



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING  
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

# APPENDIX 5

## SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

Appendix 5.1 – EIA Scoping Report

Appendix 5.2 – 2024 Update Scoping Letter

Appendix 5.3 – Responses to the EIA Scoping Report

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Appendix 5.5 – Community Consultation



## APPENDIX 5.1

### EIAR Scoping Report

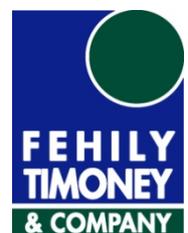




**NORTH KILDARE WIND FARM LTD.**

**NORTH KILDARE WIND FARM ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT SCOPING REPORT**

**JULY 2018**





# NORTH KILDARE WIND FARM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT SCOPING REPORT

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**Client:** North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd.

**Keywords:** Wind Farm, EIAR Scoping, Planning Application.

**Abstract:** This is a scoping report prepared for a proposed wind farm in Co. Kildare. The purpose of the scoping report is to identify the content and extent of the information to be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the proposed project.



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 General

### 1.1.1 Introduction

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierrth. A site location map is presented in Figure 1.1. The proposed windfarm site is located in an area of commercial forestry, cutaway bog and on agricultural land.

### 1.1.2 The Proposed Development

The proposed development will comprise of up to 14 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, 1 no. substation including control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, borrow pit, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compound, tree felling and associated works. The proposed development will have a Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) of up to 50 megawatts (MW). Further details on the proposed development including turbine delivery route and grid connection route are provided in Section 2. A preliminary site layout is presented in Figure 1.1.

### 1.1.3 The Applicant

The applicant for the proposed project will be North Kildare WF Ltd., which is a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd. Element Power Ireland is part of the wider Element Power group, a global renewable energy company that develops, acquires, builds and operates utility-scale wind and solar power projects. Element Power Ireland has constructed and operates a portfolio of approximately 100MW with another 120MW in construction in 2017/2018.

Element Power has an established track record in wind energy in Ireland, with its Irish team based in Tullamore and Cork. This team has previously developed over 16 wind farms in Counties Clare, Cork, Kerry, Donegal, Limerick, Galway, Waterford, and Tipperary and Tyrone.

## 1.2 Planning Process for the Proposed Development

The proposed development will be submitted for planning under the Planning and Development Regulations to the relevant local authority, Kildare County Council.

## 1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and the Function of the EIAR

Under Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, a planning application for a development which comes within a class of development specified under Schedule 2 of Part 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with the 2011 Directive. Accordingly, as the proposed development, has more than 5 no. turbines and a generating capacity of greater than 5MW this EIAR has been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations.

Pursuant to Directive 2011/92/EU and the more recent Directive 2014/52/EU and in accordance with Circular letter PL 1/2017 "Advice on Administrative Provisions in Advance of Transposition" from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG), the report constitutes an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and complies fully with both the 2011 and 2014 Directives.

The purpose of the EIAR will be to provide a detailed description of the proposed development and outline potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the wind farm. Where adverse impacts have been identified, mitigation measures are proposed.

The 2014 Directive terminology for the report produced as part of EIA is an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). As the 2014 Directive has not yet been transposed into Irish legislation, the term used throughout the report will be EIAR and will address the key items as required by both the 2011 and 2014 Directive.

## 1.4 Purpose of Scoping

The purpose of the EIAR scoping process is to identify the issues which are likely to be important during the environmental impact assessment and to eliminate those that are not. The scoping process will identify the 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.

The issues identified in the scoping process will be examined in the EIAR, any potential impacts will be quantified, mitigation measures proposed as required, and residual impacts described. The scoping process will also identify the appropriate level of detail for the information to be provided in the EIAR. Scoping will be carried out through the issue of this report or a detailed letter with co-ordinates<sup>1</sup> to statutory and non-statutory consultees listed in Appendix 1. Consultees are invited to contribute to the EIAR by suggesting baseline data, survey methodologies and potential impacts that should be considered as part of the impact assessment process and in preparation of the EIAR.

Comments on the scope of the EIAR can be submitted by email to [Elaine.Bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:Elaine.Bennett@ftco.ie) by the 8th of August 2018.

## 1.5 Contributors to the EIAR

This Scoping Report has been prepared by Fehily Timoney & Company (FT) on behalf of North Kildare WF Ltd. FT is a consultancy based in Cork and Dublin specialising in civil and environmental engineering, environmental science and planning, and is well established as a leading consultancy in wind farm development in Ireland.

FT will prepare a planning application and accompanying Environmental Impact Statement for submission to the planning authority, Kildare County Council.

Specialist contributors to the EIAR process comprise:

- Macroworks who will prepare the landscape and visual impact assessment; and
- Courtney Deery who will prepare the Cultural Heritage assessment.
- Arup Consulting Engineers will prepare the Traffic & Transportation assessment and cable laying.

## 1.6 Consultation

Public consultation on the project and engagement with the local community will be carried out.

The community liaison strategy will be based around engaging with the local community in an open, honest and transparent manner with the aim to not only provide clear and understandable information but also to gain feedback to understand the views of the local community and to use this information to inform the design process, thus allowing the local community an opportunity to have an influence on the final project design.

The Community Liaison Officer (CLO) will be appointed as the point of contact for the area.

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<sup>1</sup> Letter with co-ordinates sent to companies or bodies relating to telecommunications or aviation

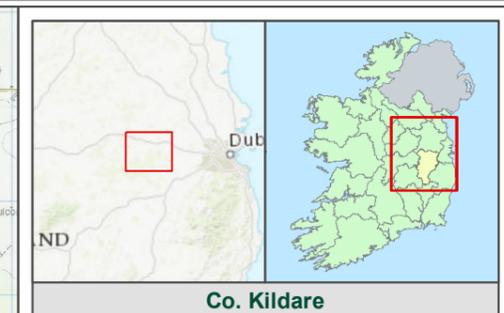
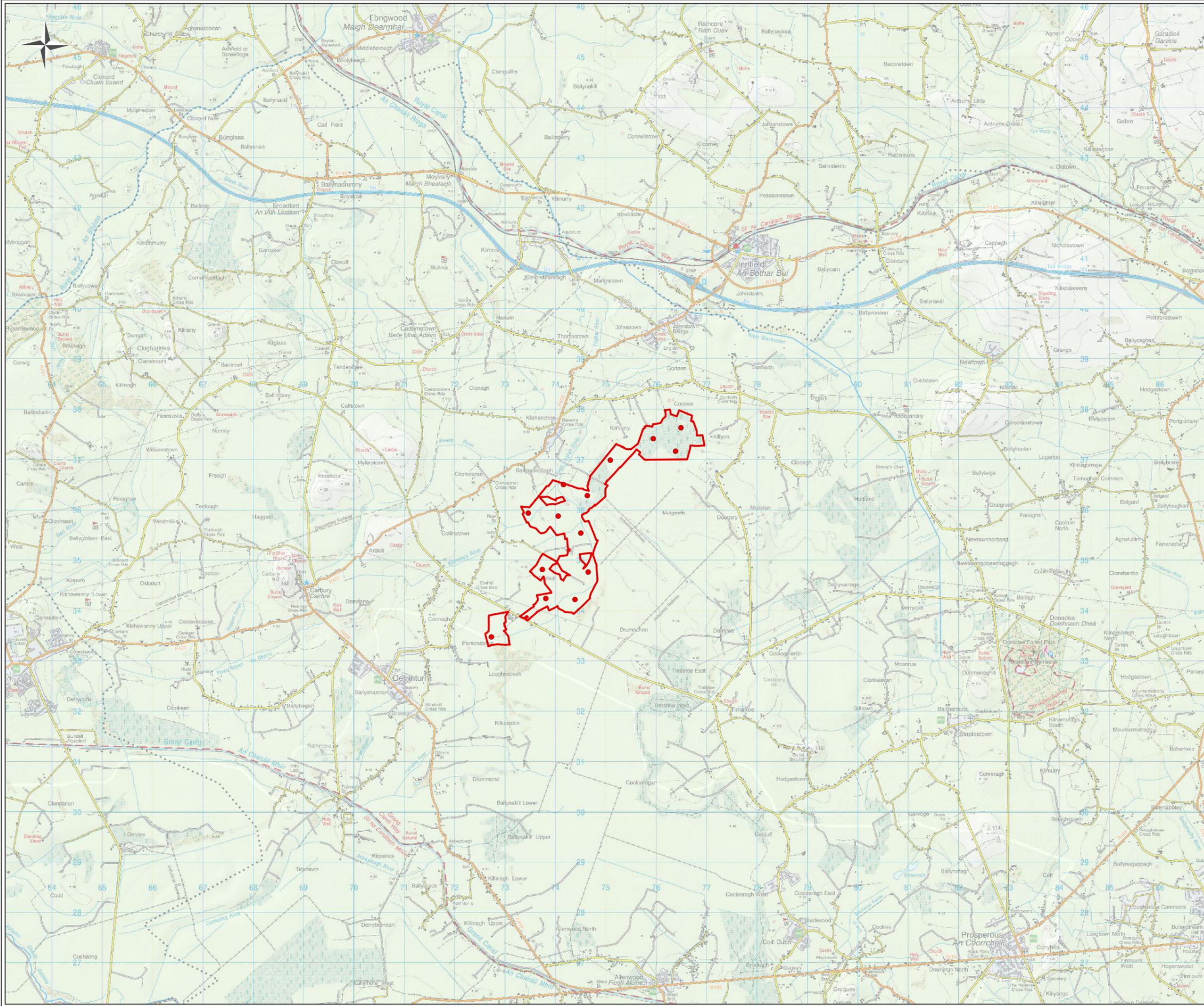
At all stages of engagement there will be a flexible approach to facilitating the timing of calls/meetings. Feedback from the one-to-one meetings will be passed on to the project design team on an ongoing basis so as to allow the feedback from this engagement to inform the design process. Where areas of concern or interest are expressed, every effort will be made to not only provide accurate information but also to guide the individuals concerned towards sources of accurate information. As the design process progresses one-to-one meetings will be ongoing with update leaflets/newsletters distributed in the local area to provide clear information on the main aspects of the project as it evolves.

At all stages of the community engagement process, contact details in the form of a contact phone number and email address for enquiries are distributed.

### **1.7 Pre-Planning Meetings**

A preplanning meeting will be held with Kildare County Council to discuss the project.





**Legend**

- Turbine Locations
- Wind Farm Boundary

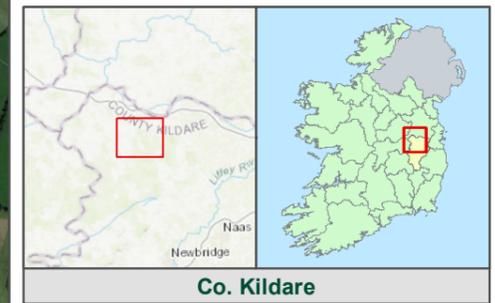
<b>Figure Title</b>	Site Location
<b>Figure No.</b>	1.1
<b>Project</b>	Dredge Wind Farm
<b>Client</b>	Element Power
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<b>Revision</b>	A
<b>Date</b>	12/07/2018

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Co. Kildare

**Legend**

- Turbine Locations
- Proposed Substation Location
- Wind Farm Boundary

<b>Figure Title</b>	Preliminary Site Layout		
<b>Figure No.</b>	1.2		
<b>Project</b>	Drehid Wind Farm		
<b>Client</b>	Element Power		
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<b>Revision</b>	A	<b>Date</b>	12/07/2018

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## 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Proposed Infrastructure

The proposed development will comprise of up to 14 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, 1 no. substation including control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compound, tree felling and associated works. The proposed development will have a Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) of up to 50 megawatts (MW). A preliminary site layout is presented in Figure 1.2.

The wind farm will have a defined planning boundary which will include not only the turbines themselves but also the ancillary infrastructure listed above.

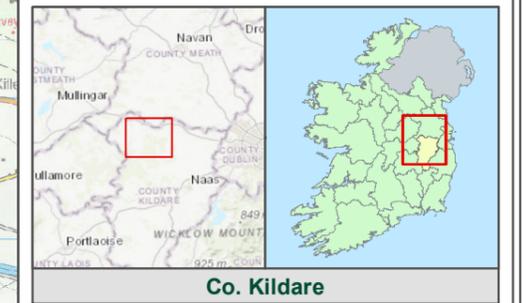
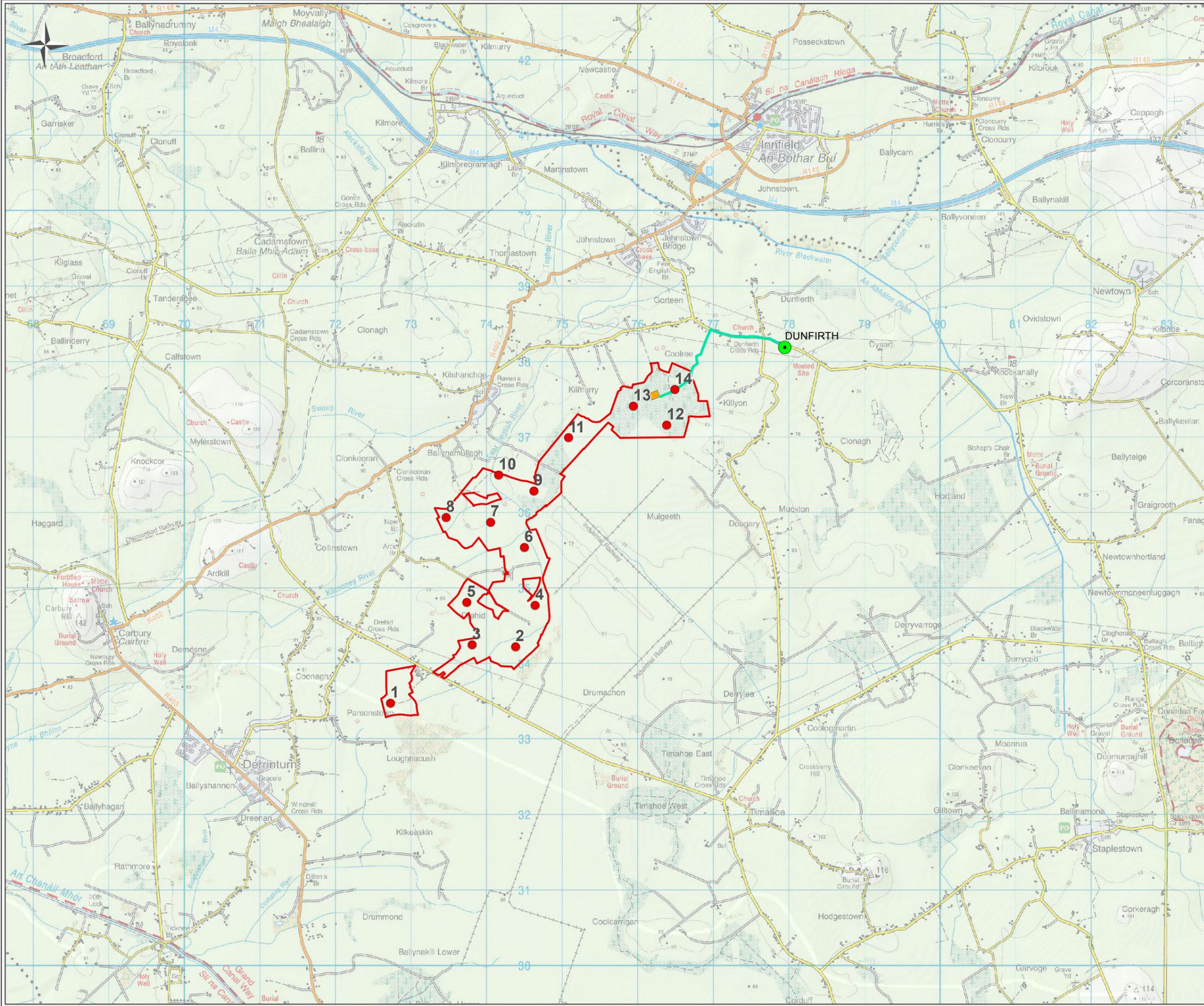
The electricity generated by the proposed wind farm will be transmitted by a collector system of underground cables to the proposed onsite substation. The proposed development will also comprise underground cables from the wind farm to the National Grid connection point as well as improvements to the public road network for the delivery of turbine components.

### 2.2 Grid Connection

The proposed development will have a Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) of up to 50 megawatts (MW). Impacts associated with the proposed grid connection will be assessed as part of the project and the results presented in the EIAR.

It is proposed that the development will connect to the existing 110kV substation at Dunfierth via underground cable. The proposed grid connection route will follow the route of the existing public road between the proposed wind farm site and the 110kV substation at Dunfierth. The proposed grid connection route is shown in Figure 2.1. There will be no overhead lines required for the grid connection.





**Legend**

- Substations (110-220kV)
- Turbine Locations
- Proposed Cable Route
- Proposed Substation
- Wind Farm Boundary

<b>Figure Title</b>	Grid Connection Route
<b>Figure No.</b>	2.1
<b>Project</b>	Drehid Wind Farm
<b>Client</b>	Element Power
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<b>Revision</b>	A
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### 2.3 Turbine Delivery

A number of components will enter the country through the ports including the blades, tower sections and the nacelles. The turbine components will be delivered to site by specialist transport vehicles and these components will then be assembled on site.

The turbine delivery route is shown in Figure 2.2. The delivery route from the chosen port into which the components are shipped, to the wind farm site will use motorway and the national primary route network as much as possible. It is proposed to deliver turbines to the site via the M4 motorway until Enfield, then along the R402 for ca. 7.7km and finally local road(L5025) to the entrance of the site.

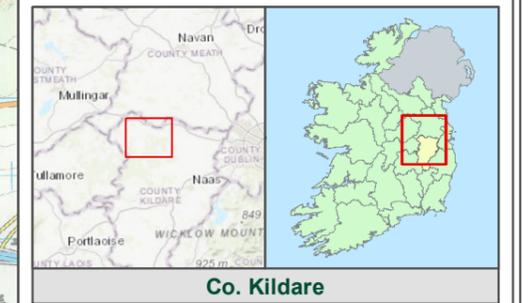
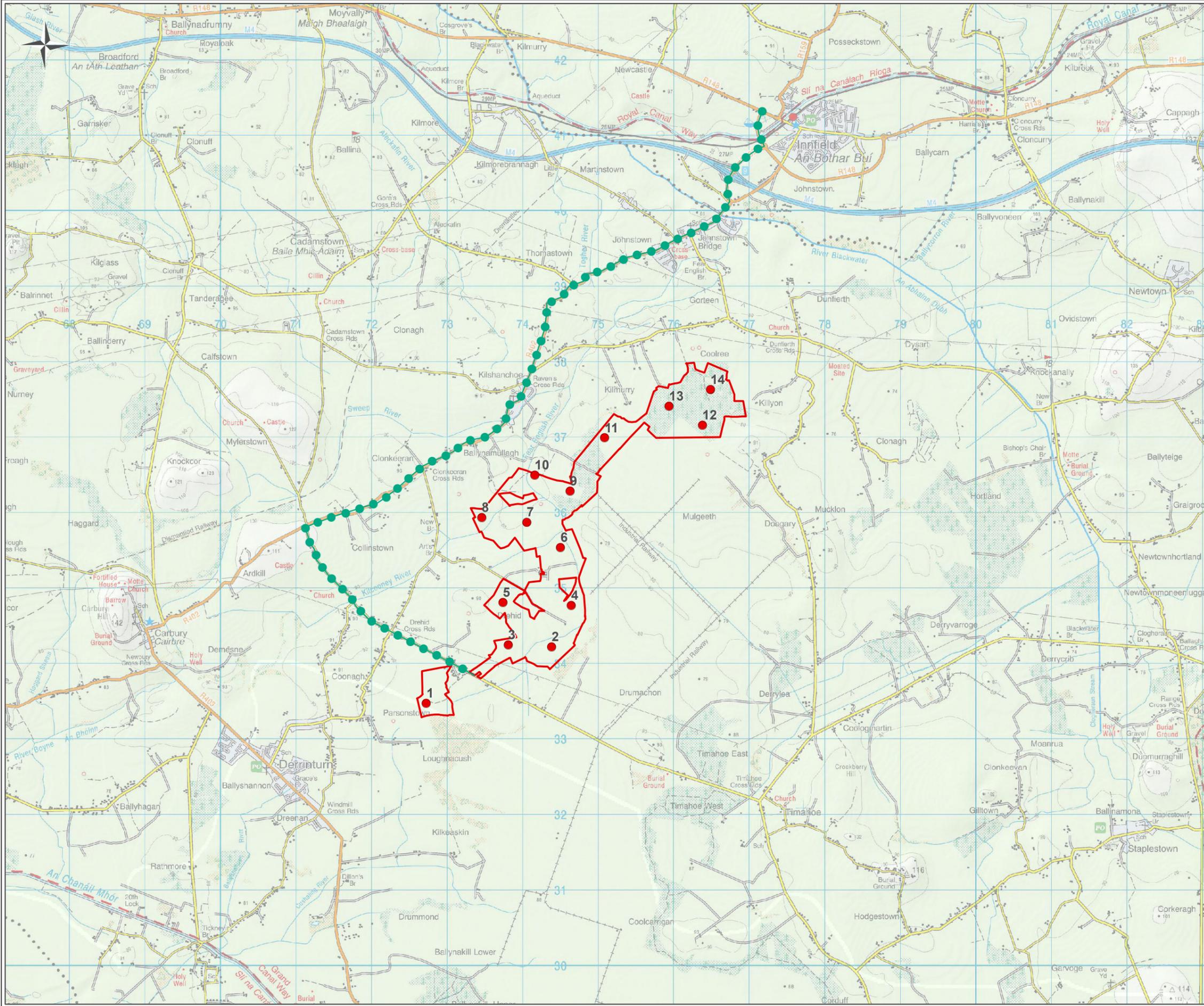
### 2.4 Site Location and Description

The proposed wind farm site includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfiirth and is ca. 390ha in size. The site is accessed from M4 motorway until Enfield, then along the R402 for ca. 7.7km and finally local road(L5025) to the entrance of the site. The site lies c. 2.8km south of the motorway M4 at Enfield and 1.2km southeast of the regional road R402 linking the M4 to the R420 east of Tullamore in County Offaly.

The site of the proposed development encircles the northernmost part of Timahoe Bog which is a large expanse cutover peatland bog. The proposed site incorporates the dryland and marginal dryland/wetland interface and former bogland; it is located in relatively low-lying but undulating land with the majority of proposed turbines located beneath the 80m contour line. The land rises to more undulating agricultural lands in an arc to the northeast and east of the cluster while to the south the land remains low-lying bogland. The Fear English River rises in Parsonstown at approximately 88mOD and flows through and adjacent to the site. After the confluence with the Kilcooney River, the Fear English River continues in a north easterly direction for 3km to Johnstown Bridge, where it meets the River Blackwater. The landscape is classified as being of low sensitivity from a landscape perspective.

There are 60 residential properties and 9 no. both residential and commercial and 2 commercial properties located within 1km of the proposed turbine locations. There is 1 house within 500m of the turbines (the landowner is involved in the project. This occupied dwelling is located 422m from the nearest proposed turbine location (T6).





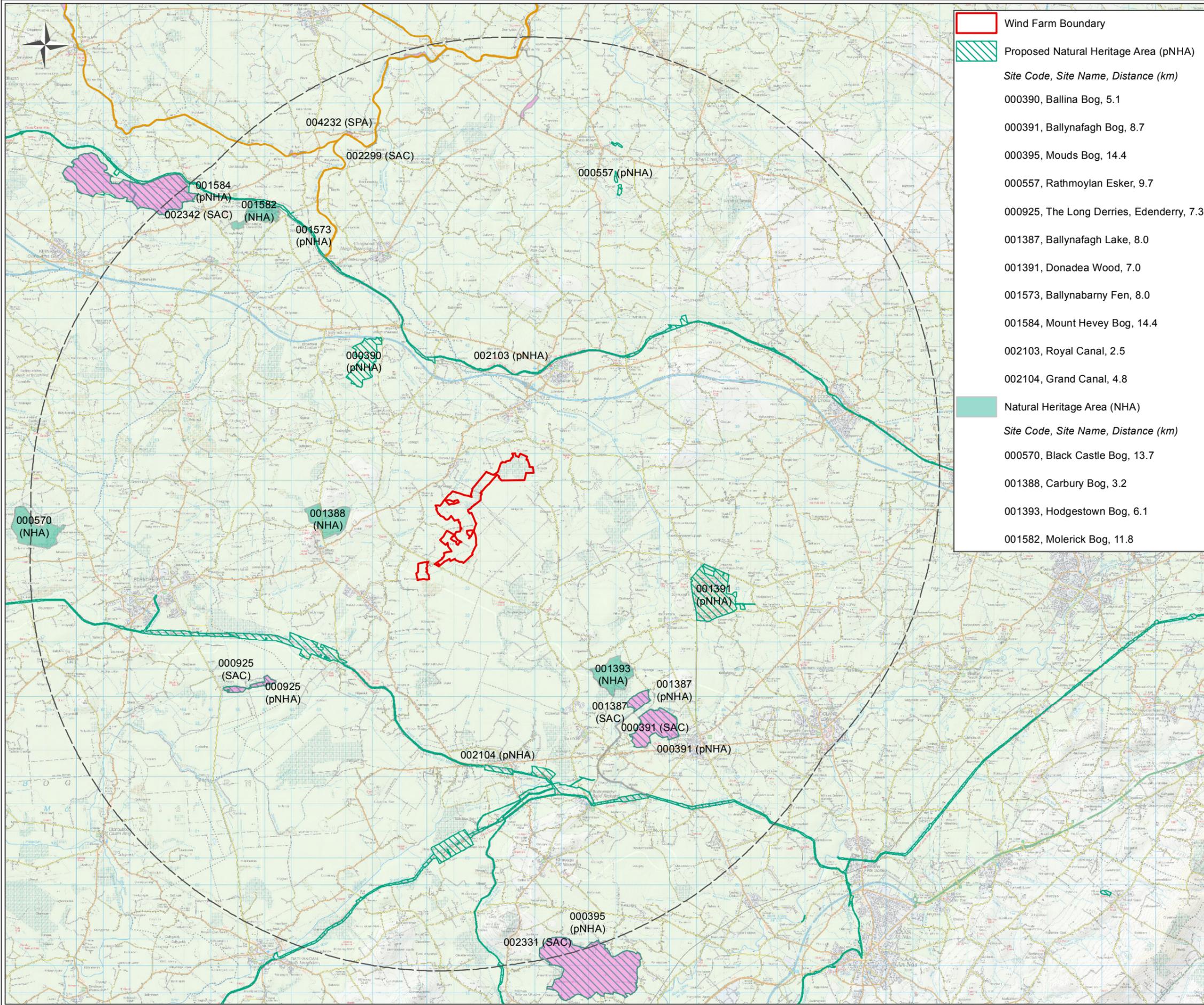
- Legend**
- Proposed Turbine Delivery
  - Turbine Locations
  - Wind Farm Boundary

<b>Figure Title</b>	Turbine Delivery Route
<b>Figure No.</b>	2.2
<b>Project</b>	Drehid Wind Farm
<b>Client</b>	Element Power
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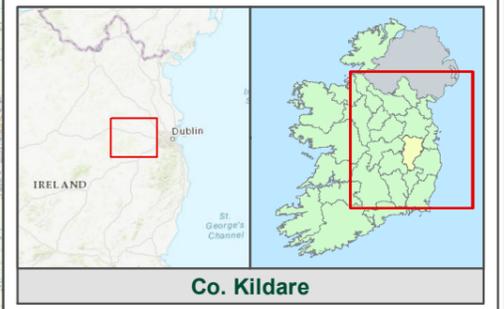
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	Wind Farm Boundary
	Proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA)
<i>Site Code, Site Name, Distance (km)</i>	
	000390, Ballina Bog, 5.1
	000391, Ballynafagh Bog, 8.7
	000395, Mouds Bog, 14.4
	000557, Rathmoylan Esker, 9.7
	000925, The Long Derries, Edenderry, 7.3
	001387, Ballynafagh Lake, 8.0
	001391, Donadea Wood, 7.0
	001573, Ballynabarny Fen, 8.0
	001584, Mount Hevey Bog, 14.4
	002103, Royal Canal, 2.5
	002104, Grand Canal, 4.8
	Natural Heritage Area (NHA)
<i>Site Code, Site Name, Distance (km)</i>	
	000570, Black Castle Bog, 13.7
	001388, Carbury Bog, 3.2
	001393, Hodgestown Bog, 6.1
	001582, Molerick Bog, 11.8



**Legend**

	Wind Farm Boundary
	15km Distance from Wind Farm
	Special Protection Area
<i>Site Code, Site Name, Distance (km)</i>	
	004232, River Boyne and River Blackwater, 9.7
	Special Area of Conservation
<i>Site Code, Site Name, Distance (km)</i>	
	000391, Ballynafagh Bog, 8.6
	000925, The Long Derries, Edenderry,
	001387, Ballynafagh Lake, 7.9
	002299, River Boyne And River Blackwater, 9.6
	002331, Mouds Bog, 14.3
	002342, Mount Hevey Bog, 14.4

**Figure Title**  
Designated Nature Conservation Sites

**Figure No.** 2.3

**Project**  
Drehid Wind Farm

**Client**  
Element Power

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**Revision** A **Date** 12/07/2018

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### 3 PLANNING AND POLICY CONTEXT

North Kildare Wind Farm has been proposed in response to European and Irish Government Policies in relation to renewable energy. The European, National, Regional and Local planning and policy context for the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm will be addressed with reference to the Kildare County Development Plan 2014-2020 and other plans and policies, Regional Planning Guidelines and National Guidelines.

The EU Directive on the Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Sources (2009/28/EC) sets a target of 20% of EU energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020 and a 20% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, the so-called 20:20:20 plan. As part of this Directive, Ireland's overall national target for the share of energy from renewable sources in gross final consumption of energy in 2020 is 16% (increased from 3.1% in 2005).

This means that Ireland has a legal obligation to diversify its energy sources by 2020 requiring the development of renewable energy to avoid substantial fines. The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform (DPER) 'Future Expenditure Risks associated with Climate Change/Climate Finance' (June 2014) estimate that the cost to Ireland for a shortfall in the range of 1% to 4% on the overall 2020 target could result in costs to the Exchequer of between €140m to €600m.

When planning for the development of renewable energy on a national scale it is important to be cognisant of hierarchical structure of plans within which Irish planning policy sits. At a national scale the National Planning Framework, demonstrates an approach that joins up ambition for improvement across the different areas, recognising the need for new energy systems and transmission grids in order to deliver a more distributed, renewable focused national energy system in order to harness the potential from wind, wave and solar energy sources.

In the context of the Eastern and Midlands region, Section 3.2 acknowledges the potential to harness renewable energy across the technological spectrum in order to sufficiently adapt to a greener society.

*"Harnessing the potential of the region in renewable energy terms across the technological spectrum from wind and solar to biomass and, where applicable, wave energy, focussing in particular on the extensive tracts of publicly owned peat extraction areas in order to enable a managed transition of the local economies of such areas in gaining the economic benefits of greener energy."*

A key planning policy document against which the proposed development is to be assessed is the Kildare County Development Plan, 2017 to 2023 (KCDP). The KCDP sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Kildare over the period between 2017 and 2023. It provides a clear vision, strengthened by a series of policies and objectives which aim to guide the planning and development of the County.

The policies and objectives of the Authority on renewable energy development are contained in Chapter 8 Energy and Communications. As outlined in Section 8.1 Background, *"to sustain continued growth, Kildare County Council will require energy to power homes, businesses, public services and transport. Energy supply needs to be reliable, efficient and robust so that it can facilitate growth across all sectors. **Kildare County Council will make every effort to increase energy efficiency and unlock renewable energy potential**".* This is supported by the Plan's recognition of European and national policy's commitment to increasing the proportion of energy consumed from non-polluting, renewable sources (wind, solar, hydro and geothermal).

Section 8.3 Strategy, recognises the aim of the Plan to support the development of indigenous renewable energy resources and to maximise electricity production, in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

The Plan seeks:

- *"To support national and EU policy for the provision of new and innovative sources of renewable energy.*
- *To facilitate energy supply and distribution in the county in order to support an efficient and vibrant economy*

- *To ensure that the location of renewable energy structures should minimise and/or mitigate any adverse visual and environmental impacts on the built or natural environment.*

Further, in Section 8.4 Renewable Energy, it is noted that:

*“Due to increased energy requirements and national and EU targets for energy consumption from renewable sources, the electricity supply must be augmented by alternative forms of generation. The Council recognises the range of new and developing technologies that can contribute to minimising greenhouse gas emissions and to securing a greater proportion of our energy needs from renewable resources.”*

Section 8.5 Wind Energy recognises the significant contribution that wind energy can make towards achieving Ireland’s renewable energy targets to 2020 and beyond, and outlines the Council’s commitment to preparing a Wind Energy Development Strategy in line with the “Methodology for Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategies” prepared by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland.

In determining the potential impact of a particular form of development on the receiving landscape, a Table and a map was prepared by Kildare County Council to identify the likely compatibility between a particular land-use and a principle landscape area. The proposed development falls with the western boglands landscape character area which is classified to have ‘medium’ compatibility with windfarm.

Table 3.5 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 provides further plan lead objectives concerning the compatibility of wind farm development in the context of a range of land-uses and proximity to principal landscape sensitivity factors. It illustrates that wind farms are either likely to be compatible with great care or reasonable care on Peat Bogs and in agricultural lands. It is also noted that the site is not located in an area designated on Map No. 13.2 as Mixed or Broad Leaved forestry. Therefore, the proposed development is located in the most compatible land use within the County of Kildare.

## 4 STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE EIAR

### 4.1 Contents of the EIAR - Statutory Requirements

The EIAR will be prepared in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, which sets out the contents of an EIAR. In addition, the contents of Directive 2014/52/EU, which was adopted in the EU on 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment will also be incorporated in the preparation of this EIAR (the 2014 EIA Directive).

The purpose of the EIAR is to provide in particular:

- 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 potential 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 relevant to the specific characteristics of the wind farm project proposed.

Article 3 of the 2014 EIA Directive states that an “environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of a project on the following factors:

- (a) population and human health;
- (b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;
- (c) land, soil, water, air and climate;
- (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape;
- (e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d)”

The 2014 Directive terminology for the report produced as part of EIA is an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

### 4.2 EIAR Methodology

#### 4.2.1 General

The EPA has published guidelines on the preparation of environmental impact statements. These are contained in ‘*Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)*’<sup>2</sup>, published in 2003 and ‘*Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*’<sup>3</sup> published originally in 2002, but revised in Draft format in 2015 and 2017. The EIAR team will have regard to these guidelines in the preparation of the EIAR. In addition, the EIAR will be completed in accordance with the guidance produced by the European Commission in 2017 – *Guidance on the Preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)*. The team will also have regard to best practice guidance for individual environmental topics.

