage controls and mitigation during the construction phase of wind farm development. The chapter on water as well as the response to further information related to water quality and drainage was prepared by David Broderick and Michael Gill whose qualifications and experiences are presented in Chapter 10 Water of the EIAR.

In relation to concerns raised in submissions related to hydrology drainage and water quality, MKO refer back to Chapter 10 Water of the EIAR as well as the technical note prepared as part of the response to further information request. MKO also refer to reports prepared by Cork County Council and Waterford County Council in relation to hydrology, drainage and water quality which were submitted to the Board in relation to the Proposed Development. It is the view of MKO that concerns raised in the 3rd party submissions have been thoroughly addressed in the documentation submitted to date.

3.2 Noise

There was concern raised in a number of 3rd party submissions on the potential for noise impacts as a result of the Proposed Development. In preparation of Chapter 13 Noise & Vibration of the EIAR, AWN Consulting Ltd (AWN) acoustic consultants carried out a Noise and Vibration assessment. This assessment was enclosed as part of the submitted EIAR and is considered to provide a comprehensive consideration of potential noise and vibration impacts caused as a result of the Proposed Development. AWN presented a Technical Note (See Appendix 4 of the FI 2022) as part of the Further Information response that expands on this assessment. Chapter 13 Noise & Vibration of the EIAR was prepared by Dr Aoife Kelly and Dermot Blunnie, and the Technical Note included as part of the Further Information response was prepared by Dermot Blunnie whose qualifications and experience are presented in Chapter 13 Noise & Vibration of the EIAR.

As AWN state the assessment carried out and included in the EIAR has been based on the best practice guidance which includes the ETSU and Institute of Acoustics (IOA) methodologies, as set out in the current best practice guidance outlined in Section 5.6 of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2006 (WEDG06). As per AWN Technical Note (Appendix 4 of FI 2022), the WEDG06 is considered to provide current best practice guidance due to the concerns raised in regard to the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019 (DRWEDG19) document by members of the IOA.

The potential impacts resulting from the operation of the wind turbines has been assessed with consideration of a range of hub heights, of 83.5m to 93.5m. Having evaluated this range AWN deemed that there were no predicted exceedances of the operational noise criteria curves for any of the turbine models or configurations included in the proposed hub height range. The mitigation measures

proposed in the EIAR ensure that the wind farm noise levels remain within best practice criteria during operation, regardless of the turbine actually selected within the proposed turbine range.

The construction phase of the Proposed Development has also been considered for potential noise impacts. When based on a worst-case scenario, predicted levels at two Noise Sensitive Locations (NSL) potentially exceed the threshold values. It is predicted that construction works would only have potential to exceed the threshold while within a close proximity of the two NSL. These works will include upgrade of the access road, construction and /or upgrade of the internal roads and collector cabling, it is not anticipated that the construction works will last longer than a maximum of 3 days in proximity to these two NSL

There are extensive noise specific mitigation measures proposed in section 13.6.2.7 and section 13.6.2.8 of the EIAR. The methods proposed to minimise potential impacts of noise during the construction phase include:

- Restriction of hours within which blasting can be conducted (e.g. 09:00 – 18:00hrs);
- Notification to nearby residents before blasting starts (including 24-hour written notification);
- The firing of blasts at similar times to reduce the ‘startle’ effect;
- On-going circulars informing people of the progress of the works;
- The implementation of an onsite documented complaints procedure;
- The use of independent monitoring by external parties for verification of results;

Based on the robust and comprehensive assessment carried out by AWN in line with the best practice guidance as described in the EIAR and RFI response, there is no significant noise impact associated with the Proposed Development

3.3

Geology & Soil

There were a number of submissions which raised concerns relating to the excavation of soil, the possibility of landslides, and soil creep.

The potential impacts of the Proposed Development on Land, Soils & Geology were assessed by Hydro-Environmental Services (HES). This assessment is described in detail in Chapter 9 of the EIAR. Walkover surveys, site investigations and geological mapping were undertaken by HES on 30th and 31st of August 2018 with further surveys completed in January, February and September 2019 and trial pitting undertaken in May 2020. A total of 27 no. trial pits were excavated at the Proposed Development site. The chapter and associated ground investigation was carried out by David Broderick and Michael Gill whose qualifications and experiences are presented in Chapter 9 Land, Soils & Geology of the EIAR.

The findings from the ground investigation indicated the following:

Varying depths (0.8 to 4.0 metres below ground level (mbgl)) of Devonian-derived glacial tills were encountered at all trial pits excavated at the eastern portion of the wind farm site. No significant peat deposits (some organic topsoils were noted) were encountered anywhere on site during the trial pitting works. Deeper sand deposits (possibly in-situ weathered sandstone/siltstone bedrock) were encountered at TP03A, TP04B, and TP10A, while gravel deposits were found below glacial tills at TP04A and TP06. At TP06 the gravels were saturated and owing to the proximity to the stream to the north, these are fluvio-glacial gravels. Weathered bedrock (gravel and cobbles) was encountered at TP1, TP12, TP15 and TP16, at depths of 2.0mbgl, 2.05mbgl, 1.7mbgl and 0.8mbgl respectively. The weathered gravels/cobbles comprised sub-rounded and angular weathered siltstone and sandstone bedrock.

Varying depths (0.85 to 2.2mbgl) of Devonian-derived glacial tills were encountered at all trial pits excavated at the western portion of the wind farm site. No significant peat deposits (some organic topsoils were noted) were encountered anywhere on site during the trial pitting works. Weathered bedrock was encountered at TP18, TP19, TP21A, TP22, TP23A and TP23B, at depths of 2.0mbgl,

1.5mbgl, 0.85mbgl, 1.2mbgl, 2.0mbgl, and 1.4mbgl respectively. The weathered gravels/cobbles comprised sub-rounded and angular weathered siltstone and sandstone bedrock. Subsoils are generally thicker across the eastern portion of the wind farm compared with the western portion.

The Geotechnical Assessment carried out by Fehily Timoney and Company (included as Appendix 4-2 of the EIAR) concluded that there was no evidence of past failures, nor were there any signs of instability noted on the Proposed Development site. The geotechnical assessment was based on a walkover survey and trial pits.

Further details of the soil, subsoil and bedrock present on the subject site have been given in section 9.3.2 and 9.3.3 of the EIAR and further geochemistry assessment was carried out by HES as part of the FI 2022, this can be seen in Appendix 2 of the FI 2022 response document.

For construction of the Proposed Development the removal of soil, subsoil, and rock to a substantial foundation, is required. The excavated bedrock from the 3-no. proposed on site borrow pits will provide the material for turbine bases, general hard-standing construction, and access roads. The spoil excavated will be utilised within the Proposed Development site for purposes such as landscaping and reinstating the borrow pit locations.

All management, storage and handling of spoil will be undertaken in compliance with the Geotechnical Assessment Report, included as part of the previously submitted EIAR. Sources of contaminants will not be stored on site unless contained within bunded areas. The risk of spillage and contamination on site is considered to be low once mitigation measures are implemented.

The potential residual impacts associated with soil or ground contamination and subsequent health effects are negligible. The removal of soil will directly impact the geology of the site but is considered to be appropriate for and an acceptable part of economic progression and development.

3.4

Bats

Concern has been raised in a number of submissions with regard to the potential impact to the bat population in the locality of the Proposed Development. It should be noted at the outset that the current proposal has been designed to minimise impacts on the environment of the subject site and surrounding lands. Dedicated bat surveys were undertaken at the study area over the course of two years, from 2017 to 2019. The monitoring of bats was completed using Wildlife Acoustics SM2BAT+ and SM4BAT FS and SM4BAT ZC bioacoustics recorders. A standalone Bat Survey Report is provided in Appendix 7-2 of the EIAR. A search was also carried out on the National Bat Database of Ireland to provide records of bat activity and roosts within a 10km radius of a central point within the proposed site boundary (Grid Ref: E201738 N086395, last search 21/07/2020), the results of which are presented in Table 7-8 of Section 7.5.1.6 in the EIAR.

