

## Ornithological

- Observations of golden plover and hen harrier were noted in the EIAR. They are red listed according to Birds of Conservation and Concern in Ireland 2020-2026. As such they have a high conservation value. The mitigation measures consist primarily of surveying and avoidance of tree felling during breeding season. There is no active protection or enhancement of avifauna even as biodiversity is threatened globally. This should be a condition of planning.
- There are four operational wind farms and one consented wind farm within 20km of the site. Two further wind farms are in pre-planning phase; Coumnagappal Wind Farm and Scart Mountain Windfarm. The cumulative effect of the Dyrick Hill Wind farm along with the aforementioned wind farms may have a negative effect on breeding and foraging areas for the hen harrier and golden plover, red listed bird species. The EIAR notes the presence of hen harrier and golden plover in the vicinity of the Dyrick Hill wind farm. The cumulative effect of the wind farms could lead to removal of suitable breeding and foraging grounds for the species. Dyrick and Scart Mountain wind farms are directly adjacent to each other giving a combined wind farm of 31 turbines.
- The EIAR also notes that local wintering birds will habituate to the presence of turbines and avoid collision. However, this is in disagreement with another study (1) which notes that birds of prey have a specific visual adaptation for hunting where they focus on the ground and ignore what lies directly in front of them.

1. Yong E. Vultures blind to the dangers of wind farms. Nature (2012)

## Community Engagement

Community engagement was of limited value and EMPower did not meaningfully engage. I actively requested information about the project and expressed my own worries to EMPower as outlined below.

- Five newsletters were circulated however only two were received at our address; newsletter 2 and 3. EMPower were informed that newsletter 01 was not received. They provided assurances that the address was on the distribution list. Newsletter 04, 05 and the opinion survey were not received. Their omission was noted only on reading the community report in the planning application.
- In conversation with Marc McLoughlin he promised to revert with a suitable wind farm to visit where noise would be similar to turbines used in Dyrick. Marc never replied despite two further requests for follow-up from this conversation. The requests were made to Michael O'Connor via email on 27th February 2023 and 31st July 2023.
- In conversation with Marc McLoughlin he was asked if a better layout drawing could be provided on the project website as it was difficult to read the image on the website and newsletter. Marc never replied despite two further requests for follow-up from this conversation. The requests were made to Michael O'Connor via email on the above mentioned dates.
- In question 19 from the design webinar, EMPower made a commitment to inform people when the planning application submission would be made. I cannot locate a community letter or newsletter circulated to announce the submission.
- During a visit to my property on 3rd June 2022 I expressed my worries that the use and enjoyment of my home and garden might be affected by the noise and vibrations from the turbine. I was told that I was the only resident who had expressed any concern and that everyone else had positive views. I cannot locate the opinion survey results to verify this.
- As our residence is located in the wake of the wind we asked if we could receive advice on how we could mitigate noise e.g. tree planting near house etc. This was during a phone conversation with Marc McLoughlin of EMPower on 22nd July 2022. Marc said this would not be possible.

### **Cumulative Effect in EIAR**

- The EIAR does not take account of cumulative effects due to the proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm, directly adjacent to the Dyrick Hill site. The EIAR should be revisited in all instances where cumulative effects are mentioned and analysed. The design layout of Scart Mountain Wind Farm was available prior to submission of the planning application for Dyrick Hill Wind Farm.

### **Height and Number of Turbines**

- The wind farm is located in a 'sensitive area' as deemed by the County Development Plan. Turbine height should be restricted to be in line with those in other wind farms in the county.

Ann Morris

Priestown  
Ballinamult  
Clonmel