<sup>2</sup> EPA (2003), *Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)* Available at: [https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/guidelines/EPA\\_advice\\_on\\_EIS\\_2003.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/guidelines/EPA_advice_on_EIS_2003.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> EPA (2002) *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*, available at: <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/consultation/reviewofdraftteisguidelinesadvisenotes/Draft%20Guidelines%20on%20the%20Information%20to%20be%20contained%20in%20an%20EIS.pdf>

Regard will also be paid to the 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' published by the Irish Wind Energy Association and the 'Wind Energy Development Guidelines' published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2006) or the latest adopted revision at the time of application

There are two different EIAR structures which are commonly used and which the EPA guidelines accept as equally valid. The structure, which the EIAR team proposes to use for the EIAR for the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm, is the grouped format structure.

Using this structure there is a separate chapter for each topic, e.g. air quality, Biodiversity, hydrology. The description of the existing environment, the proposed development and the potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts are grouped in the chapter. The grouped format makes it easy to investigate topics of interest and facilitates cross-reference to specialist studies.

Given the need to ensure that the EIAR is readily accessible to the general public, as well as to the statutory authorities, the EIAR team has proposed to structure the EIAR as described below:

- Non-technical Summary
- Introduction
- Description of the Development
- Policy and Legislation
- EIAR Scoping and Consultation
- Air Quality and Climate
- Landscape and Visual
- Shadow Flicker
- Noise and Vibration
- Traffic and Transportation
- Biodiversity
- Land, Soils, Geology and Slope Stability
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Population, Human Health & Material Assets
- Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage
- Telecommunications and Aviation
- Interactions of the Foregoing

#### 4.2.2 EIAR Chapter Structure

The broad methodology framework used in each chapter will include the following:

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Existing Environment
- Potential Impacts
- Mitigation Measures
- Residual Impacts

##### Introduction

This section introduces the environmental topic to be assessed and the areas to be examined within the assessment.

##### Methodology

Specific topic related methodologies are outlined in this section. This will include the methodology used in describing the existing environment and undertaking the impact assessment. It is important that the methodology is documented so that the reader understands how the assessment was undertaken. This can also be used as a reference if future studies are required.

### Existing Environment

An accurate description of the existing environment is necessary to predict the likely significant impacts of a new development. Existing baseline environmental monitoring data can also be used as a valuable reference for the assessment of actual impacts from a development once it is in operation.

To describe the existing environment, desktop reviews of existing data sources will be undertaken for each specialist area relying on published reference reports and datasets to ensure the objectivity of the assessment. Desktop studies are also supplemented by specialised field walkovers or studies in order to confirm the accuracy of the desktop study or to gather more baseline environmental information for incorporation into the EIAR.

The existing environment will be evaluated to highlight the character of the existing environment that is distinctive and what the significance of this is. The significance of a specific environment can be derived from legislation, national policies, local plans and policies, guidelines or professional judgements. The sensitivity of the environment will also be described.

### Potential Impacts

In this section, individual specialists predict how the receiving environment will interact with the proposed development. The full extent of the proposed development's effects and emissions before the proposed mitigation measures are introduced is outlined. Impacts from both the construction and operation phases of the proposed development are outlined. Interactions and cumulative impacts with other environmental topics are also included in this evaluation.

The evaluation of the significance of the impact is also undertaken. Where possible, pre-existing standardised criteria for the significance of impacts will be used in accordance with the guidelines set out in the EPA (2015) Draft Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements. However, until the 2014 Directive is implemented, the 2002 Guidelines and their criteria need to be used. Such criteria can include Irish legislation, international standards, European Commission and EPA guidelines or good practice guidelines. Where appropriate criteria do not exist the assessment methodology section states the criteria used to evaluate the significance.

### Mitigation Measures

If significant impacts are anticipated mitigation measures will be devised to minimise impacts on the environment. Mitigation measures by avoidance, by reduction and by remedy can be outlined.

### Residual Impacts

The assessment identifies the likely impact that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been put in place. These impacts are described in detail and assessment of their significance undertaken.

## 4.2.3 EIAR Report Structure

The structure proposed for the EIAR is as follows:

- Volume 1 - Non Technical summary (including figures)
- Volume 2 - Main EIAR
- Volume 2B – Figures
- Volume 3 - Appendices for the EIAR
- Volume 4 – Photomontages

## 4.2.4 EIAR Draft Table of Contents

The draft EIAR Table of Contents is attached in **Appendix A**.



## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIAR

### 5.1 Introduction

The EPA Advice Notes provide guidance on the topics which would usually be addressed when preparing an EIAR for different classes of development. The Advice Notes highlight typical issues, which would arise for each development class. Project Type 33 is 'installations for harnessing wind power for energy production (wind farms)'. The scope of the EIAR will have regard to the guidance provided on the issues to be addressed for a Project Type 33.

The EIAR will also have regard to environmental impact assessments, which have been undertaken recently by Kildare County Council for wind farm projects which will be included within the Introduction to this project.

### 5.2 Background to the Project

The EIAR will summaries International, European, National and Local Energy and Planning Policy, the challenges associated with Climate Change and the related need for the proposed development.

### 5.3 Alternatives Considered

The alternatives, which were considered, when developing the overall configuration of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm, will be described and the technology options for the project will be outlined in Chapter 1 Introduction and Project Rationale.

The principle alternatives studied with respect to the wind farm will be outlined under the following headings:

- *Locations* – This will include a discussion of the overall site selection process for the wind farm on a national, regional and local scale. It will include a site selection report which will be included in the EIAR outlining details of the criteria used to determine site suitability for wind energy development including:
  - Wind resource;
  - Proximity to residential dwellings;
  - Land Zoning in County Development Plans;
  - Established and Future Land-Use;
  - Ecological Conservation Designations;
  - Landscape Designations; and
  - Ease of Access etc.
- *Access* – Details of the criteria used to select the network of access tracks that will provide access from the public road network to the site (and to each turbine within the site) in addition to those that will provide internal connections (as an alternative to using public roads) between turbines will be outlined. This will include information on the availability of existing track, suitable ground conditions, terrain, local road infrastructure etc.
- *Connection to the National Grid* – Details of the criteria used to select the proposed grid connection route to the Dunfieth 110kV substation will be provided. This will include an assessment of alternative grid connection route options.

The reasons, including environmental and plan-led considerations will be explained.

## 5.4 Scheme Description

The EIAR will describe the baseline environment, potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts for each specific environmental topic.

A description of the proposed grid connection route will be included in the EIAR, with information provided on trench-details and the construction methodology to be utilised.

In a judgement in 2014, *O’Grianna v. An Bord Pleanála, Cork County Council and Framore Limited*, it was ruled that all planning permission should not be granted for a wind farm project requiring a grid connection unless the grid connection details are provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. Arising from this it is essential that the details of this project and its proposed grid connection should be provided in the EIA process, this will be set out in the Description of Development in detail in Chapter 2, while Chapter 1 will provide a detailed assessment of alternatives considered in relation to the preferred grid connection route.

The operating procedures and hours, staffing, monitoring, maintenance requirements, and the provision for decommissioning of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm will also be outlined.

If planning permission is secured for the proposed development, tree felling, site preparation works, upgrading of existing access tracks and the provision of new access tracks will precede all other activities. Drainage infrastructure will be constructed in parallel with the track construction. This will be followed by the construction of the turbine foundations and the provision of the hardstanding areas. In parallel with these works the on-site electrical works; sub-station and internal cable network; will be completed. The cable from the wind farm site to the proposed grid connection point at Dunfierth substation will then be laid underground, primarily along public roads. Any works required to the public road network to facilitate turbine delivery will also be carried out.

## 5.5 Construction Activities

The wind farm site will have a defined planning boundary to include not only the turbines themselves but all ancillary infrastructure such as transformers and crane hardstanding areas at each turbine, borrow pits, new and upgraded site tracks, on-site underground cabling and an on-site substation with toilet facilities. Details on all of these elements will be provided within the EIAR.

Information will be provided on the following aspects of the construction of the wind farm:

- Construction programme
- Construction sequence and methodology
- Drainage control measures
- Temporary site facilities
- Site preparation works
- Access road construction and upgrade
- Borrow pits and reinstatement works
- Cable installation on site
- Turbine foundation and associated hardstanding area construction
- Turbine delivery and installation
- Commissioning

The control measures that will be implemented to manage the risk of soil and water pollution, emissions of dust and noise, construction waste management and traffic impacts will be explained.

## 5.6 Consultation Programme

Stakeholders, including national and local regulatory bodies, Government agencies, environmental NGOs and the general public will be provided with information on the project and asked for their comments and concerns. A list will be provided in the EIAR of the bodies consulted and a summary will be provided of the queries and concerns expressed and in what section of the EIAR these queries and concerns are addressed.

## 5.7 Environmental Aspect: Population & Human Health (Human Beings)

### 5.7.1 Aspects to be addressed

#### *Health and Safety*

The potential impacts on health and safety from wind farms will be assessed.

#### *Population*

The impact on the local population and demographics will also be assessed.

#### *Land Use and Recreation*

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm on land use, residential amenity and recreational facilities.

#### *Socio-Economics*

The potential impacts of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm on population trends, employment and the main economic activities of the region and property values will be addressed in this chapter.

#### *Tourism*

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed wind farm on the tourism of the region.

#### *Material Assets*

The assessment will address the potential impact on physical infrastructure, such as roads, pipelines, railways and ports.

### 5.7.2 Assessment Methodology

#### *Health and Safety*

The assessment will contain a desk study review of the impacts of the operation of wind turbines on health and safety using published and verified sources of information.

#### *Land Use and Recreation*

The main land uses in the area, which could potentially be affected by the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm, will be described using Corine 2006 land cover data and this data will be verified by subsequent walkovers and drive-by surveys. All areas of scenic beauty in addition to heritage, culture and leisure facilities in the areas will be identified. A review of the main recreational activities in the area likely to be affected will be conducted. Residential amenities and recreational facilities, such as forestry in public ownership, walking paths, sports facilities, will be recorded and potential impacts assessed.

An assessment will then be conducted for each element of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm to ascertain any potential impacts that may arise which could directly or indirectly affect land use, a recreational activity or an amenity. This assessment will be prepared giving cognisance to other disciplines such as cultural heritage and archaeology, hydrology and ecology.

A review will be conducted of a number of published studies and surveys which have been conducted both in Ireland by Fáilte Ireland and in the UK on the attitude of tourists to wind farms.

#### *Population*

CSO data will be interrogated to establish population and demographic trends in the area with regard to local population. It will examine the impact on population densities, having regard to housing trends and housing settlement strategies for the area.

#### *Socio-Economics*

Data from the Central Statistics Office will be used to define the socio-economic baseline. The potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm on population, employment and economic activity both directly and indirectly, will be assessed.

#### *Tourism*

A study of the potential impacts of the wind farm may have on the tourism of the region will be carried out by reviewing Fáilte Ireland surveys, appraising the existing patterns of the tourism within the county and appraising the impacts that wind farms have on tourism in other counties and countries.

#### *Material Assets*

The physical infrastructure, which could potentially be affected by the proposed wind farm development, will be catalogued and capacities estimated. All utilities services will be identified and mapped for the proposed wind farm site and an assessment will be carried out to determine if any service needs to be diverted/relocated. This process will be carried out in consultation with the service provider with the proposed mitigation measures to be agreed by both parties.

### 5.7.3 Receiving Environment

#### *Health and Safety*

The closest occupied dwelling to the current proposed layout is located 422m from the nearest proposed turbine location (this landowner is involved in the project). The general receiving environment is rural, with areas of pastoral agriculture, cutaway bogs and forestry. The North Kildare Wind Farm site is located between the towns Enfield and Prosperous in County Kildare.

#### *Land Use and Recreation*

The general receiving environment is rural and is concentrated in fringe areas around cutaway bogs and within pastoral farmland. The North Kildare Wind Farm site is located between the towns Enfield and Prosperous in County Kildare. All of the towns and villages in the surrounding areas have sports, recreational and community facilities.

#### *Population*

The area in question is lightly populated with low density individual rural dwellings with the main concentration of dwellings and population within the adjacent settlements.

#### *Socio-Economics*

There are 60 residential properties and 9 no. both residential and commercial and 2 commercial properties located within 1km of the proposed turbine locations.

Tourism is recognised within Kildare as having potential to contribute to the local economy. The Great Plains of the Curragh, the Barrow Way, the Curragh Military Museum, the Bog of Allen Centre and Lullymore Heritage Park are amongst some of the main attractions that County Kildare offers tourists. Grand Canal Way is located approximately 9km south of the proposed development site, a greenway/walking route and navigational connection between Dublin and Shannon Harbour.

#### *Material Assets*

The site lies c. 2.8km south of the motorway M4 at Enfield and 1.2km southeast of the regional road R402 linking the M4 to the R420 east of Tullamore in County Offaly. Power lines at various voltages cross the area and water mains are present in the vicinity of towns and villages.

### 5.7.4 Potential Impacts

#### *Health and Safety*

It is anticipated that the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm is not likely to have a potential significant impact on human health and safety.

### *Land Use and Recreation*

The wind farm will require land take for the access tracks, wind turbines bases and adjacent hard-standings and sub-station footprints. The current land uses will continue other than within this land take.

Potential construction impacts from the grid connection cables include full or partial closure of roads used to access amenities, sports and recreational facilities within the area, while the cables are being installed. There may be disruption to access routes and walking paths, which are adjacent to the rivers and streams however any disruption will be mitigated where possible by maintaining access for people throughout, and where this is not possible, in minimising the impact, clearly communicating the timing and scope of works to the local community.

### *Population*

Given the policy objective of the Kildare County Development Plan, it is unlikely that the proposed development will have a significant impact on the population of the area. It is an objective of the Kildare County Development Plan to concentrate population increase into the adjacent settlements.

### *Socio-Economics*

The proposed development will have significant long term and short-term benefits for the local economy including job creation, landowner payments, local authority commercial rate payments and a Community Benefit Scheme.

### *Material Assets*

Utilities such as overhead power lines or telephone lines or underground services may require diversion or be temporarily disrupted during the construction of the wind farm or cable trench. This has the potential to impact on nearby dwellings and commercial / industrial activities.

## **5.8 Environmental Aspect: Shadow Flicker**

### 5.8.1 Aspects to be addressed

This chapter will address the potential effects on human beings of shadow flicker, i.e. the moving shadows cast by the turbine blades in times of direct sunlight.

### 5.8.2 Assessment Methodology

A shadow flicker assessment will be carried out using ReSoft Wind farm software which will calculate times throughout the year when a turbine, viewed from the window of a house, is in line with the sun, and therefore the potential exists for shadow flicker to occur. All occupied and unoccupied dwellings and permitted houses (that are not yet constructed) within 10 rotor diameters of a proposed turbine will be included in the assessment.

The outputs of the modelling assessment will be used to identify the potential direct and indirect impacts of shadow flicker on dwellings. The results will be compared with relevant guidance including:

- Section 5.12 of the 2006 Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoEHLG) Planning Guidelines on Wind Energy Developments (2006)<sup>4</sup> or the latest revision adopted at the time of application.
- The Irish Wind Energy Association 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' (2012)<sup>5</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2006) "Wind Energy Development Planning Guidelines", Oireachtas: Dublin 2.

<sup>5</sup> Irish Wind Energy Association "Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry" (2012), <http://www.iwea.com/contentFiles/Documents%20for%20Download/Publications/IWEA%20Policy%20Documents/IWEA%20best%20practise%20guidelines.pdf> Accessed March 2016

Cumulative impacts of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm and other third-party schemes will be assessed. IWEA Best Practice Guidelines (2012, Section 6.3.4) states that *“any such wind farm developments within 2 km of the proposed development should be considered in a separate cumulative shadow flicker assessment.* There are no other known proposed, consented or existing wind farms within this distance of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm.

### 5.8.3 Receiving Environment

The general receiving environment is rural. The majority of buildings in the vicinity of the proposed development are residential or agricultural buildings. A total of 60 residential dwellings have been identified as falling within 1km of a proposed wind turbine and 9 which are both residential and commercial and 2 commercial properties. The closest occupied dwelling to the current proposed layout is located 422m from the nearest proposed turbine location (This landowner is involved in the project).

### 5.8.4 Potential Impacts

In times of direct sunshine, wind turbine blades could occasionally cast moving shadows on residences in close proximity to the turbines. At certain times of the year, the moving shadows of the turbine blades can periodically reduce light to a room causing the light to appear to flicker. Shadow flicker would not generally have any effect on health or safety, but could on limited occasions present a brief nuisance effect.

## **5.9 Environmental Aspect: Noise and Vibration**

### 5.9.1 Aspects to be addressed

The chapter will address noise and vibration impacts from the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm.

### 5.9.2 Assessment Methodology

The noise assessment will be carried out on each phase of the wind farm:

- Construction phase
- Operational phase, including turbine and sub-station operations
- Decommissioning phase, including dismantling the turbines, and related traffic.

#### *Construction and Decommissioning Noise Assessment Methodology*

Construction and decommissioning noise impacts will be determined at the closest receivers. Prediction modelling will be undertaken to assess the construction impact from road building, use of borrow pits and movement of heavy goods vehicles. This modelling will be completed applying British Standard BS 5228:2009 +A1:2014 ‘Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites Part 1 Noise’ using the best available information at the time of preparing the assessment.

Construction noise limits from the following will be used:

- BS 5228 Part 1:2009 +A1:2014 Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites Part 1 Noise (Applies to residential receptors)
- National Roads Authority Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes

### *Operational Noise Assessment Methodology*

At the time of preparing this report, the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government is undertaking a targeted review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines for noise and shadow flicker. The implications of this review and the subsequent adopted changes may affect how the operational noise assessment is undertaken and the limits on which compliance is determined. The developer will comply with any new guidelines as they are adopted.

For the purpose of this scoping document we propose the following methodology in line with the current guidelines including the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) and the Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry (2012) prepared by the Irish Wind Energy Association.

*Scoping of Study Area/Preliminary Assessment* - Prediction modelling will be undertaken on the preliminary turbine layouts to ascertain the potential operational noise emissions from the wind farm on noise sensitive receivers (defined in accordance with the DoEHLG Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006).

In accordance with the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) good practice guide, a study area for the wind farm will be developed by generating a 35dB  $L_{A90}$  contour using the candidate turbine's rated sound power level.

*Baseline Monitoring* – Baseline noise data from field surveys at selected noise sensitive receivers and proxy locations will be used to determine prevailing background noise levels for daytime and night-time periods.

*Data Analysis and Limit Derivation* - The baseline sound level monitoring data will be correlated with the wind speed. Rainfall events, periods affected by rainfall, periods affected by dawn chorus and atypical data will be removed from further analysis. The filtered data will and then plotted to provide wind speed versus averaged background noise levels at each monitoring location. Each plot will determine the averaged prevailing background noise level for increasing wind speeds and allow derivation of daytime and night-time noise limits based on the DoEHLG guideline criteria (whichever is applicable to each wind speed):

- 35 - 40 dB  $L_{A90}$  for daytime periods of low background noise levels of less than 30 dB  $L_{A90}$
- 45 dB  $L_{A90}$  for daytime periods of background noise exceeding 30 dB  $L_{A90}$
- 43 dB  $L_{A90}$  for night-time periods, or 5 dB (A) above background noise levels for all periods where applicable.

*Impact Analysis* - Prediction modelling will be conducted modelling all wind speed sound power levels available for the candidate turbine type to provide noise prediction levels for each noise sensitive location within the study area. The prediction parameters will be those described in the Institute of Acoustics' ETSU A Good Practice Guide to the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise<sup>6</sup>. Cumulative noise modelling will also be undertaken to determine sound pressure level contributions from any surrounding wind farms.

The predicted levels will be appraised against the derived daytime and night-time noise limits for compliance.

### 5.9.3 Receiving Environment

The closest occupied dwelling to the current proposed layout is located 422m from the nearest proposed turbine location (this landowner is involved with the project).

### 5.9.4 Potential Impacts

Potential impacts of potential noise nuisance will be addressed at the design stage by locating turbines at sufficient separation distances or by employing reduced turbine noise modes to comply with the noise limits in force at the time of application.

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<sup>6</sup> A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise, The Institute of Acoustics, May 2013

## 5.10 Environmental Aspect: Traffic and Transportation

### 5.10.1 Aspects to be addressed

The traffic impact assessment will address the traffic impacts on the road network from the construction and operation of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm. The assessment will include the supply of materials, plant and equipment, the turbine elements and the components of the sub-station. Traffic arising from the construction and operations workforce will also be addressed.

### 5.10.2 Assessment Methodology

A traffic impact assessment will be conducted in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) Guidelines, May 2014. Data collected from road traffic surveys along the delivery route will be used in the assessment.

Auto Track vehicle swept path analysis will be conducted for all internal tracks to ensure that they are adequate to allow delivery of turbine components while also minimising the required land take where feasible.

The methodology for the traffic impact assessment will include a review of the traffic volumes and impacts which will be generated by the construction and operation of the wind farm. The traffic generated by the construction workforce, by the transport of materials and equipment as well as future maintenance-related activities will be predicted. The traffic distribution pattern on the local road network during construction will be examined and impacts determined. The potential disruption to the road network during the installation of the cables and the availability of alternative routes will be assessed, where required. Recommendations will be made to mitigate any potential traffic impacts on the road network.

### 5.10.3 Receiving Environment

The area in which proposed North Kildare Wind Farm is proposed is served by a network of national primary, secondary and tertiary roads. This road network provides good connections to ports and sources of construction materials. It is likely that Dublin Port will be used for the import of the turbines. Dublin Port is located some 43 km from the proposed development along the M4 before travelling on the regional road (R402) and finally local road (L5025) to the entrance of the site.

### 5.10.4 Potential Impacts

A Traffic Impact Assessment will address the traffic impacts on the road network for both the construction and operation of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm. The assessment will include the supply of materials, plant and equipment, the turbine elements and the components of the substation. Traffic arising from the construction and operations workforce will also be addressed.

The traffic impact assessment will be conducted in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) Guidelines, May 2014. Data collected from road traffic surveys along the delivery route will be used in the assessment. The impact assessment will include a review of the traffic volumes and impacts which will be generated by the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm. The traffic generated by the construction workforce, by the transport of materials and equipment as well as future maintenance-related activities will be predicted. The traffic distribution pattern on the local road network during construction will be examined and impacts determined. The potential disruption to the road network during the installation of the cables and the availability of alternative routes will be assessed, where required. Recommendations will be made to mitigate any potential traffic impacts on the road network.

The greatest potential for traffic impact from the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm is during the construction phase which will give rise to additional traffic on the road network.

The turbines will be delivered to the site in separate parts, typically comprising of loads for each of the towers, the rotor blades, the nacelle, the rotor hub, the turbine base and the electrical components. The delivery route from the port into which the components are shipped, to the proposed wind farm site will use the national primary route network as much as possible. Modifications may be required to the existing local road network to cater for the delivery of the oversized loads.

Stone aggregate will be required for the upgrading of existing tracks and construction of new site road as well as the construction of turbine bases and hardstands. All of these activities have the potential to generate significant local traffic numbers.

The nature of the local road network in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm site is such that widening/improvement works may be required to accommodate construction traffic. There will be an increase in local traffic during the construction of the wind farm; staff, including plant operators, electricians, engineers and trades people, will be commuting to and from the site each morning and evening. In addition, there is likely to be an increase in local traffic due to onlookers as the turbines are erected.

There will also be temporary traffic impacts from cable laying works on the public roads. These impacts will be managed to reduce the nuisance being caused to local road users.

## 5.11 Environmental Aspect: Air Quality and Climate

### 5.11.1 Aspects to be addressed

The assessment will address the potential impacts on air quality due to construction equipment and activities and to emissions from traffic associated with the construction process. The potential impacts on air quality in the operational phase will also be addressed.

The climate in the immediate local area of a proposed development is known as the micro-climate whereas the climate of a large geographical area (global) is the macro-climate. The potential impacts of North Kildare Wind Farm on micro-climate and macro-climate will be addressed.

### 5.11.2 Assessment Methodology

Air quality monitoring conducted by the EPA at a number of locations in the vicinity of the site will be reviewed and levels compared with the air quality standards. To assess the impacts of construction dust emissions, the approach and assessment criteria outline in the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (NRA, 2008) will be used.

For the purposes of assessing the impact on air quality of emissions generated by construction traffic, the methodology described in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges 2007a (UK Highways Agency, May 2007) will be used. Parameters to be assessed will include oxides of nitrogen, particulates PM10 and PM2.5, carbon monoxide and benzene.

The potential micro-climatic impacts of North Kildare Wind Farm will be assessed in relation to the micro-climatic baseline, the scale of the elements of the project and the nature of use of the surrounding environment. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation, which will not be required should the North Kildare Wind Farm become operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

### 5.11.3 Receiving Environment

In terms of micro-climate, the wind farm is located in a mainly rural area corresponding to air quality zone D, Rural Ireland, in the Air Quality Regulations SI 180 of 2011, as amended. The air quality is expected to be good.

The macro-climatic baseline is the future emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases, which would be produced by fossil fuel power generation in the country, in the absence of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm.

#### 5.11.4 Potential Impacts

The assessment will address the potential impacts on air quality due to construction equipment and activities and to emissions from traffic associated with the construction process. The potential impacts on air quality in the operational phase will also be addressed.

The construction phase of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm has the potential to generate dust emissions, which could give rise to nuisance for local residents.

To assess the impacts of construction dust emissions, the approach and assessment criteria outlined in the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (National Roads Authority, 2008) will be used.

Construction plant and equipment, and the traffic generated by the construction process, have the potential to give rise to emissions of oxides of nitrogen, benzene and particulates, which could impact on local air quality. The operation of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm is not expected to have a negative impact on air quality.

The proposed North Kildare Wind Farm is expected to have a positive impact on emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation, which would not be required when North Kildare Wind Farm is operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

It is expected that the proposed development will have a positive impact on Air Quality including NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub> a calculation of same will be included in the EIAR.

### 5.12 Environmental Aspect: Biodiversity

#### 5.12.1 Aspects to be addressed

This chapter of the EIAR will address the terrestrial and freshwater aquatic habitats and species, including those of conservation concern within and in close proximity to the wind farm; including along and in close proximity to the on-site cable routes; on and in close proximity to the sub-station, tree felling and any required replanting. It will also address the potential impacts on ecology from the proposed underground cable between the wind farm and the grid connection as well as any proposed alterations to the public road network required for the delivery of turbine components.

In particular, the assessment will focus on:

- Natura 2000 sites i.e. Special Areas of Conservation designated under the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas designated under the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147 EC), within 15km of the proposed sites and routes.
- Other designated sites such as Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Refuges for Fauna or Flora
- Habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive
- Birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive
- The impact on any flight paths of bird and bat species
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts
- Protected flora under the Flora Protection Order (2015)
- Habitats that can be considered as corridors for the purposes of article 10 of the Habitats Directive
- Red data book species
- And biodiversity in general.

### 5.12.2 Assessment Methodology

Desk studies will be undertaken in which ecological databases, such as those of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), EPA and NBDC will be consulted. The NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the main environmental non-governmental organisations have been or will be consulted.

Bird survey methods have been selected following a review of best practice guidelines, including guidance available from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), and following consultation with NPWS and other bodies such as BirdWatch Ireland. The ecological surveys commenced in 2013 and are ongoing at the site.

The surveys conducted / currently being conducted include the following elements:

- Vantage Point (VP) surveys for target species during the winter seasons 2016/17 and 2017/18 (October to March inclusive) and the breeding season 2017 (April-August) have been conducted. The second year of breeding surveys are ongoing having recommenced in May 2018. This involved monthly VP surveys from pre-designated VP locations, with 2x3hr timed watches at each VP each month.  
In line with recommended best practice<sup>2</sup>, viewshed analysis was undertaken using ARCMAP 10.3, to calculate a theoretical zone of visibility from each vantage point. Visibility is calculated from each vantage point along an invisible layer suspended at the predicted lowermost height passed through by the rotor blade tips, using an observer height of 1.5m.
- Breeding bird transects were carried out during the period of April to July 2017. Two surveys were carried out, one early (early-April to mid-May) and one late (mid-May to late-June) in the bird breeding season. Breeding wader surveys were carried out in conjunction with breeding bird transects. These shall include three visits - All suitable habitats for waders were visited, at four-week intervals, during the months of April, May and June 2017. Breeding Merlin Survey were also carried out in 2017.
- A dedicated winter wildfowl census of the subject sites was conducted, targeted at species of swans and geese, is carried out on a monthly basis from October to April (inclusive). This involves a 'look-see' style approach where surveyors visited all known locations of feeding and/or roosting wildfowl and counted birds in situ.
- Bat activity surveys are ongoing within the site commencing in May 2018. Evidence of bat roosts were searched for and information on all potential roosts were recorded according to roost identification guidelines 'Bat Survey Guidelines: Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme', Aughney, T., Kelleher, C. & Mullen, D. (2008). All potential roosting sites within 500m of the proposed study area were surveyed during activity surveys.
- Current guidance states<sup>7,8</sup> that bat surveys for wind farm applications must include surveys from height i.e. within the sweep of proposed turbine blades to assess the potential impact to high flying species like Leisler's Bat. This was carried out during 2017.
- An assessment of potential habitats including foraging, commuting and roosting habitats was conducted along each of the gird and haul route options. Bridges along the route option were graded for their potential as a bat roost on the basis of the Billington and Norman (1997) methodology as outlined in Aughney, 2008<sup>9</sup>.
- The habitats within the site of the proposed development have been identified and classified, according to 'A Guide to Habitats in Ireland' (Fossitt, 2000<sup>10</sup>), during a walkover survey of the site over the period 2013 – 2016 and will be updated and ground-truthed in 2017. The dominant plant species present in each habitat type was recorded.

<sup>7</sup> Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects. Eurobats Publication Series No. 6 (English version)

[http://www.eurobats.org/publications/eurobats\\_publication\\_series](http://www.eurobats.org/publications/eurobats_publication_series)

<sup>8</sup> Bat Conservation Ireland Wind Turbine/Wind Farm Development Bat Survey Guidelines (2012): <http://www.batconservationireland.org/pubs/reports/BCIreland%20Wind%20Farm%20Turbine%20Survey%20Guidelines%20Version%202%208.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Aughney, T., Kelleher, C. & Mullen, D. (2008). Bat Survey Guidelines: Traditional Farm Buildings Scheme. The Heritage Council, Áras na hOidhreachta, Church Lane, Kilkenny.

<sup>10</sup> Fossitt, J. A. (2000). A Guide to the Habitats in Ireland. The Heritage Council.

Habitats shall be appraised and evaluated according to their occurrence as protected habitats under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and for their capacity to support rare, threatened and endangered species. The methodology used to assess the impact on habitats is based on NRA guidelines (2009<sup>11</sup>), CIEEM guidelines and EPA guidelines. The habitat mapping exercise had regard to the 'Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping' (Smith et al., 2011<sup>12</sup>) published by the Heritage Council. In addition to habitat identification, each habitat will be assessed for its ecological significance, based on the National Roads Authority (NRA) Site Evaluation Scheme (NRA, 2009).

- A targeted mammal survey has been carried out within the study area in 2017 as there are records of badger, red squirrel and otter in the greater study area. This will be re-surveyed in 2018. As well as direct observations of mammal, features such as tracks, trails, fur, droppings and shelter (setts, dreys and holts) were also recorded using GPS. Application for Wildlife Derogation Licences shall be made to NPWS to mitigate the potential impact to protected species. These applications shall be agreed pre-planning as per recommended guidance.

### 5.12.3 Potential Impacts

This chapter of the EIAR will address the nationally designated sites, terrestrial and freshwater (aquatic) habitats and species, including those of conservation concern on and in close proximity to the wind farm and including along and in close proximity to the proposed cable route and proposed haul route.

The ecological evaluation of the site and its' Biodiversity will be assessed according to NRA (2009). Once the value of the identified ecological receptors (features and resources) is determined, the next step will be to assess the potential impact and resulting effect of the proposed development on the identified key ecological receptors.

This will be carried out with regard to the criteria outlined in various impact assessment guidelines (NRA, 2009; CIEEM, 2016). The impacts will be assessed under a number of parameters such as magnitude, extent, timing, frequency, duration and reversibility. The impact significance criteria detailed in the EPA guidelines (EPA, 2002) will be used where applicable.

Potential impacts of the wind farm on Biodiversity include:

- Direct loss of habitat due to the footprint of the area;
- Damage to adjacent habitats during construction which could potentially be affected by construction activity;
- Impacts during construction on the hydrology of water dependant habitats
- Impacts on water quality both at a local level and regional level due to pollution run-off whether during or post construction;
- Impacts on aquatic species during construction or due to pollution events etc.;
- Disturbance to local wildlife, including loss of habitat, disturbance and displacement;
- The potential collision risk to birds and bats;
- Damage to or habitat loss of important wildlife corridors or stepping stones during construction. Fragmentation of same at a larger more regional level as a result of habitat loss;
- The introduction of alien invasive species during construction;
- Displacement of bird species from limited breeding areas;
- Displacement or disturbance to breeding waders from areas within the proposed wind turbine envelope;
- Barrier effect on migrating birds, whereby individual species' dispersal or migration routes are affected by the placement of turbines which effectively cause a barrier;
- Impacts on the conservation status or constituent parts of designated sites.

<sup>11</sup> NRA (2009). Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines. Published by the National Roads Authority.

<sup>12</sup> Smith, G.F., O'Donoghue, P, O'Hara K., and Delaney, E. (2011). Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping. Published by the Heritage Council.

- Potential impacts associated with tree felling and any required replanting on designated sites, habitats, Biodiversity.

Potential impacts on European (Natura 2000) sites as a result of the proposed development will be assessed through the appropriate assessment process.

#### 5.12.4 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and if required a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared in respect of the proposed development, so as to enable the competent authorities to carry out an Appropriate Assessment as required by Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC ("the Habitats Directive") and section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ("the 2000 Act"). The potential impact to European sites due to tree felling and any proposed replanting shall also be considered.

In compliance with the aforementioned provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and section 177U of the 2000 Act, a Screening Appropriate Assessment of an application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority or authorities to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Where negative impacts on a Natura 2000 site cannot be discounted during Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment, the Assessment must proceed to Stage 2 and a Natura Impact Statement prepared at which point a detailed, targeted assessment of the nature and potential significance of direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed project must be completed and an assessment as to whether the integrity of the Natura 2000 site would be adversely affected.

European sites, as defined in the 2000 Act, comprise both Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) for habitats and other species, and are designated by Member States pursuant to the requirements of Council Directive 79/409/EEC, now Directive 2009/147/EU, on the conservation of wild birds ("the Birds Directive") and the Habitats Directive, respectively.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive envisages a two-stage assessment process, which is implemented into Irish law (with some additional requirements) by the provisions of sections 177U and 177V of the 2000 Act. Screening for AA in accordance with section 177U is the first stage of the AA process ("Stage One"), in which the possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site is considered. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a European site are thereby excluded, or "screened out", at this stage of the process. Where, however, the competent authority's screening assessment concludes that there is potential for significant effects, then it is necessary to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) ("Stage Two") for the purposes of Article 6(3), and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is prepared and submitted to the competent authority.