The extensive surveys conducted concluded that there were no potential tree roosts identified and no evidence of bat use was recorded elsewhere, during the roost assessment. The surveys found that bat activity was concentrated along the linear features of the subject site, and that the species composition and activity levels varied significantly between surveys. As presented in Table 7-20 of section 7.6.4.2.3 of the EIAR the study, analysis and assessment of bats on and within the surrounding lands of the subject site concluded the following:

- *No significant effects with regard to loss of commuting and foraging habitat are anticipated.*
- *No significant effects with regard to loss of, or damage to, roosts are anticipated.*
- *No significant displacement of individuals or populations is anticipated.*
- *There is no potential for the construction of the Proposed Development to result in significant effects on the local bat population at any geographic scale.*

Concerns in respect of proximity of turbine 16 to a hedgerow had previously been responded to in Point F, Section 1.5 of the MKO Ecology Further Information Response, Appendix 3 of the FI 2022. The residual effect concluded, in Table 3 of Appendix 4 of the FI 2022, that:

“There is no potential for the construction of the Proposed Development to result in significant effects on the local bat population at any geographic scale.”

3.5 Bird Ecology

Concerns have been raised in the submissions in respect of the potential impact to birds in the locality of the Proposed Development. The following sections will highlight sections of the EIAR and FI 2022 response that address these concerns and provide conclusive rationale and clarity on the matter.

The preparation and review of Chapter 8 Ornithology, of the EIAR, has been prepared by Senior Ornithologist, Mr. Pdraig Cregg (BSc., MSc.), Mr Patrick Manley (BSc.), Mr David Naughton (BSc.), and Pat Roberts (B.Sc. Environmental Science) all of which are suitably qualified, competent, professionals with extensive experience in completing avifaunal assessments. The scope of works and survey methodology was devised by Chartered Ecologist Dr Patrick Crushell (PhD, MCIEEM). Field surveys were undertaken by Tony Nagle (MSc.), Alan McCarthy (BSc.) and Jack Kennedy (BSc.) each are suitably qualified competent experts. For curriculum vitae (CVs) of the aforementioned individuals please refer to Appendix 8-8 of the EIAR.

Whooper Swan

A number of submissions highlighted concern for the whooper swan population. Chapter 8 Birds, along with Appendix 8-3 Results Summary Tables and 8-4 Core Bird Survey Data of the EIAR along with the FI 2022 response and Appendix 4 MKO Ecology Further Information Submission, submitted previously, details the extensive ornithological surveys, analysis and research that was carried out on the subject site and surrounding area. Throughout two years of extensive surveys the whooper swan was only observed once during a series of vantage point surveys, this observation took place on the 7th of November 2016.

The surveys found no evidence of a regularly used whooper swan commuting corridor, and additionally whooper swans are known to commute to roost sites at dusk, but no observations of whooper swans were recorded during dusk hen harrier winter roost surveys. No observations of whooper swans were recorded within 4.5km of the Proposed Development site, throughout extensive surveys over a period of two years.

During waterfowl surveys, there were 23 observations of whooper swan recorded, however these observations took place over 4.5km from the subject site. Due to the location of the Proposed Development between the Blackwater Callows Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Blackwater Estuary SPA, there is a risk of collision with the proposed turbines in absence of avoidance behaviour. However, it should be noted that whooper swans have only once been recorded in a two-year survey period, on the subject site (As stated in section 1.6.2, Appendix 4 of FI 2022)

Furthermore, whooper swans have been noted in literature (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2018) to display very high rates (99.5%) of turbine avoidance. Taking this scenario, the whooper swans' infrequent route through the subject site will not result in collision for 99.5% of journeys between the Blackwater Callows SPA and Blackwater Estuary SPA. Thus, it is considered that significant risk of whooper swan collision is highly unlikely.

A comprehensive programme of operational phase surveys is proposed in Appendix 8-7 Bird Monitoring Programme of the EIAR to monitor for interactions between the Proposed Development and the local avian community. This will take a range of monitoring parameters into consideration such as collision risk, displacement/barrier effects and habituation during the lifetime of the project. The

results of these surveys will be reported to the Planning Authority each year and additional mitigation will be implemented if necessary.

Snipe

The EIAR assesses the impact of the Proposed Development on the Common Snipe. Common snipe was recorded during vantage point surveys, and wildfowl distribution surveys during the extensive ornithological work carried out on site. Details of these surveys and supporting data has been presented in section 8.4.13 of the EIAR. No significant effects were identified for the common snipe in the impact assessment noted in Section 8.8.3.9 of the EIAR. Furthermore, the subject site location is comprised primarily of commercial forestry, a habitat not favoured by the common snipe.

Barn Owl

As previously addressed in section 1.6.4, Appendix 4 of FI 2022, the extensive surveys carried out over a two-year period, in compliance with SNH 2017, did not identify this species, contrary to submissions discussing the presence of the barn owl in the locality of the subject site.

Black Tailed Godwit

The black tailed godwit was not recorded on or near the Proposed Development, but at wetlands approximately 10km from the subject site, as detailed in Section 8.4.14 of the EIAR. This is explained by the prominent conifer plantation on the Proposed Development site, an unfavourable and unsuitable habitat for waterfowl. The same can be said for species such as bar-tailed godwit, brent goose, curlew, dunlin, little egret, redshank, ringed plover, shelduck, shoveler and wigeon. The habitat present on the subject site is not deemed appropriate for foraging or roosting for any of these listed species.

None of the above listed species were observed on the subject site for the duration of the two years of comprehensive surveys, therefore significant collision risk for these species is not predicted (as per Section 1.6.5, Appendix 4 of FI 2022).

Hen harrier

Extensive hen harrier survey data and results has been provided in Appendix 8-3 Results Summary Tables, 8-4 Core Bird Survey Data, and 8-5 Supporting Survey Data of the EIAR. Section 8.4.3 of the EIAR details survey data while Section 8.5.3 of the EIAR provides details of the wintering and breeding hen harrier populations. There was no evidence of breeding populations of hen harrier within the subject site during the 2017 and 2018 breeding seasons and so the Proposed Development is not considered to be of significance to the breeding hen harrier population. There was confirmation of a roost site approximately 1.4km from the Proposed Development area and an additional 12 sightings of hen harriers in flight were recorded between 2016 and 2018. However, it is submitted in the expert opinion of the qualified ornithologists who undertook this assessment that based on these recordings are associated with a wintering population of County importance. The ornithologist qualifications and experience have been stated above and are included in Appendix 8-8 of the EIAR.

Section 8.8.3.2 of the EIAR has summarised the potential impact the Proposed Development will have to the hen harrier population. Appendix 8-6 of the EIAR provides full details of the "Random" collision risk analysis undertaken for the hen harrier which confirms that the predicted collision risk for the hen harrier is deemed insignificant. This risk is calculated at a potential rate of 0.007 collisions per year, alternatively quantified as one bird every 134 years.

Buzzards

Section 8.4.9 of the EIAR has provided evidence of buzzard observations through core vantage point surveys, breeding raptor surveys and waterfowl surveys as well as an assessment of the potential impact of the Proposed Development on the Buzzard species. An assessment of potential direct habitat loss has been undertaken accordingly and demonstrated that while the species was frequently encountered on the subject site no more than 3 no. of buzzard were recorded at one time. Though there will be areas of forestry cleared substantial areas will remain undisturbed for nesting and foraging beyond the footprint of the Proposed Development and so significant effects are not anticipated at the county, national or international scale. Similarly, there are no direct or indirect effects to habitat loss, and it is not predicted that significant displacement effects will occur at a county, national or international scale.

