



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

# ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR) FOR THE PROPOSED DREHID WIND FARM, CO. KILDARE

---

## VOLUME 2 – MAIN EIAR

### CHAPTER 5 – EIA SCOPING, CONSULTATION AND KEY ISSUES

---

**Prepared for:**  
North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd

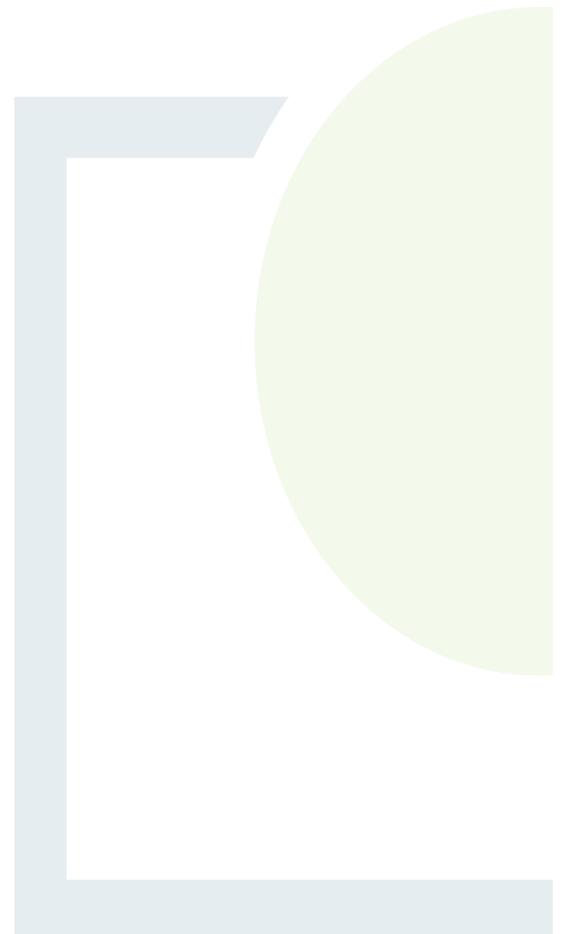
**Date:** May 2025

Unit 3/4, Northwood House, Northwood Crescent,  
Northwood, Dublin, D09 X899, Ireland

T: +353 1 658 3500 | E: [info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)

CORK | DUBLIN | CARLOW

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>5. EIA SCOPING, CONSULTATION AND KEY ISSUES .....</b>	<b>1</b>
5.1 Introduction.....	1
5.2 Scoping .....	1
5.2.1 List of Consultees .....	2
5.2.2 List of Scoping Responses.....	4
5.2.3 Key Issues Raised During the Scoping Process.....	18
5.3 Consultation with Key Stakeholders.....	18
5.3.1 Pre-Application Consultation with Kildare County Council, 2018.....	18
5.3.2 Pre-Application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála, for the Proposed Wind Farm (SID under Section 37B).....	20
5.3.3 Pre-Application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála, for the Proposed Substation (SID under Section 182).....	21
5.4 Community Consultation.....	21
5.5 Key Issues/Points Raised During Consultation .....	26
5.6 Conclusion .....	29

## LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix 5.1 – EIAR Scoping Report
- Appendix 5.2– 2024 Update Scoping Letter
- Appendix 5.3 – Responses to the EIAR Scoping Report
- Appendix 5.4 – Pre-application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála
- Appendix 5.5– Community Consultation

---

## LIST OF TABLES

	<u>Page</u>
Table 5-1: List of Consultees .....	2
Table 5-2: Summary of Scoping Consultation Responses .....	5



## 5. EIA SCOPING, CONSULTATION AND KEY ISSUES

### 5.1 Introduction

Consultation is an important part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. This chapter describes the consultation process and EIAR scoping that was undertaken in order to identify key effects from the Proposed Development to be included in the EIAR. The consultation process carried out for the project has been a lengthy, detailed and thorough process; which began with previous iterations of the Proposed Development, with the scoping consultation beginning in 2018. A Scoping Update Letter was issued out to all consultees in 2024 to update them of amendments to the site layout, and the inclusion of the Proposed Substation, which differed from the proposed method of connecting to the grid in the 2018 design.

A number of points and submissions were raised as part of the consultation process which have informed the project design, this EIAR and survey methodologies.

This chapter presents the key points that arose through the consultation process and how these points were addressed in the EIAR. The consultation process, scoping and pre-application consultation undertaken in respect of the Proposed Development are set out in this chapter.

Throughout the consultation process, specific regard has been taken to the *Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland – Guidelines for Community Engagement* published on the 21st December 2016 by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment.

*“This Code of Good Practice is intended to ensure that wind energy development in Ireland is undertaken in observance with the best industry practices, and with the full engagement of communities around the country”. The applicant had regard throughout the pre-planning process of the practical steps that renewable energy promoters should comply with, in engaging with communities as set out in this Guidance.”*

North Kildare Wind Farm Limited had regard throughout the pre-planning process of the practical steps that wind farm promoters should comply with, in engaging with communities as set out in this Guidance.

### 5.2 Scoping

The purpose of the EIA scoping process is to identify the key points and issues which are likely to be important during the EIA of a project and to eliminate those that are not. The scoping process identifies sources or causes of potential environmental effects, the pathways by which the effects can happen, and the sensitive receptors which are likely to be affected. It defines the appropriate level of detail for the information to be provided in the EIAR. In essence, the primary focus of scoping is to define the most appropriate assessment of significant effects related to the Proposed Development.

A scoping document which included a description of an earlier iteration of the Proposed Development was forwarded to 72 consultees on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July 2018. The recipients included the Local Authority, Government Departments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), interested parties and key stakeholders. A Scoping Update Letter was issued out to all consultees in 2024 to update them of amendments to the site layout, and the inclusion of the Proposed Substation, which differed from the proposed method of connecting to the grid in the 2018 design.



Table 5-1 details the list of consultees who were issued a copy of the scoping documents. A copy of the Scoping Report from 2018 is included in Appendix 5.1, and a copy of the Scoping Update Letter from 2024 is included in Appendix 5.2. Where the name of the consultee has changed since 2018 both the 2018 and 2024 name of the consultee are given.