The first step in the screening process is to develop a list of European sites which may have the potential to be affected by the proposed development. Each relevant European site is reviewed to establish whether or not the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. The site is not located within a designated nature conservation site. Figure 2.3 illustrates the location of the proposed development in relation to Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). There are eight European sites located within 15km of the proposed development, namely:

- River Boyne and River Blackwater cSAC\* (002299) - 9.8km
- River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (004232) - 10km
- Ballynafagh Bog cSAC (000391) – 5.7km
- Ballynafagh Lake cSAC (001387) - 5km
- Rye Water Valley/Carton cSAC (001398) - 13.5km
- Mount Hevey Bog cSAC (002342) - 14.5km
- The Long Derries cSAC (000925) – 6.4km
- Mouds Bog cSAC (002231) - 14km

There are downstream hydrological links between the proposed development and the River Boyne and River Blackwater cSAC and the River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA, in addition to the Rye Water/Carton cSAC. Indirect impacts which could potentially occur via pollutant, and sediment and therefore mitigation measures will need to be adopted.

For each European Site, the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of each European site will be identified and the potential effects summarised under the following headings for the purposes of the screening process:

- Direct impacts refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development or agricultural purposes. Direct impacts can arise as a result of a change in land use or management, such as the elimination of agricultural practices that prevent scrub encroachment.
- Indirect and secondary may arise, for example, when a development alters the hydrology of a catchment area, which in turn affects the movement of groundwater to a site, and the qualifying interests that rely on the maintenance of water levels. Deterioration in water quality could occur as both an indirect and direct consequence of a particular development, which in turn changes the aquatic environment and reduces its capacity to support certain plants and animals. The introduction of invasive species can also be defined as an indirect impact, which results in increased movement of vectors (humans, fauna, surface water), and consequently the transfer of alien species from one area to another.
- Disturbance to fauna can arise directly through the loss of habitat (e.g. otter holts) or indirectly through noise, vibration and increased activity associated with construction and operation.

In the event that significant effects cannot be ruled out during the Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment, the process proceeds to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement is prepared. During Stage 2 AA, the effect of the project on the integrity of the European site(s), as defined by its structure and function, and its conservation objectives is appraised. Potential impacts on species or habitats will be evaluated with respect to the scale, extent and nature of the impact, for example the area of habitat affected, changes in hydrodynamics, the percentage reduction in species density, potential changes in species distribution. The duration of the impact will be determined in terms of the duration of the works and also the amount of time required for the species and / or habitat to be replaced or to recover from the impacts. During Stage 2 of the AA process, mitigation measures can be developed to minimise effects on European Sites.

Mitigation measures will follow the mitigation hierarchy:

1. Avoidance
2. Reduction
3. Remedy

For each mitigation measure the following will be provided:

- Details of how the mitigation will be secured and implemented
- Evidence of the degree of confidence in their likely success
- A timescale of when they will be implemented
- Details of how the mitigation measures will be monitored and how any mitigation failure will be addressed.

## 5.13 Environmental Aspect: Land, Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology and Slope Stability

### 5.13.1 Aspects to be addressed

The assessment will address soils, bedrock and groundwater underlying the wind farm.

### 5.13.2 Assessment methodology

The methodology for the soils and geology assessment will be in accordance with the guidelines published by the Institute of Geologists of Ireland in 2013, 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Environmental Impact Statements'.

Site walkovers will be undertaken. Each site walkover will include peat probes and/or use of a hand vane/gouge cores at selected locations to confirm the presence and/or depth of peat (if present) across the sites. In addition, the following will also be conducted:

- A review of the characteristics of the entire site (ground conditions, topography, vegetation cover/condition and peat formation, if any, across the site)
- Identification of past and present land use on the site (grazing, forestry etc.) and their current impact on the existing ground conditions
- Identification of potential borrow pit site locations (if required)
- Identification of areas for possible storage/reinstatement of peat or other materials
- Identification of potential for peat landslide - With reference to slope stability issues in areas where peat is present, reference will be made to the Guidance Note for Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments.

The data gathered will be used to inform the final location of all turbines and associated infrastructure.

An earthworks balance calculation will be prepared for the overall development to assess where excavated material can be beneficially re-used. In addition, an assessment of the volumes of raw material will be made which will in turn be used to determine the number and size of borrow pits required.

### 5.13.3 Receiving Environment

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) 1:100,000 scale bedrock geology map shows that the wind farm site is underlain by the Carboniferous Waulsortian Limestones. The site is underlain by Cutaway raised bogs and limestone till (poorly drained) from the Carboniferous.

The subsoils present at the proposed wind farm site are taken from the GSI online mapping and comprise:

- Glacial till derived chiefly from limestone bedrock (TLs) and;
- Cutover raised peat (Cut);

### 5.13.4 Potential Impacts

The potential impacts of the development of the wind farm on the geology, hydrogeology and slope stability are:

- The excavation and removal of soil and rock and interference with any existing site drainage is a potential direct permanent effect that, without mitigation, could alter the existing hydrogeological balance of the site;

- The construction of the turbines, hardstanding areas, access tracks, borrow pits and cable trenches has the potential to cause hydrogeological impacts by modifying the natural groundwater levels adjacent to the excavation. This in turn may deprive ditches and streams of their natural supply of water which may lead to reduced base flow and recharge to the bedrock aquifer;
- Areas which are underlain by peat deposits are susceptible to slope stability issues, including peat slides and bursts, when changes are made to topography, hydrogeology and hydrology of the site;
- The use of granular fill and other materials for the construction of the access tracks has the potential to have a permanent impact on the source quarries or borrow pits;
- Excavations have the potential to increase erosion and sediment release that could also have additional impacts on water quality due to sedimentation of water courses;
- Soil compaction may occur due to movement of construction and maintenance traffic;
- Removal of sub soils may result in the exposure of the underlying rock to sources of contamination and may increase the vulnerability of the aquifer, whether or not the rock is exposed;
- Chemical pollution may occur as a result of an accidental spillage or leakage of chemicals, runoff from vehicle washing facilities, unset concrete, storage of fuels or refuelling activities, etc. Chemical pollutants may enter the groundwater and have implications for ecology and any wells in the area, particularly those located down-gradient of the site.
- Sanitary waste arising from temporary construction compounds could lead to contamination of groundwater

At the substation, the potential impacts are the pollution of groundwater from an oil or fuel spillage during construction. The sub-station and the construction compound will have staff welfare facilities.

## 5.14 Environmental Aspect: Water Quality and Hydrology

### 5.14.1 Aspects to be addressed

The assessment will address impacts on hydrology and water quality. The aspects of the hydrological environment that could be affected by the activities associated with the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm will also be addressed.

### 5.14.2 Assessment Methodology

The assessment will consist of a review of existing baseline data including water quality data from the EPA, River Basin Management Plans and flood risk data from the Office of Public Works (OPW). The objectives of the relevant River Basin Management Plans in relation to water quality will be considered. The review will include the Kildare County Development Plan 2014-2020 and consideration of the policies and objectives of the Plan in relation to surface water and flooding. The assessment will be prepared in accordance with the EPA and OPW guidance. Any concerns expressed by consultees such as Inland Fisheries Ireland and relevant local authorities, relating to hydrology and drainage, will be addressed.

The review will have regard to the baseline data and the studies undertaken for the assessment of impacts on terrestrial and fresh water ecology, geology and hydrogeology in relation to environmentally protected areas, receiving waters and soil conditions.

It is proposed to conduct grab sampling of water courses which could potentially be impacted by construction of the wind farm, where gaps are identified in the review of published data. The scope of this sampling will be agreed with Inland Fisheries Ireland and will also follow relevant guidance for determining baseline water quality.

Site visits consisting of a walkover of the wind farm site will be undertaken. These surveys will include noting the hydrological features and land use across the site. The information gained on these site visits will provide input into the final design layout with the aim of minimising river/stream crossings, providing a buffer to hydrological features and avoiding areas of significant flood risk.

The Hydrology Chapter will include a section on flood risk identification and assessment. This will include an assessment of the potential increase to flooding elsewhere and it will examine the potential flood risk to the proposed development. The type of development will be assessed in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, November 2009. Any increase in hard surfaces on the site will be quantified and the impact of this modelled in the downstream structures over watercourses, where flood incidents have been recorded by the OPW. Cumulative impacts with neighbouring developments will also be tested in the model where appropriate.

A peat stability assessment will be carried out to determine potential peat stability issues.

Where parts of the development are located on areas encroaching on floodplains, this may require additional drainage measures and further measures required to mitigate flood risk. Mitigation, such as attenuation of surface water run-off from the site, will be proposed where increases in flood risk are deemed to be significant.

In the case of essential infrastructure such as a sub-station, these are not permitted to be located in a floodplain. The sub-station for the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm is not located within a Flood Zone A area (AEP 1%).

For the access tracks, the stream crossings will be identified and a preliminary design of the proposed stream crossings prepared. The accommodation of overland flow will be assessed and suitable locations for the treatment of discharges identified.

The following will also be included as part of the assessment for Hydrology:

- Identify potential impacts of the proposed development on hydrology (hydrodynamics and flooding).
- Identify potential cumulative hydrological impacts of the proposed development with any neighbouring wind farms.
- Consider potential drainage into sensitive catchments.
- Site drainage investigation will involve identification of drainage sub-catchments, studying the requirement(s) of cross-drainage works, if any, exploring the infiltration potential of the soils in the area, etc.
- Identification of mitigation measures for flooding and pollution of receiving waters.
- Identification of residual impacts.

#### 5.14.3 Receiving Environment

The proposed North Kildare Wind Farm extends over the Eastern River Basin District (ERBD) and the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD). The relevant waterbodies and the associated turbines, located within these waterbody catchments within the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm development are identified as follows:

- EA\_Boyne159BlackwaterLongwood\_BlackwaterTRIB\_FearEnglish
- EA\_Boyne159BlackwaterLongwood\_Blackwater2\_Upper
- EA\_Boyne159BlackwaterLongwood\_BlackwaterTRIB\_Deryvarroge

The Fear English River cuts through the centre and travels along its eastern boundary (of the westernmost turbines) and its tributary the Kilcooney River the River Blackwater and the Clogheraun Stream drain the eastern most lands to the east.

#### 5.14.4 Potential Impacts

The assessment will address impacts on water quality in the receiving watercourses. The aspects of the hydrological environment that could be affected by the activities associated with the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm will also be addressed.

The assessment will consist of a review of existing baseline data including water quality data from the EPA, River Basin Management Plans and flood risk data from the OPW.

The review will include the County Development Plan and consideration of the policies and objectives of the Plan in relation to surface water and flooding. The assessment will be prepared in accordance with the EPA and OPW guidance and will include a site walkover. Any concerns expressed by consultees such as Inland Fisheries Ireland and relevant local authorities, relating to hydrology and drainage, will be addressed.

The main potential impact from the construction of the wind farm is the sedimentation of watercourses. Rainfall run-off containing silt could potentially lead to siltation and consequent physical effects on Biodiversity in aquatic habitats.

Sediment has the potential to arise from:

- Temporary spoil heaps from the excavations for the turbine bases; if left exposed, the spoil heaps could lead to an increase in silt-laden run-off draining off site.
- Haulage roads passing close to watercourses could allow the migration of silt-laden run-off into watercourses (crushable stone in site access roads could lead to heavy vehicles creating fines in the stone with a subsequent loss of sediment in the surface water run-off).
- Silt carried on the wheels of vehicles leaving the site could be carried onto the public road.
- Tree felling could lead to an increase in sediment in the surface water run-off.
- While the cable trench is open adjacent to a watercourse and at stream crossings, this could lead to an increase in the concentration of suspended solids in the watercourse.

In addition, possible impacts on water quality during construction activity include:

- Concrete operations could contaminate receiving waters.
- Runoff from vehicle washing facilities could lead to contamination of receiving waters.
- Refuelling activities could result in fuel spillages.

The potential impacts on hydrology and drainage that may arise from the proposed development of the wind farm site include impacts on localised flooding patterns and downstream structures as well as cumulative hydrological impacts with neighbouring developments including neighbouring wind farms.

At the temporary compound, the potential impacts are the pollution of surface water from an oil or fuel spillage during construction.

During the operational phase of the wind farm, potential impacts on water quality will primarily arise from the use of lubricants, coolants and hydrocarbons in the operations of the turbine transformers as well as routine maintenance of all plant and equipment.

## 5.15 Environmental Aspect: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

### 5.15.1 Aspects to be addressed

The assessment will address features and sites of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance. The purpose of the study will be to assess the significance of the receiving cultural heritage environment and to identify and evaluate the magnitude of the impact of the proposed wind farm on the sensitivity of each cultural heritage feature within this environment and on the broader historic character of the landscape. Measures will be proposed to mitigate effects (where possible) so as to allow a fully informed decision to be made by the adjudicating authority.

### 5.15.2 Assessment Methodology

The assessment will comprise a desk study and field walkover survey.

#### *Desk Study*

A review of the following information will be carried out to inform the cultural heritage assessment report:

- A review and collation of information obtained from public and statutory consultees, for example nationwide surveys such as the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (including National Monuments in State Care, NIAH, RPS and landscape characterisation
- A review of designated archaeological landscapes
- A review of the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) in the Kildare County Development Plan 2014-2020
- A review of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) building survey sites, NIAH historic gardens and designed landscapes survey sites
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland Archives National Museum of Ireland
- A literature review of published and key references appropriate to the wind farm including material from local interest groups and historical and archaeological societies
- Collation of information from similar or other infrastructure projects in proximity to the proposed wind farms, for example EIARs, SEAs, conservation plans, archaeological test assessments and excavations (including the Database of Irish Excavations) Cartographic sources
- A review of place names and Gaeltacht areas
- Other documentary sources
- A review and interpretation of aerial photographs to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets.
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approach will be undertaken.

#### *Field survey*

The assessment will include a field assessment of each of the turbine locations and associated infrastructure, the survey will confirm the location of recorded cultural heritage sites and will record their baseline condition; as well as the archaeological potential of all areas within the wind farm site and areas likely to be affected by the proposed development works. Fieldwork will also identify any unrecorded features of architectural or cultural heritage merit and will assess if they will be impacted by the development. All significant features will be recorded and photographed.

Field walkover surveys will also be undertaken where the access roads and cable routes pass close to recorded monuments and protected structures and where the routes diverge from the paved road and at the jointing bay sites.

Fieldwork along the cable routes will also seek to identify previously unrecorded roadside cultural heritage features (such as milestones, water pumps and stone bridges etc.) and structures.

#### *Setting*

Every landscape presents different topographical and environmental conditions, land cover and land usage and as such the location, scale and physical form of each element of wind farm projects and associated works are site specific. As a consequence, the range of potential impacts depends on the individual circumstances of each proposed turbine and the combined contribution of the overall setting of the wind farm.

Based on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility designated architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage features will be considered up to 5km of the development boundary. All undesignated cultural heritage features will be considered up to 500m of the development boundary. Selected highly sensitive heritage assets of national and international importance will be considered within 30km of the proposed development.

The reporting process ensures that all designations relating to heritage assets as well as cultural heritage features that are revealed through research, field assessment and consultation are clearly articulated. All relevant designated heritage assets will be mapped and lists all relevant cultural heritage constraints will be prepared.

### *Interactions and consultation*

The scale, form and layout of the proposed wind farm development, requires a collaborative and iterative design development process with designers, archaeologists and landscape and visual specialists interactively engaged in the process from the outset. Consultation with statutory and non-statutory bodies will also take place throughout the process

### 5.15.3 Receiving Environment

The wider landscape in which the wind farm is located has a rich and well-documented archaeological and historical record with evidence for human activity since the prehistoric period.

The North Kildare Wind Farm encircles the northernmost part of Timahoe Bog which is a large expanse cutover peatland bog. The proposed site incorporates the dryland and marginal dryland/wetland interface and former bogland; it is located in relatively low-lying but undulating land with the majority of proposed turbines located beneath the 80m contour line. The land rises to more undulating agricultural lands in an arc to the northeast and east of the cluster while to the south the land remains low-lying bogland. The Fear English River cuts through the centre and travels along its eastern boundary (of the westernmost turbines) and its tributary the Kilcooney River the River Blackwater and the Clogheraun Stream drain the eastern most lands to the east.

There is a ringfort site (KD004-011) in a field at the very edge of the bog and a stream in Mulgeeth c. 393m to the south southeast of T13. The site is completely overgrown with trees and scrub and lies in a field of pasture; it lies in close proximity to a possible habitation site (KD004-010) where two saddle-querns and a sherd of medieval pottery were found near the stream of which there is no surface trace. The landscape in which the site lies has altered with the cutover bog, modern field divisions, and forestry. Any visual link that might have existed between this ringfort with Coolree ringfort (KD004-009) to the north and Drehid ringfort (KD008-011001) to the south (described below) is no longer present due to the dense mature forestry plantation in-between.

### 5.15.4 Potential Impacts

Wind farms comprise large upright structures with moving elements. Their scale relative to features in close proximity such as monuments or historical structures can have a visual intrusion on the archaeological and historic landscape. While direct physical impacts can easily be assessed in quantitative terms, the assessment of setting can be subjective and as such is a matter of qualitative and professional judgement.

The assessment will include the implications of the proposed development on the direct physical impact of the wind farm and any indirect impacts on the setting of monuments, historic buildings and cultural heritage complexes.

The potential impacts are briefly described as follows:

- Direct impacts – Construction of wind turbines and access tracks has the potential to impact any underlying archaeological remains.
- The construction phase of the development will consist largely of earthmoving activities such as soil removal for access tracks, borrow pits (if required), turbine bases and hard stand areas. This may have a number of potential negative impacts on the recorded and sub-surface archaeological heritage features. The sites are generally located in greenfield agricultural farmland, forested or bogland landscapes. There is a potential for uncovering sub-surface archaeological and cultural heritage features, or features which have no above ground expression, during peat or topsoil removal associated with the construction of the wind farm. Existing farm tracks however will be used where possible.
- Indirect Impacts – Wind farms have the potential to detract from the historic character or adversely impact the setting and visual amenity of a heritage asset affecting the integrity, sense of place, tranquillity and remoteness of that feature.
- Cumulative Impacts – An assessment will be made on the cumulative impact where necessary, depending on the scale, density and proximity of the turbines within the wind farm and to other wind farms. This will include the consideration of the setting of heritage assets.

- Residual Impacts – these relate to the setting impacts from turbines and associated infrastructure during the lifetime of the wind farm development.

The main impact on cultural heritage features occurs during the construction phase once the wind farm is operational, the potential for a negative impact on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage will be negligible.

## 5.16 Environmental Aspect: Aviation and Telecommunications

### 5.16.1 Aspects to be addressed

The rotating blades of a wind turbine can occasionally cause interference to electro-magnetically-propagated signals. Such interference could, in theory, affect all forms of electromagnetic communications including:

- Satellite communications
- RADAR
- Cellular radio communications
- Aircraft instrument landing systems
- Air traffic control
- Terrestrial microwave links
- Television broadcasts

In addition, it is possible that houses in the immediate vicinity of the turbines could require some remedial measures in relation to television reception.

The EIAR will include an assessment of any such potential impacts.

### 5.16.2 Assessment Methodology

An evaluation of the possible effects that the proposed development could have on aviation and existing telecommunications networks will be conducted. A study will be undertaken to analyse the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operator's point-to-point microwave radio links.

This evaluation will include the generation of GIS based telecommunications constraints mapping for the areas affected. The purpose of this mapping is to identify potential negative impacts on the telecommunications network, and facilitate the selection of optimum sites and turbine locations by avoiding telecommunication links where possible, and thereby limiting any potential negative impacts on service providers in the area.

The proposed assessment methodology will include:

- Consultation with Irish Aviation Authority, Commission for Energy Regulation, emergency services
- Consultation with telecommunications operators to gather the necessary data
- Preparation of constraint mapping
- Analyses of the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operators' point-to-point microwave radio links and apply appropriate buffer distances around links and masts where required
- Discussions with telecommunications operators identifying potential clashes. Operators to provide feedback on initial assessment and to provide information on the importance of the links identified.
- Further specialist investigations will be carried out if the telecommunications operators identify potential impacts.
- Where necessary, mitigation measures to be agreed with operators including:
  - Turbine relocation
  - Telecommunications link relocation

- Underground fibre optic cables to replace microwave link
- Submission of final detailed layout to telecoms operators.
- Agree any layout alterations following final detailed assessment by telecoms operators, or agree suitable mitigation measures if necessary.

Impacts on aviation will be addressed following detailed discussions with the Irish Aviation Authority.

In relation to the cables, mapping of telecommunications cables, which could potentially be affected by the installation of the North Kildare Wind Farm cables, will be obtained and potential impacts assessed.

### 5.16.3 Receiving Environment

In the context of wind farm development, electromagnetic interference is the impact of a wind farm on existing telecommunication services resulting in an unacceptable negative impact. The rotating blades of a wind turbine can occasionally cause interference to electro-magnetically-propagated signals. Such interference could, in theory, affect all forms of electromagnetic communications including:

- Satellite communications
- RADAR
- Cellular radio communications
- Aircraft instrument landing systems
- Air traffic control
- Terrestrial telecommunication links
- Television broadcasts

The proposed development site is located approximately 40km from Dublin Airport, approximately 27km from Baldonnel Aerodrome and Clonbulloge is located at approx.19km.

### 5.16.4 Potential Impacts

An evaluation of the possible effects that the proposed development could have on aviation and existing telecommunications networks will be conducted. A study will be undertaken to analyse the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operator's point-to-point microwave radio links.

This evaluation will include the generation of GIS based telecommunications constraints mapping for the areas affected. The purpose of this mapping is to identify potential negative impacts on the telecommunications network, and facilitate the selection of optimum sites and turbine locations by avoiding telecommunication links where possible, and thereby limiting any potential negative impacts on service providers in the area.

The Irish Wind Energy Association 2012 guidelines, "*Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry*", indicate that wind turbines within 20 km of a radio navigation aid have the potential to cause electro-magnetic interference with these signals. It is possible that houses in the immediate vicinity of the turbines could require some remedial measures in relation to television reception.

In practice, such measures are not difficult to implement, are relatively inexpensive and if necessary will be undertaken by the developer in conjunction with RTÉ.

## **5.17 Environmental Aspect: Landscape and Visual Impact**

### 5.15.1 Aspects to be addressed

The landscape and visual assessment report will appraise the existing landscape character of the site and its wider setting in order to assess the likely landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts arising from the proposed development. A Study Area of 30km is defined as set out in best practice guidance recently updated by Scottish Natural Heritage 2017. Potential mitigation measures are also included.

Aspects to be addressed in the report are:

- ✓ Receiving environment, covering details on:
  - wider landscape context
  - localised site context.
  - Landform, landcover, land use patterns and trends
  - key/unique landscape elements and features
  - defining attributes of the wider landscape
  
- ✓ Landscape character, covering details on:
  - Character as outlined in CDP
  - Associated landscape values
  - Sensitivity levels within the landscape
  - Statutory designations
  - Landscape designations
  - Scenic/amenity routes
  - Views and prospects
  - Features of natural and built heritage
  
- ✓ Landscape Policy Context
  - Relevant policy objectives within Kildare CDP and LAPs
  - Relevant policy objectives within neighbouring counties within the 30km Study Area (Objectives appendicised).
  
- ✓ Visual context
  - Zone of Theoretical Visibility
  - Viewshed Reference Points (Detailed findings appendicised).
  - Route Screening Assessment (Detailed findings appendicised).

Assessment of these aspects will ultimately inform potential landscape, visual and amenity aspects, residual impacts, and in turn appropriate mitigation measures to ensure impacts are not significant.

### 5.15.2 Assessment Methodology

The LVIA Methodology can be summarised as undertaking the following key tasks:

- Desktop study of the site in relation to its overall wider context;
- Visit to the site and its environs.
- Visit to assess residential amenity impacts
- Visit to assess route screening
- Defining the baseline general landscape character, setting, and condition in relation to the position of the proposed development.
- Engagement with relevant landscape and amenity planning designations with the study area as outlined in the Kildare County Development Plan 2014 and any relevant policy within neighbouring counties within the study area.
- Identification of quality and types of views in the areas.
- Establishing the extent of the visual envelope, i.e. the potential area of visibility of the site in the surrounding landscape.
- Identification and evaluation of key components of the proposed development;
- Assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts, and residual impacts.
- Assessment of potential cumulative impacts with proposed/existing developments in the area.
- Preparation of Zone of Theoretical Visibility Maps (ZTVs) to a radial distance of c.30km from the site.
- Consideration of mitigation and enhancement measures.

The LVIA methodology is guided by the following guidance:

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2006, *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities*.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2002, *Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2003, *Advice Notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements*.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2015, *Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2017, *Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2015, *Draft Advice Notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements*.
- Landscape Institute, and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013, *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Ed.*
- Scottish Natural Heritage, 2017, *Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2.*

The impact significance criteria used in the assessment are based on the EPA Guidelines, 2002 and Advice Notes, 2003 with reference also to EPA's draft 2017 revised guidelines and the 2015 draft Advice Notes.

#### 5.17.1 Receiving Environment

All non-wind farm related dwellings will be a minimum of 500 m from any proposed turbine. The general existing environment is rural and is concentrated in fringe areas around cutaway bogs and within pastoral farmland. The proposed wind farm development lies within the northern boglands landscape character area, as defined by the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

Within a 25km buffer of the site, there are two of existing wind farms:

- Mount Lucas Wind Farm north of the proposed development site. Existing 28 no. turbines, (Ref: PL19.237263). The proposed development lies approximately 23km to the south west of the existing Mount Lucas.
- Yellow River Wind Farm, west of the proposed development site. Permitted, 29 no. 166m high turbines, (Ref: PL19.PA0032). Distance between closest turbine of Yellow River and that of the proposed development is c. 22km to the west.

The site lies c. 2.8km south of the motorway M4 at Enfield and 1.2km southeast of the regional road R402 linking the M4 to the R420 east of Tullamore in County Offaly. It also lies 3.4km northeast of R403 linking the N4 at Lucan in County Dublin to Carbury in County Kildare and 9km north of the Grand Canal.

#### 5.15.3 Potential Impacts

In the European Landscape Convention, landscape is defined as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'. The term "landscape" is thus defined as a zone or area as perceived by local people or visitors, whose visual features and character are the result of the action of natural and/or cultural factors. Recognition is given to the fact that landscapes evolve through time and are the result natural and human activities.

Landscape and visual impact assessment has two separate but closely related aspects. The first is visual impact, i.e. the extent to which the wind turbines in the landscape can be seen. The second is landscape character impact, i.e. effects of the wind turbines on the fabric or structure of the landscape as perceived by people. Landscape character is derived from the appearance of the land, and takes account of natural and man-made features such as topography, landform, vegetation, land use and built environment and their interaction to create specific patterns that are distinctive to particular localities.

The proposed wind turbines will be large structures with the potential to have significant landscape and visual impacts. The development of wind farms, including associated infrastructure such as tracks and ancillary buildings, may have a major impact on the surrounding landscape.

Key to the development of the project will be the need for clear communication of the scale and extent of the proposed project. Clear and concise mapping of the existing areas of landscape and visual sensitivity together with photomontages of the proposed wind turbines will be essential in demonstrating the nature and extent of the development.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Mapping (ZTV's) will be prepared based on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's '*Wind Farm Planning Guidelines*'. The ZTV's will illustrate the study area extending to 30km around the site and highlight the areas where the proposed turbines will theoretically be visible from, as well as the cumulative visual impact arising from the existing Mount Lucas Wind Farm and Yellow River Wind Farm. These ZTV's do not take into consideration vegetation cover, changing weather conditions or the mitigating effect of distance and therefore illustrate the worst-case scenario of visibility.

Estimation of the visual impact of the proposed scheme on the landscape will be based on the visual presence of the turbines, their aesthetic impact the landscape context and the significance of the impact. The assessment will examine potential landscape and visual impact of the 14 no. 169m high turbines on designated landscape, properties, roads, recreation and tourism areas, including;

- Direct effects on landscape features, views, routes and areas described in the County Development Plans and Landscape Character Assessments. The review of the landscape setting will account for a 30km study area from the site boundary, thereby including parts of Counties Laois, Offaly, Westmeath and Meath, as well as the main focus of the more northern section of Kildare. Assessments of and objectives for landscape character are looked at in each of the development plans for these counties to ensure a consistent and integrated appraisal of the area within this 30km area.
- Potential changes to landscape and townscape character referring to County landscape character assessments noting subtle effects that contribute to the experience of more intangible landscape characteristics. Landscape types, significance/value, sensitivity and capacity for change will be examined.
- Effects on designated landscapes, views, conservation sites and other special areas of interest.
- Effects during construction and decommissioning.

Viewshed reference points (VRP) from the surrounding landscape will be identified from the desktop studies outlined above and will be verified on site. Photomontages from these viewshed reference points will be prepared for the proposed wind turbines, together with a wireframe and photomontage views of the other planned/permitted wind turbines in the landscape, to assist in demonstrating the levels of visual impact.



## 6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, INDIRECT IMPACTS AND INTERACTION OF EFFECTS

### 6.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The cumulative impact of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm with other projects which are either existing, permitted or pending planning permission, or for which there is information in the public domain, at a sufficient level of detail to allow assessment, will be addressed. Indirect effects and effects in different environmental media will be addressed.

The cumulative effects from the construction of the wind turbines, cabling and haul route alterations will also be assessed.

### 6.2 Cumulative Assessment Methodology

The assessment methodology will be based on the EPA guidance and the EU guidelines, 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions', published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in May 1999.

As part of scoping the studies required to assess the impacts of the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm in the different environmental media, the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions will be examined and any such potential impacts will be identified. Where the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions is identified, such impacts and interaction of impacts will be included in the scope and addressed in the baseline and impact assessment studies for each of the relevant environmental media and aspects of the project. The cumulative and indirect impacts and interaction of impacts will be presented in the chapters of the EIAR which address the most relevant environmental media.

The matrix and expert opinion approaches, as outlined in the EU Guidelines, will be used in the identification of the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions. A matrix of potential interactions will be prepared. Modelling and carrying capacity analyses will be used to evaluate impacts.

### 6.3 Receiving Environment

The existing Mount Lucas Wind Farm (28 no. wind turbines) in Co. Kildare is located at 22km southwest of the proposed development and Yellow River Wind Farm (29 no. wind turbines) in Co. Kildare is located at 22km southwest.

Other developments that have the potential to give rise to cumulative impacts will also be examined.

### 6.4 Potential Impacts

The proposed North Kildare Wind Farm has the potential to reduce Ireland's reliance on fossil fuel power generation and assist in it meeting its EU 2020 and 2030 targets for renewable energy generation.

If other projects of a similar scale and type are under construction at the same time as proposed North Kildare Wind Farm, there would be a cumulative increased demand for construction materials and skills, and there would be potential for increased construction traffic.



# Appendix A

## List of Consultees





**Telecommunications/ Aviation**

Irish Aviation Authority  
Telecommunications Section, An Garda  
Siochána  
IT Department, Kildare County Council  
Irish Broadband/Imagine  
Munster Broadband  
Digiweb Dublin Offices and Data Centre  
Ripplecom  
Magnet Networks  
BT Communications Ireland Ltd  
Dublin Airport Authority  
Commission for Communications Regulation  
RTE  
TV3  
Eir  
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland  
Meteor Mobile Communications Ltd.  
O2 Ireland  
Vodafone  
Three  
ESB Telecoms  
TETRA Ireland Ltd.  
Premier Broadband  
UPC Ireland  
Wireless Connect Ltd.  
Irish Telecom  
TowerCom Ltd.  
Arra Communications  
Echo IT Limited  
Wireless Connect Ltd.

**Kildare County Council**

Planning Department  
Heritage Officer  
Environment Department  
Roads Department  
Archaeologist  
Energy Agency Office

**Other Interested Bodies**

An Taisce  
Birdwatch Ireland  
Fáilte Ireland  
Teagasc  
EPA  
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly  
Irish Farmers Association  
Irish Peatland Conservation Council  
The Heritage Council  
Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland  
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  
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

**Government Departments**

Department of Communications, Climate Action and  
Environment  
Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local  
Government  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht –  
Development Applications Unit (National Monuments  
Service)  
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht –  
Development Applications Unit (Nature Conservation)  
Department of Defence  
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport



# Appendix B

Draft Table of Contents of the EIAR





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## APPENDIX 5.2

### 2024 Update Scoping Letter



EIAR Scoping Consultee  
By email only

13 May 2024

Our Ref: 22-242-FT-EGN-XX-LT-EN-0003

**Re: EIAR Scoping Consultation for the Proposed Drehid Wind Farm, County Kildare.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Limited, hereafter referred to as 'the Applicant', intends to apply for planning permission to An Board Pleanála in accordance with section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) for a renewable energy development (the Proposed Wind Farm) comprising an eleven turbine wind farm, the turbines being a maximum tip height of 167 metres. The Applicant also intends to apply for planning permission in accordance with Section 182 of the same Act, for the development of a 110 kV substation (the Proposed Substation) to enable the connection of the wind farm to the national grid. We refer to the 'Proposed Wind Farm' and the 'Proposed Substation' together as the 'Proposed Development'.

We have engaged with you in the past as part of pre-application consultations regarding a previous iteration of the Proposed Development. That iteration of the Proposed Development had been initially consented by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 following an appeal against Kildare County Council's decision (ABP Ref. 306500-20). However, we have made some changes to the layout and method of connection to the national grid and as such, we are now seeking planning consent for a slightly revised Proposed Development. Therefore, we are consulting with you to advise of the changes to the previously considered development proposal.

### *Previously Considered Development*

The text on the site notice and newspaper notice for the previously consented development read as follows:

*"The development will consist of the following: up to 12 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169 meters and all associated foundations and hardstanding areas; 1 no. on-site electricity substation; 2 no. temporary construction compounds; all associated underground electrical and communication cabling connecting the turbines to the proposed on-site electricity substation; underground electricity cabling including joint bays on the public road connecting the proposed on-site electricity substation to the existing Dunfiirth substation within the townland of Dunfiirth via the L1004 public road; upgrade and extension to an existing recreation amenity trail and installation of signage, picnic tables and bicycle stands; upgrade of existing site entrance from the L5025 public road and use of 1 no. existing site entrance on the L5012 public road; provision of new site access tracks and associated drainage; upgrade of existing access tracks and associated drainage; tree felling; and all associated site development works including landscaping. Permission is sought for a period of 10 years and an operational life of 30 years from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm. An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompany this planning application."*

The Applicant now wishes to apply for planning permission for an optimised design, the Proposed Development, which consists of the Proposed Wind Farm and the Proposed Substation.

### **The Proposed Wind Farm**

The Proposed Wind Farm will consist of 11 no. wind turbines. 10 no. turbines will have a tip height of 167 m, while one turbine (T1, closest to the site entrance) will have a tip height of 148 m. The turbine layout is broadly similar to the layout associated with the previously consented development (ABP Ref. 306500-20). However, one turbine has been omitted from the revised layout and another turbine has been relocated.

The coordinates of the turbines for the Proposed Development are detailed in Table 1-1:

**Table 1-1: Proposed Drehid Wind Farm Turbine Co-ordinates**

<b>Turbine ID</b>	<b>ITM_X_Coor</b>	<b>ITM_Y_Coor</b>
1	673844	734350
2	674448	734178
3	674684	734692
4	674376	735901
5	673973	735903
6	674215	736397
7	674699	736284
8	675043	736821
9	676015	737268
10	676382	737020
11	676294	737672

The Applicant is now seeking consent for a 10-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm.