This species was recorded flying over the site within the potential collision risk zone. However, a collision risk assessment has deemed the collision risk to be insignificant to the buzzard population.

Golden Plover

Concerns regarding the golden plover species were raised in submissions. Sections 8.4.1, and 8.5.1 of the EIAR provide survey data, robust analysis, and assessments on potential impacts to the golden plover population as a result of the Proposed Development. There was no evidence of roosting on the subject site, with more favourable, agricultural grassland, habitats for foraging in the surrounding areas. These more suitable habitats are not included in the Proposed Development site and so direct habitat loss is not predicted.

Disturbance to foraging golden plover may occur during the construction phase although this is an unlikely impact due to the limited ecological value of the impacted lands. The same may be said for the operational phase of the Proposed Development as the subject site consists primarily of commercial forestry. Therefore, significant displacement effects are not predicted.

This species was recorded flying over the site within the potential collision risk zone during a Vantage Point Survey. However, a "Random" collision risk model has been carried out and the predicted collision risk is deemed to be negligible (<1%) in the context of the county and local population. These results have been summarised and are provided in Section 8.8.3.1 of the EIAR.

Sparrowhawk

Section 8.4.10, of the EIAR has provided data from Vantage Point Surveys and Hen Harrier Roost Surveys. The results of these surveys and their supporting data are summarised and assessed in section 8.8.3.7 of the EIAR. Significant displacement of the Sparrowhawk is not anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development at either the construction or operational phase of the Proposed Development. Habitat loss during the construction phase is not anticipated to be significant as substantial areas suitable for nesting and foraging will remain beyond the footprint of the Proposed Development.

Though there were observations of sparrowhawk recorded flying within the potential collision risk zone during Vantage Point Surveys the collision risk is predicted to be insignificant. This was concluded following a "Random" collision risk assessment, the full details of which are provided in Appendix 8-6 CRM Assessment.

Black Headed Gulls

As detailed in section 8.4.6 of the EIAR, black headed gulls were spotted twice throughout two years of extensive surveys. These observations were recorded during a series of vantage point surveys, once on the 7th of November 2016 and the second on the 4th of December 2016. There were 55 additional observations of black headed gulls during dedicated waterfowl surveys, these recordings were taken

over 3km from the subject site. Further survey data is detailed in Appendix 8-3 Results Summary Tables and 8-4 Core Bird Survey Data of the EIAR.

Although the black headed gull is noted as a widespread wintering species in Ireland it was only recorded on the aforementioned two occasions. As stated in Section 8.5.6 of the EIAR, the site is considered to be of no significance to the breeding or wintering of the black headed gull.

3.6

Archaeological & Cultural Heritage

A number of submissions raised concerns in respect of the archaeological and cultural heritage of the locality as a result of the Proposed Development. Chapter 14 Archaeology & Cultural Heritage of the EIAR was prepared by Tobar Archaeological Services (Tobar) and addressed archaeological and cultural heritage. The chapter and associated fieldwork have been carried out by Miriam Carroll and Annette Quinn whose qualifications and experiences are presented in Chapter 14 Archaeology & Cultural Heritage of the EIAR. Tobar have assessed the potential impacts of the Proposed Development on the surrounding archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage landscape. Desk top research and comprehensive field walking of the subject site was undertaken to identify areas of archaeological/architectural/cultural significance or potential, that may be impacted by the Proposed Development.

The field study and inspection was undertaken on the 12th and 27th of September and 3rd of October 2018 and again on the 19th of May 2020. A full photographic record of the recorded monuments, architectural, built, or cultural heritage items on the site was then compiled and is presented in Section 14.3.1 of the EIAR. Tobar confirmed that following extensive research there are no built heritage structures which are subject to statutory protection or otherwise are located within the EIAR site boundary. Their assessment also concluded that a thatched farmhouse (NIAH 22903408 at Coolbeggan West (Map ID1) is the nearest architectural heritage structure, located 742m to Turbine 1 but outside the EIAR boundary, therefore no direct impacts will occur.

Section 14.4 of the EIAR provides potential effects as a result of the Proposed Development and the proposed mitigation measures. Such measures include archaeological monitoring of areas in undisturbed ground to take place during the construction phase. An overview of the potential impacts resulting from the Proposed Development on cultural heritage in the area is provided in section 14.7 of the EIAR.

In addition, as part of the response to the request for Further Information, Tobar prepared an archaeological and cultural heritage response, which was included as Appendix 6 of the FI 2022. Section 1.1.1.4 of this response document prepared addresses concerns raised with regard to Houses, Demesnes and general built heritage along the Blackwater valley from Villierstown to Youghal Bridge. In assessing the impact of the Proposed Development on the cultural heritage of the Blackwater Valley, the assessment considered both Houses and Demesnes (including grounds and avenue approaches) as set out in the document in Sections 1.1.1.3, 1.1.1.4, and 1.1.1.5. The conclusion of this assessment was stated in the document as follows:

“Molana Abbey and Ballynatray House (NIAH ref 22903718) in Ballynatray demesne were located within the 5km assessment zone and therefore included in the analysis. Both are located in an area of the ZTV that has no visibility of the proposed turbines.”

The reason being that the Blackwater River Valley is topographically lower than the surrounding landscape. Table 1 of the Tobar response (Appendix 6 of FI 2022) has detailed Houses, Castles and Demesnes (including grounds and avenue approaches along the Blackwater valley, detailing the registration numbers on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and/or Record of Monuments and Places and the zone of theoretical visibility result.

Coillte and the Code of Practice

As detailed in the FI 2022 response, Section 2.12.1.3.6 with relation to the archaeological and cultural heritage assessment and the inaccessibility issues faced during the assessment. The Coillte Code of Practice sets out guidelines for afforestation and clearance with regards to impact on archaeology. As part of the EIAR lodged the aim of the archaeological assessment was to establish the current baseline data available and assess any monuments in their current setting. It is noted within the EIAR that the monuments were inaccessible, and this therefore was the baseline environment required to be described as part of the assessment. It is pointed out that any inaccessibility issues predate the assessment, mitigation for this has been included for in the EIAR with the use of buffer zones during construction to protect the areas around the monument and the monuments themselves. Throughout the design phase these monuments have been carefully designed out of the Proposed Development.

3.7

Equine & Agriculture

Concerns have been raised in a number of the submissions in respect of the potential impact on stud farms/equestrian facilities in the locality of the Proposed Development. The following section will highlight where in the EIAR and FI 2022 these concerns are addressed and provide rationale and clarification on the matter.

Within Section 2.7 of the FI 2022 Table 2-6 lists the closest stud farm/equestrian facilities to the nearest proposed turbine location. As can be seen in Table 2-6, Old Road Stud, Tallow, Co Waterford is located 1,000m from the nearest proposed turbine. A further 2 stud farm/equestrian facilities are listed within Table 2-6 at 6,000m and 7,600m respectively from the nearest proposed turbine. As stated within the FI 2022 there is an absence of national policy or guidance in relation to the development of wind farms near stud farms/equestrian centres. In the absence of this policy or guidance MKO reviewed the British Horse Society's 'Advice on Wind Turbines and Horses- Guidance for Planners and Developers' the policy statement states the following in relating to the siting of wind turbines in the vicinity of stud farms/equestrian centres:

“The BHS strongly recommends that the views and concerns of local equestrians should be recognised and taken into account when determining separation distances and that normally a minimum separation distance of 200m or three times blade tip height (whichever is greater) will be required between a turbine and any route used by horses or a business with horses. This minimum separation distance may not be appropriate in all situations. Every site should be considered independently....”