### 5.2.1 List of Consultees

**Table 5-1: List of Consultees**

Type of Stakeholder	Body / Department
<b>Kildare County Council</b>	Planning Department
	Heritage Officer
	Environment Department
	Roads Department
	Archaeologist
	Energy Agency Office
	IT Department
<b>Government Departments</b>	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (2018); Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications (2024)
	Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (2018); Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (2024)
	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
	Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (2018); Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (2024)
	Development Applications Unit
	Department of Defence
	Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport (2018); Department of Transport (2024)
<b>NGOS and Stakeholders</b>	An Taisce
	Birdwatch Ireland
	Fáilte Ireland
	Teagasc
	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
	Irish Farmers Association
	Irish Peatland Conservation Council
	The Heritage Council
	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland



Type of Stakeholder	Body / Department
	Inland Fisheries Ireland
	Irish Red Grouse Association
	National Trails Office
	South Eastern River Basin District
	Irish Wildlife Trust
	Irish Sports Council
	Commission for Energy Regulation
	Geological Survey of Ireland
	Health Service Executive
	Office of Public Works
	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
	Bat Conservation Ireland
	Irish Raptor Group
	Gas Networks Ireland
	Iarnród Éireann
	Irish Water
	The Arts Council
	Transport Infrastructure Ireland
	Údarás na Gaeltachta
	Waterways Ireland
Irish Parachute Club	
<b>Telecommunications/ Aviation</b>	Irish Aviation Authority
	Telecommunications Section, An Garda Síochána
	IT Department, Kildare County Council
	Irish Broadband/Imagine
	Munster Broadband
	Digiweb Dublin Offices and Data Centre
	Ripplecom (2018); Viatel (2024)
	Magnet Networks
	BT Communications Ireland Ltd
	Dublin Airport Authority
	Commission for Communications Regulation
	RTE



Type of Stakeholder	Body / Department
	TV3/Virgin Media
	Eir
	Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
	Vodafone
	Three
	ESB Telecoms
	TETRA Ireland Ltd.
	Premier Broadband
	Wireless Connect Ltd.
	Irish Telecom
	TowerCom Ltd.
	Arra Communications

5.2.2 List of Scoping Responses

Full details of the scoping responses received are set out in Appendix 5-3. A summary of the consultation responses received is presented in Table 5-2:



**Table 5-2: Summary of Scoping Consultation Responses**

Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
2RN	N/A	-	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	2RN responded to say that they will require an agreement is signed between the developer and 2RN. An agreement had already been signed in 2018. 2RN responded with an updated agreement, which has since been signed.	New agreement signed between the Applicant and 2RN
An Garda Síochana Telecommunications	N/A	No response to date	18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Response from An Garda Síochana Telecommunications confirmed that the closest site of concern to them is Cappagh. At 7 km distance, this stakeholder was satisfied that the Proposed Development would not have potential effects on their telecoms network.	No potential impacts envisaged based on response received in 2024.
An Taisce	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Arra Communications	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Baldonnell/Casement Aerodrome	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	N/A
Bat Conservation Ireland	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	N/A
Bird Conservation Ireland	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	N/A
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI)	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
BT Communications Ireland LTD	Via Self-service <a href="http://www.ctw4.nl">www.ctw4.nl</a>	BT Ireland telecom service. There is no BT Ireland network at this location according to their records.	N/A	No response to date	No potential impacts envisaged, based on response received in 2018.
Commission for Communications Regulation	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Commission for Regulation of Utilities	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	16th July 2018	Acknowledgement of receipt of correspondence.	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	DAFM provided a response with information on felling licences and advised that a felling licence will be needed prior to felling of forestry on site.	A felling licence will be applied for and acquired prior to the commencement of any felling associated with the Proposed Development
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment	16th July 2018	Acknowledgement of receipt of correspondence and request for soft copy of documentation to forward to relevant divisions which was forwarded.	N/A	No response to date	None
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – Development (via the DAU)	18th July 2018	Acknowledgement of receipt of correspondence. Information on consultation to be solely administered to DAU for distribution to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Monuments Service	10 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Response from the DAU provided generic advice on the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment. The letter was forwarded to Deery Courtney, the Archaeologist appointed on this project.	None



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
Department of Defence	1st August 2018	Provided initial observations including detail regarding potential affects to certain townlands and roads, request for evaluation report and EIAR when available, request for impacts on aviation report when completed. Also included in the consultation response is the Air Corps Windfarm and Tall Structure Position Paper.	28 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	The representative from the Department requested that all turbines should be fitted with Type C, Medium intensity, Fixed Red obstacle lighting and be operational 24/7. They also noted that the Proposed Development is located within MOA3, MOA4 and within 20 NM of Baldonnell and therefore will be assessing the application once it is submitted.	Response acknowledged and dealt with in Chapter 16
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Digiweb	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Dublin Airport Authority	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Echo IT Limited	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
EIR	2nd August 2018	Consultation response identifies that a transmission link within the proposed area may be at risk with regards to the turbine layout. Response recommends a 100m buffer is maintained from the transmission path and turbine location with further information requested on turbine locations. Also notes that all windfarm analysis is to be submitted to Eir (previously Meteor). During the consultation process, mitigation measures were discussed and prior to commencement of construction, 'Eir' will carry out a detailed review of their infrastructure. The applicant will then consult further with 'Eir' to agree mitigation measures if required that would ensure no impact to T10.	N/A	No response to date	Eir will carry out a detailed review of the Proposed Development prior to construction and any mitigation measures necessary will be implemented at that point. T10 location in 2018 (now T9 location) was of particular note. The 2018 project included mitigation measures which were agreed with EIR. The current project now seeks to adopt the same mitigation measures.
EPA	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
EirGrid	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Electricity Supply Board (Networks)	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
Electricity Supply Board (Telecoms)	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2018	ESB Telecom services have two links in the proximities of the site and recommend a minimum buffer distance of 300m to be maintained. On further consultation, the applicant proposed a number of mitigation measures, including an underground fibre cable to connect the two link ends. 'ESB Telecom' accepted to consider fibre cable and suggested carrying out a detailed analysis prior to construction using the JRC method for diffraction to determine a more precise clearance zone.	N/A	No response to date	ESB Telecoms to carry out a detailed analysis prior to construction, using the JRC method for diffraction; as agreed in 2018.
Fáilte Ireland	7 <sup>th</sup> August 2018	Provided a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guides for the treatment of tourism in an EIS, which should be taken into consideration in preparing an EIAR	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Faillte Ireland confirmed they have "no comments to make" on the revised layout.	Fáilte Ireland's guidelines have been taken into account in the preparation of the EIAR, in particulate in chapter 11.
Gas Networks Ireland	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Geological Survey of Ireland	N/A	No response to date	5 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	GSI requested that the GSI online Map Viewer is utilized as a resource when completing the EIAR	Map viewer is utilized as a resource throughout this EIAR.