### *The Proposed Substation*

The previously considered development intended to connect to the national grid via a proposed on-site electricity substation, underground electricity cabling including joint bays in the L1004 public road, and connecting into the existing Dunfiirth 110 kV substation within the townland of Dunfiirth. However, the existing Dunfiirth 110 kV substation is not suitable for a new generator connection in its current format and would require a significant rebuild and additional network interruption to facilitate connection at this existing node. The project also received a grid connection offer through the Enduring Connection Policy for a new loop-in substation on the Harristown - Dunfiirth(Tee) - Rinawade line, which was agreed as the preferred connection method. The proposed development therefore intends to connect to the national grid via a new on-site 110 kV loop-in/loop-out substation within the project lands at the northern end of the site. This revised connection would ensure that no cabling is required outside the project lands and would eliminate the need to lay cables within the public road.

Therefore, the Applicant is now seeking consent to construct an on-site 110 kV substation, which will connect to the national grid by way of a loop-in/loop-out connection to the existing Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV overhead line. 2 no. line-cable interface masts will enable this loop-in connection to the existing overhead line.

The Proposed Substation will be centred on ITM coordinates 676424, 737879. The substation will comprise of two separate compounds and buildings, an Eirgrid compound and an Independent Power Producer (IPP) compound, necessary to export the electricity generated from the wind farm to the national grid. The compounds are made up of a hardstanding permeable crushed stone surface and surrounded by a palisade fence.

The substation compound will be surrounded by a palisade fence with associated gates for access. Eirgrid specification lightning monopoles will also be included as a safety measure.

### *The Applications*

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is being drafted for the Proposed Development. Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) will prepare the EIAR and NIS in support of the application. These reports will assess the Proposed Wind Farm and the Proposed Substation separately in order to allow for The Board to assess the potential impacts associated with each planning application separately (i.e. the application for the Proposed Wind Farm under S37 and the application for the Proposed Substation under S182).

The assessments will be carried out in accordance with:

- i. The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2009) 'Guidance on Appropriate Assessment for Planning Authorities'.
- ii. The Environmental Protection Agency (2022) 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports'

- iii. European Commission (2017) 'Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects: Guidance on the Preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report'
- iv. Office of the Planning Regulator (2021) 'OPR Practice Note PN02: Environmental Impact Assessment Screening'

This Scoping Letter is being issued to you as we would be interested in receiving any opinions, further information or comments you may have on the Proposed Development which is relevant to your area of expertise.

### *Scoping for EIA*

The purpose of the EIA scoping process is to identify the key points and issues which are likely to be important during the assessment of likely significant effects / adverse effects and to eliminate those that are not. The scoping process does this by identifying sources or causes of potential environmental effects, the pathways by which the effects might occur, 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 project.

The responses from this consultation will inform the scope of the environmental assessments in addition to informing the need for any further remedial measures.

### *Content of the EIAR – Statutory Requirements*

The EPA has published guidelines on the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. These are contained in 'Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements)'<sup>1</sup>, published in 2003 and 'Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements'<sup>2</sup> published originally in 2002, but revised in Draft format in 2015 and 2017. The EIAR team will have regard to these guidelines in the preparation of the EIAR. In addition, the EIAR will be completed in accordance with the guidance produced by the European Commission in 2017 – Guidance on the Preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU). The team will also have regard to best practice guidance for individual environmental topics.

Regard will also be paid to the 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' published by the Irish Wind Energy Association and the 'Wind Energy Development Guidelines' published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2006) or the latest adopted revision at the time of application.

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<sup>1</sup> EPA (2003), Advice Notes on Current Practice (in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements) Available at:

[https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/guidelines/EPA\\_advice\\_on\\_EIS\\_2003.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/guidelines/EPA_advice_on_EIS_2003.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> EPA (2002) *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements*, available at:

<https://www.epa.ie/pubs/consultation/reviewofdraftteisguidelinesadvicenotes/Draft%20Guidelines%20on%20the%20Information%20to%20be%20contained%20in%20an%20EIS.pdf>

There are two different EIA structures which are commonly used and which the EPA guidelines accept as equally valid. The structure, which the EIA team proposes to use for the EIA for the Proposed Development, is the grouped format structure.

Using this structure there is a separate chapter for each topic, e.g. air quality, Biodiversity, hydrology. The description of the existing environment, the proposed development and the potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts are grouped in the chapter. The grouped format makes it easy to investigate topics of interest and facilitates cross-reference to specialist studies.

Given the need to ensure that the EIA is readily accessible to the general public, as well as to the statutory authorities, the EIA team has proposed to structure the EIA as described below:

- Non-technical Summary
- Introduction
- Description of the Development
- Policy and Legislation
- EIA Scoping and Consultation
- Air Quality and Climate
- Landscape and Visual
- Shadow Flicker
- Noise and Vibration
- Traffic and Transportation
- Biodiversity
- Land, Soils, Geology and Slope Stability
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Population, Human Health & Material Assets
- Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage
- Telecommunications and Aviation
- Interactions of the Foregoing

This Scoping Letter is being issued to you as we would be interested in receiving any opinions, further information or comments you may have on the Proposed Development application which is relevant to your area of expertise.

We respectfully ask that you forward all responses before the **10th of June 2024** to provide adequate time to consider all material. Your response may be forwarded by email or by post to the address below:

**By Email:**        brian.cronin@ftco.ie

**By Post:**        Brian Cronin, Fehily Timoney & Company, Core House, Pouladuff Road, County Cork,  
T12 D773



If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

If you have any further queries, please contact the undersigned.

Appended, please find figures 1.1 and 1.2 for your consideration, which illustrate the originally considered layout and the draft updated layout.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian Cronin", is written above a solid horizontal line.

Brian Cronin  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney and Company**

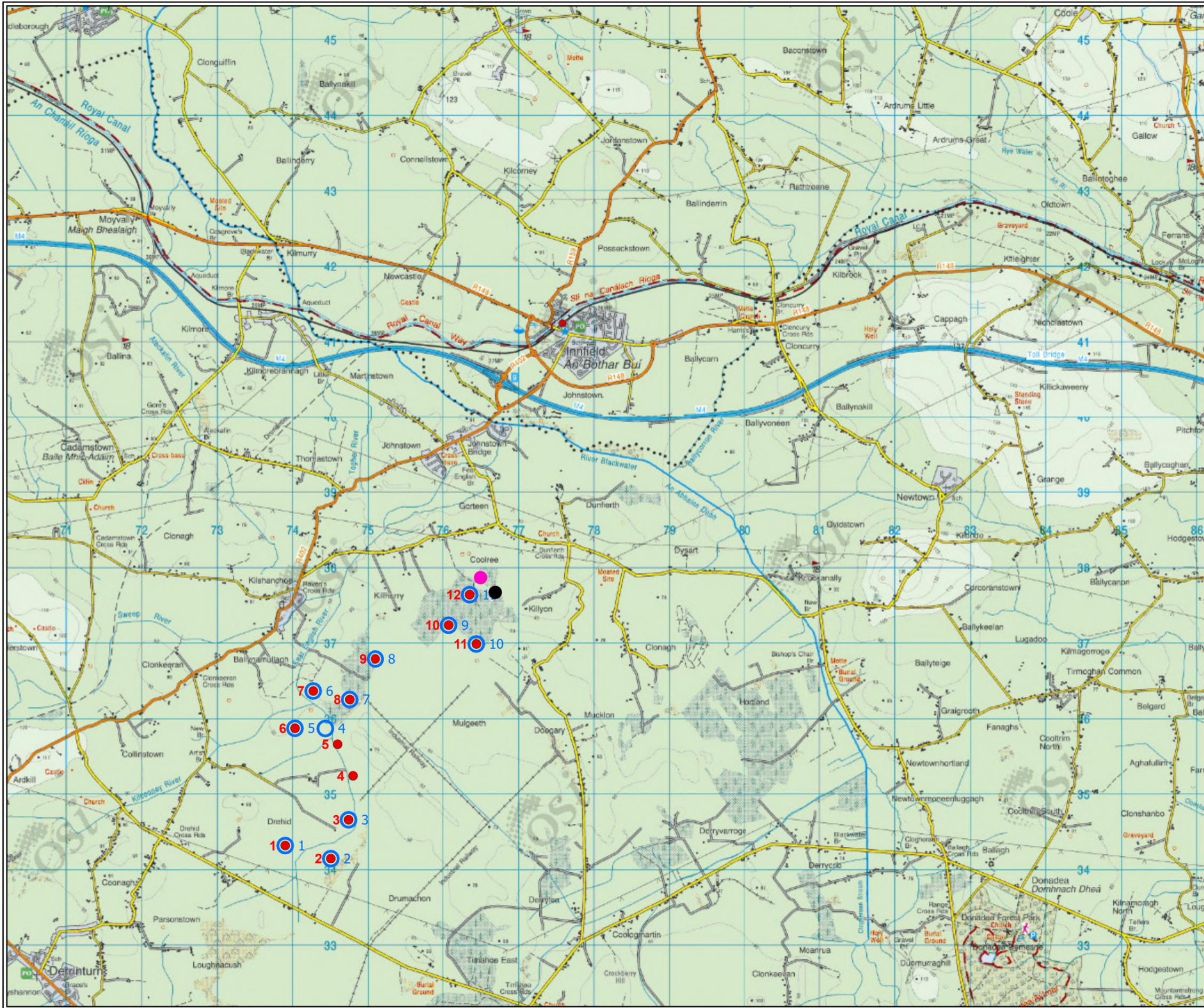


**FEHILY  
TIMONEY**

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
& PLANNING

**Appendix 1 - Site Layout - 2018 vs. 2024**



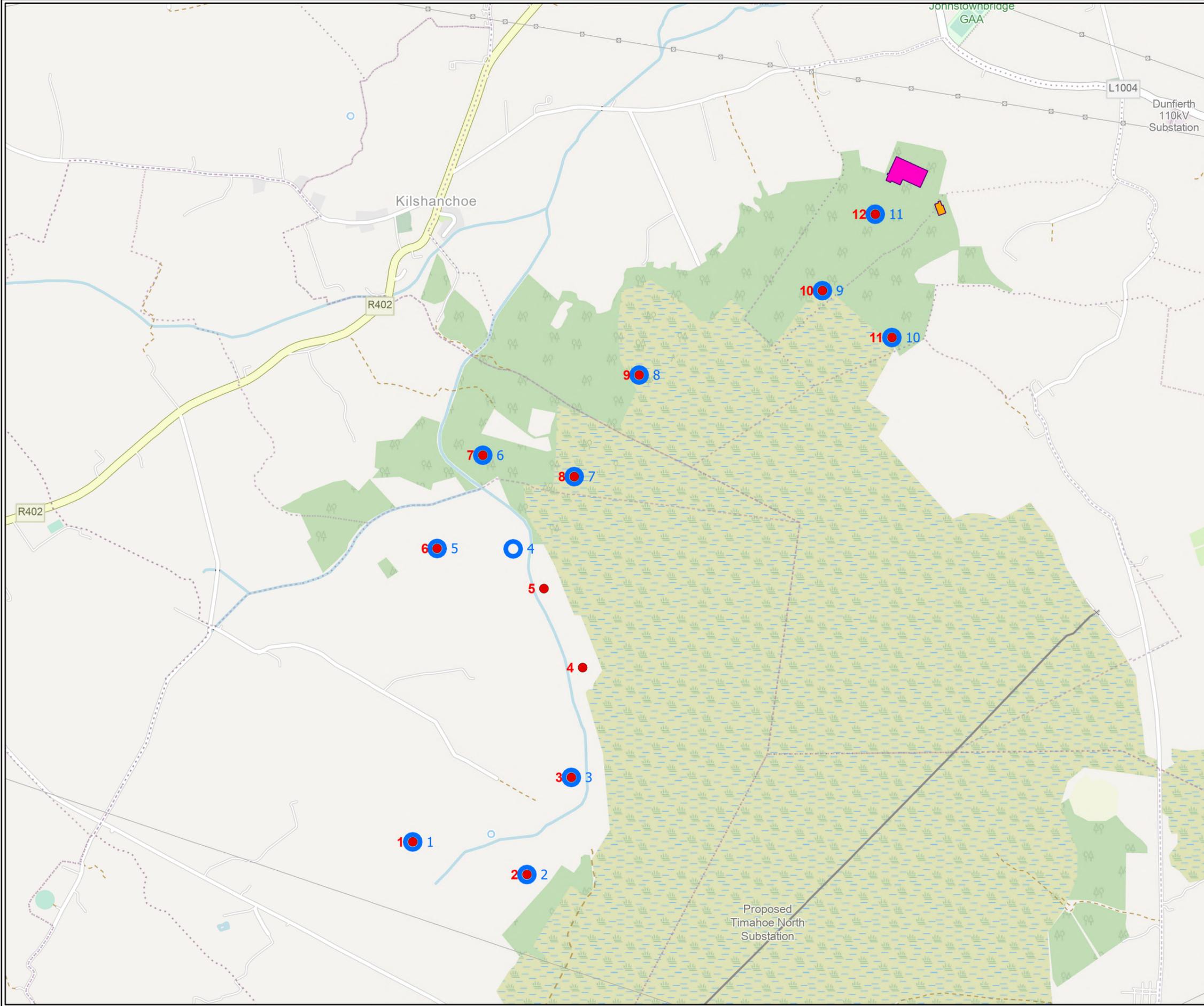


- Legend**
- 2018 Turbine Locations
  - 2024 Turbine Locations
  - 2018 Substation Location
  - 2024 Substation Location

<b>TITLE:</b>	Drehid Wind Farm	
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Drehid Wind Farm SID	
<b>FIGURE NO:</b>	1.2	
<b>CLIENT:</b>	Statkraft	
<b>SCALE:</b>	1:50,000	<b>REVISION:</b> 0
<b>DATE:</b>	5/10/2024	<b>PAGE SIZE:</b> A3





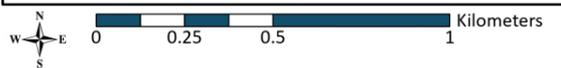


**Legend**

- 2018 Turbine Locations
- 2024 Turbine Locations
- 2018 Substation Location
- 2024 Substation Location

<b>TITLE:</b>	Drehid Wind Farm - 2018 & 2024 Turbine Layouts		
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Drehid Wind Farm SID		
<b>FIGURE NO.:</b>	1.1		
<b>CLIENT:</b>	Statkraft		
<b>SCALE:</b>	1:20,000	<b>REVISION:</b>	0
<b>DATE:</b>	5/10/2024	<b>PAGE SIZE:</b>	A3

**FEHILY TIMONEY** Cork | Dublin | Carlow  
www.fehilytimoney.ie





## **Appendix 2 List of Consultees**

An Taisce

Arra Communications

Birdwatch Ireland

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland

BT Communications Ireland Ltd

Commission for Communications Regulation

Commission for Regulation of Utilities

Development Applications Unit

Digiweb Dublin Offices and Data Centre

Dublin Airport Authority

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

Echo IT Limited

Eir

EirGrid

EPA

ESB Networks

ESB Telecoms

Fáilte Ireland

Gas Networks Ireland

Geological Survey of Ireland

Health Service Executive

Iarnród Éireann

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Irish Aviation Authority

Irish Broadband/Imagine

Irish Farmers Association

Irish Parachute Club

Irish Peatland Conservation Council

Irish Raptor Group

Irish Red Grouse Association

Irish Sports Council

Viatel (formerly Irish Telecom)

Uisce Eireann (formerly Irish Water)

Irish Wildlife Trust

Kildare County Council

Magnet Networks

Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Minister for Defence

Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Minister for Rural and Community Development

Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Munster Broadband

Office of Public Works

Premier Broadband

RTE

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland

Teagasc

Telecommunications Section, An Garda Síochána

TETRA Ireland Ltd.

An Comhairle Ealaíon (The Arts Council)

The Heritage Council

Three

TowerCom Ltd.



Transport Infrastructure Ireland

TV3 (Now Virgin Media)

Údarás na Gaeltachta

Vodafone

Waterways Ireland

Wireless Connect Ltd.



## APPENDIX 5.3

### Responses to the EIAR Scoping Report





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Ian Lumley  
Heritage Officer  
An Taisce  
Back Lane  
Dublin 8

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Lumley,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in writing or by email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

**T:** +353 21 4964133 **F:** + 353 21 4964464 **E:** info@ftco.ie **W:** www.fehilytimoney.ie

**Directors:** Eamon Timoney David McHugh Bernadette Guinan Beren De Hora

**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd. Number 180497

Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Ms. Oonagh Duggan  
Policy & Advocacy Officer  
Birdwatch Ireland  
Unit 20, Block D  
Bullford Business Campus  
Kilcoole  
Co. Wicklow

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Ms. Duggan,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Paddy Matthews  
Manager, Environment & Planning  
Fáilte Ireland  
89 – 95, Amiens Street  
Dublin 1 D01 WR86

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Matthews,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

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Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Teagasc  
Oak Park  
Carlow  
R93 XE12

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Environmental Protection Agency  
PO Box 3000  
Johstown Castle Estate  
Co. Wexford  
Y35 W821

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly  
3rd Floor North  
Ballymun Civic Centre  
Main Street  
Ballymun

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Irish Aviation Authority  
The Times Building  
11-12 D'Olier Street  
Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Irish Farmers Association  
Irish Farm Centre  
Bluebell  
Dublin 12

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

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If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Irish Peatland Conservation Council  
Bog of Allen Nature Centre  
Lullymore  
Rathangan  
Co. Kildare

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Ms. Alison Harvey  
Planning and Development Officer  
The Heritage Council  
Áras na hOidghreachthta,  
Church Lane  
Kilkenny R95 X264

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Ms. Harvey,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

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Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland  
Wilton Park House  
Wilton Place  
Dublin 2  
D02 T228

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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Yours faithfully,

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for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

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Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Dr. Patrick Buck  
South Western River Basin District Director  
Inland Fisheries Ireland  
Sunnyside House  
Macroom  
Co. Cork P12 X602

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Dr. Buck,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Irish Red Grouse Association  
12 Clara Road  
Moate  
Co. Westmeath

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 in writing or be email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

**T:** +353 21 4964133 **F:** + 353 21 4964464 **E:** info@ftco.ie **W:** www.fehilytimoney.ie

**Directors:** Eamon Timoney David McHugh Bernadette Guinan Beren De Hora

**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd. Number 180497

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Cormac MacDonnell  
National Trails Office

[cmacdonnell@sportireland.ie](mailto:cmacdonnell@sportireland.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. MacDonnell,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in writing or by email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

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Yours faithfully,

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for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Kieran Flood  
Conservation Officer  
Irish Wildlife Trust

[conservation@iwt.ie](mailto:conservation@iwt.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Flood,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 in writing or be email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Sport Ireland  
Top Floor  
Block A Westend Office Park  
Dublin 15

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in writing or by email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Commission for Regulation of Utilities  
PO Box 11934  
Dublin 24

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 20 August 2018 in writing or be email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Ms. Sophie Préteseille  
Irish Geological Heritage Programme  
Geological Survey of Ireland  
Beggars Bush  
Haddington Road  
Dublin  
D04 K7X4

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Ms. Préteseille,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in writing or by email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Tom McGuinness  
Assistant National Director  
Emergency Planning, Health Service Executive  
Block B  
The Civic Centre  
Bray  
Co. Wicklow

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. McGuinness,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in writing or by email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Office of Public Works  
Head Office  
Jonathan Swift Street  
Trim  
Co. Meath

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 in writing or by email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Ms. Tara Spain  
Planning Department  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland  
Parkgate Business Centre,  
Parkgate Street,  
Dublin 8,  
D08 DK10

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report -  
Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Ms. Spain,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Ms. Tina Aughney  
Bat Conservation Ireland  
Ulex House  
Drumheel  
Lisduff  
Virginia, Co. Cavan

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Ms. Aughney,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. John Lyden  
Secretary  
Irish raptor Study Group  
3, Castlecourt  
Currabenny Road  
Carrigaline, Co. Cork

[chairman@irg.ie](mailto:chairman@irg.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report -  
Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Lyden,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Gas Networks Ireland  
Gasworks Road  
Cork  
T12 RX96

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

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**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Iarnród Éireann  
Connolly Station  
Amien Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V6V6

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in writing or by email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

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**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Ken Conroy  
Asset Strategy Lead for Water (Southern Division)  
Irish Water  
Colville House  
Talbot Street  
Dublin 4

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Conroy,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Aidan Burke  
Corporate Services Director  
The Arts Council  
70, Merrion Square  
Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Burke,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Udarás na Gaeltachta  
Na Forbacha  
Co. na Gaillimhe

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report -  
Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 in writing or be email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

**T:** +353 21 4964133 **F:** + 353 21 4964464 **E:** info@ftco.ie **W:** www.fehilytimoney.ie

**Directors:** Eamon Timoney David McHugh Bernadette Guinan Beren De Hora

**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd. Number 180497

Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Waterways Ireland  
2 Sligo Road  
Enniskillen  
Co. Fermanagh  
BT74 7JY

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Irish Parachute Club  
Clonbullogue Airfield  
Edenderry  
Co. Offaly

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report -  
Scoping and Consultation Report**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Minister Denis Naughten  
Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment  
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment  
39 – 31 Adelaide Road  
Saint Kevin's  
Dublin 2

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Minister Naughten,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Minister Eoghan Murphy  
Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government  
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government  
Custom House  
Dublin 1  
D01 W6X0

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Minister Murphy,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Minister Michael Creed TD  
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Head Office, Agriculture House  
Kildare Street  
Dublin 2 D02 WK12

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Minister Creed,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Development Applications Unit  
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht  
Newtown Road  
Wexford Y35 AP90

[Manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:Manager.dau@chg.gov.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Manager,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfiarth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

National Parks and Wildlife Service  
90 King Street North  
Smithfield  
Dublin 7  
D07 N7CV

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

National Monuments Service  
Custom House  
Dublin 1  
D01 W6X0

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Minister Paul Kehoe  
Department of Defence  
Station Road  
Newbridge  
Co. Kildare  
W12 AD93

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Minister Kehoe,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Minister Shane Ross  
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport  
Leeson Lane  
Dublin 2  
D02 TR60

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Minister Ross,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Planning Department  
Kildare County Council  
Aras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Heritage Officer  
Kildare County Council  
Aras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Environment Department  
Kildare County Council  
Aras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Roads Department  
Kildare County Council  
Aras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

County Archaeologist  
Kildare County Council  
Aras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

**T:** +353 21 4964133 **F:** + 353 21 4964464 **E:** info@ftco.ie **W:** www.fehilytimoney.ie

**Directors:** Eamon Timoney David McHugh Bernadette Guinan Beren De Hora

**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd. Number 180497

Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Energy Agency Office  
Kildare County Council  
Aras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Chief Superintendent Patrick Clavin  
Telecommunications Section  
An Garda Siochana  
Garda HQ  
Phoenix Park  
Dublin 8

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Chief Superintendent Clavin,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Kildare County Council  
Aras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Ian Watson  
Head of Wimax Strategy  
IMAGINE(IRISH BROADBAND)  
Unit 6, Sandyford Business Centre  
Sandyford Industrial Estate  
Dublin 18

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Watson,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Director of Operations  
Munster Broadband  
Unit 24, Innovation Works  
Technology Park  
Castletroy, Limerick

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Digiweb  
College Business & Technology Park  
College Business & Technology Park  
Dublin 15

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Denis Herlihy

[licensing@ripplecom.net](mailto:licensing@ripplecom.net)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Herlihy,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Magnet Networks Ltd. Registered Office  
IDA Business and Technology Park  
Clonshaugh  
Dublin 17

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report -  
Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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Yours faithfully,

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Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

BT Communications Ireland Ltd.  
2, Grand Canal Plaza  
Upper Grand Canal Street  
Grand Canal Dock  
Dublin 4

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

daa  
Old Central Terminal Building  
Dublin Airport  
Co. Dublin

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Commission for Communications Regulation  
1 Dockland Central  
Guild Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 E4X0

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Johnny Evans  
Head of Frequency Planning  
RTE NL  
Nutley Building  
Donnybrook  
Dublin 4  
[Johnny.Evans@rte.ie](mailto:Johnny.Evans@rte.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Evans,

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Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

TV3  
Westgate Business Park  
Ballymount  
Dublin 24

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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Encl.

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**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

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Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Eir  
1 Heuston South Quarter  
St. John's Road  
Dublin 8

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Broadcasting Authority of Ireland  
2-5 Warrington Place  
Dublin 2  
D02 XP29

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

**T:** +353 21 4964133 **F:** + 353 21 4964464 **E:** info@ftco.ie **W:** www.fehilytimoney.ie

**Directors:** Eamon Timoney David McHugh Bernadette Guinan Beren De Hora

**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd. Number 180497

Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Gavin Byrne  
Transmission Planner  
Netshare Ireland  
Iveagh Building  
The Park, Carrickmines  
Dublin 18

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Byrne,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Three

[estates@three.ie](mailto:estates@three.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Peter Byrne  
ESB Telecoms

[peter.byrne@esb.ie](mailto:peter.byrne@esb.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Byrne,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

TETRA Ireland Ltd.

[info@tetraireland.ie](mailto:info@tetraireland.ie)

[Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE](mailto:Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Wireless Connect Ltd.  
Finnoe Road  
Borrisokane  
Co. Tipperary

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Irish Telecom  
Unit 403  
Q House, Furze Road  
Sandyford  
Dublin 18

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr David Enright  
TowerCom Ltd.  
Usher House, Main Street  
Dundrum  
Dublin 16

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. Enright,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Arra Communications  
Boru House  
Ballina, Killaloe  
Co. Tipperary

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Echo IT Limited  
29/30 Mitchell St  
Nenagh  
Co. Tipperary

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

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Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Wireless Connect Ltd.  
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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Premier Broadband  
Unit 8b, The National Enterprise Park  
Portlaoise Interexchange,  
Portlaoise  
Co. Laois

[info@premierbb.ie](mailto:info@premierbb.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

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Encl.

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Mr. Cathal O'Donnell  
Radio Transmission Manager  
Virgin Media Ireland  
Goldenbridge Industrial Estate  
Inchicore  
Dublin 8

[caodonnell@upc.ie](mailto:caodonnell@upc.ie)

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Mr. O'Donnell,

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---

**From:** Johnny Evans <Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie>  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 16:17  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Cc:** windfarms@rte.ie; Marie Geary  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report  
**Attachments:** North Kildare Protocol Agreement 2018.docx

Hi Elaine,

I've had a quick look at this and I would expect a low to moderate risk of interference to TV reception to any households near (to the west and north west of) the windfarm development. With that, we'd be grateful if the developer would enter into a "Windfarm Protocol Agreement" with us, so that reception could be re-instated for any households if they are actually affected. I would also advise that you undertake a TV reception survey before construction.

I've attached a draft of the protocol agreement – and would be grateful if you could fill in the developer company details on page 2, and return two signed copies to me please, whenever suits. If there are any significant changes to the turbine locations please also let me know.

The good news is that there will be no impact to any of our microwave telecoms links.

Thanks and regards, Johnny

**Johnny Evans**

Head of Projects and Coverage Planning

2RN

Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland

D24 WK28

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082680

Mobile: + 353 (0) 86 8255653

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett [mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 13 July 2018 08:33  
**To:** Johnny Evans <Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie>  
**Cc:** windfarms@rte.ie; Marie Geary <marie.geary@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report

Hi Johnny,

The co-ordinates for the turbines are as follows:

FT_ID	X_ITM	Y_ITM
1	672665.1	733495.8
2	674324.6	734241.6
3	673750	734265.5
4	674582.9	734791.5
5	673678.2	734831.5
6	674439.1	735556.3
7	673994.5	735894.9

8	673400.8	735952
9	674567.2	736303.3
10	674099.6	736517.4
11	675025.4	737010.3
12	676322.1	737178.8
13	675881.1	737430.1
14	676428.9	737651.2

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Johnny Evans [<mailto:Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie>]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2018 16:58  
**To:** Marie Geary <[marie.geary@ftco.ie](mailto:marie.geary@ftco.ie)>  
**Cc:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>; [windfarms@rte.ie](mailto:windfarms@rte.ie)  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report

Hi Marie,  
Thanks for sending this in. I'm about to go on my holidays until the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August so may not get a response to you by the 8<sup>th</sup>, but I do intend to respond.  
In the meantime – I'd be grateful if you could send me the coordinates for the turbines (even if they are likely to change).  
Thanks again and regards, Johnny

**Johnny Evans**  
Head of Projects and Coverage Planning  
2RN  
Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland  
D24 WK28  
Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082680  
Mobile: + 353 (0) 86 8255653

---

**From:** Evans, Johnny [<mailto:Johnny.Evans@rte.ie>]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2018 16:46  
**To:** Johnny Evans <[Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie](mailto:Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report

**Johnny Evans**  
Head of Projects and Coverage Planning  
2RN  
Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland

D24 WK28

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082680

Mobile: + 353 (0) 86 8255653

---

**From:** Marie Geary [<mailto:marie.geary@ftco.ie>]

**Sent:** 12 July 2018 16:25

**To:** Evans, Johnny <[Johnny.Evans@rte.ie](mailto:Johnny.Evans@rte.ie)>

**Cc:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report

Dear Mr. Evans,

Please find attached Fehily Timoney & Company's Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping & Consultation Report for the above named project.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in writing or by email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Marie Geary

for Dr. Elaine Bennett,

for and on behalf of

**Fehily Timoney & Company**

Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 | Direct Dial: +353 21 4969 560

Fax: +353 21 496 4464

Mail to: [marie.geary@ftco.ie](mailto:marie.geary@ftco.ie)

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Registration No. 180497. Registered office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, Ireland

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Registration No. 180497. Registered office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, Ireland

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Block B, Cookstown Court,  
Old Belgard Road, Tallaght,  
Dublin 24, Ireland  
Tel: +353 (0)1 208 2259  
E-mail: 2rn@2rn.ie

## Protocol Agreement

between

**North Kildare Windfarm Limited**

and



concerning the wind farm at:

**North Kildare,**

**Near Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid,  
Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and  
Dunfiirth, Co. Kildare**

Directors: Eoin McGettigan (Chairperson), Mick Kehoe (Executive), Mike Byrne, Richard Waghorn (UK), Breda O'Keeffe, Fionnuala Sheehan, Aengus Mac Grianna, Cillian de Paor (and Company Secretary).  
Registered in Ireland. Registered Number: 364909. Registered Office: Montrose, Donnybrook, Dublin 4.  
RTÉ Transmission Network DAC trading as "2RN". VAT Number: 6384909G.





“Developer”:

North Kildare Windfarm Limited,  
?????????????,  
???????

Registered No. ????????

“2RN”:

RTÉ Transmission Network DAC  
trading as “2RN”,  
Montrose,  
Donnybrook,  
Dublin 4.

Registered No. 364909

“Development”:

Proposed development by way of  
initial construction or  
intensification of use of a wind  
farm at Coolree, Kilmurry,  
Drehid, Parsonstown,  
Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran,  
Killyon and Dunfiirth, Co. Kildare

“Viewer(s)”:

Proprietor (or agent of proprietor)  
of a private residence or  
business premises where a  
television set, for which a current  
television licence is held, is used  
and/or a broadcast radio  
receiver.

“Local Dealer”:

Local dealer being a television  
engineer / dealer carrying on  
business in the vicinity of the  
development and may be  
nominated by the wind farm  
developer.



### **Interference on Viewers' Television Sets and/or Broadcast Radio Receivers**

1. When 2RN is put on notice, whether by telephone or written communication, that a viewer is having problems with their reception, 2RN will undertake a preliminary assessment, over the telephone or by other means of communication, and ascertain whether or not the wind farm is a likely cause of the interference complained of.
2. If 2RN believes the interference is wind farm related, the viewer will be asked to contact the wind farm developer. Then the developer will arrange for a local dealer to visit the viewer.
3. Both parties to this protocol note that the type of interference caused by electromagnetic disturbance emanating from wind farms manifests itself in very specific ways on television sets and broadcast radio receivers.
4. The local dealer will arrange directly with the viewer to make a visit to the viewer's house and assess the cause of the interference. The local dealer will take whatever steps are necessary to remedy the interference.
5. The local dealer will prepare a brief report in writing which will be sent to the developer. If the local dealer is of the view that the interference is due to interference from the development, the dealer will send an invoice in respect of the site visit and remedial work to the developer. The developer is the party primarily liable for the discharge of any amounts due in respect of any such site visit and remedial work. If the local dealer identifies that the problem is due to some other cause, the local dealer will invoice the viewer in the usual way.
6. Where the reception interference problem affects a number of viewers in the same vicinity, and this is identified by the local dealer and/or 2RN, it may be that it will be necessary for 2RN to develop an existing alternative or additional transposer site within that locality.
7. The developer in this instance will be responsible for all the costs associated with the development of the new transposer site, where this transposer site is necessitated by the presence of the development.
8. The maximum expenditure incurred by 2RN in the provision of the new transposer site (arising from section 6) will be €150,000, (such figure to be index linked upwards only – by reference to the Consumer Price Index published by the Central Statistics Office, calculated on the basis of the average increase over the 12-month period preceding demand for reimbursement by 2RN). A detailed estimate is to be submitted to the Developer in advance for comment, within a reasonable timeframe.

9. If the cost of acquiring and developing a new transposer site exceeds the sum of €150,000 the developer and 2RN will enter into negotiations to ascertain how the cost of remedying the problem being experienced by viewers in the locality might most equitably be met. The developer, however, shall be the party primarily liable for the discharge of any amounts due in respect of the acquisition and development of a new transposer site to the extent that such an acquisition and development is attributable to the presence of the development.
10. Where the acquisition and development of a transposer site is additional to the transposer(s) serving the locality prior to the commencement of operation of the development, the developer shall be liable to reimburse to 2RN the ongoing operational costs of the said additional transposer for so long as same shall be necessary to counteract the interference with viewers' reception caused by the development, up to a maximum of €15,000 per annum (such figure to be index linked – upwards only – by reference to the Consumer Price Index published by the Central Statistics Office, calculated on the basis of the average increase over the 12 month period preceding demand for reimbursement by 2RN).
11. The developer will be entitled to see copies of operational costs to the extent that company confidentially is not breached. All the 2RN costs involved in investigation and reports associated with the proposed development shall be covered by the developer if it is found that the said development is the cause of the interference.
12. The developer shall be entitled to retain its own engineer to inspect and report on the source of interference and if a transposer site is built, 2RN undertakes to facilitate access to the installation in question for the purposes of carrying out any such inspection and/or tests necessary.
13. The developer will indemnify 2RN fully in respect of damage to the person or property of any such engineer or inspector as retained by the developer, or any other agent or licensee of the developer involved in or associated with such inspection and/or tests. The developer will ensure that competent personnel only are deployed onto 2RN property under the terms of this clause and hereby indemnify 2RN in respect of any damage to 2RN's property or personnel caused by the negligence of such engineer, inspector or other agent or licensee.

**Interference with 2RN installations (to include transmitter stations, transposers and, if applicable, links stations)**

14. Where 2RN detects interference with the reception of a receive and/or transmission signal at a transposer site, 2RN will investigate the cause of the interference and report in writing to the developer if 2RN determines that the interference is attributable in whole or in part to the development.