“The BHS is aware that every site is different and a blanket policy to cover all situations may be excessively restrictive for some sites”

The British Horse Society recommends a minimum separation distance of 200 meters or three times blade tip height whichever is greater. As the blade tip height for the Proposed Development is 150m and using the separation distance as per the British Horse Society this would require a distance of 450m from the nearest proposed turbine. As the closest dwelling is located approximately 700 metres from the nearest proposed turbine, they are located at just over 1.5 times the recommended distance between the proposed turbines and any stud farm/equestrian facilities.

Considering the above, it is reiterated that the impacts of the Proposed Development on the equine industry have been assessed in full within the EIAR and the response to Further Information. It can be respectfully submitted that these conclusions are valid and no impact on the equine industry is anticipated to arise as a result of the Proposed Development.

EIAR

Concerns in respect of the validity, accuracy, and certainty of the EIAR and credibility of the guidelines used were raised in a number of the submissions. An EIAR accompanied the application (ABP-309121-21) to the Board in accordance with Section 171 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

The European Union Directive 2011/92/EU, amended by EU Directive 2014/52/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (the 'EIA Directive'), requires Member States to ensure that a competent authority carries out an assessment of the likely significant effects of certain types of project, as listed in the Directive, prior to development consent being given for the project. The EIAR complies with the EIA Directive in terms of the structure and content of the information required.

Article 5 of the EIA Directive provides where an EIA is required, the developer shall prepare and submit an EIAR, previously referred to as an Environmental Impact Statement ('EIS'). The information to be provided by the developer shall include at least:

- a) a description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project;*
- b) a description of the likely significant effects of the project on the environment;*
- c) a description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;*
- d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment;*
- e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d); and*
- f) any additional information specified in Annex IV relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected.*

In addition, Schedule 6 to the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2020 as amended sets out the information to be contained in an EIAR, with which this EIAR complies.

The purpose of submitting the EIAR is to document the current state of the environment in the vicinity of the Proposed Development site and to evaluate the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment.

The EIAR has been prepared by extensively experienced multidisciplinary teams, each chapter has been prepared by competent experts in the relevant subject matter.

The guidelines and regulations that informed the preparation and writing of the EIAR were the most up to date and relevant available, thus the validity of the guidance documents are not of concern.

Landscape

In response to concerns raised regarding the landscape and visual amenity of the area, it is important to highlight the additional assessments and photomontages that were submitted as part of the response to the request for further information. Appendix 5 of the response, submitted in October 2022, includes a comprehensive and updated Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) to address the points raised by both the Board and members of the public. Furthermore, an additional photomontage booklet was included, consisting of 14 additional photomontages representing various perspectives and orientations, showcasing views from the local community and the Blackwater Valley. These additional photomontages, combined with the existing 14 photomontages in Volume 2 of the EIAR photomontage

booklet, amount to a total of 29 photomontages. These photomontages provide an ample basis for determining the potential significant landscape and visual effects of the Proposed Development. It is worth noting that the same methodology used to create the initial 14 photomontages was employed for these additional ones, with a detailed description of these methodologies outlined in Section 1.4 of the LVIA, Appendix 12-1 of the EIAR.

Furthermore, concerns were raised in various submissions about the absence of a cumulative assessment concerning other wind farms in the surrounding landscape. In the response to further information, Section 2.11.1 provides a list of relevant wind farms in Co. Waterford and Co. Cork that are assessed cumulatively in relation to the Proposed Development. In the response to further information, viewpoint assessment tables for the additional 14 viewpoints mirror the structure found in Appendix 12-3 Viewpoint Assessment of the EIAR. These tables offer a detailed assessment of the likely significance of visual effects resulting from the Proposed Development as viewed from the additional photomontage locations. Cumulative effects from each photomontage location are also assessed within these tables, which can be found in Appendix 1 of the LVIA included in the Further Information Response.

In conclusion, it is evident that the concerns raised in third-party submissions have been thoroughly and comprehensively addressed in the documentation submitted.

3.10 Shadow Flicker

Several submissions have expressed concerns regarding the potential impact of shadow flicker resulting from the Proposed Development. These concerns have been thoroughly addressed in Chapter 6 Shadow Flicker of the EIAR submitted. The assessment conducted in the EIAR aligns with the current guidelines set forth by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) for Wind Energy Development Guidelines in 2006, which stipulate a limit of 30 hours per year or 30 minutes per day for shadow flicker.

It is important to note that if the revised DoEHLG Draft Wind Energy Guidelines 2019, which mandate zero shadow flicker at dwellings, are adopted, the Proposed Development will fully comply. The EIAR includes a comprehensive section, Section 6.4.3 of Chapter 6 Shadow Flicker, outlining direct control measures and mitigation strategies to ensure compliance with the revised guidelines. To address this concern, the turbines will be equipped with a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, capable of meeting the requirements specified in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) or any future guidelines that may be adopted prior to a decision being made on this application.

Regarding the minimum and maximum hub heights of 83.5m and 93.5m respectively, it is important to emphasize that the shadow flicker rerun findings, presented in Appendix 8 of the response to the further information, demonstrate that the Proposed Development adheres to the criteria outlined in both the DoEHLG Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 and the DoEHLG Draft Wind Energy Guidelines 2019.

3.11 Safety & Risk Management

Safety and risk management had previously been addressed in the FI 2022 response however additional concern for turbine fire and risks associated with thunderstorms and severe weather events have been raised with reference to the fire at the Arklow Bank Offshore Windfarm on the 19th of October 2022. Chapter 5 Population & Human Health of the EIAR addresses population and human health, section 5.5.2 of this chapter discusses turbine safety and states the following:

“Turbine blades are manufactured of glass reinforced plastic which will prevent any likelihood of an increase in lightning strikes within the site of the Proposed Development or the local area. Lightning protection conduits will be integral to the construction of the turbines. Lightning conduction cables, encased in protection conduits, will follow the electrical cable

run, from the nacelle to the base of the turbine. The conduction cables will be earthed adjacent to the turbine base. The earthing system will be installed during the construction of the turbine foundations.'

The FI 2022 response previously addressed concerns relating to safety during the construction phase and operation phase in section 2.12.1.6. The Construction Environmental Management Plan (Appendix 4-4 of the EIAR) notes in section 10.4.3 that in the event the Board decides to grant permission for the Proposed Development, the final Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will address the requirements of any relevant planning conditions, including any additional mitigation measures which are conditioned by the Board. This final TMP will be agreed with the Planning Authority and An Garda Síochána and will be put in place for the duration of the construction period.

An outline Construction TMP has been included in the CEMP, Appendix 4-4 of the EIAR. This plan includes measures which will ensure safety for all during the construction phase. Furthermore, the construction phase deliveries made to the site including abnormally large loads, such as the turbine components, will be accompanied by a Garda escort during night-time hours and a Traffic Management Co-ordinator will be appointed for the duration of the project. The FI 2022 response has emphasised that residents and members of the public will be able to contact the Traffic Management Co-ordinator with any specific safety concerns. In the event the Board decides to grant permission for the Proposed Development, the final TMP will address the requirements of any relevant planning conditions, including any additional mitigation measures which are conditioned by the Board.

3.12

Community Concerns

The following are concerns raised in the Third-Party observations that presented a variety of community related concerns. The concerns raised related to the following topics:

- Tourism
- Population
- Property Value & Proximity of turbines to residential dwellings
- Employment
- Future development in the area
- Broadband Signal
- Community Engagement

The following sections will address the concerns listed above, with reference to the Chapter 5 Population & Human Health of the EIAR.

Tourism

Tourism is an important contributor to Ireland's national economy, generating key revenue and providing full time and seasonal employment. Tourism regions in Ireland are divided into eight regions, with the proposed windfarm site located in both the South West and South East region. Section 5.3.1 states that, in 2018, these regions benefit from a combined 26% of the total number of overseas tourists to the country and approximately 24% of the associated tourism income generated.