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
					Utilised to assess potential effects on material assets within the context of this chapter.
Health Service Executive	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Iarnród Éireann	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Inland Fisheries Ireland	31st July 2018	Comments and observations of a general nature provided by IFI. Observations noted include potential impacts to fisheries waters, forming part of the Eastern River Basin District. The role of smaller watercourses as contributories to downstream habitats, of which have the potential to convey deleterious matter from development works and regard should be had to this. Temporary crossing structures should follow IFI recommendations.	N/A	No response to date	IFI advice taken into account in design of watercourse crossings, and mitigation measures within chapter 8 and chapter 10.
Imagine LTE	23rd July 2018	Response stipulates that no impact will occur on the Imagine Communications network.	N/A	No response to date	No potential impacts envisaged, based on response received in 2018.
Imagine Networks Services Ltd	23rd July 2018	Response stipulates that no impact will occur on the Imagine Communications network.	N/A	No response to date	No potential impacts envisaged, based on response received in 2018.



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
Irish Aviation Authority	30th July 2018	Advised to contact Weston Aerodrome and Casement Aerodrome to inform them of the proposed development and to request any comments or observations	29 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Advised to contact Dublin Airport Authority and AirNav Ireland to inform them of the proposed development and to request any comments or observations. IAA also advised of some likely next steps, should the Proposed Development receive planning permission.	Contacted DAA and AirNav as per the advice of IAA. No responses to date.
Irish Farmers Association	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Irish Parachute Club	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Irish Peatland Conservation Council	7th August 2018	Consultation response identifies the Mulgeeth Bog, an intact raised bog remnant that must be protected. The consultation response requests detail on how the proposed development will be hydrologically managed to enhance and conserve the bog which is a refuge for Common Frog. The response also notes a proposed Timahoe North Solar Farm, adjacent to the proposed development boundary. A response is sought for confirmation of provisioning of adequate setback from the wind turbines taking into account Curlew.	N/A	No response to date	Response considered throughout the EIAR. It should be noted that at the time of the response, the Timahoe North Solar Farm was a proposed development, it is now in construction and nearing completion. Therefore the construction phases of the projects will not act cumulatively.



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
		Request also made for demonstrations of the proposals the developer is making to develop amenity value and how this dovetails with the solar project walk routes as proposed.			
Irish Raptor Group	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Irish Red Grouse Association	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Irish Sports Council	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Irish Telecom	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Irish Water	24th July 2018 and 9th April 2018	Initial acknowledgement of receipt of consultation request. General guidance on water services to be considered in the scope of an EIAR provided.	N/A	Uisce Éireann responded to say that the information provided was passed to the escalations department. No further response received.	General guidance on water services will be considered throughout the EIAR, in particular in chapter 10 and chapter 11.
Irish Wildlife Trust	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Irish Rail (Iarnrod Éireann)	N/A	No response to date	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Irish Rail were satisfied with the information provided and confirmed they had no concerns and no further action required	No potential impacts envisaged, based on response received in 2024.
Irish Telecom	N/A	No response to date	N/A	N/A	Now Viatel. No response from Viatel in 2024.
Kildare Co.Co.	8th August 2018	General guidance has been provided by the Planning	N/A	Kildare County Council responded to say that the information	Information required by Kildare Co Co is



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
		Authority in response to the consultation request. In particular, the consultation response indicates that: if a number of construction compounds are required, these shall be specified in the proposal and their locations identified within the planning application; the planning status of the proposed upgrade to existing access tracks should be confirmed and details of finishes, materials and dimensions should be included; amendments to existing roads required to gain access to the site should be detailed; hard standings areas should be included in the development description and appropriate details provided; location of proposed borrow pits (if any) should be included as well as an indication of the quarries to be used.		provided was being passed to their planning department. No further response received since.	provided throughout the EIAR.
Magnet Networks Ltd	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Minister for Agriculture	N/A	-	12 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Response from the Felling Division asked that the EIAR considers potential impacts associated with felling and replanting of forestry	Impacts of felling forestry are considered throughout the EIAR.



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
					Considered as a material asset within the context of this chapter.
Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications	N/A		7 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	The Department responded with a submission from the GSI. The GSI recommended that the EIA utilizes their online Map Viewer as a resource	Map viewer is utilized as a resource throughout this EIAR. Utilised to assess potential effects on material assets within the context of this chapter.
Munster Broadband	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
National Trails Office	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Netshare Ireland	16th July 2018	Concern expressed that based on provided turbine co-ordinates, the consultation response noted that there would be an impact on Vodafone services in the direct line of site of the microwave link. These links will be decommissioned in 18 months from time of writing (2018) and so there is no conflict.	N/A	No response to date	Links which may have been potentially impacted are now understood to be decommissioned. No potential impacts envisaged.
Office of Public Works	N/A	-	N/A	Response from OPW requested maps showing the proposed crossings of arterial drainage. FT provided the ITM coordinates for each crossing, as well as a brief description of each crossing. OPW	Response acknowledged and confirmed with hydrology team that all relevant crossings