15. The developer shall be entitled to retain its own engineer to inspect and report on the source of interference and 2RN undertakes to facilitate access to the installation in question for the purposes of carrying out any such inspection and/or tests necessary.
16. The developer will indemnify 2RN fully in respect of damage to the person or property of any such engineer or inspector as retained by the developer, or any other agent or licensee of the developer involved in or associated with such inspection and/or tests. The developer will ensure that competent personnel only are deployed onto 2RN's property under the terms of this clause and hereby indemnify 2RN in respect of any damage to 2RN's property or personnel caused by the negligence or such engineer, inspector or other agent or licensee.
17. Engineers representing both 2RN and (if applicable) the developer, will agree on remedial works (e.g. reorientation of reception antennas) and the cost of same. 2RN shall carry out the necessary remedial works and the cost of same shall be discharged/reimbursed to 2RN by the developer (subject to the provisions below).

In the following paragraph, the term "installation" shall mean one or more installation sites if applicable.

18. In the event that an additional or alternative installation is required in order to overcome reception or transmission problems caused exclusively by the development, 2RN shall identify a new location for such installation, within a reasonable timeframe.
19. The developer shall be responsible for all costs associated with the development of the new installation (e.g. repeat broadcasting station), where the new installation is necessitated exclusively because of interference caused by the development. The developer shall be liable for such costs up to a maximum of €150,000 (such figure to be index linked – upwards only – by reference to the Consumer Price Index published by the Central Statistics Office, calculated on the basis of the average increase over the 12-month period preceding demand for reimbursement by 2RN). Where the likely costs of such additional or alternative installation exceed €150,000 (as adjusted), 2RN and the Developer shall negotiate and determine between them how the costs of this new development might most equitably be met. The projected costs are to be submitted to and agreed with the developer prior to development of the new installation, within a reasonable timeframe.
20. Where the acquisition and development of a transposer site is additional to the transposer(s) serving the locality prior to the operation of the development, the

developer shall be liable to reimburse to 2RN the ongoing operational costs of the said additional transposer for so long as same shall be necessary to counteract the interference with viewers' reception caused by the development, up to a maximum of €15,000 per annum (such figure to be index linked – upwards only – by reference to the Consumer Price Index published by the Central Statistics Office, calculated on the basis of the average increase over the 12-month period preceding demand for reimbursement by 2RN).

21. The developer will be entitled to see copies of operational costs to the extent that company confidentially is not breached. All the 2RN costs involved in investigation and reports associated with the proposed development shall be covered by the Developer if it is found that the said development is the cause of the interference.
22. The parties agree that any dispute which arises concerning the interpretation of this Agreement shall first be referred to: -

- (a) in the case of 2RN, the Executive Director for the time being; and
- (b) in the case of the Developer, the Executive Director for the time being;

and such persons shall use all reasonable commercial efforts to resolve any such dispute within ten (10) Business Days.

23. If the dispute is not resolved by the relevant parties within the time period referred to above then save in respect for a dispute referable to the Expert, the parties may by agreement in writing attempt to settle all other disputes by mediation in accordance with the rules of the International Centre for Dispute Resolution (ICDR). To initiate the mediation a party must give notice in writing to the other party to the dispute requesting mediation and a copy of the request must be sent to ICDR. The mediation will start not later than 20 days after the date of such notice. The commencement of mediation will not prevent the parties commencing or continuing court proceedings. Unless otherwise agreed between the parties

- (a) the mediator will be nominated by ICDR;
- (b) the costs of the mediator shall be borne and discharged as to 50% by the Company and as to the remaining 50% by the Developer, and
- (c) the mediation shall be conducted in Dublin, Ireland, at a venue agreed upon by the parties and the mediator or, failing such agreement, at a venue selected by the mediator in his/her discretion.





## Ciara Finn

---

**From:** Manager Dau <Manager.Dau@chg.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 18 July 2018 12:12  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** Your ref: P0878 - North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR scoping

Hi Elaine,

I have received duplicate copies of the scoping report for the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm, which were sent to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the National Monuments Service (as well as the copy that was sent to DAU).

DAU is the single point of contact for EIAR scoping for proposed development applications, and the scoping reports are distributed electronically to NMS and NPWS so there is no need to send copies to them individually also.

We will also accept referrals electronically. There is a maximum limit on the size of attachments (15mb per email) if you do wish to send your consultation requests by email.

Kind regards,

Yvonne

---

**Yvonne Nolan**  
*Higher Executive Officer*

---

**An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta**  
*Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**  
*Development Applications Unit*

**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**  
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

---

T +353 (0)53 911 7382  
manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie  
www.chg.gov.ie

\*\*\*\*\*

Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvórais chun vórais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@DCCAE.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 11:59  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Cc:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR - Scoping and Consultation Report

Ms Bennett,

The Department received the correspondence on the above regard this morning via our Ministers Office, thank you. I am writing to ask if you would possibly have a soft copy of the documentation so as I can forward it to the relevant divisions within the Department?

Regards  
Eric

---

**Eric Pepper,**  
**Corporate Support Unit**

---

**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**  
*Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment*

**Teach Leamháin, Bóthar Ghleann an Iarla, An Cabhán, H12 A8H7**  
*Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan, H12 A8H7*

---

T +353 (0)1 6782057  
[Eric.Pepper@dccae.gov.ie](mailto:Eric.Pepper@dccae.gov.ie) [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie)

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---

**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@DCCAE.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 12:06  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR - Scoping and Consultation Report

Thanks a million Elaine, have a good day!

Eric

**Eric Pepper,**  
**Corporate Support Unit**  
**Tel: 01 6782057**

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett [mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 12:02  
**To:** CorporateSupport.Unit  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR - Scoping and Consultation Report

Dear Eric,  
Please find attached a soft copy of the scoping and consultation report.  
Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** CorporateSupport.Unit [<mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@DCCAE.gov.ie>]  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 11:59  
**To:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>  
**Cc:** CorporateSupport.Unit <[CorporateSupport.Unit@DCCAE.gov.ie](mailto:CorporateSupport.Unit@DCCAE.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR - Scoping and Consultation Report

Ms Bennett,

The Department received the correspondence on the above regard this morning via our Ministers Office, thank you. I am writing to ask if you would possibly have a soft copy of the documentation so as I can forward it to the relevant divisions within the Department?

Regards  
Eric

---

**Eric Pepper,**  
**Corporate Support Unit**

---

**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil**

Teach Leamháin, Bóthar Ghleann an Iarla, An Cabhán, H12 A8H7  
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[Eric.Pepper@dccae.gov.ie](mailto:Eric.Pepper@dccae.gov.ie) [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie)

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---

**From:** Olive.Mulhall <Olive.Mulhall@defence.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 09:46  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping and Consultation Report

Hi Elaine,

Thanks for the prompt reply.

Regards,  
Olive

**Olive Mulhall**

*Property Management Branch*

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

**Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.**

*Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.*

T +353 (0)45 492189

E-mail: [olive.mulhall@defence.ie](mailto:olive.mulhall@defence.ie)

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett <elaine.bennett@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 09:43  
**To:** Olive.Mulhall <Olive.Mulhall@defence.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping and Consultation Report

Hi Olive,  
Soft copy attached of the Scoping and Consultation report.  
Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Olive.Mulhall [<mailto:Olive.Mulhall@defence.ie>]  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 09:40  
**To:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** North Kildare Windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping and Consultation Report

Hi Elaine,

We received the North Kildare Windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping and Consultation Report and letter yesterday. I'm just wondering would you have this report in a soft copy that you could send to me? It's just that we need to send a copy to interested parties and need to keep a copy ourselves.

Kind regards  
Olive

**Olive Mulhall**

*Property Management Branch*

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

**Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.**

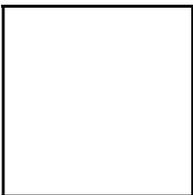
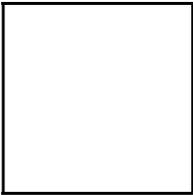
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**From:** Olive.Mulhall <Olive.Mulhall@defence.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 09:40  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** North Kildare Windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping and Consultation Report

Hi Elaine,

We received the North Kildare Windfarm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping and Consultation Report and letter yesterday. I'm just wondering would you have this report in a soft copy that you could send to me? It's just that we need to send a copy to interested parties and need to keep a copy ourselves.

Kind regards  
Olive

**Olive Mulhall**

*Property Management Branch*

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

**Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.**

*Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.*

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E-mail: [olive.mulhall@defence.ie](mailto:olive.mulhall@defence.ie)

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**An Roinn Cosanta**  
Department of Defence

1<sup>st</sup> August, 2018.

Dr. Elaine Bennett,  
Fehily Timoney & Company,  
Core House,  
Pouladuff Road,  
Cork

Our Ref: 0099/2018  
Your Ref: PO878/Lett/EB/MG

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping and Consultation Report.**

Dear Dr. Bennett,

I refer to your letter of 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 regarding the North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping and Consultation Report.

Based on the information provided and following consultations with the Air Corps, the Department of Defence has the following initial observations on the scoping document:

1. As laid out within the Irish Air Corps wind farm policy, the sites within certain town lands and motorways / roads may be affected.
2. Para 5.16.2 & Para 5.16.4  
Please forward the evaluation report as laid out within this paragraph when available for consideration.
3. Please forward the EIAR when available for consideration.
4. Request Impacts on aviation report when completed.

Please find enclosed the Air Corps Windfarm and Tall Structure Position Paper for reference.

We request that we be kept informed at each stage of the scoping/planning process.

Yours sincerely,

*Olive Mulhall*

Olive Mulhall  
Property Management Branch.  
Tel. (045) 492189

Cuirfear fáilte roimh chomhfhreagras 7 na Gaeilge.

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Distribution *EB*

*03 AUG 2018*

Job No: *PO878*

Correspondence No: *10*

Comment:

Bóthar an Staislúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara.  
Station Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare.





**Air Corps Windfarm / Tall Structure Position Paper**

1. **Objective:** This policy is intended to ensure that
  - a. Air Corps operations and training may be accomplished in a safe and economical manner;
  - b. Baldonnel remains a viable aerodrome for IFR and VFR traffic;
  - c. The ability to train military flying skills is protected; and
  - d. Vital routes to and from the regions to Baldonnel and the Dublin area are protected to safeguard the ability of the Air Corps to fulfil its role.
  
2. **Statement of Policy:**
  - a. The Air Corps is opposed the erection of windfarms or other obstacles which will affect its ability to train and operate in a safe and economic manner.
  - b. The Air Corps is opposed to any windfarms or tall structures in the following areas:
    - (1) Lands underlying military airspace used for flying activity.
      - (a) The area contained in Danger Area EI-D1.
      - (b) The area contained in Danger Area EI-D5.
      - (c) The area contained within Danger Area EI-D6.
      - (d) The area contained within Danger Area EI-D13.
      - (e) The area contained within Danger Area EI-D14.
      - (f) The area contained within Restricted Area EI-R15.
      - (g) The area contained within Restricted Area EI-R16 within 20NM of Baldonnel.
      - (h) The area contained within Military Operating Areas, MOAs 3 and 4 within 20NM of Baldonnel.
    - (2) Areas wherein military flying occurs at low level as identified in the annexes listed below.
      - (a) Annex A: Low flying training areas within MOA 4 in the areas of
        - a. Blessington
        - b. Edenderry/Allenwood/Rathangan
        - c. Kilmeague/Newbridge
        - d. Athy
      - (b) Annex B: low flying training area West (LFTA WEST), in the vicinity of Blacksod, Co Mayo.
    - (3) A distance of 5NM or less from military installations.

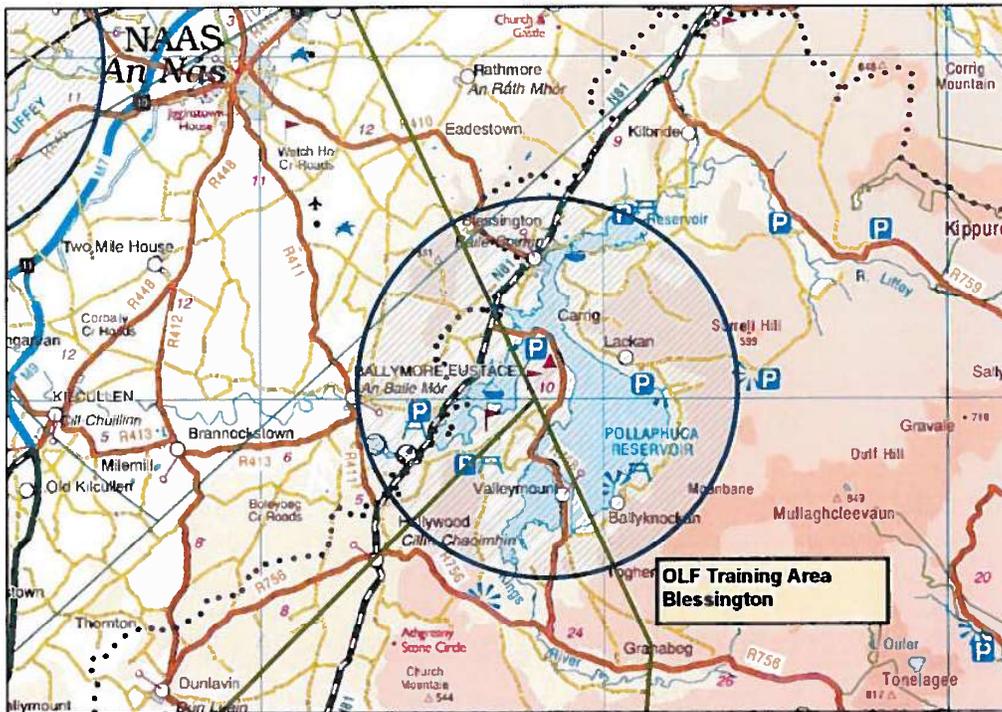
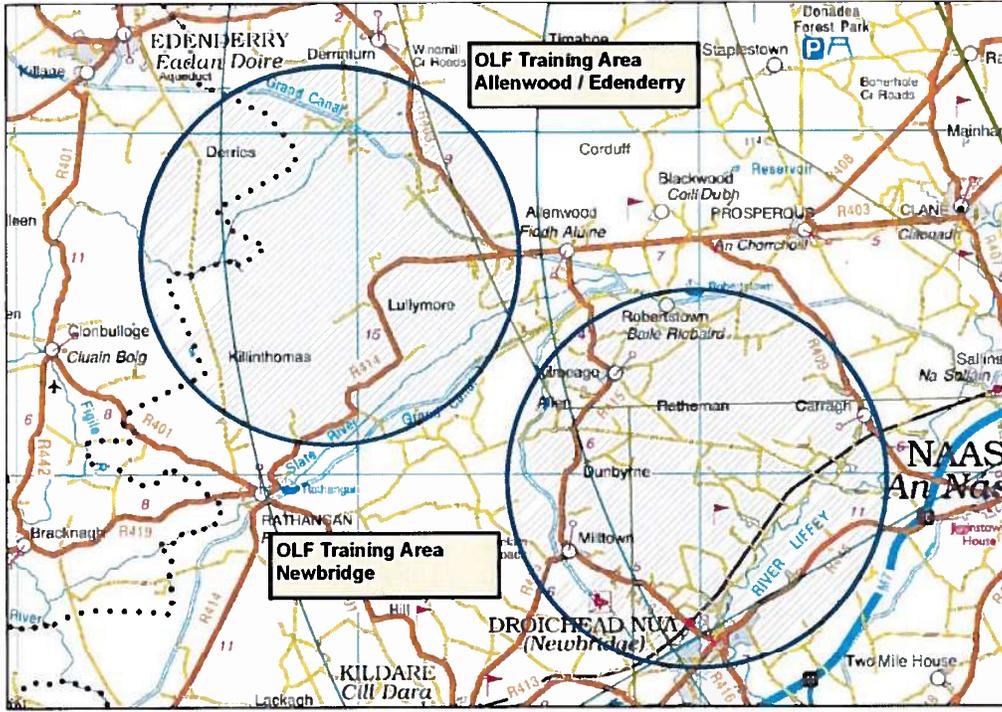
- c. The following routes are identified as critical low level routes in support of Air Corps operational requirements and the Air Corps is opposed to the erection of windfarms or tall structures within 3NM of the route centerline which could affect Air Corps' ability to access regional areas.

- (1) N/M1
- (2) N/M2
- (3) N/M3
- (4) N/M4
- (5) N/M6
- (6) N/M7
- (7) N/M8
- (8) N/M9
- (9) N/M11
- (10) N25
- (11) N17 between Sligo and Knock
- (12) N15/N13 between Sligo and Letterkenny
- (13) N14 from Lifford to Letterkenny and R245 and R247 from Letterkenny to Fanad Head.

Applications or proposals for structures in these areas of a height greater than 45m above ground level at the site of the object must be referred to Irish Air Corps for assessment of potential impact on flight operations.

- d. In MOA 4 outside of the areas identified in b.(1) (2) and (3), and in MOA 5, applications or proposals for objects of a height greater than 45m above ground level at the site of the object must be referred to the Irish Air Corps for assessment of potential impact on flight operations.
- e. In all locations where windfarms are permitted it should be a condition that they meet the following lighting requirements
- (1) Single turbines or turbines delineating corners of a windfarm should be illuminated by high intensity obstacle lights
  - (2) Obstruction lighting elsewhere in a windfarm will be of a pattern that will allow the hazard be identified and avoided by aircraft in flight.
  - (3) Obstruction lights used should be incandescent or of a type visible to Night Vision Equipment. Obstruction lighting fitted to obstacles must emit light at the near Infra-Red (IR) range of the electromagnetic spectrum specifically at or near 850nanometres (nm) of wavelength. Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light.

Annex A  
Low Flying Areas - MOA 4





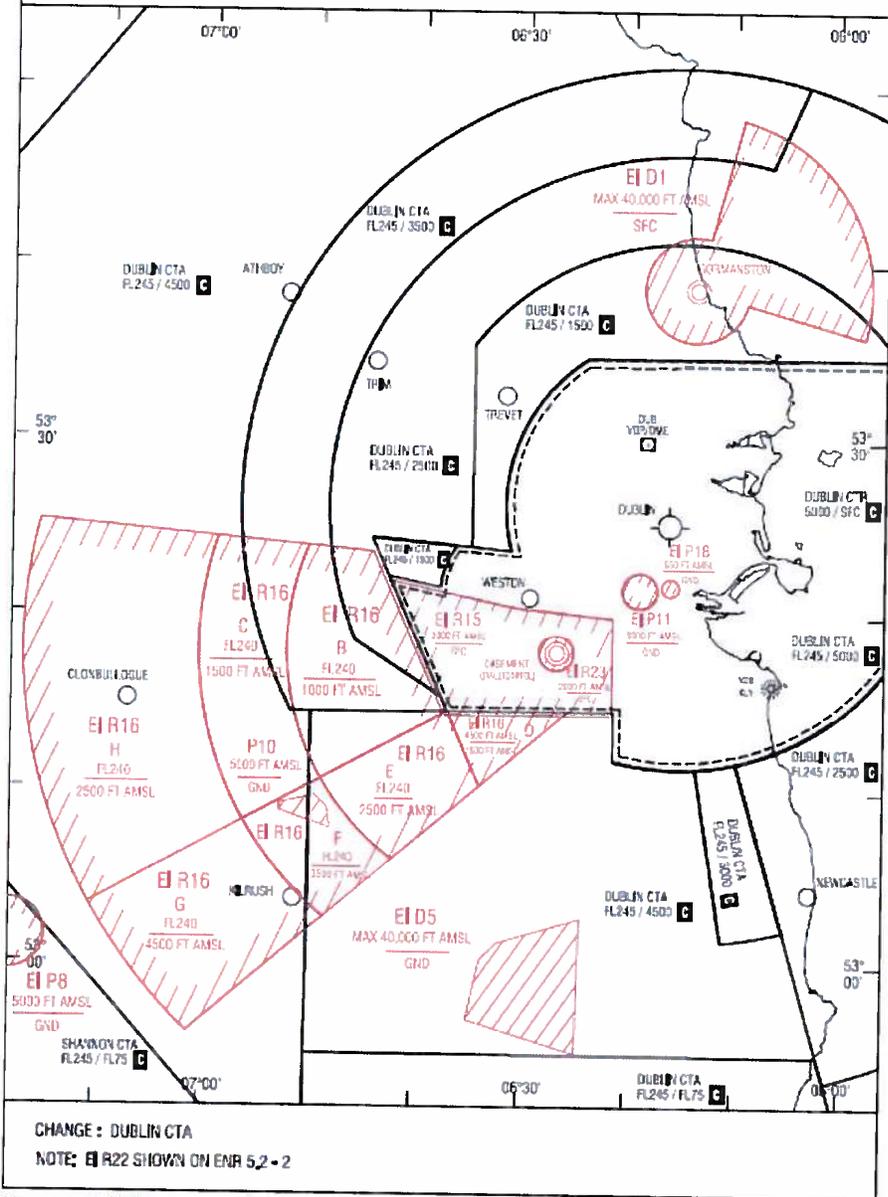
## Annex B

### Low Flying Area – LFTA West

1. Area contained within the following grid (Irish National Grid): L6972 L6945 M0745 M0772.
2. Routes are primarily within valley areas.
3. Applications for windfarms / masts should be referred to Air Corps Operations for assessment.



RESTRICTED AREAS EI R15, EI R16 AND EI R23 - SHANNON FIR



Annex D

Low Level Routes







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**From:** John.Bagnall@eir.ie  
**Sent:** 02 August 2018 08:47  
**To:** Silvia Garcia  
**Cc:** Elaine Bennett; Brendan.OFlaherty@eir.ie  
**Subject:** RE: Consultation windfarm in Co. Kildare  
**Attachments:** ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

Silvia,

We have a one transmission link within the proposed area, that would be at risk, the end points of the transmission link are below, if you could keep a buffer of 100meters diameter away from this transmission path when placing you turbines and send on for further analysis. Turbine 10 & 11 seem to be within the buffer zone and could impact the transmission path if you could place them outside the buffer zone.

Link 1 – End point 1 - 53°24'18.47"N 006°44'44.95"W, End point 2 – 53°21'21.10"N 006°58'14.83"W

Please keep send all windfarm analysis to myself for Eir Mobile previously Meteor.



Kind Regards,

John Bagnall   
Transmission Design & Engineering

0851053746  
[John.bagnall@eir.ie](mailto:John.bagnall@eir.ie)  
4030 Kingswood Ave, Citywest, Dublin 24.  
Eir Code; D24 YK12



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**From:** Silvia Garcia [mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 01 August 2018 12:43  
**To:** Bagnall, John  
**Cc:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** FW: Consultation windfarm in Co. Kildare

Hi John,

Thanks for our call just now. Please find below the wind farm development that I mentioned. Would you be able to look at the potential interference with telecom links under your control and come back to us in the next days please.

Many thanks.

Regards,

Silvia

**Silvia Garcia**  
**Senior Project Scientist**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 Direct Dial: +353 21 496 9565  
Fax: +353 21 496 4464  
Mail to: [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

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**From:** Silvia Garcia  
**Sent:** 27 July 2018 09:50  
**To:** [gerry.callan@three.ie](mailto:gerry.callan@three.ie); 'John Bagnall' <[John.Bagnall@mosaicnet.ie](mailto:John.Bagnall@mosaicnet.ie)>  
**Cc:** WindFarmsDG <[windfarmsdg@mosaicnet.ie](mailto:windfarmsdg@mosaicnet.ie)>; Alan Hutchinson <[Alan.Hutchinson@mosaicnet.ie](mailto:Alan.Hutchinson@mosaicnet.ie)>; Elaine Bennett ([elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)) <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: Consultation windfarm in Co. Kildare

Dear Gerry and John,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierrth.

See coordinates of turbines below:

FT_ID	X_ITM	Y_ITM
1	672665.1	733495.8
2	674324.6	734241.6
3	673750	734265.5
4	674582.9	734791.5
5	673678.2	734831.5
6	674439.1	735556.3
7	673994.5	735894.9
8	673400.8	735952

9	674567.2	736303.3
10	674099.6	736517.4
11	675025.4	737010.3
12	676322.1	737178.8
13	675881.1	737430.1
14	676428.9	737651.2

As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to potential interference with telecom links under your control (3 and Meteor, I understand). Could you please get back to us with any comments before 8rd August 2018? If you have no comments to make, please acknowledge receipt of this email.

For any queries regarding the project, please contact me or my colleague Elaine Bennett (in CC).

Regards,

**Silvia Garcia**  
**Senior Project Scientist**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 Direct Dial: +353 21 496 9565  
Fax: +353 21 496 4464  
Mail to: [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

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**From:** Yvonne Jackson <Yvonne.Jackson@failteireland.ie>  
**Sent:** 07 August 2018 16:42  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR  
**Attachments:** EIS & Tourism Guidelines.pdf

Hello Elaine,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the **North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report Scoping and Consultation Report**.

Please see attached a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the treatment of tourism in an EIS, which we recommend should be taken into account in preparing the EIAR.

Regards,

Yvonne

## Yvonne Jackson

**Product Development-Environmental & Planning Support** | Fáilte Ireland  
Áras Fáilte, 88/95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1. D01WR86  
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# Guidelines on the treatment of tourism in an Environmental Impact Statement

## 1. Introduction

Tourism is a significant component of the Irish Economy – estimated to employ approximately 205,000 people – and contributing €6.6 billion in spending to the economy in 2014. The environment is one of the main resources upon which this activity depends – so it is important that the EIS evaluates whether and how the interacting impacts of a project are likely to affect tourism resources.

The purpose of this short note is to provide guidance on how these impacts can be assessed through the existing EIA process. Undertaking an EIA is governed by the EIA Advice Notes published by the EPA. These Advice Notes contain detailed guidance on how to describe and evaluate the effects arising from a range of projects, including tourism projects.

These guidelines were written with the assistance of Conor Skehan, Head of Department of Environment and Planning, Dublin Institute of Technology.

## 2. Tourism and the Environment

There are two interactions between tourism and the environment.

1. Impacts caused by Tourism Projects
2. Impacts affecting Tourism (e.g. the quality of a destination or a tourism activity)

### Impacts caused by Tourism Projects

Tourism projects can give rise to effects on the environment. These are specifically dealt with under a number of Project Types in the Advice Notes, specifically:

#### **12 TOURISM AND LEISURE**

a. Ski-runs, ski-lifts and cable-cars where the length would exceed 500 metres and associated developments. Project Type 20

b. Sea water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 300 and fresh water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 100. Project Type 10

c. Holiday villages which would consist of more than 100 holiday homes outside built-up areas; hotel complexes outside built-up areas which would have an area of 20 hectares or more or an accommodation capacity exceeding 300 bedrooms. Project Type 28

d. Permanent camp sites and caravan sites where the number of pitches would be greater than 100. Project Type 28

e. Theme parks occupying an area greater than 5 hectares. Project Type 29

**Figure 1 The Advice Notes contain detailed descriptions on how to describe and evaluate the effects arising from a range of tourism projects.**

### **Impacts affecting Tourism**

Environmental effects of other projects on tourism are not specifically addressed in the Advice Notes. Taking account of the significance of tourism to the Irish economy a specialist topic of 'Tourism' has been prepared to facilitate a systematic evaluation of effects on this sector within the format laid down for other parts of the Environmental Impact Statement.

It is not intended that the assessment of effects on tourism should become a separate section of the Impact Statement, instead it is intended to become a specialist sub-section of the topic 'Human Beings' which is currently described in Section 2 of the Advice Notes

## **3. Tourism in the Existing Environment**

### **Introduction**

Visitor attitude surveys reveal that the following factors – in order of priority – are the reasons that tourists visit and enjoy Ireland:

- Beautiful scenery
- Friendly & hospitable people
- Safe & Secure
- Easy, relaxed pace of life
- Unspoilt environment
- Nature, wildlife, flora
- Interesting history & culture
- Plenty of things to see and do
- Good range of natural attractions

It is noteworthy that over half of the factors listed are environmental and that all others are related to the way of life of the people. The following describes how these factors are considered within an EIS, set out under EIA topic headings, and how they interact with tourism.

### *Beautiful scenery*

This is covered in the '*Landscape*' Section. Particular attention needs to be paid to effects on views from existing purpose-built tourism facilities, especially hotels, as well as views from touring routes and walking trails. It is important to note that there appears to be evidence that the visitor's expectations of 'beautiful' scenery does not exclude an admiration of new modern developments – such as windfarms – which appear to be seen as indicative of a modern, informed and responsible attitude to the environment.

### *Friendly & hospitable people*

This is not an environmental factor though it is indirectly covered under the '*Human Beings*' section of the EIS. The principal factor is the ratio of visitors to residents. This is of less significance in areas with long-established patterns of tourism.

### *Safe & Secure*

This is not an environmental issue – though some of the factors that are sometimes covered under the heading of '*Human Beings*' – such as social inclusion or poverty – can point to likely effects and interactions.

### *Easy, relaxed pace of life*

This is not an environmental issue though it is partially covered under '*Human Beings*' – see comments above.

### *Unspoilt environment*

This is covered under the sections dealing with '*Landscape*', '*Flora*' and '*Fauna*' and to a lesser extent under emissions to '*Water*' and '*Air*'. In some instances traffic congestion, especially in rural areas, can be an issue, this is usually covered within '*Material Assets*'.

### *Nature, wildlife, flora*

This is principally covered under the headings of '*Flora*' and '*Fauna*' and to a lesser extent by '*Landscape*', '*Water*' and '*Air*'. The principal issues being to avoid any effects that might reduce the health or extent of the habitats. This can occur either directly, by impinging on the site, or indirectly, through emission, that can affect the natural resources, like clean water, which the habitat depends on. It also considers effect on physical access to and visibility of these sites. Occasionally there are concerns about the disturbance or wear and tear of visitor numbers to such sites.

### *Interesting history & culture*

This is principally covered under '*Cultural Heritage*' and, to a lesser extent, under '*Human Beings*'. The principal issues being to avoid damage to sites and structures of cultural, historical, archaeological or architectural significance – and to their contexts or settings. It also considers effect on physical access to and visibility of these sites. Occasionally there are concerns about the wear and tear of visitor numbers to such sites.

*Plenty of things to see and do.*

This is not an environmental issue though it is partially covered by the 'Human Beings' section, where the tourism resources of an area are described and assessed.

*Good range of natural attractions*

This is covered by the 'Landscape', 'Flora', 'Fauna', and 'Cultural Heritage' sections of the EIS.

## **4. Project factors affecting Tourism**

### **Introduction**

Tourism can be affected both by the structures or emissions of new developments as well as by interactions between new activities and tourism activities – for example the effects of high volumes of heavy goods vehicles passing through hitherto quiet, scenic, rural areas. Tourism can be affected by a number of the characteristics of the new project such as:

- New Developments
  - Social Considerations
  - Land-uses and Activities
- 
- *New Developments* - will the development stimulate or suppress demand for additional tourism development in the area? If so, what type, how much and where? Marinas, golf courses, other major sporting facilities as well as theme parks and larger conference facilities can all stimulate the emergence of new accommodation, catering and leisure facilities often within an extensive area around a new primary visitor facility. Extensive urbanisation and large scale infrastructure as well as certain processing and extractive industries all have the potential to suppress demand for additional tourism – but usually only in the immediate locality of the new development. It should be noted however, that some types of new or improved large scale infrastructure – such as roads – can improve the visitor experience – by increasing safety and comfort or can convey a sense of environmental responsibility – such as wind turbines.
  - *Social Consideration* - will the development change patterns and types of activity and land use? Will it affect the demographics, economy or social dynamics of the locality?
  - *Land-use* - will there be severance, loss of rights of way or amenities, conflicts, or other changes likely to ultimately alter the character and use of the tourism resources in the surrounding area?

### **Existing Tourism**

In the area likely to be affected by the proposed development, the following attributes of tourism, or the resources that sustain tourism, should be described under the following headings.

Note that the detailed description and analysis will usually be covered in the section dealing with the relevant environmental topic – such as '*Landscape*'. Only the relevant finding as to the likely significance to, or effect on, tourism needs to be summarised in this section.

### **Context**

Indicate the location of sensitive neighbouring tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of secondary impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development. The following should be noted in particular:

- Hotels, conference centres, holiday accommodation – including holiday villages, holiday homes, and caravan parks.
- Visitor centres, Interpretive centres and theme parks
- Golf courses, adventure sport centres and other visitor sporting facilities
- Marinas and boating facilities
- Angling facilities
- Equestrian facilities
- Tourism-related specialist retailers and visitor facilities
- Historic and Cultural Sites
- Pedestrian, cycling, equestrian, vehicular and coach touring routes

Indicate the numbers of premises and visitors likely to be directly affected directly and indirectly.

Identify and quantify, where possible, their potential receptors of impacts, noting in particular transient populations, such as drivers, walkers, seasonal and other non-resident groups.

Describe any significant trends evident in the overall growth or decline of these numbers, or of any changes in the proportion of one type of activity relative to any other.

Indicate any commercial tourism activity which likely to be directly affected, with resultant environmental impacts.

### **Character**

Indicate the occupations, activities or interests of principal types of tourism in the area. – Where relevant, describe the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values; where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities. For example describe the number of guides, boats and anglers who use a salmon fishery and the duration of the salmon season as well as the quantity and type of local accommodation that is believed to be used by the anglers.

### **Significance**

Indicate the significance of the principal tourism assets or activities likely to be affected. Refer to any existing formal or published designation or recognition of such significance. Where possible provide an estimate of the contribution of such

tourism activities to the local economy. For instance refer to the number of annual visitors to a tourism attraction or to the grading of a hotel.

### **Sensitivity**

Describe any significant concerns, fears or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism interests. Identify, where possible, the particular aspect of the development which is of concern, together with the part of the existing tourism resource which may be threatened. For instance describe the extent of a potential visual intrusion onto a site of historic significance which is the main local tourist attraction.

## **5. Impacts on Tourism**

### **"Do Nothing" Impact;**

Describe how trends evident in the existing environment will continue and how these trends will affect tourism.

### **Predicted impact;**

- Describe the location, type, significance, magnitude/extent of the tourism activities or assets that are likely to be affected.
  
- Describe how the new development will affect the balance between long-established and new dwellers in an area and its affect on the cultural or linguistic distinctiveness of an area. For example describe the effect of a new multi-national population required for an international call-centre located in a Gaeltacht area.
  
- Describe how changes in patterns of employment, land use and economic activity arising from the proposed development will affect tourism, for example, illustrating how a new industrial development will diversify local employment opportunities thereby reducing the area's unsustainable over-reliance on seasonal tourism.
  
- Describe the consequences of change, referring to indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts on tourism; Examples can include describing how the new development may lead to a reduced assimilative capacity for traffic or water during the peak of the tourism season or how new urbanism combined with existing patterns of tourism may lead to unsustainable levels of pedestrian traffic through a sensitive habitat.
  
- Describe the potential for interaction between changes induced in tourism and other uses that may affect the environment – for instance increasing new tourism-related housing affecting water resources or structures
  
- Describe the worst case for tourism if all mitigation measures fail.

## 6. Mitigating adverse impact on Tourism

Describe the mitigation measures proposed to:

- *avoid* sensitive tourism resources – such as views, access, and amenity areas including habitats as well as historical or cultural sites and structures.
- *reduce* the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental burdens arising from the development's emissions or volumes of traffic [pedestrian and vehicular], and/or losses of amenity arising from visually conspicuous elements of the development – for example by prioritizing visual screening of views from a hotel towards a quarry.
- *reduce* the adverse effects to tourism land uses and patterns of activities – especially through interactions arising from significant changes in the intensity of use or contrasts of character or appearance – for example by separating traffic routes for industrial and tourism traffic.
- *remedy* any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities, for example by providing alternative access to tourism amenities – such as waterways or monuments.