There are no key identified tourist attractions within or relating to the Proposed Development site. The Cork County Development Plan identifies strategic tourism areas, none of these sites are located within the subject site and the Proposed Development is not predicted to impact on any sites of existing tourism. In addition, the key tourist attractions located in Co. Waterford are not located within the Proposed Development site.

Furthermore, Fáilte Ireland Surveys conducted in 2007 and 2012 established that visitors to Ireland have a broadly positive attitude towards wind farms:

“Almost three quarters of respondents claim that potentially greater numbers of wind farms would either have no impact on their likelihood to visit or have a strong or fairly strong positive impact on future visits to the island of Ireland. Of those who feel that a potentially greater number of wind farms would positively impact on their likelihood to visit, the key driver is their support for renewable energy and potential decreased carbon emissions.”

Population

The general concern within the public submission was for population decline and the impact on the population’s health, these concerns have previously been addressed in Chapter 5, section 5.4 and 5.5 of the EIAR. The results of a national survey entitled ‘*Attitudes Towards the Development of Wind Farms in Ireland*’ were published by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) in 2003. This survey found that two thirds of respondents (67%) were found to be positively disposed to having a wind farm in their locality. The SEAI report stated that:

“The overwhelming indication from this study is that wind energy enjoys great support and, more specifically, that the development of wind farms is supported and welcomed. The single most powerful indicator of this is to be found among those living in proximity to an existing wind farm: over 60% would be in favour of a second wind farm or an extension of the existing one. This represents a strong vote in favour of wind farm developments – especially important since it is voiced by those who know from direct experience about the impact of such developments on their communities.”

Further survey results have been published since the preparation of the EIAR and FI 2022, such as the WEI Public Attitudes Monitor on Wind Energy 2022, carried out by Interactions for WEI between November and December 2022. The objective of such was to “*measure and track public perceptions and attitudes around wind energy amongst Irish adults*”. The survey results indicated that 4 in 5 nationally (80%) are now in favour of wind power with 85% of rural residents registering favourable attitudes to wind power. When questioned about wind developments in their local area, 1 in 10 rural residents registered as being opposed to development of wind farms locally.

Section 5.5 of the EIAR has a comprehensive overview of potential health impacts as a result of wind farms and notes that at present there is no published and credible scientific evidence to positively link wind turbines with adverse health effects.

Property value as a result of the proximity of turbines to residential dwellings

To address concerns regarding the potential decline in property value resulting from the Proposed Development, third-party submissions have been thoroughly examined. Various studies conducted on this topic have consistently disproven the perception that wind farm development negatively impacts property values.

For instance, a study titled “The Impact of Wind Power Projects on Residential Property Values in the United States: A multi-Site Hedonic Analysis,” carried out by the Lawrence Berkley National Laboratory (LBNL) for the U.S. Department of Energy and published in December 2009, concluded that there is no substantial evidence indicating a consistent and significant effect on home prices surrounding wind facilities. The study found that neither the view of wind facilities nor the distance of homes to those facilities measurably and consistently affected property values. While the analysis acknowledges the possibility of occasional negative impacts on individual homes, if such impacts exist, they are too infrequent and insignificant to result in observable, widespread effects.

Additionally, as mentioned in section 5.6 of the EIAR, a study commissioned by Renewable UK and conducted by the Centre for Economics and Business Research (Cebr) in March 2014 provided further evidence. The study focused on Scottish wind turbines and their surrounding houses and revealed the following findings:

- a. There is no consistent negative effect on house prices: Across a wide range of analyses, including improved approaches compared to previous studies, no consistent negative effect of wind turbines or wind farms on property prices was found when considering the entire sample of Scottish wind turbines and their neighbouring houses. In fact, most results showed either no significant effect on property price changes within 2km or 3km or even a positive effect.
- b. Regional variations in results: The study noted that the results varied across different regions of Scotland. However, the available data did not provide enough information to thoroughly analyse and test the underlying causes of these variations, which may be interconnected and complex.

These studies collectively provide robust evidence refuting the claim that wind farm development leads to a decline in property values. The findings consistently demonstrate either a lack of significant effects or even positive effects on property prices in the proximity of wind turbines or wind farms.

Employment

As noted within Section 5.2.6.2 of the EIAR, it is accepted that Ireland has the ability to use the wind energy industry to create investment and jobs. A report titled *Jobs and Investment in Irish Wind Energy- Powering Ireland's Economy* which was published by in 2009 by Deloitte, in conjunction with the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) states the following:

'Ireland is fortunate to enjoy one of the best wind resources in the world. Developing this resource will reduce and stabilise energy prices in Ireland and boost our long-term competitiveness as an economy. It will also significantly reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels.'

The 2009 Deloitte report goes on to estimate potentially 10,760 jobs created through the wind energy sector with the majority within the construction industry. The report states the following:

'The wind sector offers great opportunities to a sector such as construction, which is currently facing downturn and rising unemployment. It is estimated that approximately 7,258 jobs will be supported by the construction element of wind farms.'

Contained within Section 5.8.2.2 of the EIAR, it is noted that through the design, construction, and operational phase of the Proposed Development there is the potential for the creation of 100 jobs. These roles will consist of contractors, technical consultants, and maintenance staff. It is concluded that this will have a short term significant positive impact.

Future development in the area

As previously stated in section 5.8.2.4 of the EIAR, the Proposed Development footprint measures approximately 23.3 ha, just 3% of the total site area with no significant loss to the land used for forestry and agriculture. The existing use of land for commercial forestry and agriculture at the Proposed Development site will continue around the footprint of the proposed wind farm and therefore there is no significant loss of the current land use. Other land uses within the wider locality of the Proposed Development will not be impacted by the Proposed Development.

Broadband Signal

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with broadcast signals, acting as a physical barrier, causing a degree of scattering to microwave links and generating an electromagnetic field which can interfere with broadcast communications. Telephone, broadband and telecommunications operators were contacted

in regard to the potential interference, this exercise was undertaken as part of the scoping and consultation process carried out by MKO.

The Scoping carried out consisted of determining the content, depth and extent of topics to be covered in the EIAR, by contacting the relevant authorities and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) with interest in the specific aspects of the environment with the potential to be affected by the proposal. In the case of telecommunications authorities such as BT Communications Ireland, Eir and Virgin Ireland Ltd were engaged with during the scoping process. Further details of this have been previously submitted in Chapter 2: Background to the Proposed Development (Section 2.6 of the EIAR).

The responses received as part of the scoping process were considered in the preparation of the final proposed turbine layout, and have been included in Appendix 2-1 of the EIAR. The proposed wind farm will therefore have no impact on telecommunications or aviation communications.

Community Engagement

A number of third-party submissions state a lack of community engagement was carried out. In response to this MKO would like to outline a number of sections within the EIAR submitted which comprehensively cover the community consultation which took place in respect of the Proposed Development.

This is detailed in Chapter 2, Section 2.6.4 of the EIAR which covers the different forms of public engagement which took place. Section 2.6.4.2 highlights the initial community engagement which took place with the local community in February 2018, this initial engagement was in relation to the potential for development of a renewable energy project and the installation of a temporary anemometry (met) mast with letters being hand delivered to properties within 1km of the proposed site boundary.

A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed to the project in April 2018 as outlined in Section 2.6.4.3. the CLO acts as a direct contact between the project team and the local community.

As detailed in Section 2.6.4.4 and Section 2.6.4.5 of the EIAR, consultation with the local representative group and a public information evening took place on 31st May 2018 in the K.G.K Community Hall, Knockanore, Co. Waterford. In response to the Covid-19 restrictions which came into effect following the public events a virtual public exhibition was established in August 2020 to allow the local community and those interested to view updated project information. This virtual public exhibition is no longer live as the period for public consultation has ended.

Section 2.6.4.6 considers the door-to-door house calls which took place for the Proposed Development. Between August and October 2018 door to door house calls were carried out by the CLO and two project managers from RWE. Following on from this door-to-door engagement two newsletters followed which included a set of frequently asked questions compiled from the earlier engagement carried out.

