



An Coimisiún Pleanála
Strategic Infrastructure Development
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1

Our ref: 230843

Your ref: PC03.319676

Date: 20th March 2026

Re: Section 37E Planning Application to An Coimisiún Pleanála for a Proposed Wind Farm Development in the townlands of Cahermurphy, Carrowmagry South, Castlepark, Caheraghacullin, Doolough, Drummin, Kilmihil, Knockalough and Knocknahila More South, Co. Clare

Dear Sir/Madam,

On behalf of our client, Cahermurphy Renewables Designated Activity Company (DAC), please find enclosed a copy of an application for the proposed renewable energy development which consists of the construction of 8 no. wind turbines, and associated infrastructure in the townlands of Cahermurphy and adjacent townlands in Co. Clare, including a permanent 110kV electrical substation and associated works, with underground 33kV electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed substation and associated ancillary works. The Proposed Project will be known as the ‘Cahermurphy West Wind Farm’.

Background

The Application is being made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) as ‘Strategic Infrastructure Development’ (SID) under the provisions of Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) (“the Act,”). Pre-application consultation was opened in August 2024, with a meeting being held with ACP on the 11th of August 2024 in accordance with Section 37B of the Act. A further meeting took place on the 2nd of December 2025 in response to the transposition of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED III) into Irish law through the European Union (Planning and Development)(Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025.

On the 9th of February 2026, ACP wrote to the Applicant and confirmed that the consultation was closed and that the Wind Farm Site was considered to be SID within the meaning of Section 37A of the PDA and such any application for approval for the Proposed Wind Farm should be made directly to ACP.

A design flexibility opinion was issued by ACP on the 9th February 2026 and accompanies this application. The details unconfirmed in this application are the turbine dimensions (turbine total tip height, rotor diameter and hub height). The range of parameters under which the turbine dimensions will fall are specified on the public notices and further detailed in the design flexibility opinion which accompanies this application.

The Applicant for the Proposed Project, Cahermurphy Renewables Designated Activity Company, is a joint venture between FuturEnergy Ireland and Mid Clare Renewable Energy (MCRE) Ltd. Further

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details about the applicant are available in Chapter 1 of the accompanying EIAR.

A separate, concurrent planning application for underground electrical cabling (110kV) which will connect the wind farm to the existing Moneypoint 110kV electrical substation is also being lodged to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

Proposed Wind Farm

The Proposed Wind Farm, as per the public notices is as follows:

The proposed development will comprise:

- i. Construction of 8 no. wind turbines with a blade tip height range from 180m to 185m inclusive, a hub height range from 98.5m to 110.5m inclusive and a rotor diameter range from 149m to 163m inclusive with associated foundations, hard-standing and assembly areas;*
- ii. Construction of 1 no. permanent 110 kV electrical substation including 2 no. control buildings lightning protection, welfare facilities, car parking, and all associated electrical plant and apparatus, security fencing, external lighting, underground cabling, wastewater holding tank and all associated infrastructure, apparatus and landscaping;*
- iii. Underground electrical cabling (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed on-site 110kV electrical substation and associated ancillary works;*
- iv. Erection of 1 no. Meteorological Mast of 100m metres above existing ground level for the measuring of meteorological conditions, including a lightning rod which will extend above the mast;*
- v. Construction of new permanent access roads and upgrade of existing roads to provide access within the site and to connect the wind turbines and associated infrastructure;*
- vi. Upgrade of 1 no. new existing agricultural/forestry access to the site, off the L6254 local road, to serve as the sole entrance to the wind farm during its operational phase and to facilitate the delivery of the construction materials and turbine components to site during the construction and operational phases (including the installation of security fencing and gates);*
- vii. Development of 2 borrow pits;*
- viii. Construction of 2 no. temporary construction compounds and associated ancillary infrastructure including temporary site offices, staff facilities and car-parking areas, all to be removed at end of construction phase;*
- ix. Temporary works at 6 no. locations along the N68 national road, R484 regional road and L-2074, L-2082 and L-2048 local roads associated with the facilitation of turbine component and abnormal load delivery to site. These works will primarily include the trimming of vegetation and strengthening of road verges;*
- x. Permanent and temporary Site Drainage;*
- xi. Operational Stage Site Signage;*
- xii. Ancillary forestry felling over an area of 21.87ha to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development;*
- xiii. Biodiversity enhancement measures including the permanent removal of commercial forestry (deforestation) over an area of 56.3ha and restoration of farmland habitat to good quality hen harrier foraging habitat through diversifying the range and extent of habitats over an area of 67.4ha, and;*