---

**From:** Donncha O'Sullivan <Donncha.OSullivan@gasnetworks.ie>  
**Sent:** 07 August 2018 14:47  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR

Dear Dr Bennett,

We have reviewed the above referenced EIAR. There being no Gas infrastructure in the vicinity we are pleased to advise you we have no comment to make in its regard.

Regards,

Donncha

**Donncha Ó Sullivan BE CEng MIEI MIGEM**  
Development Liaison Engineer

**Gas Networks Ireland**  
P.O. Box 51, Gasworks Road, Cork, Ireland

T +353 21 453 4613 | M +353 87 982 2437  
E [donncha.osullivan@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:donncha.osullivan@gasnetworks.ie)

[gasnetworks.ie](http://gasnetworks.ie) | Find us on [Twitter](#)

***You are reminded that all work in the vicinity of Gas Networks Ireland Pipelines and Installations must be completed to comply fully with the relevant guidelines to be found in the current editions of the Health & Safety Authority publications, 'Code Of Practice For Avoiding Danger From Underground Services' and 'Guide To Safety In Excavations'. Both documents are available free of charge from The Health And Safety Authority. [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie), 1890-28 93 89.***

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Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimiscthe agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghníomh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmiscthe na faisnéise seo. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire.

Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdraithe. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtairachtaí chuig nó ó Líonraí Gáis Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Líonraí Gáis Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Líonraí Gáis Éireann cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, atá corpraithe in Éirinn leis an uimhir chláráithe 555744 agus a tá hoifig chláráithe ag Bóthar na

nOibreacha Gáis, Corcaigh, T12 RX96.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.

Irish Aviation Authority  
The Times Building  
11-12 D'Olier Street  
Dublin 2, D02 T449,  
Ireland

Údarás Eitlochta na hÉireann  
Foirgneamh na hAmanna  
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Date 30th July 2018

Ms. Elaine Bennett  
Fehily Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Co Cork

***Development: Permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierrh. Ref: P0878LETTEBMG***

Dear Elaine

I refer to the request for planning permission for the above development, details of which were received by the Irish Aviation Authority from your company.

It is the observations of the Irish Aviation Authority that the applicant shall contact both Weston and Casement Aerodromes to inform them of the development and request any comments/observations from the two aerodromes.

Aerodrome	Name	Contact Details
Weston Aerodrome	Aidan Fox	<a href="mailto:afox@westonairport.com">afox@westonairport.com</a>
Casement Aerodrome	Lt. Col. Ray Martin	<a href="mailto:airspaceandobstacles@defenceforces.ie">airspaceandobstacles@defenceforces.ie</a>

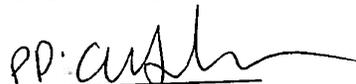
The Authority will require further information to conduct a full assessment of the development. We will require:

1. The number of turbines
2. Contoured Map with proposed locations
3. Ground elevations of each turbine
4. Blade tip height of each turbine.

It should be noted that dependent on the overall height above ground level of any proposed turbine, an assessment may be required to assess the impact on Instrument Flight Procedures for nearby aerodromes, the cost of which shall be covered by the applicant. However, the Authority is not in a position to determine if an assessment is required to be conducted at this stage based on the information available and this will require engagement with the aerodrome operator directly.

In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant will be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with a minimum of 30 days prior notification of their erection."

Yours sincerely

  
Deirdre Forrest  
Corporate Affairs

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Distribution

01 AUG 2018

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Bord Stiúirtheoirí/Board of Directors  
Peter Kearney (Príomhtheidhmeannach/Chief Executive)  
Marie Bradley, Ernie Donnelly, Pascal Fitzgerald,  
Michael Norton

Oifig Chláraithe:  
Foirgneamh na hAmanna, 11-12 Sráid D'Olier  
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449, Éire  
Uimhir Chláraithe: 211082. Áit Chláraithe: Éire  
Cuideachta Dlíteanais Theoranta

Registered Office:  
The Times Building, 11-12 D'Olier Street  
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**From:** Reception  
**Sent:** 31 July 2018 09:57  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** FW: Dr. Elaine Bennett RE: North Kildare Win Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report  
**Attachments:** Consultation on North Kildare Windfarm (31072018).pdf

---

**From:** Noel McGloin [mailto:Noel.McGloin@fisheriesireland.ie]  
**Sent:** 31 July 2018 09:54  
**To:** Reception <reception@FTCO.IE>  
**Subject:** FAO: Dr. Elaine Bennett RE: North Kildare Win Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report

Dear Dr. Bennett

I am attaching our comments with regard to the above.

Yours sincerely

Noel McGloin  
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer  
Inland Fisheries Ireland - Dublin

---

**Iascach Intire Eireann**  
**Inland Fisheries Ireland**

**Telephone:** +353 (0) 1 8842688

**EEmail:** [noel.mcgloin@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:noel.mcgloin@fisheriesireland.ie)  
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3044 Lake Drive, City West, Dublin 24, IRELAND. **D24 Y265**

**Help Protect Ireland's Inland Fisheries**

**Call 1890 34 74 24 to report illegal fishing, water pollution or invasive species.**

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D'fhadfa? go bhfuil an r?omhphost seo agus ceangalt?in ar bith at? in ?ineacht leis faoi r?n agus iad beartaithe d??s?id an duine a bhfuil a s(h)eoladh air amh?in. Dearctha? n? tuairim? ar bith at? curtha in i?l ann, baineann siad leis an ?dar amh?in, agus n? chaithfidh go n-aonta?onn Iascaigh Int?re ?ireann leo. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an r?omhphost seo, n? d?an rud ar bith mar gheall ar an m?id at? ann, n? ? a ch?ipe?il n? ? a thaispe?int do dhuine ar bith eile. D?an teagmh?il leis an seolt?ir, le do thoil, m? chreideann t? go bhfuair t? an r?omhphost seo tr? earr?id.

---

**Without Prejudice**

31<sup>st</sup> July, 2018

Dr. Elaine Bennett,  
Fehily Timoney & Company,  
Core House,  
Pouladuff Road,  
Cork.

Our Ref: North Kildare Windfarm/KildarePlanning

**NORTH KILDARE WINDFARM PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT - SCOPING AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

Dear Dr. Bennett,

I refer to your correspondence relating to the above proposed development dated 12<sup>th</sup> July last (addressed to Dr. Patrick Buck).

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a Statutory Body established on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2010. The Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) provided for the restructuring of the inland fisheries sector through the creation of a national inland fisheries organisation which replaced the Central Fisheries Board and Regional Fisheries Boards. The principal function of IFI is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. IFI policy is aimed at maintaining a sustainable fisheries resource through preserving the productive capacity of fish habitat by avoiding habitat loss, or mitigating harmful alteration to habitat. Projects such as proposed have the potential to impact on downstream fisheries resources if they are not carried out in an environmentally sensitive manner. The potential impacts of the proposed development on fisheries relate largely to the construction of the turbines and access roads and the laying of cables, etc. When this work is carried out in close proximity to a watercourse, there is a potential for negative impacts on the aquatic habitat.

The following observations and comments are of necessity of a general nature, as construction proposals and method statements are not as yet available. While they apply to the proposed development in general, the sites for which details have been received are adjacent to and have potential to impact on a wide range of fisheries waters including areas designated as SAC's, angling waters, adult holding areas, nursery and spawning waters, etc. forming part of the Eastern River Basin District. Many proposed turbine sites are to be sited adjacent to a range of smaller watercourses which act primarily as contributories to downstream habitat for juvenile salmonids, lampreys and other species as well as macrophytes, algae and macroinvertebrates which as drift form a significant part of the food supply to the downstream fisheries. All of the waters referred to have, in the context of the proposed development, the potential to convey deleterious matter from those works such as concrete, silt, fuel, paints, thinners and sewage effluent as well as lubricating and hydraulic oils from construction plant and equipment downstream unless proper safeguards are in place. IFI request you have particular regard to the following in the planning stage of the proposed development.

Stream size can be misleading in regard to fish presence. A significant amount of fish rearing occurs in very small channels and seasonal streams. These streams may not be recognised as fish or macroinvertebrate habitat and their importance to fisheries sometimes overlooked.

All natural watercourses which have to be traversed during site development and road construction works should be effectively bridged prior to commencement. The crossing of watercourses at fords is unacceptable because of the amount of uncontrolled sedimentation that can be generated by their use. If temporary crossing structures are required, IFI approval will be necessary as regards specification and timing of installation. There is sometimes a serious misconception that in installing temporary crossing structures, the only issue is keeping water flowing from above a temporary crossing to below it. Design and choice of temporary crossing structures must provide for passage of fish and macroinvertebrates, the requirement to protect important fish habitats e.g. spawning and over wintering areas, as well as preventing erosion and sedimentation. In certain circumstances, access for angling or commercial fishing purposes may also be required. No temporary crossing on any watercourse shall be installed without the approval of IFI as regards sizing, location, duration and timing. The preferred option is for clear span 'bridge type' structures on fisheries waters. The crossing of watercourses at natural fords is not permitted because of the amount of uncontrolled sedimentation that can be generated. The creation of fords on streams and rivers through the introduction of stone is prohibited.

Where circumstances such as space or access difficulties preclude use of clear span structures, temporary crossings structures shall:

- Comprise one or more metal or concrete pipes, prefabricated culverts or such other material as IFI may permit of minimum diameter 900 mm. Pipes or culverts may be vertically stacked.
- Be laid in such manner as to maintain the existing stream profile.
- Ensure no significant alteration in current speed or hydraulic characteristics, in particular not result in scouring, deposition or erosion upstream or downstream the temporary crossing location.
- Have capacity to convey the full range of flows including flood flows likely to be encountered without the crossing being overtopped.
- Be covered with clean inert material such as to allow for the safe crossing of the widest items of plant and equipment without cover material being dislodged and entering waters.

The approach and departure routes to temporary crossing structures should be designed and installed so that drainage will fall away from the watercourse being crossed. In the event that the fall of ground does not permit sufficient control on drainage, additional earthworks settlement areas shall be provided. Temporary crossing structures should be fenced with terram or similar material to prevent wind blow carrying dusts and other potentially polluting matter to waters. Side armour (e.g. reinforced concrete traffic barriers) should be provided on temporary crossing structures to ensure machinery cannot drive over its edge, or force the discharge of material from the bridge deck to waters. IFI wish to emphasise that site selection for temporary crossings should have regard to all access and construction needs ranging from those of fencing contractor's vehicles to the longest wheelbase of multi-axle cranes. It is not permissible, except in exceptional circumstances, to reposition temporary crossing structures where these are not of a clear span type.

Where connection from the proposed wind farm is to be made to the national grid the crossing of important fisheries waters may be an issue where our specific approval will be required.

Permanent crossing structures should not damage fish habitat or create blockages to fish and macroinvertebrate passage. As in the case of temporary crossing structures, design and choice of structure should be based on its technical and economic feasibility to pass fish and macroinvertebrates, the requirement to protect important fish habitats e.g. spawning and over-wintering areas, provision in certain areas of angling and commercial fishing access including boat access and prevention of erosion and sedimentation. Culverts are the most frequently used river/stream crossing structures and are associated with some of the most common fish passage problems. The culverting of long stretches of fisheries water is extremely undesirable and can result in significant loss of valuable habitat. In the case of crossing structures over fishery waters, the preferred position is for clear span structures (bridges), so as not to interfere in any way with the bed or bank of the watercourses in question. Bridge foundations should be designed and positioned at least 2.5 metres from the river bank so as not to impact on the riparian habitat. Generally, bridges and bottomless culverts are the best option for maintaining natural stream channel characteristics and have the least impact on habitat. However, because of design and load bearing considerations, bottomless culverts may not always be suitable for installation particularly on narrow river channels, as foundations may encroach on the channel itself and possibly result in future scouring or erosion. Taking account of recent advances and investigations in the area of climate change and flood studies, designs should be such as to verifiably have carrying capacity for a 1 in 100 year fluvial flood flow whilst maintaining a minimum freeboard of 300 mm. The Office of Public Works (OPW) is the lead agency for flood risk management in the Republic of Ireland. Design and capacity of structures must also be in accordance with their requirements. IFI strongly recommends that contact be made with OPW at the earliest stage in the planning and design process. ([www.opw.ie](http://www.opw.ie)). Clear span designs maintain channel profile, do not alter gradients, readily pass sediment and debris and provide unrestricted passage for all size classes of fish by retaining the natural stream bed and gradient. Water velocity is not changed and they can be designed to maintain the normal stream width. Foundations should be positioned at least 2.5 metres from waters.

Embedded box and pipe culverts are less preferable to bridges and bottomless culverts. Embedded culverts must maintain the natural channel gradient, width and substrate configuration. They should be buried to a minimum of 500 mm. below the stream bed at the natural gradient. Box and pipe culverts must be sized to maintain the natural stream channel width. The gradient should not exceed 3%.

The availability of suitably sized material (depending on hydraulic conditions) to initiate "simulation" of the stream bed is the most preferable approach to establish fish and faunal passage through culverts. Culverts should be positioned where the watercourse is straightest and aligned with its bed.

In the case of bridges and bottomless culverts, structures should be designed and installed so as to:

- Allow for the maintenance of channel profile and existing gradient.
- Be capable of passing such debris as might arise during flood flow conditions.
- Ensure adequate light penetration to minimise loss in primary productivity.
- Not result in damage to the riparian habitat or necessitate construction within 2.5 metres of waters.
- Provide at locations specified by IFI, angling access and/or access for commercial fishing purposes.

While the preferred option is for bottomless culverts, IFI is prepared in certain circumstances to consider proposals for the installation of box or pipe culverts on fisheries waters. These may be installed subject to structures being sized so as to meet the above requirements in terms of channel profile, gradient, flood debris capacity, light, access and:

- Be positioned such that both the upstream and downstream invert shall be 500 mm. below the upstream and downstream river bed invert levels respectively.
- Never exceed a slope of 5%, in which circumstances baffles generally are required, and preferably not exceed a slope of 3%.
- As baffles can reduce the hydraulic efficiency of culverts, appropriate capacity provision must be included in the overall design.
- In the case of box culverts on angling waters, be 3 meters in height.

Pipe culverts are not generally considered acceptable on fisheries waters. They are normally only appropriate for use on minor watercourses and drainage ditches where these can be demonstrated as not being significant in terms of fisheries habitat.

Bank protection works are often required upstream and downstream of new structures, to ensure no undercutting or destabilisation of either the structure or riparian bank areas occurs. In carrying out bank protection works, it is essential that large enough boulders are selected and strategically positioned, to ensure they cannot be undercut. Normally this entails part burying boulders up to one third of their depth below stream bed level and securing them into their final position. In areas of high water energy, to ensure stability, boulders size should be a minimum of 0.5 ton. To facilitate revegetation, each course of boulders laid should be back filled with a layer of top soil. Selection of boulders in terms of shape to facilitate their placement and stability is a major consideration.

Irregularly shaped boulders are very difficult to work with in terms of building multiple stable courses. The height to which rock armour is built must take account not only of the riparian zone requiring protection, but also in certain circumstances of the need to protect e.g. kingfisher and sand martin habitat. In many instances, one or two layers of armour will be sufficient to protect and stabilise the toe of embankments while allowing nesting.

Gabions are not a preferred option when it comes to bank protection. They can easily be vandalised and once the mesh is cut or broken, baskets can collapse. Gabion baskets can be unsightly and it is difficult to successfully establish and maintain vegetation on side walls. Gabion baskets are normally only acceptable at locations where due to access constraints it is not possible to install rock armour.

There are significant variations in the timing and duration of spawning activity throughout the Republic of Ireland. To minimise adverse impacts on the fisheries resource works in rivers, streams and watercourses should normally (except in exceptional circumstances and with the agreement of IFI) be carried out during the period **July-September**. The appropriate 'window' for instream works can vary depending on the nature of the fishery resource concerned and the existence of other factors such as catchment or sub catchment specific Bye Laws and Regulations.

In terms of stability both during the construction and operational phases, it is essential that you assess and critically review the soil type and structure at the proposed turbine locations, and along the route of any proposed access track(s)/road(s) including areas where temporary or permanent stock piling of excavated material takes place. This is particularly important if the areas concerned contain peat soils.

One of the potential impacts of the proposed development is the discharge of silt-laden waters to fisheries streams from newly developed sites at which earth moving and excavation works are on-going. Silt can clog salmonid spawning beds, and juvenile salmonids are particularly sensitive to siltation of gill structures. Similarly, plant and macroinvertebrate communities can literally be blanketed over, and this can lead to loss or degradation of valuable habitat. It is important to incorporate best practices into construction methods and strategies to minimise discharges of silt/suspended solids to waters.

The potential for soil erosion/ suspended solids generation is higher, during / after periods of prolonged rainfall. Systems should be put in place to ensure that there shall be no discharge of suspended solids or any other deleterious matter to watercourses during the construction / operational phase and during any landscaping works. Stockpiles of sand and other materials to be used in the works should be covered with sheeting when not in use to prevent washout of fines during rainfall. Stockpiles of topsoil and associated materials arising during site development such as turbine base excavations and installation of site road networks should be similarly protected. Silt traps should be constructed at locations that will intercept run-off to the drainage network. Traps should not be constructed immediately adjacent to natural watercourses. In designing silt traps account must be taken of the anticipated particle size(s) and the volumes of water likely to be focused through the trap(s). Retention time to allow appropriate settlement is a critical factor. A buffer zone should remain between silt trap(s) and watercourses with natural vegetation left intact so as to assist silt interception.

Consideration should be given to the judicious positioning of silt fences. A comprehensive plan should be drawn up at the planning stage with specific measures to address the high potential for silt pollution of nearby watercourses during works on site.

During the construction process and operational phase, natural flow paths should not be interrupted or diverted so as to give rise to or create potential for erosion. Furthermore, excavation and installation of road(s)/access track(s) should be undertaken so as not to result in the creation of preferential flow paths that may result in erosion or which might otherwise interrupt the natural movement of waters for instance in peat bog areas. Where imported materials are used in road construction, these should be such as not to be liable to become crushed by vehicular movement, and lead to discharge of fine particulates to downstream receiving waters.

Uncured concrete can kill fish and macroinvertebrates by altering the pH of the water. Pre-cast concrete should be used whenever possible, to eliminate the risk to all forms of aquatic life. When cast-in-place concrete is required, all work must be done in the dry and effectively isolated from any water that may enter the drainage network for a period sufficient to cure the concrete. Concrete delivery vehicles should be precluded from washing out at locations which would result in a discharge to surface waters. Specific controlled and environmentally safe vehicle washout areas must be provided. If cement is stored on site during construction work, it should be held in a dry secure area when not in use.

All oils and fuels should be stored in secure bunded areas, and particular care and attention should be taken during refuelling and maintenance operations on plant and equipment. Bunding should be to a volume not less than the greater of the following; 110% of the capacity of the largest tank or drum within the bunded area, or 25% of the total volume of substance that could be stored within the bunded area. All plant and equipment should carry oil/fuel spill kits. Where temporary diesel or petrol driven pumps are required, they should be sited within portable temporary bunded units. Where site works involve the discharges of drainage water to receiving rivers and streams, temporary oil interceptor facilities should be installed and maintained. Waste oils, empty oil containers and other hazardous wastes should be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management Act, 1996.

No instream works shall be carried out without the written approval of Inland Fisheries Ireland.

In the event of the project proceeding, it is the responsibility of the developer and the contractors to ensure that works will not give rise to a discharge of deleterious or polluting matter to waters.

At all times the precautionary principle should be applied throughout for the entire development. Particular attention should be paid to the various environmental directives including the Water Framework Directive, the Habitat and Birds Directives, the Fisheries Acts in particular and the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts. Other environmental legislation should be considered as appropriate.

I trust these observations which are without prejudice will be of assistance. Notwithstanding statutory obligations under the planning process requiring the referral of certain applications for planning permission to us, IFI would be obliged to receive advance notification in the event of your clients proposing to submit an application for planning permission be it as strategic infrastructure to An Bord Pleanála, or at local authority level to the various planning authorities concerned.

Yours sincerely,

*Noel Mc. Gloin*

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Noel McGloin

Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

Tel: 01 – 8842688 (direct line)

E – mail: [noel.mcglain@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:noel.mcglain@fisheriesireland.ie)





---

**From:** Ronnie O'Neill <Ronnie.ONeill@imagegroup.ie>  
**Sent:** 23 July 2018 10:12  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Cc:** Miriam Casey; Karien Heron  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd - Drehid Wind Farm

Hi Elaine ,

This will not impact on Imagine Communications network .

Rgds,  
Ronnie .

**Ronnie O'Neill**

Network Deployment Manager

**Imagine LTE - Connecting Rural Ireland To Fibre Speed Broadband**

m. +353 86 8277022

e. [ronnie.oneill@imagegroup.ie](mailto:ronnie.oneill@imagegroup.ie) | w. <http://www.imagine.ie/>

**Imagine Communications Group**

Unit 6, Sandyford Business Centre  
Blackthorn Road  
Sandyford, Ireland

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**From:** Irish Peatland Conservation Council <bogs@ipcc.ie>  
**Sent:** 07 August 2018 14:20  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** IPCC - North Kildare Wind Farm  
**Attachments:** North Kildare Wind Farm 7 8 2018.pdf

Dear Ms Bennett,

Please find attached IPCC's comments on the proposed wind farm in North Kildare.

Thank you

Tristram Whyte BSc (Hons) Applied Freshwater & Marine Biology  
Conservation, Policy & Fundraising Officer  
Irish Peatland Conservation Council  
Lullymore  
Rathangan  
Co. Kildare  
R51 V293

045 860133  
[bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie)

Please follow this link (<https://www.thepetitionsite.com/186/354/637/ban-the-use-of-moss-peat-in-gardening-products/>) to sign the petition to help IPCC give weight to our call to ban the use of moss peat in gardening products and to protect *Sphagnum* mosses and raised bog habitats and their wildlife.



# IRISH PEATLAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE CHAOMHNATHE PHORTAIGH NA HÉIREANN

Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293, Ireland  
Líolach Mór, Rath Iomgáin, Co. Chill Dara, Éire, R51 V293

Tel/Teil: +353-(0)45-860133  
e-mail/riomhphost: bogs@ipcc.ie web/idirlíon: www.ipcc.ie

**Dr. Elaine Bennett**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company**  
**Core House**  
**Pouladuff Road**  
**Cork**  
**elaine.bennett@ftco.ie**

**7th August 2018**

## **RE: North Kildare Wind Farm**

Dear Ms Bennett,

Thank you for consulting the Irish Peatland Conservation Council regarding the proposed wind farm. The IPCC have screened the document you provided regarding the project against data that we hold on boglands within the area plus other recent site proposals within the area.

We find that although much of the project has been proposed to sit within forestry or agricultural land the outline of the project perimeter cuts through a large area of intact raised bog remnant at 53.3770692 -6.8563931 which IPCC identified and surveyed in *The Bog of Allen Habitat and Heritage Survey 2005*. The area is known as Mulgeeth Bog. This 20ha remnant must be protected as raised bog (a priority habitat within the Habitats Directive) is practically extinct from County Kildare. The IPCC would like to know how you will hydrologically manage your development to enhance and conserve this remnant which is a refuge for Common Frog (listed in ANNEX V of the Habitats Directive). Our justification for this requirement is outlined in Note 1 below. Furthermore we would object to the locations proposed for turbines 12 & 13 as they are too close to this remnant and will effect wildlife present.

We would also draw your attention to a proposed Timahoe North Solar Farm from ESB/Bord na Móna immediately adjacent to the North Kildare Wind Farm. IPCC have reviewed this case and made several recommendations concerning habitat and species management. We are particularly concerned about breeding Curlew which the National Biodiversity Data Centre information suggests are utilising this area. Could you confirm whether you have provided adequate setback from the wind turbines in your project to take account of Curlew, particularly turbine 4 (2007-2011 Bird Atlas).

It is current best practice that the local community is engaged positively with large scale alterations in landscape usage, could you advise us as to what proposals the developer is making in relation to developing the amenity value of the wind farm and how this dovetails with the solar project walking routes proposed by ESB/Bord na Móna. IPCC are completely against any lack of liaison that we perceive between large scale projects of this nature as it is against the intergrated development of the landscape and good planning practice.

For further information on Irish Peatland Conservation Council please see Note 2.

### **Note 1: Legal Obligations to Protect Peatlands - County Kildare**

Ireland is legally bound by National and European legislation (The Wildlife Acts, Habitats and Bird's Directives) and international conventions (Ramsar, Bern Convention, Convention on Biological Diversity) to do our utmost to protect peatlands now and for future generations. In County Kildare specifically, only 6.3% of peatland habitat remains (Bogs & Fens of Ireland Conservation Plan 2005, Foss, O'Connell, Crushell, 2001). Peatland habitats have been severely diminished in the country and this destruction is an issue in other legislation and conventions such as the UN Convention on Climate Change, Bonn Convention, World Heritage Convention, Water Framework Directive, Environment Liability Directive, Planning and Development Acts, National Monuments Acts, Environmental Directive, EIA and SEA. All of these legislative instruments have been adopted by Ireland and the IPCC ask that you assess your development with regard to these legal obliga-

## **35 YEARS TAKING ACTION FOR BOGS AND WILDLIFE**

Charity No/Uimhir Carthanacht: CHY6829 Registered in Ireland No/Uimhir Cláraithe in Éirinn: 116156 Registered Office/Oifig Cláraithe: Lullymore, Rathangan, Co. Kildare, R51 V293, Ireland  
Governance Code Statement of Compliance: IPCC confirm that our organisation complies with The Governance Code for the Community, Voluntary and Charitable Sector in Ireland.

Company Secretary/Rúnaí Comhlacht: Rachel Kavanagh  
Directors/Stiúrthóirí: Martin Kelly, Catherine O'Connell, Rachel Kavanagh, Jennifer Roche, Seán Ó Fearghail,

Patrons/Pátrúnaí: Pauline Bewick, Don Conroy, HRH Princess Irene of the Netherlands,  
Eanna Ní Lamhna, Matthijs Schouten, His Excellency Mr Peter Kok Netherlands Ambassador to Ireland

tions. There are currently no fully protected peatlands in County Leitrim and this is a direct result of poor planning decisions with regard to the provision of wind energy, protecting biodiversity and promoting recreation.

**Note 2: Irish Peatland Conservation Council**

The Irish Peatland Conservation Council (IPCC) was established in 1982 and has 35 years of experience in peatland conservation. Our aim is to conserve a representative sample of intact peatlands. Only 18% of Ireland's original range of peatland habitats are deemed worthy of conservation. 82% have become degraded from multiple pressures such as peat extraction, agriculture, forestry and habitat fragmentation (Ireland's Peatland Conservation Action Plan 2020, Malone & O'Connell, 2009).

Our work is guided by our 6th Action Plan, Ireland's Peatland Conservation Action Plan 2020, which was published in 2009. A copy of this document is available for download on our website at [www.ipcc.ie](http://www.ipcc.ie). Many of the actions in our plan have been included within the National Peatlands Strategy which has been adopted by every Government Department and Local Authority. We would also draw your attention to this document to ensure its requirements are met within developments planned on or near peat soils. The National Peatlands Strategy can be downloaded from [www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie).

While we are not inherently opposed to the construction of wind farms as we understand that Ireland has legal obligations to provide 40% of its energy production from renewable sources by 2020 (under the 2009 Renewable Energy Directive), there is a responsibility on wind farm developers to ensure that there is no loss of important peatland habitat and the species that utilise it through the development of wind farms. Also, bad construction practices can result in an active carbon sink being converted to a carbon source which is detrimental to any effort in combating anthropogenically caused global climate change.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to voice our concerns and we look forward to hearing from you specifically in relation to the raised bog remnant.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tristram Whyte". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'T'.

Tristram Whyte -- Freshwater Biology B.Sc(hons)  
Conservation Policy & Fundraising Officer



---

**From:** Jana Goold <jagoold@water.ie>  
**Sent:** 24 July 2018 10:09  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR - Scoping & Consultation Report  
**Attachments:** EIAR - Kildare.pdf

Elaine,

Thank you for your letter and scoping report for the North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR – letter attached for reference.

We will respond in due course.

Can you please address all further correspondence to me instead of Ken Conroy. My contact details are provided below.

Kind regards,

**Jana Goold**  
*Regional Forward Planning Specialist*

**Uisce Éireann**  
Teach na hAbhann Móire, Páirc Ghnó Mhala, Mala, Contae Chorcaí, Éire  
**Irish Water**  
Blackwater House, Mallow Business Park, Mallow, County Cork, Ireland

**P:** [+353 22 52258](tel:+3532252258)  
**E:** [jagoold@water.ie](mailto:jagoold@water.ie)  
[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

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Thank you for your attention.

Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus

féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimiscthe agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Líonraí Uisce Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Uisce Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghnímh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmiscthe na faisnéise seo. Níl Líonraí Uisce Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdraithe. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Uisce Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtaireachtaí chuig nó ó Líonraí Uisce Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Líonraí Uisce Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Fochuideachta gníomhaíochta de chuid Ervia is ea Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, de bhun fhorálacha an tAcht um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2013, a bhfuil a bpríomh ionad gnó ag 24-26 Teach Colvill, Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.



Dr. Elaine Bennett  
Fehily Timoney & Company  
J5 Plaza, North Park Business Park  
North Road  
Dublin 11

PO878

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

09/04/2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm EIAR – Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Dr. Bennett,

Irish Water (IW) acknowledges receipt of your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> July regarding the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) scoping for the above development.

In accordance with the 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Environmental Impact Statements' Irish Water believes that further information is required in order to scope any impacts to our assets including –

- Information on the nature, location and volume of any groundwater development for dewatering.
- Location of Aquifers, showing groundwater abstractions and any related protection zones and discharges to groundwater.
- Outline of the proposed site and demonstration of how the proposed development relates spatially to conservation sites, aquifers and groundwater abstractions.
- A geological cross section where a conservation site, groundwater abstraction or a discharge location is located within 2km of the proposed development site.

We also suggest a site investigation be carried out prior to the beginning of construction and proposals outlined for dealing with situations where works would interfere with existing water services infrastructure (watermains, service connections, rising mains, foul and surface water sewers, culverts, etc.). Irish Water notes that this development has been determined as strategic infrastructure development by ABP and is open for further discussion in relation to water services. Please also see attached our suggested scope in relation to water services.

Yours Sincerely,

**Suzanne Dempsey**  
Spatial Planning Strategy Specialist

## Response to EIAR Scoping Report Requests

IW currently does not have the capacity to advise on scoping of individual projects. However, in general we would like the following aspects of Water Services to be considered in the scope of an EIAR where relevant;

- a) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development if required).
- b) Any up-grading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the development.
- c) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an IW collection network
- d) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks & potential measures to minimise/stop surface waters from combined sewers
- e) Any physical impact on IW assets – reservoir, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets
- f) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to IW discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion /circulation characterises
- g) Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source) or the potential of the development to influence/ present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by IW for public supply.
- h) Where a development proposes to connect to an IW network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges waste water to a “protected”/sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site/conservation objectives of the site would be compromised.
- i) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above

*This is not an exhaustive list.*

Please note

- If a development will require a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system the developer is advised to contact Irish Water’s Connections and Developer Services Team prior to applying for planning permission. The contact in the Eastern region is Dermot Phelan; [dphelan@water.ie](mailto:dphelan@water.ie)
- For Information on Irish Water assets please send a query to [DataRequests@water.ie](mailto:DataRequests@water.ie)

Irish Water will not normally accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks.



---

**From:** Bebhinn O'Shea <boshea@kildarecoco.ie>  
**Sent:** 23 July 2018 15:31  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** NKWF - Scoping

Dear Elaine,

In relation to the NKWF EIAR Scoping Report submitted to Kildare County Council, would it be possible to have the document in PDF form?

Many thanks

Regards,

**Bébhinn O'Shea, Executive Planner**

Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.  
(045) 980767 | [boshea@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:boshea@kildarecoco.ie)

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá an ríomhphost seo príobháideach agus ní ceadmhach úsáid an ríomhphoist seo d'éinne ach don té ar seoladh chuige é. D'fhéadfadh go mbeadh eolas ann atá faoi phribhléid agus rúnda de réir an dlí. Munar duit an ríomhphost seo, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir chomh luath agus is féidir. D'fhéadfadh nach iad tuairimí Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara na tuairimí atá curtha in iúl sa ríomhphost seo.

Déanann Comhairle Contae Chill Dara iarracht ríomhphoist a chosaint ó víris. Mar sin féin, moltar duit gach ríomhphost a scanadh, mar ní ghlacann an Chomhairle aon dlíteanas i leith damáiste do do chórais.

Le haghaidh eolas at do chearta príobháideachta agus at conas a bhainistimid sonraí pearsanta, logáil isteach at [www.kildarecoco.ie/dataprotection](http://www.kildarecoco.ie/dataprotection)

Chun do chuid sonraí pearsanta a nuashonrú cuir ríomhphost chugainn ag [customercare@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customercare@kildarecoco.ie) Caithfidh tú deis a thógáil don Chomhairle cé thú féin a chinntiú trí cruthúnas céannachta agus/nó seoladh a sholáthar, sula ndéanaimid aon athruithe.

\*\*\*\*\*

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---

**From:** Anne Marie Burke <amburke@kildarecoco.ie>  
**Sent:** 08 August 2018 16:07  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm - Scoping & Consultation Report  
**Attachments:** DOC000.pdf

Hi Elaine,

Further to your letter of the 12th July in relation to the above, please find attached comments of Kildare County Council as part of the consultation process for the EIAR.

Regards,

Anne Marie Burke  
Planning Department  
Kildare County Council  
045-980535

\*\*\*\*\*

Tá an ríomhphost seo príobháideach agus ní ceadmhach úsáid an ríomhphoist seo d'éinne ach don té ar seoladh chuige é. D'fhéadfadh go mbeadh eolas ann atá faoi phribhléid agus rúnda de réir an dlí. Munar duit an ríomhphost seo, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir chomh luath agus is féidir. D'fhéadfadh nach iad tuairimí Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara na tuairimí atá curtha in iúl sa ríomhphost seo.

Déanann Comhairle Contae Chill Dara iarracht ríomhphoist a chosaint ó víris. Mar sin féin, moltar duit gach ríomhphost a scanadh, mar ní ghlacann an Chomhairle aon dlíteanas i leith damáiste do do chórais.

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## KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

EIAR - Scoping Consultation



North Kildare Wind farm

### North Kildare Wind Farm

### Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

#### **BACKGROUND:**

It is noted that North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield in north Co. Kildare. As the proposed development has more than 5 no. turbines and a generating capacity of greater than 5MW, it must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. A scoping report has been prepared as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. The applicant is now seeking comments on this report from Kildare County Council.

#### **SITE LOCATION:**

The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfierth.

#### **PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT:**

The proposed development will comprise of up to 14 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, 1 no. substation, control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compound, tree felling and associated works, with a Maximum Export Capacity of 50 MW. The proposed grid connection is to the existing 110kV substation at Dunfierth via underground cable only, following the route of the public road.