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
				responded to confirm they had looked at these locations and asked that they are “designed to the current standards”. OPW provided a brochure on Section 50 and this was shared with FT engineers who confirmed that the final designs of the crossings would be section 50 compliant.	will be Section 50 compliant
Premier Broadband	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Ripplecom	16th August 2018	No potential impact caused by proposed windfarm build on their link infrastructure. Further information provided.	N/A	N/A	Ripplecom was acquired by Viatel. No response from Viatel in 2024.
RTE Transmission Network Ltd	16th July 2018	Consultation response envisages a low to moderate risk of interference to TV reception to any households nearby. Requests that the developer enters into a "Windfarm Protocol Agreement" to ensure that reception could be reinstated if any households were affected. Advised to undertake a TV reception survey prior to construction. A signed protocol agreement is included in Appendix 16.4 of Volume III of this EIA.	13 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Response from RTE clarified that 2RN are the appropriate body to contact for pre-application consultations regarding wind farms potentially interacting with their infrastructure.	Agreement signed between Applicant and 2RN.
South Eastern River Basin District	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
Teagasc	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Tetra Ireland Ltd	16th July 2018	Response noted that the proposed development presents no network / coverage concerns to Tetra Ireland.	N/A	No response to date	No potential impacts envisaged, based on response received in 2018.
The Arts Council	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
The Heritage Council	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None
Three Ireland (Hutchinson) Limited	14th August 2018	Links to be decommissioned in 18 months at time of writing (2018).	N/A	No response to date	Links which may have been potentially impacted are now understood to be decommissioned. No potential impacts envisaged.
Towercom	8th August 2018	Identified a potential issue for some links on Towercom's tower at Cappagh, Cappagh Hill, however, it was found that the azimuth of their antennas are outside the wind farm boundary and so there is no conflict.	N/A	No response to date	No potential impacts envisaged, based on response received in 2018.
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	N/A	-	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	TII provided a generic response, advising on references that should be cited and considered in the preparation of the EIAR	None
Viatel	N/A	Not contacted in 2018	N/A	No response to date	None



Telecoms/Aviation Operator	Response date 2018	Response details	Response date 2024	Response details	Notes
Virgin Media Ireland Ltd (PP)	25th July 2018	Response received from Virgin Media. Noted that a microwave link is located approx. 3 km from the wind farm boundary and would not be affected. Any changes to the boundary or turbines added to be forwarded to Virgin Media for assessment.	N/A	No response to date	No potential impacts envisaged, based on response received in 2018.
Vodafone	N/A	-	N/A	No response to date	None
Waterways Ireland	N/A	-	N/A	No response to date	None
Weston Airfield	N/A	No response to date	-	-	None
Wireless Connect LTD	N/A	No response to date	N/A	No response to date	None





The responses received were fully considered and points or issues raised were followed up through contact with the respondents where clarification was necessary and addressed throughout the EIAR.

### 5.2.3 Key Issues Raised During the Scoping Process

The scoping process proved beneficial to the identification of issues and potential issues in relation to the Proposed Development. Responses received from the consultees identified a range of observations which have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the respective chapters of this EIAR.

Issues raised during the scoping process are summarised as follows and the responses are included in full in Appendix 5.3.

## 5.3 Consultation with Key Stakeholders

### 5.3.1 Pre-Application Consultation with Kildare County Council, 2018

A pre-planning meeting was held in Kildare County Council on the 28th August 2018. Those in attendance were:

- Liam Currie Assistant Planner, Kildare County Council
- Liam McCree, Senior Planner, Kildare County Council
- Siobhan O’ Dwyer, Roads Division, Kildare County Council
- Helen Behan, Environment Division, Kildare County Council
- Kevin MacMahon, Project Manager, Element Power
- Donal O’ Sullivan, Development Manager, Element Power
- Jim Hughes, Associate Director, Fehily Timoney and Company

Of note, was the reduced quantum of turbines proposed, reduced scale of the development and considerably reduced cabling along public roads relative to the design iterations of the project in the years before 2018.

Policy in the County Development Plan 2017-2022 was discussed and it was noted that there are no foreseen changes to policy with regard to renewable energy. With regards to the site, it is in low-lying lands which is deemed to be the least sensitive of land forms.

It was noted that the Drehid Landfill site is in proximity with an oral hearing planned later that year. The industrialisation of the landscape was discussed with the landfill and several solar farms in the area. These projects should form part of the cumulative assessment for the Proposed Development.

In terms of the scoping response received from Kildare County Council, it was recommended that a conservation architect be engaged – this was discussed, and it was agreed that a Conservation architect was not mandatory but that the personnel undertaking the assessment should be suitably qualified.

With regard to the landscape and visual assessment, it was agreed that some close viewpoints should be selected and at settlements. The potential for impacts in Co. Meath should also be included. In terms of the assessment, the worst-case scenario should be assessed.

For the Traffic and Transportation assessment the following were required: Traffic Impact Assessment, Traffic Management Plan, Haul routes and Turbine Delivery Route to be assessed and traffic volumes to be generated. The requirement for topographical surveys and structural assessments was discussed. It was recommended that a follow up meeting be held with the Roads Division of Kildare County Council.



In terms of the environment, the issue of the noise assessment (contained in Chapter 7 of this report) and shadow flicker (contained in Chapter 12 of this report) were discussed and also the potential for release of ammonia during excavations (assessed in Chapter 10 Hydrology and Drainage of this EIAR).

A pre-planning meeting was held with the Roads Department in Kildare County Council on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Those in attendance were:

- George Willoughby (Kildare County Council)
- Jonathan Deane (Kildare County Council)
- Niall Harte (Arup)
- Donal O' Sullivan (Statkraft Ireland (formerly Element Power))
- Jim Hughes (Fehily Timoney and Co.)

The existing condition of the public road along the cable route which was part of the 2018 design iteration was discussed and KCC confirmed that this section of the public road was surfaced that year and is in a reasonably good condition to accommodate the cable works. Since this discussion however, the method of grid connection for the Proposed Development has changed to include provision of the Proposed Substation, which includes a loop-in/loop-out connection to the existing Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV overhead line. As a result, grid connection cabling will not be required in any public roads. The only cabling in public roads that is required for the updated Proposed Development is a length of internal collector circuit cabling, which will be trenched into a tertiary public road (L50242) to connect the southern cluster of turbines (T1, T2 and T3) to the northern cluster (T4-T11).