- xiv. *All related site works and ancillary development including landscaping considered necessary to facilitate the proposed development.*

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

A separate, concurrent planning application for underground electrical cabling (110kV) which will connect the wind farm to the existing Moneypoint 110kV electrical substation is also being lodged to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this application. The EIAR and NIS assess both the full extent of the proposed development as described above in i-xiv., as well as integral elements of the wider project infrastructure including underground electrical cabling (110kV) from the proposed Cahermurphy West Wind Farm development to the existing Moneypoint 110kV electrical substation; joint bays including communication chambers and earth sheath links along the proposed underground electrical cabling route; permanent and temporary Site Drainage; reinstatement of land, road and track surface above the proposed cabling trench and all related site works and ancillary development located in the townlands of Cahermurphy, Cloonwhite South, Sheeaun, Leitrim, Cloonreddan, Kilmacduane East, Clooncullin, Lissanair, Teernagloghane, Brisla East, Brisla West, Gowerhass, Tullagower, Garraunnatooha, Knockerry West, Carrowfree, Derrylough, Dunneill, Doonnagurroge, Pouladarree, Carrowdotia South, Carrowdotia North Co. Clare, all of which are essential infrastructure associated with the operation of the proposed development and which, as referenced above, are subject to a separate, concurrent planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála.

A design flexibility opinion issued by An Coimisiún Pleanála (Opinion Ref. No.ACP-323567) on the 9th February 2026 accompanies this application. The details unconfirmed in this application are the turbine tip height, hub height and rotor diameter. The range of parameters under which the turbine dimensions will fall are specified on this notice in item i. above and further detailed in the design flexibility opinion that accompanies this application.

Overview of Planning Policy

The Proposed Project is strongly supported by EU and national policy and legislation. At an EU level the Proposed Project is supported by the EU Renewable Energy Directive and RePowerEU. At a national level, the Proposed Project is supported by the National Planning Framework First Revision, the Climate Action Plan 2025, the National Energy Security Framework, among other national climate and energy policies. Planning Authorities have clear legal obligations under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) when assessing planning applications for renewable wind energy developments. They are required to make decisions consistent with national climate policies and objectives, including the latest climate action plan, national adaptation frameworks, and the overarching goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The timely approval of well-planned, appropriately located renewable energy projects, such as the Proposed Project is essential to Ireland's ability to meet Climate Action Plan 2025 targets and also its legal commitments under national and EU law. Failure to meet EU climate targets could result in financial penalties, increased carbon credit costs, and greater reliance on fossil fuel imports, undermining energy security and economic stability. Moreover, prolonged planning delays create

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uncertainty for investors, threatening job creation and regional economic growth. Without a shift in approach to ensure alignment with national climate objectives, Ireland risks missing its climate targets, incurring financial consequences, and undermining its energy security. Every viable renewable energy project plays a crucial role in meeting Ireland's climate targets. The approval of well-planned projects, such as the Proposed Project is not just beneficial, it is an imperative. Without decisive action to facilitate renewable energy deployment, Ireland risks missing national and EU commitments, incurring financial penalties, and undermining energy security.