## **COMMENTS ON SCOPING AND CONSULTATION REPORT**

With regard to the EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations of the Planning Authority as indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of the EIAR and are based on the Scoping and Consultation Report which was received by the Planning Authority on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

The Planning Authority's response has been structured in the same order as the proposed EIAR and commentary provided where relevant.

### ***Description of the Development***

The applicant's proposed description of development (section 1.1.2) and project description (section 2.1) are noted. In this regard, the Planning Authority advises that the following be addressed in the application documents/public notices as follows:

- If a number of construction compounds are required, given the sprawling nature of the site, these shall be specified in the proposal and their locations identified with the planning application.
- The description of development refers to the upgrade of existing access tracks, the planning status of these should be confirmed; details of proposed upgrades including finishes, materials and dimensions should be included.
- Amendments to existing roads required to gain access to site should also be detailed.
- It is noted that larger hard standings are usually required next to large scale turbines to act as bases for cranes during turbine erection and component lay down areas, these should also be included in the description of development and appropriate details provided.
- Information on the location of borrow pits proposed and an indication as to the quarries to be used during the construction phase and associated remedial works thereafter should also be provided.

### ***Policy and legislation***

The following national, regional and county policy context is relevant to the proposed application in relation to Section 5.2 (Background to the project), Section 5.3 Alternatives Considered) and in outlining the need for the proposed development:

#### **National:**

- Government White Paper: Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland, 2007-2020, DCMNR
- National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), 2010, DCENR
- The Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020, 2012, DCENR

- Policy Statement on the Strategic Importance of Transmission and Other Energy Infrastructure, 2012, DCENR
- Energy White Paper: Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015 – 2030
- National Mitigation Plan, July 2017 (DCCAIE):
- Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (proposed)
- National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 (DAHG)
- National Planning Framework
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Wind Farm Development and Wind Energy Development 2006
- Proposed Revisions to Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 (2013)
- Planning Circular Ltr. PL 5/2017-Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change

Regional:

- Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly (proposed)

County:

- **Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023**

Relevant policies, objectives and other provisions in the current CDP are noted (inter alia) as follows:

- Chapter 5 - Economic Development and Tourism  
*Section 5.10 Energy Production and the Green Economy*
- Chapter 8 - Energy & Communications  
*Section 8.5 Wind Energy*
- Chapter 10 – Rural Development  
*Section 10.5 – Rural Development Policy*  
*Section 10.6 - Rural Enterprise*
- Chapter 12 – Architectural and Archaeological Heritage  
*Section 12.4 - Protected structures,*  
*Section 12.5 - Country houses and demesnes*  
*Section 12.6 - Vernacular architecture*  
*Section 12.2 - Features of Historical interest*
- Chapter 13 – Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure  
*Section 13.5 – SPAs/SACs and Natural Heritage Areas,*  
*Section 13.6 - Protected Habitats and Species*
- Chapter 14 – Landscape, Recreation and Amenity  
*Section 14.4 Landscape Character Assessment, Section 14.8 Landscape Policies including Landscape Sensitivity Class and compatibility with land uses*  
*Section 14.6, Section 14.9 Scenic Routes and Protected Views*

### ***EIAR Scoping and Consultation***

The Planning Authority welcomes the applicant's proposal to carry out public consultation on the project. Meaningful pre-application consultation with communities would ensure that local communities can be better informed about development proposals and have an opportunity to contribute their views before a formal planning application is submitted.

The scoping report contains limited details on how the public consultation process will be carried out. It is recommended that the applicant prepares a pre-application community consultation report to accompany the planning application. The report should set out the method of consultation, the issues raised by the general public throughout the consultation process and changes made to the proposals and/or mitigation measures included to address the issues raised.

### ***Environmental Aspects: Population & Human Health (Human beings)***

The applicant is advised of the number of villages, rural settlements and nodes in proximity to the site, *intern alia* Johnstownbridge, Kilshancoe, Derinturn, Carbury, Timahoe etc. (refer to Chapter 3 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 for settlement hierarchy). The impacts of the development on these areas should be addressed in the EIAR, in addition to the impacts of the development on residents in the rural area surrounding the subject site.

### ***Landscape and Visual***

In terms of landscape, (Section 5.17) the specific scenic routes, views/prospects etc. to be assessed have not been specified however it is considered that the approach of the EIA in relation to Landscape & Visual Impact is broadly acceptable and will have regard to the policy context set out above. It is considered that:

- There are a number of techniques which may be used to inform visual assessment of a proposed development, it is recommended that the applicant's analysis includes a computer generated wireline diagrams indicating how wind turbines will appear from specific viewpoints; and photomontages/images whereby an impression of a proposed development is superimposed upon an actual photograph of the proposed site.
- The assessment should reference likely compatibility of the proposal in the relevant landscape area with clearer reference to the framework of Section 14.4.2 of the County Development Plan.
- It is considered that a map/graphic and figures should be included in the EIAR demonstrating the location and extent (total area) of the site comprised of commercial forestry, cutaway bog and agricultural land respectively. (The proposed development falls within the Western Boglands landscape area identified in the CDP and reference is made

in various section of the report to the suitability of cut away bogs for windfarm development but the majority of the site does not appear to be cutaway bog).

- The degree to which the proposed structures have been clustered within the landscape, in order to form a distinct and unified feature, should be commented upon during the assessment of landscape impact.
- The impact of the transportation of components to site on the minor road network and on the associated trees and hedges should also be assessed e.g. transportation may involve HGVs requiring large turning circles.

### ***Traffic and transportation***

From a Roads and Transportation point of view the key aspects of this scheme are as follows:

- Cable Routes
- Haul Routes
- Turbine Delivery Routes
- New entrances onto public roads for access to wind farms

### **Proposed Cable Routes**

The local roads identified for site access and cable laying have, in general, no verge, in widely varying states of repair and some of the roads are across bog areas. The condition of the proposed roads and their structural capacity to adequately withstand trench excavation and reinstatement without failure in the near future is of concern to KCC. These local roads are 'legacy' roads which have developed over time, with little or no foundations. Sufficient remedial measures for the reinstatement of trenches and overlay will be required.

Poor trench reinstatement leads to ongoing maintenance costs for the Council and this is a situation to be avoided with this application.

The first option would be to eliminate the installment of cabling within the public road where possible. Where this cannot be achieved, the most suitable routes should be selected and finally appropriate mitigation measures should be applied.

The following information should be provided in the application:

1. A full structural assessment is required for all roads proposed as cable routes to show the pavement depth and subgrade quality. This survey is to include:
  - 1) FWD testing and analysis
  - 2) Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and cores where required

- 3) Road Condition Data (RCD) using a Road Surface Profiler (RSP) to include:
  - i) Digital Video (chainage and GPS referenced)
  - ii) Visual Condition Survey from video survey using Pavement Condition Index (PCI)
  - iii) Ride Quality Survey using International Roughness Index (IRI)
  - iv) Transverse Profile for Rut Depth

Testing shall be carried out in accordance with:

- NRA 'Guidelines for the Use of the Falling Weight Deflectometer in Ireland (July 2000)
- NRA HD 31/15 'Pavement Assessment, Repair and Renewal Principles (March 2015)
- DTTAS 'Guidelines on the Depth of overlay to be Used on Rural Regional and Local Roads (March 2014)
- DTTAS/RMO: Mechanical Road Condition Surveys – Regional and Local Roads in Ireland (April 2015)

On two lane roads the survey shall be carried out in both traffic directions. On narrower roads it is sufficient to carry out the survey in one direction only. This information will provide a baseline survey from which the post condition survey can be compared. It can also form the basis for the design of the road reinstatement/reconstruction.

2. Based on the above tests the Applicant is required to submit road reinstatement/reconstruction designs for the different road types and trench cabling. These should be submitted at application stage so that the Applicant's proposals can be properly assessed.
3. A topographical survey of the proposed routes should be provided. Kildare County Council would have a preference for the cables, joint bays and communication boxes to be located within the hard shoulder where possible. The majority of local roads will not have hard shoulders and detailed survey will be required to identify the best location for the cables and joint bays. The proposed location should be identified in plan and cross section that the proposal can be properly assessed.
4. A full structural analysis is required for any structures where direct drilling is proposed. Cross sectional details should be provided for each structure. An ESB standard detail is not sufficient.
5. Existing services within the road should be identified to ensure the proposed route is acceptable. This should include water, sewage, telecommunications, ESB, Bord Gais, broadband etc.

6. The Applicant should provide details of the capacity of the proposed cabling in relation to the power to be generated by the proposed wind farm. The Applicant should identify any spare capacity.
7. A Traffic Management Plan for the cabling works should be submitted with the application.
8. Cables should be laid with a minimum of 2m cover to the top of the ducts to ensure that there is sufficient clearance for future services to pass.
9. Backfill and reinstatement of trenches should comply with the relevant standards.

#### Proposed Haul Routes

The proposed haul routes will go through the towns/ villages of Johnstownbridge and Kilshanroe which will see an increase in the volume of HGVs for a sustained period. The majority of the haul routes are on regional roads, but the local road network is also utilised. The local roads should be assessed for their suitability to cater for an increase in HGV traffic for a sustained period of time. The following information should be provided:

1. A Traffic Impact Assessment should be submitted.
  - The impact of the increase HGV volumes in both Kilshanroe and Johnstownbridge should be assessed.
  - There is concern that the width and structural capacity of some of the roads are insufficient to take the proposed increase in HGVs proposed. The traffic impact assessment shall assess the capability of the roads to cater for the increased volume of HGV traffic particularly local roads.
  - Where the structural survey indicates that a proposed haul route is not in a suitable condition, the Applicant/ Developer shall submit proposals to upgrade the road or junction in advance of haulage operations.
2. A full structural assessment is required for all local roads proposed as haul routes to show the pavement depth and subgrade quality. This survey is to include:
  - 1) FWD testing and analysis
  - 2) Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) and cores where required
  - 3) Road Condition Data (RCD) using a Road Surface Profiler (RSP) to include:
    - i) Digital Video (chainage and GPS referenced)
    - ii) Visual Condition Survey from video survey using Pavement Condition Index (PCI)
    - iii) Ride Quality Survey using International Roughness Index (IRI)

#### iv) Transverse Profile for Rut Depth

Testing shall be carried out in accordance with:

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- DTTAS 'Guidelines on the Depth of overlay to be Used on Rural Regional and Local Roads (March 2014)
- DTTAS/RMO: Mechanical Road Condition Surveys – Regional and Local Roads in Ireland (April 2015)

On two lane roads the survey shall be carried out in both traffic directions. On narrower roads it is sufficient to carry out the survey in one direction only.

This will provide a baseline report from which ongoing surveys during the construction period and post condition surveys can be compared. It can also be used to assess whether routes are capable of carrying the proposed loading and if strengthening works need to be carried out.

3. On the basis of the above assessment the Applicant should submit detailed design for strengthening works where required.
4. A Traffic Management Plan should be submitted.
5. There are a number of roads in the area that are unsuitable to cater for HGV traffic. The Applicant should outline how it is proposed to monitor and control the haulage of materials to ensure that only approved haul routes are used.

#### Turbine Delivery Routes

The turbine delivery routes will go through the towns/ villages of Johnstownbridge and Kilshanroe. The following information should be provided:

1. The estimated load of the turbine components and a structural assessment of each of the proposed routes and structures along the routes should be carried out, including crossings over structures, culverts. Where a route is shown to be structurally unsuitable the Applicant shall submit plans to upgrade the road or structure.
2. The estimated height of the components.
3. Temporary works on third party lands. Landowners should be identified and agreements put in place. Failure to reach agreement for required works could result in an entire route being discounted.

4. A topographical survey of the route is needed so that accurate swept path analysis can be carried out.
5. Although it is difficult to make a determination without the full dimensions of the load to be transported it would seem that works outside of those identified may be required where nodes and bends may require works to facilitate the delivery of turbines.

### New Entrances

The following information should be provided:

1. A topographical survey will be required covering the full extent of the sightlines. The sightlines are to be shown on a drawing with the set back distance and the full extent of the sight lines shown in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB).
2. The Applicant's landholding should be identified and where third party lands are required to set back boundaries to facilitate sight lines, written agreement from the landowner should be sought.
3. Full detailed design of the proposed entrances including width, turning radii, set back and construction should be submitted. This should be submitted as part of the sightline assessment and where third party lands are required written permission for their use must be submitted.

### ***Biodiversity***

Figure 2.3 'Designated Nature Conservation Sites' of the Scoping Report is noted, in which the nearest NHA's and SAC's are identified. The applicant is advised to cross reference this with Maps V1.12.1 and V1.13.2 of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 to ensure all designated sites are included.

### ***Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Change***

Section 5.15 relates to Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage. The EIAR should consider the impact of the windfarm on the wider landscape setting of relevant sites or feature.

In relation to Built Heritage, it is advised that the applicant engage a Conservation Architect with demesne and historic designed landscape experience, to assess physical and visual impacts on the built heritage and cultural receiving environment. Reference should be made to Chapter 12 of the Kildare County Councils Development Plan 2017-2023 (Architectural Heritage policies and objectives), DCHG Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines, ICOMOS Conservation

Charters and associated UK and EU guidelines, such as 'Historic Scotland – Managing Change in the Historic Environment – Setting' (2010).

Having regard to the historic character of the area, it is considered that Historic Landscape Characterisation should also be used in the EIA; whether this is intended is not evident in the scoping report. Visual impact photomontages should be taken to indicate winter landscape screening conditions and photographic viewpoints should represent human eye cone of vision.

- The applicant should include an inventory of Protected Structures which are located proximate to the boundaries of the site, e.g. Colree Fort is a Protected Structure (Ref B04-05) located to the north of the subject site. This should be identified in the EIAR and assessed for any potential impacts.

### ***Interactions of the Foregoing***

Section 6 of the Scoping Report states that the cumulative impact of the proposed development with other projects which are existing, permitted, or pending planning permission, for which there is information in the public domain, will be addressed.

No specific projects are identified other than the Mount Lucas Windfarm. It would be appropriate to consider other significant projects in the vicinity in this regard including Drehid Landfill, BNM Solar Farm and other solar and wind farms, permitted and under consideration, in the vicinity of the site (e.g. Refs 16/1265, 17/1222, 17/1494 18/94).

The application site comprises part of the Maighne Wind Farm Strategic Infrastructure Development application (ref: ABP-300746-18) which was refused planning permission by An Bord Pleanála in May 2018. Reference to this planning history is notably absent throughout the report. The intentions regarding the remaining cluster of turbines which formed the Maighne Windfarm application should also be indicated.

It is also noted that the corridor of preferred route of the Shannon-Dublin piped water supply appears to come within the area of the site and would warrant reference.

(The Leinster Orbital Route proposal extending from Drogheda to the Naas/Newbridge area is not planned for implementation during the period of the GDA Transport Strategy 2016-2035 and the route corridor remains unfinalised.)

### **Seveso**

The applicant is advised that Irish Industrial Explosives at Clonagh is a designated Seveso site in accordance with the European Communities (Control of Major Accidents Hazard Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulation 2006 (Seveso Regulations). It is located to the east of the subject site. It is advisable that the applicant liaise with the Health and Safety Authority in this regard regarding consultation distances.

### ***Additional Comments***

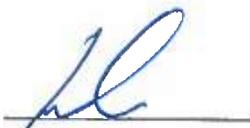
Whilst An Bord Pleanála refused planning permission previously for a larger development for two reasons, it is considered that a planning report clearly setting out how the subject proposal addresses these reasons for refusal would be beneficial. The Board's Order also included a number of observations in respect of the proposal itself and deficiencies in the environmental information submitted with the application. The EIAR should clearly address these matters.

The decommissioning of the proposed wind farm development once electricity ceases to be generated needs to be assessed. Plans for decommissioning should be outlined in the EIAR. Issues to be addressed include restorative measures, the removal of above ground structures and equipment, landscaping and/or reseeding roads.

### **CONCLUSION**

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance and is given without prejudice to the Planning Authority's statutory rights following the examination of any valid planning application received.

It is anticipated that further input will be provided during a pre-planning consultation meeting to be held in accordance with Section 247 of the Planning and Development Acts (as amended).



L Currie  
Assistant Planner



J O'Reilly  
A/Senior Executive Planner



---

**From:** Margaret Killian <Mkillian@kildarecoco.ie>  
**Sent:** 02 August 2018 16:44  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm proposal  
**Attachments:** North Kildare wind farm.pdf

Dear Dr. Bennett,

I refer to your letter of 12th July 2018 regarding North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report.

Please note that the Environment Section has no observations or comments at this time (please see attached documentation).

Kind Regards,  
Margaret Killian  
Environment Section  
Kildare County Council

\*\*\*\*\*

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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Environment Department  
Kildare County Council  
Aras Chill Dara  
Devoy Park  
Naas  
Co. Kildare



12<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report**

Dear Sir / Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd (a subsidiary of Element Power Ireland Ltd) intends to apply for planning permission to construct a wind energy development between Prosperous and Enfield, in north Co. Kildare. The proposed wind farm site and grid connection includes lands in the townlands of Coolree, Kilmurry, Drehid, Parsonstown, Ballynamullagh, Clonkeeran, Killyon and Dunfiarth.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>rd</sup> August 2018 in writing or be email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

**T: +353 21 4964133 F: + 353 21 4964464 E: info@ftco.ie W: www.fehilytimoney.ie**

**Directors:** Eamon Timoney David McHugh Bernadette Gulnan Beren De Hora

**Company Secretary:** Sinead Timoney

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd. Number 180497

Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D



**KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT SECTION**



**MEMO**

**To:** Aidan Murray, S.E.E.

**From:** Cliona Murphy, A.E.S.

**Date:** 31/07/2018

**Re: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report –  
Scoping and Consultation Report**

---

The Environment Section has no observations or comments at this time.

*Cliona Murphy*  
Cliona Murphy  
Environment Section

*Aidan Murray*  
31/7/18

*M. Kelly*  

---

*plz email  
submission  
to d.burton  
31/7/2018*

---

**From:** Bebhinn O'Shea <boshea@kildarecoco.ie>  
**Sent:** 23 July 2018 16:16  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** RE: NKWF - Scoping

Many thanks.

**From:** Elaine Bennett <elaine.bennett@ftco.ie>  
**To:** Bebhinn O'Shea <boshea@kildarecoco.ie>  
**Date:** 23/07/2018 16:15  
**Subject:** RE: NKWF - Scoping

Hi Bebhinn,  
Please find attached a soft copy of the report.  
Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Bebhinn O'Shea <boshea@kildarecoco.ie>  
**Sent:** 23 July 2018 15:31  
**To:** Elaine Bennett <elaine.bennett@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** NKWF - Scoping

Dear Elaine,

In relation to the NKWF EIAR Scoping Report submitted to Kildare County Council, would it be possible to have the document in PDF form?

Many thanks

Regards,

**Bébhinn O'Shea, Executive Planner**

Kildare County Council, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare.  
(045) 980767 | [boshea@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:boshea@kildarecoco.ie)

\*\*\*\*\*

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**From:** Minister Naughten <Minister.Naughten@DCCAE.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 13:15  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** Acknowledgement Ref: P0878/Lett/EB/MG

Dear Dr Bennett,

On behalf of Mr Denis Naughten, TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and attachment regarding the North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

I will ensure your letter and attachment is brought to Minister Naughten's attention.

**Enda Fitzgerald**

*Clerical Officer*

*Minister Naughten's Office*

---

**Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil**

Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment

**29-31 Bóthar Adelaide, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 X285, Éire**

29-31 Adelaide Road, Dublin, D02 X285, Ireland

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Tel +353 1 678 2205

[enda.fitzgerald@dccae.gov.ie](mailto:enda.fitzgerald@dccae.gov.ie)      [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie)

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*D'fhonn is go gcuirfead feidhmeanna na Roinne i gcrích, agus seirbhísí ar fáil, ceanglaíonn an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil go soláthróidh custaiméirí sonraí pearsanta áirithe. Féadfar do shonraí pearsanta a mhalartú le Ranna Rialtais eile agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile in imthosca áirithe de réir dlí. Tugtar sonraí iomlána sa bhFógra um Príobháideacht Sonraí atá ar fáil [anseo](#), nó i bhfoirm chruachóipe arna iarraidh sin.*

-

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.



---

**From:** Gavin Byrne <gavin.byrne@netshare.ie>  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 17:03  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** RE: P0878/Lett/EB/MG: North Kildare Wind Farm Development

Thanks Elaine. Can you confirm Turbine dimensions as below:

Maximum Hub height  
Maximum Rotor Diameter

The scoping document only indicates a 169m maximum tip height.

Regards,

Gavin Byrne BE, MSc, MIEI  
Transmission Planning & Strategy Engineer  
Netshare Ireland  
Iveagh Building, The Park, Carrickmines, Dublin 18

mobile: +353 87 6448159  
email: [gavin.byrne@netshare.ie](mailto:gavin.byrne@netshare.ie)



---

**From:** Elaine Bennett [mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 16:44  
**To:** Gavin Byrne <gavin.byrne@netshare.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: P0878/Lett/EB/MG: North Kildare Wind Farm Development

Hi Gavin,  
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14	676428.9	737651.2

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

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

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**Sent:** 16 July 2018 16:39

**To:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Deirdre McDermott <[deirdre.mcdermott@netshare.ie](mailto:deirdre.mcdermott@netshare.ie)>; Kevin O'Neill <[kevin.oneill@netshare.ie](mailto:kevin.oneill@netshare.ie)>; Darragh Dennehy <[darragh.dennehy@netshare.ie](mailto:darragh.dennehy@netshare.ie)>; David Powders <[david.powders@netshare.ie](mailto:david.powders@netshare.ie)>

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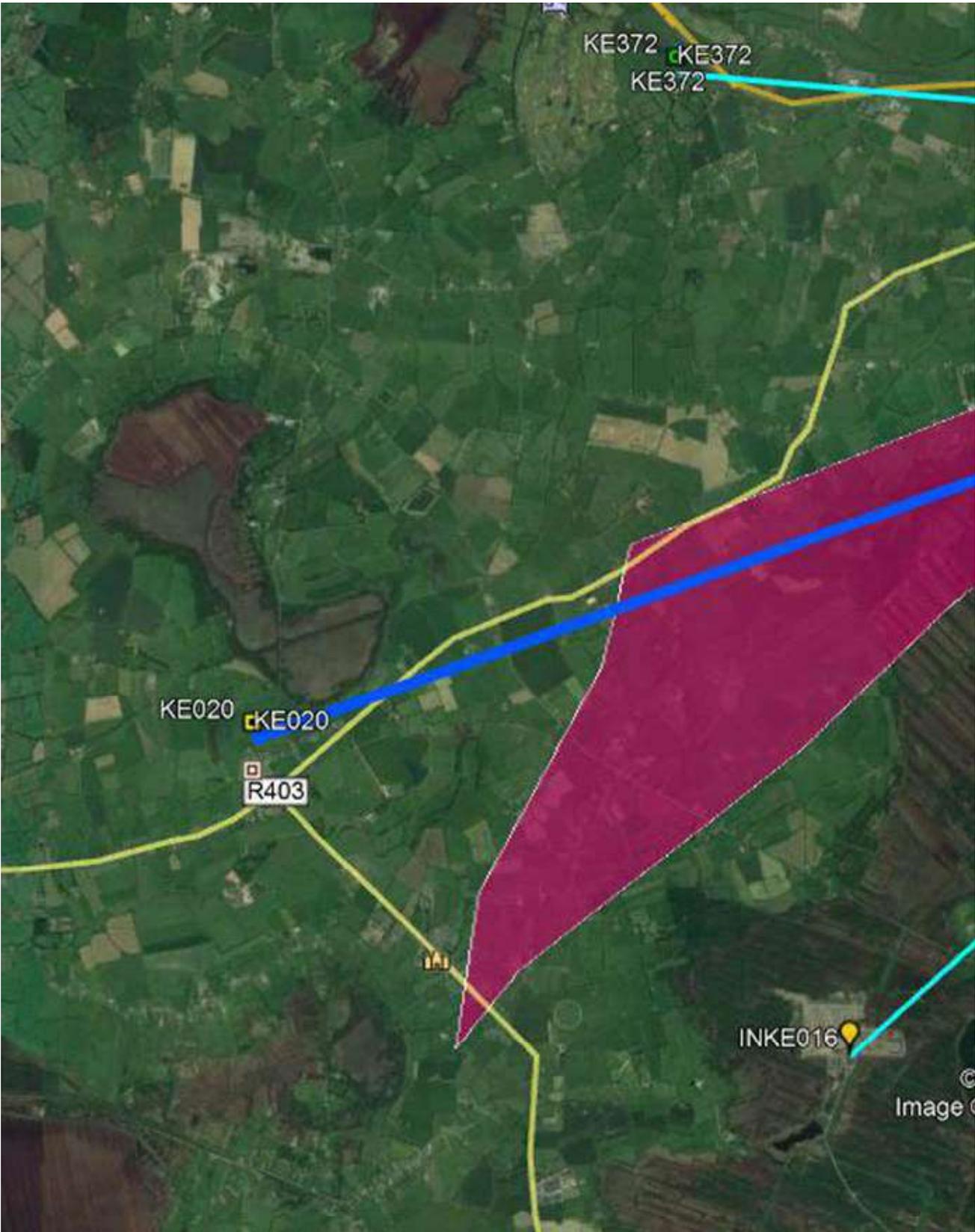
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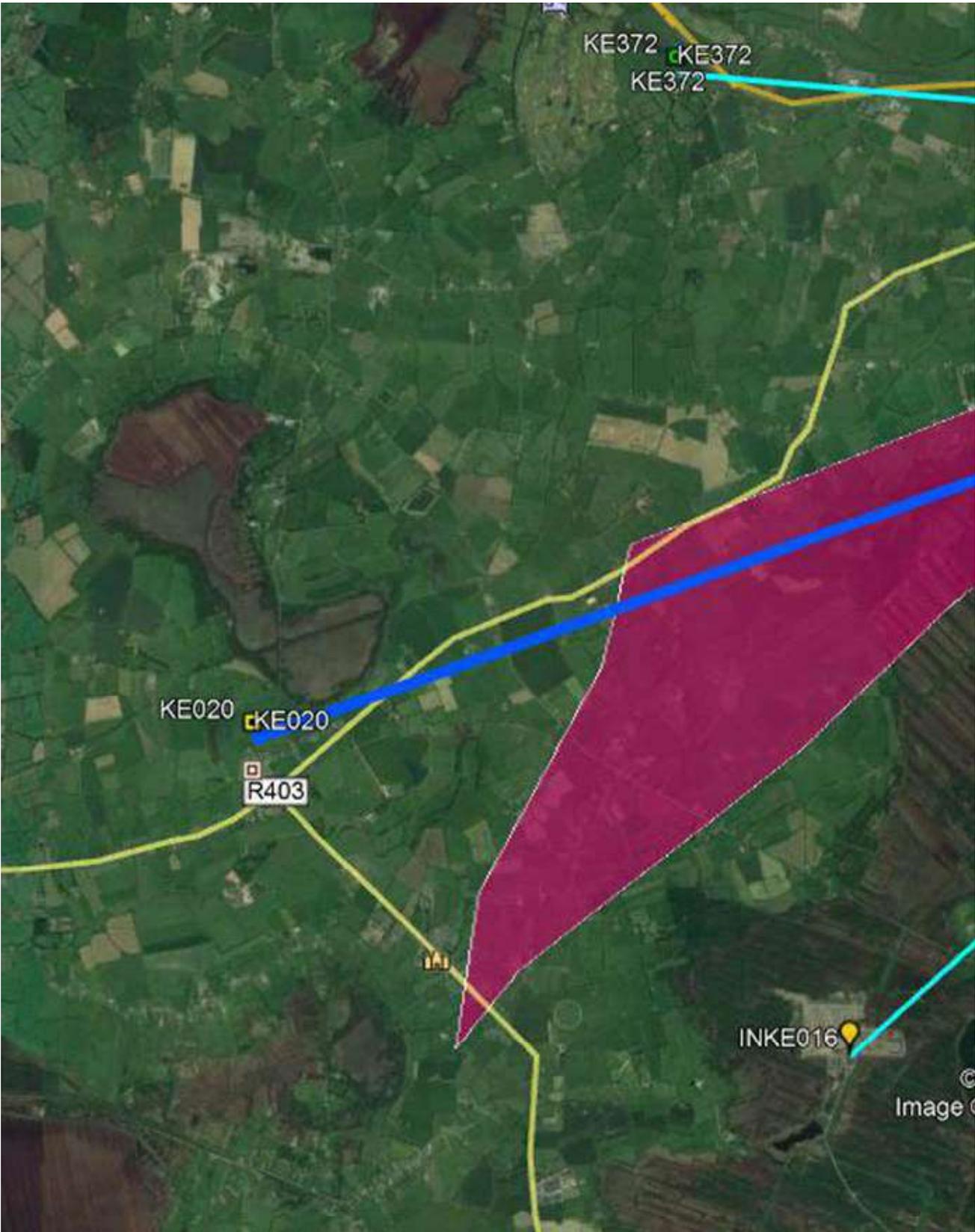
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**Subject:** RE: P0878/Lett/EB/MG: North Kildare Wind Farm Development

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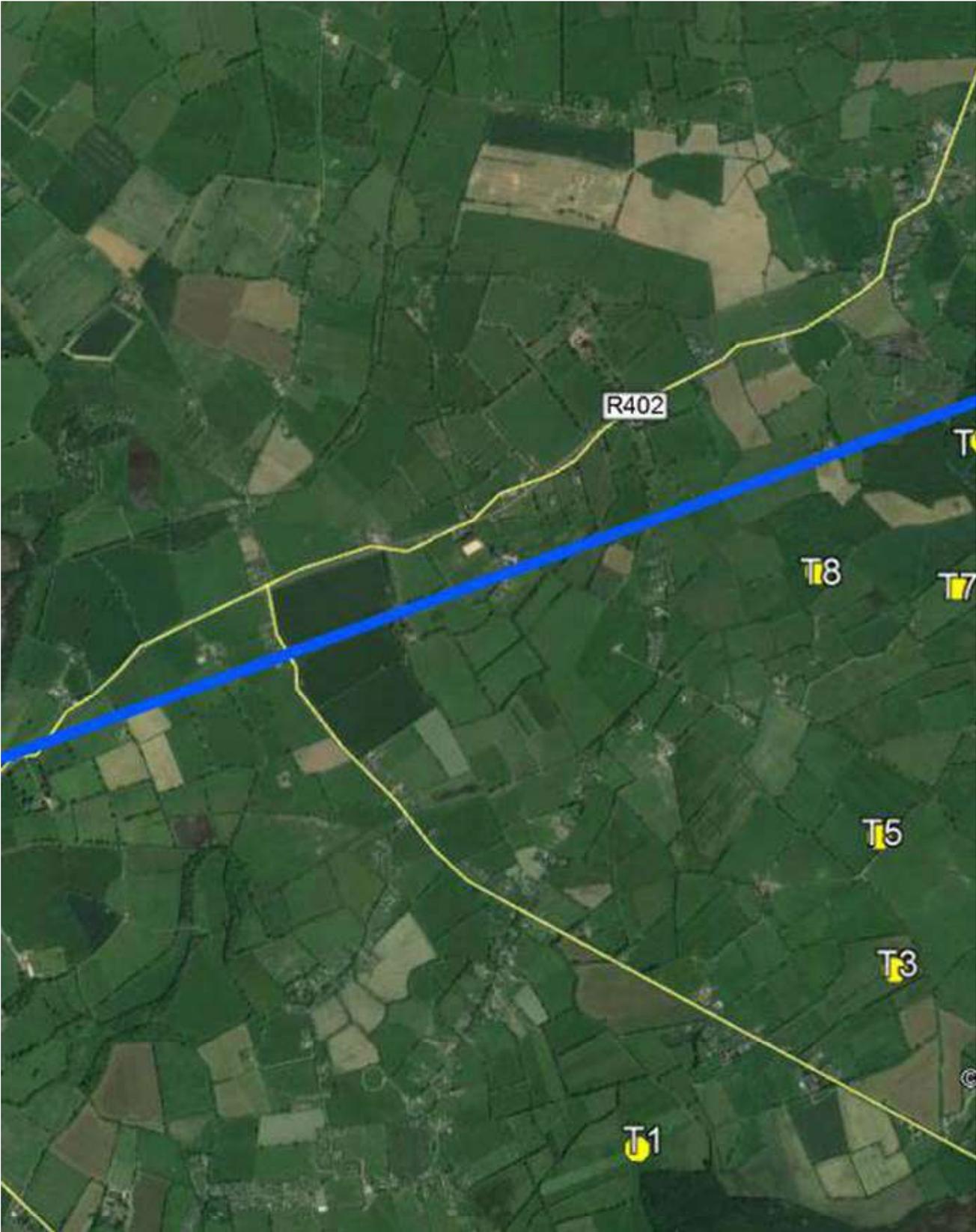
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- T11
- T13
- T14

Please consider relocating these turbines to ensure an exclusion zone of at least 30m from the 1<sup>st</sup> Fresnel zone of the microwave, detailed below. If you require any further information, please let me know.