During the 2018 meeting with KCC, it was agreed that a Design Team Workshop would be held with KCC Roads Department at the post-planning stage and prior to the commencement of development in order to agree to the design approach of the cable installation and associated pavement reinstatement. Construction details would be agreed on at this workshop.

The traffic impact during the construction phase was discussed and traffic and junction modelling had been undertaken which identified significant capacity on the local roads to accommodate the predicted traffic volumes associated with the 2018 design iteration. KCC advised that they had no issue with the construction traffic on the R402 and R403 and recommended that the same haul route be used as the Drehid landfill proposal. Traffic volumes associated with the current iteration of the Proposed Development have been set out in Chapter 13, Traffic and Transportation.

KCC advised that pre and post conditional surveys of the roads will be required post planning and that a condition to this effect will be attached to any grant of planning and that the surveys would be confined to the 2 km length from Drehid crossroads. KCC also advised that they do not want any HGVs arriving or departing to the east side of the site entrance. KCC advised that a Road Safety Assessment should be carried out on the haul route from the Regional road to the site by an independent company to identify impacts on other road users and mitigation measures that may be required, and this was subsequently carried out by the applicant, with details provided to KCC as Further Information provided in 2019.

In terms of the turbine delivery route, KCC outlined that they would not have any issue with components oversailing KCC lands.

During construction, KCC advised that a Resident Engineer should be on site and the RE can liaise directly with KCC.



In terms of the site entrance, the applicant advised that approximately 120 m sight distance is available at the entrance and KCC advised that a relaxation of the DMRB standards can be facilitated through inclusion of traffic management plan to include banks man and warning signs.

The opportunity to have both pre-planning meetings was very much welcomed to ensure Kildare County Council's observations were taken on board in the preparation of the EIAR. Since these pre-planning meetings, with the increase of MEC for the project, the planning application for the Proposed Development is now being lodged with An Bord Pleanála rather than Kildare County Council. As a result, pre-planning meetings have been held with the Board regarding the Proposed Development, rather than with Kildare County Council. Notwithstanding, Kildare County Council have been kept abreast of the updates to the project and their continued feedback has been welcomed. Kildare County Council were issued with the scoping update letter 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024? to inform them of the latest design iteration of the Proposed Development.

The pre-planning engagement with Kildare County Council has guided respective chapters of the EIAR where relevant in order to ensure a comprehensive assessment of the potential effects of the Proposed Development on the environment.

### 5.3.2 Pre-Application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála, for the Proposed Wind Farm (SID under Section 37B)

Two pre-application meetings were held with An Bord Pleanála under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2006 as amended as follows:

- First meeting 26<sup>th</sup> October 2022
- Second meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

The principal matters raised by An Bord Pleanála are summarised as follows:

- The Board's representatives advised that any issues which arose during the previous application should be addressed in the current application;
- The Department of Defence should be consulted prior to application;
- Photomontages should accompany the planning application with viewpoints from the nearby villages;

At the time of the pre-application consultation, the Applicant had been considering two potential candidate turbine models, which put the maximum export capacity of the Proposed Wind Farm within a range of 49.5 MW to 52.8 MW. However, the Board's representatives highlighted the fact that the maximum export capacity of the Proposed Wind Farm would have to be above the 50 MW threshold to be considered SID; and if the lower power rated turbine model was being assessed, such a proposed development rated at a maximum export capacity of 49.5 MW would be below the SID threshold and therefore a planning application for such a proposed development would be required to be submitted to the planning authority. As such, the Applicant removed the candidate turbine which would have put the MEC of the Proposed Wind Farm at 49.6 MW, and opted to select only one candidate turbine (the Nordex N133) which put the MEC for the Proposed Development at 52.8 MW;

- The Board highlighted the importance of submitting a peat stability report with the application.



On the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2024, An Bord Pleanála confirmed that the Board is of the opinion that the Proposed Wind Farm is Strategic Infrastructure Development within the meaning of Section 37A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. During the statutory consent determination process, An Bord Pleanála is obliged to consult with certain authorities. In their determination letter An Bord Pleanála provided a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for consent for the Proposed Development. It is noted that all of these bodies have been contacted during the EIAR scoping process.

Copies of all An Bord Pleanála meeting minutes and determination letter are included in Appendix 5.4 of this EIAR.

### 5.3.3 Pre-Application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála, for the Proposed Substation (SID under Section 182)

Two pre-application meetings were held with An Bord Pleanála under Section 182 of the Planning and Development Act 2006 as amended as follows:

- First meeting 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021
- Second meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

The principal matters raised by An Bord Pleanála are summarised as follows:

- As part of the EIAR, consideration will be given to the cumulative effects of the Proposed Substation with ongoing maintenance of the OPW arterial drainage channel proximate to the Proposed Substation location.
- Any NIS prepared for the Proposed Substation should give full consideration to the potential cumulative effects from the nearby permitted solar farm, and the Proposed Wind Farm.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024, An Bord Pleanála confirmed that the Board is of the opinion that the Proposed Substation is Strategic Infrastructure Development within the meaning of Section 182A(1) of the Act.

Copies of all An Bord Pleanála meeting minutes and determination letter are included in Appendix 5.4 of this EIAR.

## 5.4 Community Consultation

### Community Consultation June 2018 – Present

#### Background

Public consultation for the Proposed Development comprised of two phases: the first conducted by the Element Power Community Liaison Team between June 2018 and September 2020 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Drehid Wind Farm proposal and; the second phase being conducted by the Statkraft Community Liaison Team from May 2024 - Present. A new Community Liaison Team and dedicated Drehid Community Liaison Officer were appointed in 2024, and the associated contact details were updated. Project materials were also rebranded and project details updated to reflect the change in ownership by Statkraft and the amendments to the project design. The Statkraft Community Consultation team were provided with all the previous consultation material and community feedback from the preceding rounds of engagement by Element Power. The Statkraft Community Liaison Team will continue to be contactable for the local community throughout the lifetime of the project.