A standalone project website was launched, on the 8th of January 2021. The application, EIAR, NIS and other associated documentation are available for inspection by the public on the website, which can be accessed at the following link: <https://www.lyrenacarrigawindfarm.com/>

As detailed in Section 2.6.4 of the EIAR a dedicated 'Community Report' was attached as Appendix 2-4. This Community Report provides details of the consultation that has been undertaken by the applicant in the local community regarding the proposed Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm. It also outlines the main issues identified by the local community and how these have been considered in the final proposal along with details of the potential economic benefit of the proposed Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm for the local community.

4. CONCLUSION

This document serves as a comprehensive response to the request issued by An Bord Pleanála on May 15, 2023, regarding planning application reference ABP-309121-21 for the proposed Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm. We have thoroughly reviewed and addressed the concerns raised in the 196 public submissions and 3 submissions from statutory bodies that were additional to those received and responded to in the Response to Further Information. Where submissions had previously been addressed in the documentation submitted, including the EIAR and the Response to the Request for Further Information this is clearly indicated in this response.

As climate change is now a clearly acknowledged emergency in Ireland, the establishment of low carbon economies through increased renewable energy generation has become a time-critical consideration underpinning the current development of the country. The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region (2020) is wholly supportive of the continued deployment of renewable energy sources - including ongoing support for wind energy developments. The Review of the Security of Energy Supply of Ireland's Electricity and Natural Gas Systems Consultation Paper dated 19 September 2022 states:

“In order to reduce its import dependency, Ireland must increase the level of energy from a diverse number of renewable energy sources. In addition to having a diverse renewables portfolio, the development of storage, demand side response and interconnection will support Ireland’s decarbonisation and energy security agenda”.

In addition, the publication of key Government policy such as the Climate Action Plan 2023 reinforce the urgent need to transition to a low carbon economy and promote sustainable energy developments such as the proposed. The urgency for this transition is growing as EPA Projections, published on the 1st of June 2023 indicate that:

- *“Ireland will achieve a reduction of 29 per cent in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 compared to a target of 51 per cent.*
- *Almost all sectors are on a trajectory to exceed their national sectoral emissions ceilings for 2025 and 2030, including Agriculture, Electricity Transport and Industry.*
- *The first two carbon budgets (2021-2030) will not be met, and by a significant margin.*
- *Reaching the 2030 target requires implementing policies that deliver emission reductions across all sectors in the short term.*
- *Ireland needs to fully implement the actions in the 2023 Climate Action Plan that have been defined; firm up the actions that currently don't have associated policies and measures, such as diversification in agriculture; and identify and implement further policies and measures.”*

Based on the above, we affirm that we have provided a complete response to the Board's request as outlined in the letter of the 15th of May 2023. Therefore, we kindly request that the Board complete their consideration of the planning application.



APPENDIX 1

**CORRESPONDENCE TO THE
BOARD – SUBMISISON ON THE
4TH OF NOVEMBER 2022**

Fergal Connolly

From: Mary Kelleher
Sent: 16 June 2023 09:43
To: Fergal Connolly
Subject: FW: 170749e - ABP 309121-21 Lyrenacarraiga Wind Farm - Significant FI
Attachments: ECHO 4.pdf; Dungarvan Leader as Published DL_Pg21_4Nov2022.pdf; Site Notice 2022.10.25 F.pdf; lyre independent.pdf

Kind Regards,
Mary.

Mary Kelleher BSc. Env.Sc., MPlan.
Planner

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From: Meabhann Crowe <mcrowe@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, November 4, 2022 11:15 AM
To: sids@pleanala.ie
Cc: Mary Kelleher <mkelleher@mkoireland.ie>; Shaun McGee <s.mcgee@pleanala.ie>
Subject: 170749e - ABP 309121-21 Lyrenacarraiga Wind Farm - Significant FI

Good morning,

I refer to the SID application ABP-309121-21 where Further Information has been submitted. At the request of the Board, the FI has been advertised in the Dungarvan Leader, the Echo, and the Irish Independent. Copy notices are attached. Relevant site notices have also been erected today - a copy notice is also attached. Hard copies of this information is being furnished with the Board later today. Copies of the FI information has been lodged with the Prescribed Bodies and both Local Authorities as requested.

I trust all is in order.

Yours faithfully

Meabhann Crowe, MRTPI
Project Planner

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APPENDIX 2

**NEWSPAPER NOTICES AND SITE
NOTICES AS PER THE
SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD ON
THE 4TH OF NOVEMBER 2022**

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

THE SUBMISSION OF SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO A DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT UNDER REFERENCE NUMBER ABP-309121-21

Waterford County Council Cork County Council

In accordance with sub-section of 2(b) of 37F of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, Curns Energy Ltd. gives notice of its furnishing of significant additional information to An Bord Pleanála in respect of a planning application for Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm in the townlands of Lyrenacarriga, Dunmoon South, Coolbeggan West, Propoge, Ballycondon Commons, Ballynatray Commons, Shanapollagh and Killea, County Waterford and the townlands of Lyremountain, Lyre, Ballyanthony, Knockanarrig, Breeda, Rearour North and Rearour South, County Cork. The proposed development will constitute the provision of the following:

- I. Construction of up to 17 No. wind turbines with a maximum overall blade tip height of up to 150 metres;
- II. 1 no. Meteorological Mast with a maximum height of up to 112 metres;
- III. Construction of 1 no. staff welfare and storage facility including waste water holding tank;
- IV. 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation with 2 no. control buildings with welfare facilities, 10 no. battery containers, battery switchgear building, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing, all associated underground cabling, waste water holding tank and all ancillary works;
- V. Underground cabling connecting the turbines to the proposed substation and connection from the proposed substation to the national grid via a 110 kV loop in connection.
- VI. Upgrade of existing tracks, roads and provision of new site access roads and hardstand areas;
- VII. Construction of an access track in the townlands of Breeda and Rearour South to facilitate turbine delivery;
- VIII. Junction improvement works in the townland of Killea to facilitate turbine delivery;
- IX. 3 no. borrow pits;
- X. 2 no. temporary construction compounds;
- XI. Site Drainage;
- XII. Forestry Felling;
- XIII. Signage; and
- XIV. All associated site development works.

This application is seeking a ten-year planning permission and 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the project and accompany this planning application.

This significant additional information, together with the original planning application documentation, EIAR and NIS, may be inspected free of charge or purchased (on payment of a specified fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy) during public opening hours for a period of 5 weeks commencing **on the 4th of November 2022** at the following locations:

The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
The Offices of Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork
The Offices of Waterford County Council, The Mall, Waterford

The documentation may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: <https://www.lyrenacarrigawindfarm.com/>

Submissions or observations in relation to the significant additional information may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (The Board), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 in writing or at www.pleanala.ie relating to:

- (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development.
- (iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, where applicable.

Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies). There is no fee required to make a submission in relation to those parties/individuals who have already made a valid written submission to the Board regarding the application. Submissions or observations must be received by the Board no later than **5.30 p.m. on the 9th of December 2022**. Submissions/observations must also include the following information:

- (i) The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent.
- (ii) The subject matter of the submission or observation and
- (iii) The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full.

Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board.

Any enquiries relating to the significant additional information should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel: 01 8588100).

A person may question the validity of any such decision by the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011) in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading information on Legal Notices – Judicial Review Notice section of the Board's website (www.pleanala.ie) or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie

Date:

Signed	<i>Meabhann P. Crowe</i> -Meabhann Crowe of MKO (Agent), Tuam Road, Galway uH91 VW84 (on behalf of Curns Energy Ltd)
Date of Erection of Site Notice	4th of November 2022

Legal Section

Notice Planning Notices

Cork City Council: Paul Canty is seeking Permission for alterations to the elevations and extensions to an existing dwelling including; 1) Dormer window to the front roof elevation. 2) Two storey extensions to the side and rear, including alterations to the main roof structure. 3) Single storey extensions to the sides. 4) Associated site works on a site of approx. 0.09 Ha. All works to be carried out at Renmore, Modlefarm Road, Cork City. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application.