The development of sites viable for wind energy development is essential to meet European, national, and local climate and renewable energy targets. Ireland needs to scale up onshore wind energy development at an unprecedented rate to achieve our 9GW target and 80% RES-E target set out in the Climate Action Plan 2025. If permitted, the Proposed Project could be installed and operational before the end of the decade, with the potential of adding 57.6MW of renewable, clean energy generating capacity to our national grid. This will not only contribute to the decarbonisation of the electricity sector but will play a role in the decarbonisation of other sectors and the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient economy.

This application is accompanied by a detailed Planning Report and Chapter 2 of the EIAR, which clearly outline the Proposed Project's compliance with planning policy across all levels—local, regional, national, and international.

Contents of the Application

Site Notice

Site notices were erected on the 20th March 2026, in accordance with 19(4) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended ("the 2001 Regulations"). The site notices have been erected as per the locations shown on the site location map series included in the planning drawing pack.

Newspaper Notice

A newspaper notice was advertised locally in the Clare Champion, published 19th March 2026 and dated 20th March 2026, and nationally in the Irish Examiner, published and dated 20th March 2026, in accordance with Article 18 of the 2001 Regulations.

Landowner Consent

As the application includes lands under the ownership of third parties, letters of consent from each of the landowners within the red line boundary are provided separately with this application.

Form No. 22

As this application contains a design flexibility opinion, a Form No.22 (Supplementary information to accompany an application for permission or approval accompanied by an opinion on unconfirmed details) is included with this application.

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Planning Fee

The planning fee has been paid by EFT payment on 11th March 2026, see details below:

- Payment of SID Application Fee: €100,000
- Payee Message: FEI Payment
- Payment Reference No. – 3796213106

Planning Application Drawings

A full set of planning application drawings and a drawing schedule have been prepared by MKO in accordance with the 2001 Regulations and are included with this application.

Planning Report

A planning report has been prepared in support of the Proposed Project. The planning report provides an assessment of the proposed development against all relevant planning policy.

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

An EIAR has been prepared and is included with this application.

The EIAR is structured as follows:

- Volume 1 – Non-Technical Summary (NTS) and Main Report.
- Volume 2 – Photomontage Booklet.
- Volume 3 – EIAR Appendices

EIA Portal Confirmation Notice

The EIA Portal was notified of this planning application on the 16th March 2026. The EIA Portal ID reference is 2026035. The email confirmation of the EIAR ID reference is provided separately.

Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement (NIS)

An AA Screening Report and NIS has been prepared by MKO and accompanies this application.

A full schedule of all application documents and drawings as uploaded to the online planning portal is enclosed with the application forms included with this application.

European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 274 of 2025)

On 6 August 2025, the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 (S.I. No. 274 of 2025) were adopted for the purpose of giving effect to Articles 15e(5), 16, 16b, 16c(2), 16d, 16e and 16f of the RED III Directive.

The legislation introduces new decision timelines based on a “completeness check” (ss.34E, 37JB, 295B): 52 weeks for new wind farms, 30 weeks for repowering projects, and one to two years for IROPI cases

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(two years for projects over 150 kW, one year for projects under 150 kW or repowering). Importantly, renewable energy developments, including related grid and storage infrastructure, are now presumed to be in the overriding public interest. The development is fully covered by the provisions of the Renewable Energy Directive III (Directive 2023/2413).

This planning application has been prepared in line with these Regulations, and, specifically, the Schedule of Information to Inform the Completeness Check, provided by ACP, as Appendix 2 of their SID determination under ABP- 319676-24. A full assessment of the Proposed Wind Farm in relation to this schedule has been included as **Appendix 1** of this Cover Letter.

I trust that ACP now have all the information required to progress the application. If, however, there is anything further or you have any query on any matter in relation to this application, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Clancy

Alan Clancy BA, MPlan, MIPI

Senior Planner, MKO

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Email: aclancy@mkoireland.ie

Enclosed

➤ **Appendix 1** – Compliance with Schedule of Information to inform the Completeness Check.

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