## **Community consultation June 2018 – September 2020**

In preparation for the first round of public consultation, conducted by Element Power’s Community Engagement Team, a Community Liaison Strategy (CLS) was developed and a dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed as the main point of contact between the public and the Element Power Project Team. The CLS was based on the ‘Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement’.

The CLS was based on the fundamental principle of active engagement with all households within a minimum of 1km of the design layout under consideration with a view to opening a two-way dialog with people in this area. All houses within 1.4km of the proposed layout were contacted and this consultation area extended beyond 2km in certain instances. The core objective of this approach was to provide information on what was being considered and to receive feedback from people in the local community which could be used to inform the design process.

An important aspect of the community engagement strategy was the distribution of project information and the sharing of feedback. The CLO called to all houses within 1km of the design layout to provide the following information.

- An introductory Project Letter
- A Project Brochure
- A revised Project Brochure (following design review)
- Project website

Copies of the above listed material can be found in Appendix 5.5.

### **Project Letter**

The first stage of consultation took place in June 2018 and consisted of an Introductory Letter drop. This letter aimed to inform the public of the project being considered, that it was still in the design phase, that the Community Liaison Team would be providing further information on the proposal over the coming weeks and months and a request for feedback on the proposals from the people in the local area. A copy of this letter, dated 26/6/18, is contained in Appendix 5.5.

### **Project Brochure 1**

Following distribution of the above letter, the CLO called to all houses with a more detailed project brochure. There were approximately 180 houses located within 1km of the 14 turbine layout design layout, however, the radius of engagement extended beyond 1km of these proposed turbine locations and over 200 households were individually contacted with information regarding the proposed project and seeking feedback on the proposal. A copy of this brochure, dated July 2018, is contained in Appendix 5.5.

### **Feedback and Design Review**

This process allowed the design team the opportunity to make amendments to the design layout and project being considered in order to address the local feedback received. The main issues raised included shadow flicker, proximity to houses and noise as detailed in Section 5.5 below. To address these issues, the decision was taken to reduce the number of turbines under consideration from 14 to 12. This reduction enabled a significant increase in the set back distances from homes in the area increasing from 500m to 640m. This greater setback also had a positive impact on reducing potential noise impacts.

This reduction in the spatial extent was accompanied by a reduction in the number of houses within 1km of the proposed development, reducing from approximately 180 within 1km of the initial 14 turbine layout to 85 houses within 1km of the revised 12 turbine layout.



Feedback indicated that shadow flicker was a concern of residents in the local area. While the guidelines allow for limited shadow flicker, it was decided in response to the concerns raised that a policy of “zero shadow flicker” would be adopted. The concept of “zero shadow flicker” is explained further in chapter 12 of this EIAR. This approach minimises shadow flicker insofar as is technically possible, and well below what is permitted in guidelines.

### **Project Brochure 2**

In September 2018 a second brochure was distributed in the area to provide updated project information and present the revised project design. The brochure was distributed to all those initially consulted with on the 14 turbine design layout and the distribution area was increased to a minimum of 1.4km from the revised 12 turbine layout. Whilst there were 85 houses within 1km of the revised layout, brochures were distributed to 260 houses in the wider area. A copy of this brochure, dated September 2018, is contained in Appendix 5.5.

### **Project Brochure 3**

A final project booklet was provided to residents which was used to present the final project design and to outline the main aspects of the project along with a location map and photomontages. A copy of this brochure, dated September 2018 is contained in Appendix 5.5.

### **Local Public Representatives**

In addition to engagement with local residents, all elected public representatives (Cllrs, Senators and TDs) for this area were written to advising them of the proposal on the 3rd July 2018, and an update letter 2025 (refer to Appendix 5.5). This letter included a copy of the introductory letter to residents and included a map of the design layout and area under consideration. A copy of the brochures distributed in the area were also forwarded to them to ensure that they were kept up to date and informed on the proposals.

### **Project Website**

An initial project-specific website ([www.drehidwindfarm.ie](http://www.drehidwindfarm.ie)) was developed for the first Drehid Wind Farm proposal. The purpose of the website was to provide the public and all stakeholders with an up-to-date platform on which information on the project is contained. It displayed up-to-date information on the previous proposal. New websites have been created for the two concurrent planning applications: for the Proposed Wind Farm, the website is [www.drehidwindfarmSID.ie](http://www.drehidwindfarmSID.ie); for the Proposed Substation, the website is [www.drehidsubstationSID.ie](http://www.drehidsubstationSID.ie).

### **Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)**

Details were announced on the 24th July 2018 of the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) which was set to come into place by 2019. Renewable energy projects developed under this scheme would have a significantly increased community benefit fund associated with them and for wind energy this contribution is currently set at €2/MWhr. Based on the previous 12-turbine layout and design, it would have attracted a community contribution in the region of approx. €250,000/year for the local community. The value of this fund is directly proportional to the level of installed MWs on the wind farm.

### **Community Consultation/Engagement June 2024 – Present.**

In preparation for the second phases of public consultation, conducted by Statkraft Ireland, a new Community Liaison Strategy (CLS) was developed by the Community Engagement Team in Statkraft. The CLS involved research on the local area in order to gain an understanding of the local heritage, people and business environment, and analysis of the community feedback from previous rounds of consultation conducted by Element Power. Additionally, the appointment of a new dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) as the main point of contact between the public and the Statkraft Project Team, and how the CLO was to engage with the public throughout the project, was a central part of the CLS. The CLS is based on the ‘Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement’ and the Aarhus Convention.



The CLS was built around key cornerstones such as Statkraft’s commitments to:

- Engage with the local community in an open, honest, and transparent manner;
- Provide clear and understandable information on the project;
- Encourage feedback from local community and to use this information to inform the design and development of the project and;

The Statkraft Community Engagement Team conducted door-to-door engagement with the local residents living within a 1.6 km radius of the proposed project. This was done in order to introduce the new project layout, the new Statkraft Community Engagement Team and the appointed CLO for this phase of the project.