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL We, Niall and Aine O'Keefe intend to apply to the above Council for Permission for a detached "granny flat" at Carrigkilter, Ballycotton, Co. Cork. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, during its public opening hours, i.e. 9.00a.m. to 4.00p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee within a period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application, and such submissions and observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

Cork City Council We, Brian O'Kennedy & Associates on behalf of Darragh Scriven intend to apply for permission for the construction of a new detached two-storey dwelling house, a new vehicular entrance and associated site works, at 3 Templevale, Beaumont, Cork. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application.

Notice Planning Notices

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022
THE SUBMISSION OF SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO A DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT UNDER REFERENCE NUMBER ABP-309121-21
Waterford County Council
Cork County Council

In accordance with sub-section of 2(b) of 37F of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, Curms Energy Ltd. gives notice of its furnishing of significant additional information to An Bord Pleanála in respect of a planning application for Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm in the townlands of Lyrenacarriga, Dunmoon South, Coolbeggan West, Propoge, Ballycondon Commons, Ballynatray Commons, Shanapollagh and Killea, County Waterford and the townlands of Lyremountain, Lyre, Ballyanthony, Knockanarrig, Breeda, Rearour North and Rearour South, County Cork. The proposed development will constitute the provision of the following:

- I. Construction of up to 17 No. wind turbines with a maximum overall blade tip height of up to 150 metres;
- II. 1 no. Meteorological Mast with a maximum height of up to 112 metres;
- III. Construction of 1 no. staff welfare and storage facility including waste water holding tank;
- IV. 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation with 2 no. control buildings with welfare facilities, 10 no. battery containers, battery switchgear building, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing, all associated underground cabling, waste water holding tank and all ancillary works;
- V. Underground cabling connecting the turbines to the proposed substation and connection from the proposed substation to the national grid via a 110 kV loop in connection.
- VI. Upgrade of existing tracks, roads and provision of new site access roads and hardstand areas;
- VII. Construction of an access track in the townlands of Breeda and Rearour South to facilitate turbine delivery;
- VIII. Junction improvement works in the townland of Killea to facilitate turbine delivery;
- IX. 3 no. borrow pits;
- X. 2 no. temporary construction compounds;
- XI. Site Drainage;
- XII. Forestry Felling;
- XIII. Signage; and
- XIV. All associated site development works.

This application is seeking a ten-year planning permission and 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the project and accompany this planning application. This significant additional information, together with the original planning application documentation, EIAR and NIS, may be inspected free of charge or purchased (on payment of a specified fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy) during public opening hours for a period of 5 weeks commencing on the 4th of November 2022 at the following locations:
The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1
The Offices of Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork
The Offices of Waterford County Council, The Mall, Waterford
The documentation may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: <https://www.lyrenacarrigawindfarm.com/>
Submissions or observations in relation to the significant additional information may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (The Board), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 in writing or at www.pleanala.ie relating to:

- (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
 - (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development.
 - (iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, where applicable.
- Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies). There is no fee required to make a submission in relation to those parties/individuals who have already made a valid written submission to the Board regarding the application. Submissions or observations must be received by the Board no later than 5.30 p.m. on the 9th of December 2022. Submissions/observations must also include the following information:
- (i) The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent.
 - (ii) The subject matter of the submission or observation and
 - (iii) The reasons, considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full.
- Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board. Any enquiries relating to the significant additional information should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel: 01 8588100). A person may question the validity of any such decision by the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011) in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Information on Legal Notices - Judicial Review Notice section on the Board's website (www.pleanala.ie) or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie
Date: 4th November 2022

Notice Planning Notices

Notice Planning Notices

Cork County Council: We, Tulsan Limited are applying to Cork County Council for permission for the retention, modification and completion of a partially completed Aparthotel which includes the construction of 20 hotel bedrooms, a bar, restaurant and 24 apartments [for short-term letting] ranging in height from three to four storeys over basement. The application follows a number of similar planning permissions on site under Planning Reg. Nos. 18/6611, 02/2828, 04/9743, 08/7234 and 13/4486. The basement and steel superstructure of the southern 'Apartment Wing' have been constructed with some modifications to the previously permitted design, the total area constructed constitutes 1,962.03m². The proposed development is largely similar to that previously permitted with some simplifications to the elevations, replacement of permitted external stair and lift cores with internal cores, covered balcony projections to the front elevation, changes to the finished floor levels, floor heights, eaves heights and ridge heights and change to the building footprint [as a result of works completed to date]. The applicants are also applying for permission for the construction of necessary upgrades to current waste water treatment system, 2 no. surface car parks [providing 64 no. spaces], drainage works, landscaping and boundary treatments, bin storage, pedestrian crossing, surface treatments and all ancillary site development works at Garretstown Strand, Coolbane, Kinsale, Co. Cork. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority during its public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application.

Notice Planning Notices

Cork City Council: Catriona O'Brien applies to Cork City Council for Planning Permission a Single Storey kitchen and en-suite Extension to the rear and side of the Dwelling at 84A Wilton Gardens, Wilton Road, Cork T12 NCN4. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority, City Hall, Cork, during its public opening hours. A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee of €20 within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application, and such submissions and observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application. The Planning Authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

Notice Planning Notices

Cork County Council Permission is sought by Niall & Stacy Kelleher, for the construction of a split-level single-storey dwelling house, with detached single storey adjacent domestic garage, new vehicle entrance from the public road, installation of a new wastewater treatment system and all associated site works at Ballydonagh More, Dungourney, Co.Cork. The planning application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy at the offices of the Planning Authority, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, during its public opening hours, i.e. 9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays). A submission or observation in relation to the application may be made in writing to the Planning Authority on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Authority of the application, and such submissions and observations will be considered by the planning authority in making a decision on the application. The planning authority may grant permission subject to or without conditions, or may refuse to grant permission.

Notice Legal Notices

AN CHUIRT DUICHE (THE DISTRICT COURT) DISTRICT COURT AREA OF CORK CITY DISTRICT NO. 19 TAKE NOTICE that PIPERS AMUSEMENTS LIMITED having its Registered Office at Point Road, Crosshaven, in the County of Cork, Eir Code P43 R868, will apply to the District Court sitting at Courtroom 1, Courthouse, Washington Street, in the City of Cork, on Friday the 16th December, 2022 at 10.30 a.m. for a Certificate under Section 15 of the Gaming and Lotteries Act, 1956, authorising the issue of renewal of Gaming Licence from the 1st day of January, 2023 to the 31st day of December, 2023 at La Scala, Point Road, Crosshaven, Co. Cork, from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. in the said District Court Area in respect of 60 Gaming Machines, Bingo, Video Games, Kiddie Rides and Pool Tables. Dated this 3rd day of November, 2022. FOLEY TURNBULL, SOLICITORS FOR APPLICANT, JOYCE HOUSE, BARRACK SQUARE, BALLINCOLLIG, CO. CORK. TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Notice Planning Notices

CORK CITY COUNCIL: I, David Roche, intend to apply for planning permission for alterations to the existing site entrance, construction of a detached 2-storey dwellinghouse with new site entrance, waste water treatment system and all associated site works at Lauraville, Ballincroikig, Whites Cross, Cork. The Planning Application may be inspected or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Authority, City Hall, Cork during its public opening hours and that a submission / observation in relation to the application may be made to the Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee of €20 within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

Recruitment Section

Situations Vacant

Shanbally Housing Association seek applications from interested candidates for the position of Manager. The suitable candidate will be responsible for the daily housing management functions including management of rent, responding to repairs and maintenance and managing void properties. The candidate will report to the Board and will have to work 12 hours per week flexi time. The person will need to be capable of working on their own initiative and must have full clean driving licence and have access to their own transport. Experience with MS Office and managing accounts is an advantage. Full training and mentoring will be given to the suitable candidate. Interested candidates please email CV and Cover Letter to claire@shanballyhousing.ie

Leisure Section

Dancing

Douglas Fri 4, Muriel O'Connor and Frank Curry.