There are 251 residents living within the 1.6 km radius surrounding the proposed Drehid project; 81 residents within the 1 km radius. Engagement was extended to a certain number of properties up to 2km radius. Of the 251 residential properties 6 were vacant and an additional 5 were under construction.

There were two stages of the community consultation process; /June 2024

1. The first round of consultation took place in late June 2024 and consisted of meeting with residents in the immediate 1.6 km radius of the project. The CLO team went door-to-door visiting residents, supplying a Project Booklet which is outlined below (Appendix 5.5) and in cases when it was not possible to speak with the resident, a ‘Sorry I Missed You’ card was left to encourage residents to arrange a time for the CLO team to return and discuss the project.
2. A second round of community consultation was completed in February 2025. A project update brochure and letter were distributed to households, providing information on the date the planning application would be submitted to ABP and detailing any changes to the layout. Where brochures could not be delivered by conventional means, they were sent via An Post with a side letter, using their delivery tracking system.

A dedicated project CLO has remained in contact with residents and community groups in the area and will continue to be contactable, by both phone and email, throughout the life-span of the Drehid Project. Results from two rounds of community consultation are highlighted below;

Community Engagement June 2024:

- No. of residential properties within 1.6km radius: 251 The CE team had face-to-face meetings with 65 residents living between 1km and 1.6 km radius
- The CE Team had face-to-face meetings with 35 residents living within the 1 km radius
- The remaining households received a number of call backs and ‘Sorry I missed you’ cards where a resident wasn’t available.
- Total of 791 brochures were distributed during this round of community consultation
- There were 5 requested meetings with the CLO during the consultation period
- 19 residents received project information through the An Post tracking system
- The CE Team received 1 email from the public in relation to the proposal, each of which were replied to.
- Phone calls 4

Community Engagement February 2025:

No. of residential properties within 1.6km radius: 251.



- The CE team had face-to-face meetings with 58 residents living between 1km and 1.6 km radius.
- The CE Team had face-to-face meetings with 39 residents living within the 1 km radius.
- The remaining households received a number of call backs and ‘Sorry I missed you’ cards where a resident wasn’t available.
- Total of 483 brochures were distributed during this round of community consultation.
- There were 3 requested meetings with the CLO during the consultation period.
- 28 residents received project information through the An Post tracking system.
- The CE Team received 1 email from the public in relation to the proposal, each of which were replied to
- Phone calls: 6

#### **Letters to local councillors and elected officials.**

All councillors of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District and public representatives of North Kildare were written to in March 2025 to inform them of the proposed project and the upcoming planning submission. A copy of the letter is included as Appendix 5.5.

#### **Project Booklet, Project Update Letter, Project Website, Consultation Feedback Form and VCR**

##### Project booklet

The first project booklet distributed during the first round of community consultation was an 8-page booklet that provided details on: what type of project was being considered; why the project was being considered in the Drehid area; a map of the proposed project site along with indicative turbine locations; how the residents and the wider community could provide feedback on the proposed project either through the online feedback form or through direct contact with the CLO; Community Benefit Funds and how they work; and lastly on where people could get further information. CLO contact and website details were clearly outlined on this booklet and were aided by a QR code which directed consultees to the project website.

Number of booklets distributed 791.

##### Project Update brochure and Letter

The Project Update brochure and letter contained information on the final project design and was centred around the upcoming submission date and directions on how to access the planning documents online once it had been submitted.

Number of booklets distributed 483.

##### Project Website

A new project-specific website (<https://projects.statkraft.ie/drehid-wind-farm/>) was created for this proposal. The website includes project information and updates, digitised versions of the Project Booklet which was outlined above and information on climate change, renewable energy and biodiversity. The website went live in May 2024 to coincide with the commencement of Statkraft conducting community engagement. The purpose of the website is to provide a platform for the local and wider stakeholder community to engage with project material and easily source up-to-date project information. The information on the website has been continually updated as the project progresses. The aim has been to keep the information clear, concise, and engaging on this website.

The website was visited by 423 people, who viewed 1,882 pages over 781 visits between May 2024 and May 2025.



### Consultation Feedback Form

A specialised online form was created to capture feedback from the local community (<https://projects.statkraft.ie/drehid-wind-farm/contact-us/>). The form was accessible through QR codes on the Project Booklet and the 'Sorry we missed you' cards left with residents who the CLO was unable to engage with in person during initial door-to-door consultations.

### Summation on Public Consultation

Publicly available, full, clear and comprehensive information has been made available about the project at all key stages and consultation has been carried out in an open, transparent and honest manner whilst promoting active two-way communication.

Consultation was commenced back in 2018 at the earliest stage in the development process and continued/recommenced from June 2024 to Feb/March 2025. Feedback was actively sought on the Proposed Development. The design process incorporated the feedback received and changes were made to take account of local views where appropriate. A project website was developed to provide an additional platform for updated/latest project information for all interested parties.

At all stages of the community engagement process, contact details in the form of a contact phone number and email address for enquiries were distributed including on the letters, information brochures, QR codes for online feedback form and the project website. A contact and feedback facility are also included on the Project Website, details of the website are provided above. Leading on from this consultation approach, the Community Engagement Team has become well-known in the area and has worked to foster good relations in the local community. There was good engagement from the local community and much constructive feedback was received both on the design and community benefit aspects of the project. A copy of the public consultation information is included as Appendix 5.5 of this EIAR.

### **Conclusion**

The Community Liaison Strategy for the Proposed Development was designed and implemented to maximise participation and dialogue in the community and with Statkraft. The Community Engagement Team through door-to-door consultation with residents living within the 1.6 km radius enabled all residents to be kept up to date with information and an opportunity to participate in the design of the project. The CLO hopes that this will result in greater community ownership and local pride in this project if it is granted planning.

## **5.5 Key Issues/Points Raised During Consultation**

Overall, the feedback collected during scoping and consultation for the Proposed Development was beneficial in assessing the potential effects of the proposal on the environment. Responses from consultees identified a range of observations which have been taken into consideration in the preparation of the respective chapters.