For Sale Section

For Sale

Car Boot Sale
Car Boot Sale RATHCORMAC this Sunday 6 November

Motors Section

Car Hire

Great Island Car Rentals

Contact Ph. 021-4811609

Health & Beauty Section

Acupuncture

Acupuncture with massage for pain relief. 083 0025252

Personal Section

Personal

Alcoholics Anonymous

Open public meeting 1st Tuesday of every month at 8.30pm in the Lough Community Centre, Greenmount, Cork. 085-8470880 12noon-10pm info@corkaa.org

Personal Section

Personal

Gamblers Anonymous
Ph. 087-2859552

Trades & Services

Delivery Services

A van and driver, any job, 087 9329911

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Plumber All fittings / repairs tiling, drains. 086-3158947

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Matt's Window Cleaning: Gutters, fascias, soffits. Also patio washing. Fully insured. Ph: 085-7389656

LICENCED PREMISES

SELLING OR BUYING a 7 day liquor licence Call: 01 209 1935.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022: THE SUBMISSION OF SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO A DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANALA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT UNDER REFERENCE NUMBER ABP-309121-21 Waterford County Council, Cork County Council, in accordance with sub-section 2(b) of 37P of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended. Currys Energy Ltd gives notice of its furnishing of significant additional information to An Bord Pleanála in respect of a planning application for Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm in the townlands of Lyrenacarriga, Dunmoon South, Coolbeggan West, Propogge, Ballycondon Commons, Shanapollagh and Killea, County Waterford and the townlands of Lyremountain, Lyres, Ballylathony, Knockanarig, Breda, Reour North and Reour South, County Cork. The proposed development will constitute the provision of the following: I. Construction of up to 17 No. wind turbines with a maximum overall blade tip height of up to 150 metres; II. no Meteorological Mast with a maximum height of up to 112 metres; III. Construction of 1 no. staff welfare and storage facility including waste water holding tank; IV. 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation with 2 no. control buildings with welfare facilities; 10 no. battery containers, battery switchgear building, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing, all associated underground cabling, waste water holding tank and all ancillary works; V. Underground cabling connecting the turbines to the proposed substation and connection from the proposed substation to the national grid via a 110 kV loop in connection; VI. Upgrade of existing tracks, roads and provision of new site access roads and hardstand areas; VII. Construction of an access track in the townlands of Breda and Reour South to facilitate turbine delivery; VIII. Junction improvement works in the townland of Killea to facilitate turbine delivery; IX. 3 no. borrow pits; X. 2 no. temporary construction compounds; XI. Site Drainages; XII. Forestry Felling; XIII. Signage; and XIV. All associated site development works. This application is seeking a ten-year planning permission and 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the project and accompany this planning application.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

This significant additional information, together with the original planning application documentation (EIA and NIS), may be inspected free of charge or purchased (on payment of a specified fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy) during public opening hours for a period of 5 weeks commencing on the 4th of November 2022 at the following locations: The Offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 The Offices of Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork The Offices of Waterford County Council, The Mall, Waterford. The documentation may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: <https://www.lyrenacarrigawindfarm.com>. Submissions or observations in relation to the significant additional information may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (The Board), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 in writing or at www.pleanala.ie relating to: (i) The implications of the proposed development for proper planning and sustainable development of the area. (ii) The likely effects on the environment of the proposed development. (iii) The likely significant effects of the proposed development on a European site, where applicable. Any submissions/observations must be accompanied by a fee of €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies). There is no fee required to make a submission in relation to those parties/individuals who have already made a valid written submission to the Board regarding the application. Submissions or observations must be received by the Board no later than 5.30 p.m. on the 9th of December 2022. Submissions/observations must also include the following information: (i) The name of the person making the submission or observation, the name of the person acting on his or her behalf, if any, and the address to which any correspondence relating to the application should be sent. (ii) The subject matter of the submission or observation and (iii) The reasons and considerations and arguments on which the submission or observation is based in full. Any submissions or observations which do not comply with the above requirements cannot be considered by the Board. Any enquiries relating to the significant additional information should be directed to the Strategic Infrastructure Section of An Bord Pleanála (Tel: 01 8588100) A person may question the validity of any such decision by the Board by way of an application for judicial review, under Order 84 of the Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986, as amended by S.I. No. 691 of 2011) in accordance with section 50 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Practical information on the review mechanism can be accessed under the heading Information on Legal Notices - Judicial Review Notice section on the Board's website (www.pleanala.ie) or on the Citizens Information Service website www.citizensinformation.ie Friday 4th November 2022

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL - Joe Mallon (Motors) LTD are applying for permission for extension to side of existing motor showroom to include for ground floor motor showroom with ancillary office and toilet accommodation along with first floor office mezzanine over; Extension to existing first floor office area; change of use of Existing car showroom at rear of existing building to service Workshop use; internal and external alterations to existing Building; construction of single storey detached valet building and Car wash area; the development will include for reconfiguring of the existing car parking layout including new surface finishes, Landscaping and drainage; a attached illuminated building signage to Front facade of showroom extension; 2no. Free standing double Sided illuminated pylon signs, removal of existing 3no. Flag poles. And installing 9no flag poles, removal of existing site entry/exit Point and creation of new site entry/exit point, ancillary front Boundary works and all associated site works at their existing site Joe Mallon Motors, Sallins Road, Monread South, Naas, Co. Kildare. The planning application may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the Reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the planning authority during its Public opening hours and a submission or observation in relation to the application may be made to the authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the authority of the application.

VAN REMOVALS

★ **HOUSE CLEARANCE** all household junk removed, beds, sofas, electrical appliances, garden sheds cleared and removed, no skips needed, we do the loading, ask about our removal service, house, apts., office, 7 day service. Free quote ph: 087 178 2441

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EDUCATION

ATC LANGUAGE SCHOOLS is seeking a Full-Time Teacher of environment and human rights law for our Bray school, with a minimum level-7 qualification, and a Degree in environmental and human rights law. Please send a CV to recruitment@atcireland.ie or call us on 01 284 5512 for more information.

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Get a dazzling look at nature

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'Woodlands and Insects' is free with the Sunday Independent on November 6th. 'River Wildlife and Sea Life' is free with the Irish Independent on November 8th.

Sunday Independent
Irish Independent



Planning and Development Acts 2000 to 2022

THE SUBMISSION OF SIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO A DIRECT PLANNING APPLICATION TO AN BORD PLEANÁLA IN RESPECT OF A STRATEGIC INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT UNDER REFERENCE NUMBER ABP-309121-21

Waterford County Council Cork County Council

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- X. 2 no. temporary construction compounds;
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This application is seeking a ten-year planning permission and 30-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in relation to the project and accompany this planning application.

This significant additional information, together with the original planning application documentation, EIAR and NIS, may be inspected free of charge or purchased (on payment of a specified fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy) during public opening hours for a period of 5 weeks commencing on the **4th of November 2022** at the following locations:

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The Offices of Cork County Council, County Hall, Cork
The Offices of Waterford County Council, The Mall, Waterford

The documentation may also be viewed/downloaded on the following website: <https://www.lyrenacarrigawindfarm.com/>

Submissions or observations in relation to the significant additional information may be made only to An Bord Pleanála (The Board), 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1 in writing or at www.pleanala.ie relating to:

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Date: **Friday, 4th November 2022.**