Some consultees raised concerns regarding the potential impacts of the scheme. A summary is provided below of the primary concerns raised during the consultation process.

- In terms of potential effects on telecommunications, consultation responses from Eir, Netshare Ireland, RTE and TowerCom Ltd were received. Eir described the potential effects on transmission links associated with the turbine layout, with Netshare Ireland identifying potential effects occurring in the direct line of site of Vodafone services microwave links. Further, TowerCom Ltd. identified a potential issue for some links on Towercom's tower. The results of the consultation process regarding telecommunications and aviation have been considered in Chapter 16: Telecommunications and Aviation with mitigation agreed with all parties.



- Consultation responses received from Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Irish Peatland Conservation Council have provided information regarding the potential effects to waters, watercourses, habitats, raised bog, and biodiversity. The observations collected have been considered in detail in chapters 8, 9 and 10.

With regard to the issues raised during the pre-planning meeting with Kildare County Council, of note is the importance of assessing the proposed wind farm development 'in-combination' with the proposed Drehid landfill development and permitted and proposed solar farm developments within the vicinity of the proposal. It is further noted that since the consultation with Kildare County Council, the Timahoe North Solar Farm is now producing power and expected to complete construction in 2025. The potential cumulative effects arising from the Proposed Development and other permitted and proposed developments has been comprehensively considered in the production of this EIAR.

With regard to the issues raised by the Roads Department in Kildare County Council, it was agreed that pre and post conditional surveys be undertaken post planning; that a Road Safety Assessment be undertaken and that the east side of the site entrance would not be used by HGVs.

### **Key issues raised during public consultation**

During our one to one meetings with people in the local community as part of our consultation process, people were actively encouraged to provide feedback on the areas of concern that they had in terms of the proposed development. The preliminary design has been reviewed in order to reflect consultation responses received from the local public. Many concerns were made regarding potential shadow flicker, set back distances and proximity to houses and noise. A desire for further amenity facilities in the area was also expressed.

#### Shadow Flicker

Many people highlighted Shadow Flicker as their main concern stating that they felt it would be intrusive in their homes. It was felt in order for this project to work well in the local area, the issue of Shadow Flicker would have to be dealt with. A "zero shadow flicker" strategy will be implemented using turbine control software to cease turbine operation during periods when shadow flicker is predicted to occur. If this mitigation strategy is adopted, then minimal (as close to zero as possible) shadow flicker would occur within 10 rotor diameters of the wind farm. A full assessment of shadow flicker including the proposed mitigation is detailed in Chapter 11 of this EIAR.

#### Proximity & set back distances

Many people expressed a desire to have the distance between turbines and houses increased. It was felt that the 500m setback detailed on the design layout was closer than what people would be comfortable with and that, should the project be granted planning permission, the proposal would be more acceptable if this distance was greater.

The minimum distance between houses in the wider community and turbines has been increased from 500m to 642m with approximately 70% of the properties in excess of 800m. In order to achieve this, the number of turbines proposed has been reduced from 14 to 11. As there are certain separation distances required between wind turbines in order to allow for efficient operation, pushing the turbines closer together to increase the distances from houses was not a viable option. It was therefore necessary to reduce the overall number of turbines and to make changes to the proposed layout moving the turbines further away from houses.



### Noise

Noise was raised as a concern as it was felt that noise may be an issue from the wind farm. With mitigation measures, construction activities with a duration longer than one month are expected to be below the construction noise limit of 65 dB<sub>LAeq,1hr</sub> at residential properties. A comprehensive noise assessment is detailed in chapter 7 of this EIAR.

### Amenity Trail

Many people expressed a desire to see a recreational amenity area developed in the local area. We have proposed the Drehid Wind Farm Recreational Amenity Trail which will consist of 2 routes—a shorter 1.2km loop and a longer route ca. 4km which will be open to the public as a walkway. This trail can be used by the local community and will be suitable for a number of activities including walking, bird watching, nature and wildlife exploration. The Amenity Trail will include an area for safely storing bikes and picnic areas with interpretative information provided to add to the experience.

### Cable Route

The cable route in the public road to Dunfiirth substation was raised as a concern during the public consultation period. It is now proposed to construct an onsite electricity substation within the Proposed Development. This will have minimal/lesser impact on the (less travelled section/quieter section) public road and will significantly alleviate the concerns raised by the local community.

Further details of the alternatives and design process are contained in Chapter 2 of the EIAR.



## 5.6 Conclusion

Consultation was sought from a number of stakeholders, including Kildare County Council, governmental departments, Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOS) and telecommunications / aviation providers; as well as pre-application consultation meetings with An Bord Pleanála. Their comments and feedback were incorporated into the EIAR as identified.

Pre-planning consultation was held with Kildare County Council in 2018 to determine the key points relating to the Proposed Development.

Public consultation has been facilitated by having a dedicated Community Engagement Team on the ground and by way of a leaflet / letter drop to ensure that locals are made aware of the intent of the applicant to submit an application for the proposed development and to also provide details on means to engage in the design and EIAR process. A dedicated website has also been set up to allow for open communication between the applicant and community through the iterative design process.

In terms of community benefit, based on the current layout and design, should the Proposed Development be developed under RESS, it would attract a community contribution in the region of approx. €260,000/year for the local community for the lifetime of the project. Following feedback from the local community, the applicant has proposed that a portion of the community benefit fund available will be ring fenced to make a contribution of at least €1,000 annually per household within 1km of the proposed wind farm.

Observations and issues that arose during the scoping and consultation process have informed the design, assessment and mitigation measures proposed as part of this project. Of significance here is the reduction in the quantum of turbines from 14 no. to 12 no. in the 2018 design iteration, which was subsequently further reduced to 11 no. for the current design iteration of the Proposed Development. The set-back from the closest residence not involved in the project was increased from 500m to more than 642m and a 'zero shadow flicker' policy has been adopted as described in Chapter 12 to mitigate against the potential for shadow flicker at dwellings in the local area.





**DESIGNING AND DELIVERING  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

**[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)**