LinkID	Radio Config Status	BW + Ref Mod	Freq Band	Max Ethernet Capacity (Mbps)	B-End IDU	B-End HW Type
KECAPKE020_S0	radio XPIC single pipe	bw56MHz-16QAM	15 GHz	682	KE020700	ALCplus2e



Regards,

Gavin Byrne BE, MSc, MIEI  
Transmission Planning & Strategy Engineer  
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The maximum hub height is: 100.5m  
The maximum rotor diameter is: 137m

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

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# NetShare Ireland

The Future of Mobile Networks

---

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**Sent:** 16 July 2018 16:44  
**To:** Gavin Byrne <[gavin.byrne@netshare.ie](mailto:gavin.byrne@netshare.ie)>  
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Dennehy <[darragh.dennehy@netshare.ie](mailto:darragh.dennehy@netshare.ie)>; David Powders <[david.powders@netshare.ie](mailto:david.powders@netshare.ie)>

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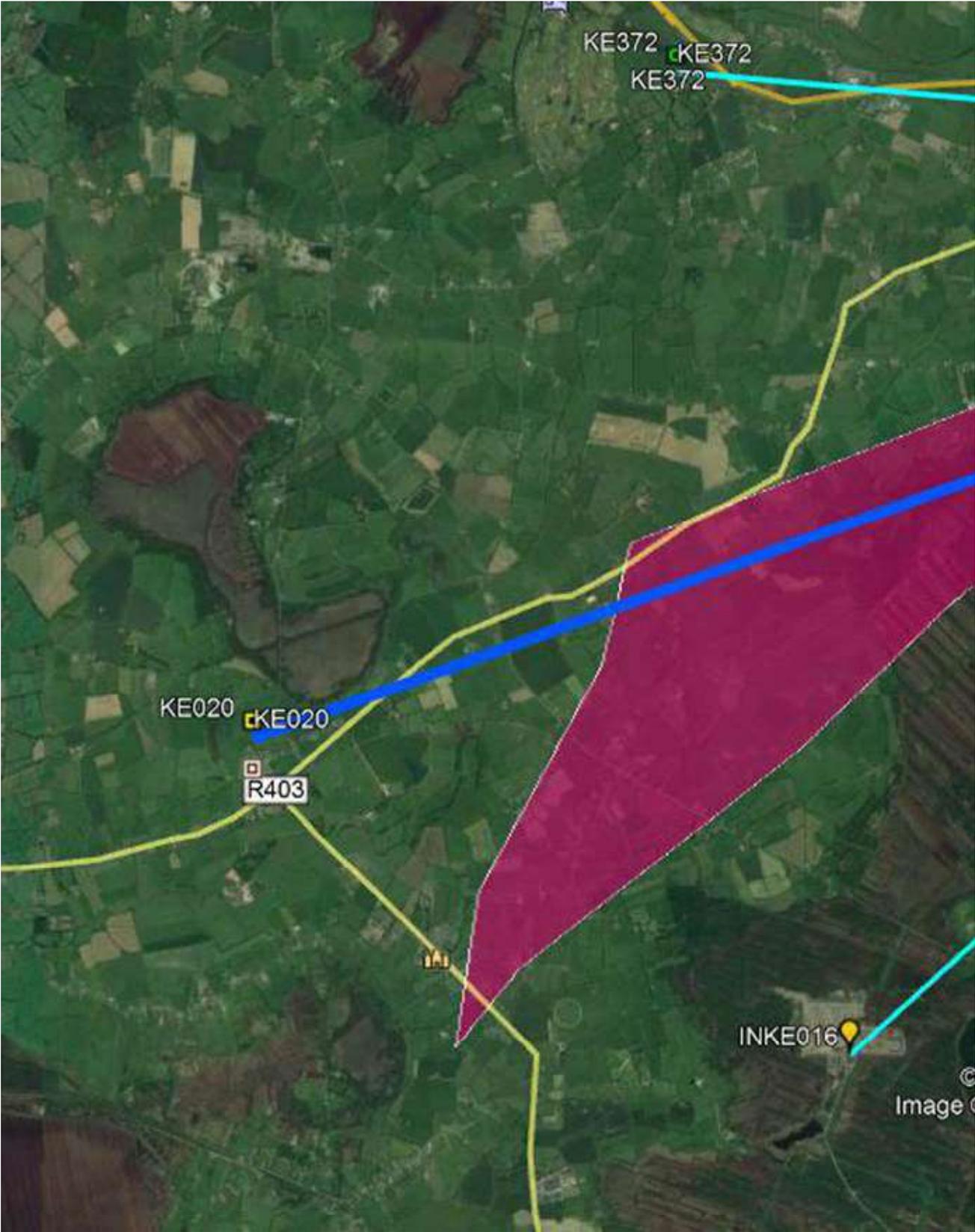
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---

**From:** Silvia Garcia  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 11:04  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Cc:** Gary Locke  
**Subject:** RE: P0878/Lett/EB/MG: North Kildare Wind Farm Development

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Elaine,

Based in the information provided, the 1<sup>st</sup> Fresnel zone for the transmission between these 2 antennas would be 8.8m. What they are asking then is to keep a clearance of 38.8m from the tip of the blade of the turbines to the microwave link. As the blades would be 70m long, the location of the turbines need to be at least 108.8m from the link that connects the two antennas.

The 12turbine layout should be fine with this clearance from the link, but Gary could you please double check this?

Regards,  
Silvia

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 17:33  
**To:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: P0878/Lett/EB/MG: North Kildare Wind Farm Development

Hi Silvia,  
See below – is the blue line the 1<sup>st</sup> Fresnel zone?  
Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
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- T11
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- T14

Please consider relocating these turbines to ensure an exclusion zone of at least 30m from the 1<sup>st</sup> Fresnel zone of the microwave, detailed below. If you require any further information, please let me know.

<b>LinkID</b>	<b>Radio Config Status</b>	<b>BW + Ref Mod</b>	<b>Freq Band</b>	<b>Max Ethernet Capacity (Mbps)</b>	<b>B-End IDU</b>	<b>B-End HW Type</b>
KECAPKE020_S0	radio XPIC single pipe	bw56MHz-16QAM	15 GHz	682	KE020700	ALCplus2e



Regards,

Gavin Byrne BE, MSc, MIEI  
Transmission Planning & Strategy Engineer  
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mobile: +353 87 6448159  
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# NetShare Ireland

The Future of Mobile Networks

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**To:** Gavin Byrne <[gavin.byrne@netshare.ie](mailto:gavin.byrne@netshare.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: P0878/Lett/EB/MG: North Kildare Wind Farm Development

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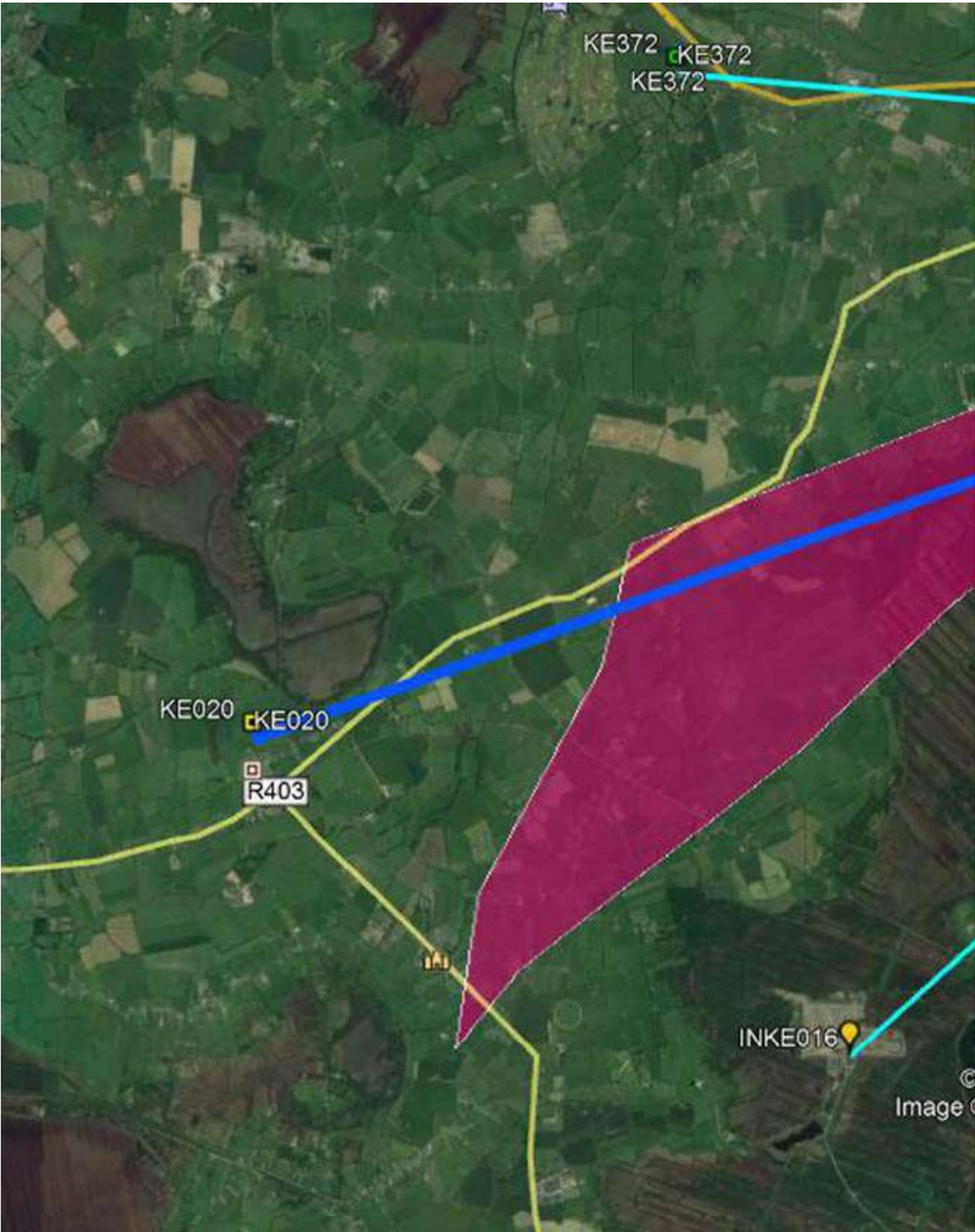
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Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2.

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

16 July 2018

Distribution

18 JUL 2018

Job No: PO878

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
Fehily Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Co. Cork

**PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.**

Our Ref: 2018/59969N /PO

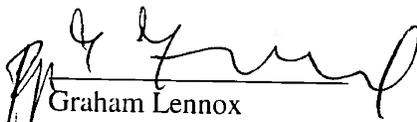
Your Ref: PO878/Lett/EB/MG

Dear Dr. Bennett

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, TD concerning North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation Report.

I will undertake to bring your correspondence to the Minister's attention at the next practical juncture. In the interim I have forwarded your correspondence [and enclosures] for the attention of relevant Department officials.

Yours sincerely,

  
Graham Lennox  
Private Secretary

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<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/dataprotection/>



---

**From:** Thomas Barry <Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE>  
**Sent:** 16 July 2018 12:21  
**To:** Marie Geary  
**Cc:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report

Marie,

The development as proposed presents no network/coverage concerns to TI, can you ensure the development is reviewed by eir please.

Regards,  
Tom

---

**From:** Marie Geary [mailto:marie.geary@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 12 July 2018 16:23  
**To:** Thomas Barry  
**Cc:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report

Dear Mr. Barry

Please find attached Fehily Timoney & Company's Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping & Consultation Report for the above named project.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> August 2018 in writing or be email to [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie).

Yours sincerely,  
Marie Geary  
for Dr. Elaine Bennett,  
for and on behalf of

**Fehily Timoney & Company**  
Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 496 4133 | Direct Dial: +353 21 4969 560  
Fax: +353 21 496 4464  
Mail to: [marie.geary@ftco.ie](mailto:marie.geary@ftco.ie)

*Please consider the Environment – do you really need to print this e-mail?*

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---

**From:** Kent Seebohm <Kent.Seebohm@three.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 15:29  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare WF - grid co-ordinates

Cheers

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett [mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 14:56  
**To:** Kent Seebohm  
**Subject:** North Kildare WF - grid co-ordinates

Hi Kent,  
The grid co-ordinates for the turbines are as follows:

FT_ID	X_ITM	Y_ITM
1	672665.1	733495.8
2	674324.6	734241.6
3	673750	734265.5
4	674582.9	734791.5
5	673678.2	734831.5
6	674439.1	735556.3
7	673994.5	735894.9
8	673400.8	735952
9	674567.2	736303.3
10	674099.6	736517.4
11	675025.4	737010.3
12	676322.1	737178.8
13	675881.1	737430.1
14	676428.9	737651.2

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

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**From:** Gerry Callan <Gerry.Callan@three.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 15:37  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare WF - grid co-ordinates

Hi Elaine,

Kent just forwarded me the XYs for the North Kildare windfarm, below.

Would you have these to hand in Irish Grid rather than ITM?

Thanks and best wishes,



**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
gerry.callan@three.ie



**Make it count.**

Hi Kent,

The grid co-ordinates for the turbines are as follows:

FT_ID	X_ITM	Y_ITM
1	672665.1	733495.8
2	674324.6	734241.6
3	673750	734265.5
4	674582.9	734791.5
5	673678.2	734831.5
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9	674567.2	736303.3
10	674099.6	736517.4
11	675025.4	737010.3
12	676322.1	737178.8
13	675881.1	737430.1
14	676428.9	737651.2

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

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**From:** Gerry Callan <Gerry.Callan@three.ie>  
**Sent:** 18 July 2018 10:45  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare WF - grid co-ordinates

That's great – thanks Elaine – I'll get working on this today.

Best wishes,



**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
gerry.callan@three.ie



**Make it count.**

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett [mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 18 July 2018 10:42  
**To:** Gerry Callan  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare WF - grid co-ordinates

Hi Gerry,  
ING co-ordinates are below:

FT_ID	X_ING	Y_ING
1	272730	233469
2	274390	234215
3	273815	234239
4	274648	234765
5	273743	234805
6	274504	235530
7	274060	235869
8	273466	235926
9	274632	236277
10	274165	236491
11	275091	236984
12	276388	237153
13	275947	237404
14	276494	237625

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**

**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Gerry Callan [<mailto:Gerry.Callan@three.ie>]  
**Sent:** 17 July 2018 15:37  
**To:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare WF - grid co-ordinates

Hi Elaine,

Kent just forwarded me the XYs for the North Kildare windfarm, below.

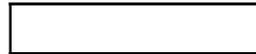
Would you have these to hand in Irish Grid rather than ITM?

Thanks and best wishes,



**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
[gerry.callan@three.ie](mailto:gerry.callan@three.ie)



**Make it count.**

Hi Kent,  
The grid co-ordinates for the turbines are as follows:

FT_ID	X_ITM	Y_ITM
1	672665.1	733495.8
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3	673750	734265.5
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11	675025.4	737010.3
12	676322.1	737178.8
13	675881.1	737430.1
14	676428.9	737651.2

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

**Fehily Timoney and Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | Ireland  
Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
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Distribution *EB*

25 JUL 2018

Job No: *P0878*

Correspondence No: *10*

Comment:

Dr. Elaine Bennett  
Fehily Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork

Dáta | Date  
24 July 2018

Ár dTag | Our Ref.  
TII18-102552

Bhur dTag | Your Ref.  
P0878/Lett/EB/MG

**Re: EIAR Scoping in relation to the proposed North Kildare Windfarm**

Dear Dr. Bennett,

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants in respect to proposed developments. TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at [www.TII.ie](http://www.TII.ie).

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national roads network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, *inter alia*, to the following;

- Consultations should be had with the relevant local authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes, e.g. Leinster Orbital Route (LOR) included in the NTA Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area, 2016 – 2035, and the Kildare County Development Plan, 2017 – 2023,
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development,
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads,
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should in particular have regard to any potential cumulative impacts,
- The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works),



- The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (National Roads Authority, 2006),
- The EIAR should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see *Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes* (1<sup>st</sup> Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)),
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. TII's TTA Guidelines (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the NRA/TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA,
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required,
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network,
- In relation to haul route identification, the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route, including where temporary modification to the road network may be required. Consultation with relevant PPP Companies and MMaRC Contractors may also be required. All structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed,
- In relation to cabling and potential connection routing, the scheme promoter should note locations of existing and future national road schemes and develop proposals to safeguard proposed road schemes. In the context of existing national roads, alternatives to the provision of cabling along the national road network, such as alternative routing or the laying of cabling in private lands adjoining the national road, should be considered in the interests of safeguarding the investment in and the potential for future upgrade works to the national road network. The cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII, any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network and motorway network.

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practise.

I trust that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,

  
 PP Michael McCormack  
 Senior Land Use Planner



---

**From:** Rachel Hennessy <rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie>  
**Sent:** 08 August 2018 10:36  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** Proposed North Kildare Wind Farm

Elaine,

I received the scoping and consultation report sent to David Enright regarding the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm.

The proposed wind farm will cause an issue for some links on Towercom's tower at Cappagh, Cappagh Hill, Killickaweeny, Co. Kildare.

Please see coordinates below for Towercom's structure –

Easting: 283475  
Northing: 240147

Latitude: 53.405090  
Longitude: -6.745637

To fully assess the impact we would require coordinates showing the proposed turbines finalised locations.

If you require further information please let me know.

Kind regards,  
Rachel

Rachel Hennessy  
**Towercom**  
M: +353 (0)86 843 9587  
E: [rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie](mailto:rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie)

---

**From:** Rachel Hennessy <rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie>  
**Sent:** 08 August 2018 16:12  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed North Kildare Wind Farm

Hi Elaine,

We have some links which may be affected in the proposed area.

The proposed turbines may cause an issue with the below links on our structure –

Type	L/W/D	Height	Az	Location
Dish	600 / - / -	18	219	NE-Leg
Dish	600 / - / -	65.5	219	SE-Leg
Dish	300 / - / -	27.25	230	SW-Leg
Dish	600 / - / -	60.2	240	W-Face
Dish	1200 / - / -	25	250	W-Face
Dish	1200 / - / -	62.1	250	-

Kind regards,  
Rachel

Rachel Hennessy  
**Towercom**  
M: +353 (0)86 843 9587  
E: [rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie](mailto:rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie)

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett <elaine.bennett@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** 08 August 2018 10:43  
**To:** Rachel Hennessy <rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed North Kildare Wind Farm

Hi Rachel,  
The following are the grid co-ordinates, can you let me know if there is an issue with these please?

FT_ID	X_ITM	Y_ITM
1	672665.1	733495.8
2	674324.6	734241.6
3	673750	734265.5
4	674582.9	734791.5
5	673678.2	734831.5

6	674439.1	735556.3
7	673994.5	735894.9
8	673400.8	735952
9	674567.2	736303.3
10	674099.6	736517.4
11	675025.4	737010.3
12	676322.1	737178.8
13	675881.1	737430.1
14	676428.9	737651.2

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Elaine Bennett**  
**Senior Scientist**  
**Bsc PhD**

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Tel: +353 21 4969567 | Mobile: +353 87 6822 239 | Mail: [elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie) | Web:  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Rachel Hennessy <[rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie](mailto:rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie)>

**Sent:** 08 August 2018 10:36

**To:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** Proposed North Kildare Wind Farm

Elaine,

I received the scoping and consultation report sent to David Enright regarding the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm.

The proposed wind farm will cause an issue for some links on Towercom's tower at Cappagh, Cappagh Hill, Killickaweeny, Co. Kildare.

Please see coordinates below for Towercom's structure –

Easting: 283475

Northing: 240147

Latitude: 53.405090

Longitude: -6.745637

To fully assess the impact we would require coordinates showing the proposed turbines finalised locations.

If you require further information please let me know.

Kind regards,  
Rachel

Rachel Hennessy  
**Towercom**  
M: +353 (0)86 843 9587

E: [rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie](mailto:rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie)

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---

**From:** Liam Allister <Liam.Allister@virginmedia.ie>  
**Sent:** 25 July 2018 15:03  
**To:** Elaine Bennett  
**Cc:** Marie Geary; Cathal O'Donnell  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report

Dear Dr. Elaine Bennett,

Virgin Media do not have point to point Microwave Radio Links with a Signal Path passing over the Wind Farm Boundary as indicated in the North Kildare Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping & Consultation Report. Virgin Media have a Microwave Link facing North East from Dunmurry Hill but the signal path passes approx. 3 Klm from the Wind Farm Boundary so would not be effected.

Can you please notify Virgin Media if there is any change to the Wind Farm Boundary or any Wind Turbines to be added in the area so that we can run a desktop interference profile on ICS ATDI Program to make sure that there is no effect on our link.

Regards,  
Liam Allister,  
Transmission Engineer,  
Virgin Media Ireland.  
[Liam.allister@virginmedia.ie](mailto:Liam.allister@virginmedia.ie)

---

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---



**From:** [Info](#)  
**Bcc:** [info@antaisce.org](mailto:info@antaisce.org); [info@arra.ie](mailto:info@arra.ie); [info@birdwatchireland.ie](mailto:info@birdwatchireland.ie); [info@bai.ie](mailto:info@bai.ie); [gis.ireland@bt.com](mailto:gis.ireland@bt.com); [foi@comreg.ie](mailto:foi@comreg.ie); [info@cru.ie](mailto:info@cru.ie); [manager.dau@npws.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@npws.gov.ie); [support@digiwelb.ie](mailto:support@digiwelb.ie); [info@dublinairport.com](mailto:info@dublinairport.com); [info@emra.ie](mailto:info@emra.ie); [info@echoit.ie](mailto:info@echoit.ie); [customercare@openeir.ie](mailto:customercare@openeir.ie); [info@eirgrid.com](mailto:info@eirgrid.com); [info@epa.ie](mailto:info@epa.ie); [dsogenerators@esb.ie](mailto:dsogenerators@esb.ie); [info@esbtelecoms.ie](mailto:info@esbtelecoms.ie); [planning.applications@failteireland.ie](mailto:planning.applications@failteireland.ie); [networksinfo@gasnetworks.ie](mailto:networksinfo@gasnetworks.ie); [gsiplanning@gsi.ie](mailto:gsiplanning@gsi.ie); [yoursay@hse.ie](mailto:yoursay@hse.ie); [foi@irishrail.ie](mailto:foi@irishrail.ie); [info@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:info@fisheriesireland.ie); [info@iaa.ie](mailto:info@iaa.ie); [care@imagine.ie](mailto:care@imagine.ie); [dq@ifa.ie](mailto:dq@ifa.ie); [info@skydive.ie](mailto:info@skydive.ie); [bogs@ipcc.ie](mailto:bogs@ipcc.ie); [secretary@irsq.ie](mailto:secretary@irsq.ie); [info@irgct.com](mailto:info@irgct.com); [abrennan@irishsportsCouncil.ie](mailto:abrennan@irishsportsCouncil.ie); [info@viatel.com](mailto:info@viatel.com); [operations@water.ie](mailto:operations@water.ie); [info@iwt.ie](mailto:info@iwt.ie); [plandept@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:plandept@kildarecoco.ie); [support@magnet.ie](mailto:support@magnet.ie); [info@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:info@agriculture.gov.ie); [info@defence.ie](mailto:info@defence.ie); [minister@housing.gov.ie](mailto:minister@housing.gov.ie); [foi@drdc.gov.ie](mailto:foi@drdc.gov.ie); [customer.service@decc.gov.ie](mailto:customer.service@decc.gov.ie); [minister.office@tcagsm.gov.ie](mailto:minister.office@tcagsm.gov.ie); [diary@tcagsm.gov.ie](mailto:diary@tcagsm.gov.ie); [info@munsterwireless.com](mailto:info@munsterwireless.com); [info@opw.ie](mailto:info@opw.ie); [info@premier.net](mailto:info@premier.net); [windfarms@rte.ie](mailto:windfarms@rte.ie); [info@seai.ie](mailto:info@seai.ie); [info@teagasc.ie](mailto:info@teagasc.ie); [ICT\\_Executive\\_Director@Garda.ie](mailto:ICT_Executive_Director@Garda.ie); [tetraireland.info@motorolasolutions.com](mailto:tetraireland.info@motorolasolutions.com); [reception@artscouncil.ie](mailto:reception@artscouncil.ie); [mail@heritagecouncil.ie](mailto:mail@heritagecouncil.ie); [customer.care@three.ie](mailto:customer.care@three.ie); [info@towercom.ie](mailto:info@towercom.ie); [info@tii.ie](mailto:info@tii.ie); [clientsolutions@virginmedia.ie](mailto:clientsolutions@virginmedia.ie); [eolas@uduras.ie](mailto:eolas@uduras.ie); [care@vodafone.ie](mailto:care@vodafone.ie); [corporate@waterwaysireland.org](mailto:corporate@waterwaysireland.org); [info@wirelessconnect.ie](mailto:info@wirelessconnect.ie); [Info](#)  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm  
**Date:** Monday 13 May 2024 09:57:00  
**Attachments:** [22-242-FT-EGN-XX-LT-EN-0003 - Dredid scoping letter.pdf](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Limited intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for the development of a proposed wind farm; and a separate planning permission for a substation which will facilitate connection of the wind farm to the national grid. We, Fehily Timoney and Company, are acting as the Agent for North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd, assisting them in making their planning application.

We have engaged with you in the past as part of pre-application consultations regarding a previous iteration of this Proposed Development. That iteration of the Proposed Development had been initially consented by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 following an appeal against Kildare County Council's decision (ABP Ref. 306500-20). However, we have made some changes to the layout and method of connection to the national grid and as such, we are now seeking planning consent for a slightly revised Proposed Development. Therefore, we are consulting with you to advise of the changes to the previously considered development proposal. We would be interested in receiving any opinions, further information or comments you may have on the Proposed Development application.

Please find attached scoping letter which details the recent changes to the Proposed Development.

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.



**From:** [Customer Service](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** [Request Received] – North Kildare Wind Farm Limited’s intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm - KCC-177882 Acknowledgement from Kildare County Council Customer Services CRM:00001000540535  
**Date:** Monday 13 May 2024 09:59:53  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)



**Comhairle Contae Chill Dara**  
**Kildare County Council**

Thank you for contacting Kildare County Council.  
Your email has been received and your case number is above.  
You will receive a further email in due course with details of the Team and Department your case has been assigned to.  
In any communication with us please always include your case number as this helps us to more easily identify your case.  
Should you wish to follow up on, or add further information relating to your query, please reply to this email, without altering the subject line as the case number automatically recognises your case in our system.  
Submissions:  
It is important to note that submissions to Consultations cannot be accepted through the customer services email address or the Customer Portal.  
Submissions may be made via the online portal at <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=2349&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fconsult.kildarecoco.ie%2Fen&t=b7aa4888d0fc5c2c97b72add70c6f6b89a79b799> or in writing to the contact advertised in the consultation. Please make your submission by one medium only i.e. in hard copy or online.  
Late submissions will not be accepted.

Go raibh maith agat as ucht teagmháil a dhéanamh le Comhairle Contae Chill Dara.  
Fuarthas do ríomhphost agus is é an uimhir thuas d’uimhir cháis.  
Gheobhaidh tú ríomhphost in am agus i dtráth le sonraí na Foirne agus na Roinne a mbeidh faoi chúram do cháis  
Iarrtar ort le do thoil d’uimhir cháis a chuir i ngach chomhfhreagrais/ cumarsáid linn toisc go gcuideonn sé seo linn do cháis a aithint go héasca.  
Más mian leat do saincheist a fhiosrú nó tuilleadh eolais maidir le do saincheist a chuir ar fáil, freagair ar an ríomhphost seo gan an líne abhair a athrú toisc go n-aithríonn an uimhir cháis go huathoibríoch do cháis in ár gcóras.

Aighneachtaí:  
Tá sé tábhachtach go dtabharfar faoi ndeara nach féidir glacadh le comhchomhairlí tríd seoladh ríomhphost na seirbhísí custaiméara nó tríd an Tairisí Custaiméara.

Is féidir aighneachtaí a dhéanamh tríd na tairisí ar líne ar <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=2349&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fconsult.kildarecoco.ie%2Fga&t=8db8e2d007ae4d143db0f3178121b25ad9346a4a> nó i scríbhinn chuig an teagmhálaí a bhfógraíodh sa chomhchomhairle. Iarrtar le do thoil go ndéantar an aighneacht trí aon mheán amháin, is é sin le cruachóip nó ar líne.  
Ní ghlactar le haighneachtaí déanacha.



Tá an ríomhphost seo príobháideach agus ní ceadmhach úsáid an ríomhphost seo d’éinne ach don té ar seoladh chuige é. D’fhéadfadh go mbeadh eolas ann atá faoi phribhléid agus rúnda de réir an dlí. Munar duit an ríomhphost seo, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir chomh luath agus is féidir. D’fhéadfadh nach iad tuairimí Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara na tuairimí atá curtha in iúl sa ríomhphost seo. Déanann Comhairle Contae Chill Dara iarracht ríomhphost a chosaint ó víris. Mar sin féin, moltar duit gach ríomhphost a scanadh, mar ní ghlacann an Chomhairle aon dliteanas i leith damáiste do do chórais. Le haghaidh eolas ar do chearta príobháideachta agus ar conas a bhainistimid sonraí pearsanta, logáil isteach ar <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=2349&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fkildarecoco.ie%2FYourCouncil%2FGovernanceandCompliance%2FDataProtection%2F&t=9049ce10de41f63072c1541f7ee63eddeafe46c1>  
Chun do chuid sonraí pearsanta a nuashonrú cuir ríomhphost chugainn ag [customer-care@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customer-care@kildarecoco.ie) Caithfidh tú deis a thógáil don Chomhairle cé thu féin a chinntiú trí cruthúnas céannaigh agus/nó seoladh a sholáthar, sula ndéanaimid aon athruithe.  
\*\*\*\*\*

This message is intended only for the use of the person(s) to whom it is addressed. It may contain information which is privileged and confidential within the meaning of applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient, please contact the sender as soon as possible. The views expressed in this communication may not necessarily be the views held by Kildare County Council. Kildare County Council endeavours to protect e-mails and their attachments from viruses. However, you are advised to scan all messages, as the council does not accept any liability for contamination or damage to your systems, however caused. For information on your privacy rights and how we manage personal data, log on to <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=2349&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fkildarecoco.ie%2FYourCouncil%2FGovernanceandCompliance%2FDataProtection%2F&t=9049ce10de41f63072c1541f7ee63eddeafe46c1>  
To update your personal information, email us at [customer-care@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customer-care@kildarecoco.ie) You must enable the Council to verify your identity by providing proof of identity and/or address, before we make any changes. \*\*\*\*\*

Our Website [kildarecountycouncil.ie](http://kildarecountycouncil.ie) 'Follow' us on Twitter - 'Like' us on Facebook

**From:** [Customer Service](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** [CASE: KCC-177882 ] North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm CRM:0052300000017  
**Date:** Tuesday 21 May 2024 09:55:43  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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**Comhairle Contae Chill Dara**  
Kildare County Council

Service: Planning Applications Processing  
Date Received: 13/05/2024 08:59

Dear Brian Cronin

**Please do not reply to this email unless you wish to provide updated information related to this case.**

Your case number KCC-177882 dated 13/05/2024 08:59 has been examined by the Planning Applications Processing Team in the Planning Department and the outcome is:

We can facilitate a preplanning meeting for this development. The planner has availability to hold a preplanning meeting via MS Teams on 6th or 7th June. If this suits, could you please send your response to [preplanning@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:preplanning@kildarecoco.ie), along with a list of attendees and their email addresses.

Planning Applications Processing Team  
Planning Department



Tá an ríomhphost seo príobháideach agus ní ceadmhach úsáid an ríomhphoist seo d'éinne ach don té ar seoladh chuige é. D'fhéadfadh go mbeadh eolas ann atá faoi phribhléid agus rúnda de réir an dlí. Múnar duit an ríomhphost seo, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir chomh luath agus is féidir. D'fhéadfadh nach iad tuairimí Chomhairle Contae Chill Dara na tuairimí atá curtha in iúl sa ríomhphost seo. Déanann Comhairle Contae Chill Dara iarracht ríomhphoist a chosaint ó víris. Mar sin féin, moltar duit gach ríomhphost a scanadh, mar ní ghlacann an Chomhairle aon dliteanas i leith damáiste do do chórais. Le haghaidh eolas ar do chearta príobháideachta agus ar conas a bhainistimid sonraí pearsanta, logáil isteach ar <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=2349&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fkildarecoco.ie%2FYourCouncil%2FGovernanceandCompliance%2FDataProtection%2F&t=9049ce10de41f63072c1541f7ee63eddeafe46c1>

Chun do chuid sonraí pearsanta a nuashonrú cuir ríomhphost chugainn ag [customer@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customer@kildarecoco.ie) Caithfidh tú deis a thógáil don Chomhairle cé thú féin a chinntiú trí cruthúnas céamachta agus/nó seoladh a sholáthar, sula ndéanannid aon athruithe.  
\*\*\*\*\*

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To update your personal information, email us at [customer@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:customer@kildarecoco.ie) You must enable the Council to verify your identity by providing proof of identity and/or address, before we make any changes. \*\*\*\*\*

Our Website [kildarecountycouncil.ie](http://kildarecountycouncil.ie) 'Follow' us on Twitter - 'Like' us on Facebook

**From:** [O Doherty, Darragh](#)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Telecoms\\_DS](#)  
**Subject:** FW: TS\_7E-209341/24 : (External)North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 18 June 2024 15:18:36  
**Attachments:** [22-242-FT-EGN-XX-LT-EN-0003 - Drehid scoping letter.pdf](#)

---

Good Afternoon,

Re External)North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

## Track Trouble Ticket - TT193691 - Service Request

View the Trouble Ticket details below:

### Trouble Ticket Details

<b>Ticket Number:</b>	TT193691	<b>Agency:</b>	Garda
<b>Submitted Date:</b>	May 20 2024 12:05PM	<b>Submitted By:</b>	Darragh ODoherty
<b>Location:</b>	GHQ	<b>Contact Phone:</b>	0860465564
<b>Customer Ref:</b>		<b>Priority:</b>	P4
<b>Initial Response:</b>	[Date: May 20 2024 12:09PM - By: David Murphy]		
<b>Assigned To:</b>	Colin Fennessy	<b>Status:</b>	Closed

### Resolution:

No issues here, Cappagh nearest site 7km away

**Closed Date:** 15 Jun 2024 11:25 - **Closed By:** Colin Fennessy

<b>Title:</b>	Proposed windfarm North Kildare
<b>Description:</b>	Hi, Could you please look into any potential impact at proposed site. I will forward on attachments via email now.
<b>Category:</b>	RF Impact Assessment

Regards,

Darragh O'Doherty | Executive Officer | NDRS | Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, Ireland, D08 HN3X  
|  
Email [Darragh.P.ODoherty@garda.ie](mailto:Darragh.P.ODoherty@garda.ie) | Tel: 01 6662205 | Mobile: 086 0465564 | <http://www.garda.ie/>

Le do thoil, cuimhnigh ar an imshaol roimh priontáil an ríomhphost seo. Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

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**From:** Telecoms\_DS  
**Sent:** Wednesday 15 May 2024 15:24  
**To:** O Doherty, Darragh <[Darragh.P.ODoherty@garda.ie](mailto:Darragh.P.ODoherty@garda.ie)>  
**Cc:** 'info@ftco.ie' <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** TS\_7E-209341/24 : (External)North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

## TS\_7E-209341/24

Darragh O'Doherty  
NDRS

Re External)North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

The below request is forwarded for necessary attention, please.

Sent on behalf of Acting Superintendent Michael McDonnell

Telecoms\_DS

Telecoms. Administration Office | Garda H.Q.

Email: [Telecoms.DS@garda.ie](mailto:Telecoms.DS@garda.ie) - Tel: + 353 (0) 1 6662213 | <http://www.garda.ie/>

 *Le do thoil, cuimhnigh ar an imshaol roimh priontáil an ríomhphost seo. Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

The below request is forwarded for necessary attention, please.

Originally sent to M. McDonnell 23/04/24

Sent on behalf of Acting Superintendent Michael McDonnell

Telecoms\_DS

Telecoms. Administration Office | Garda H.Q.

Email: [Telecoms.DS@garda.ie](mailto:Telecoms.DS@garda.ie) - Tel: + 353 (0) 1 6662213 | <http://www.garda.ie/>

 *Le do thoil, cuimhnigh ar an imshaol roimh priontáil an ríomhphost seo. Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

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**From:** ICT\_Director <[ICT\\_Director@garda.ie](mailto:ICT_Director@garda.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday 13 May 2024 10:07

**To:** Telecoms\_DS <[Telecoms\\_DS@garda.ie](mailto:Telecoms_DS@garda.ie)>

**Cc:** ICT\_Director <[ICT\\_Director@garda.ie](mailto:ICT_Director@garda.ie)>; McDonnell, Michael <[michael.mcdonnell@garda.ie](mailto:michael.mcdonnell@garda.ie)>

**Subject:** FW: (External)North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

**ICT\_5-209341/24**

**A/Superintendent**

## Telecoms

The attached correspondence from Brian Cronin, Fehily Timoney and Company, is forwarded for your attention, please.

Sent on behalf of the Chief Information Officer

Regards  
Sibeal

Sibéal Byrne | Clerical Officer | Office of the Executive Director (Chief Information Officer) & Office of the Director ICT | Garda Headquarters, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8, Ireland, D08 HN3X |

Email [sibeal.r.byrne@garda.ie](mailto:sibeal.r.byrne@garda.ie) | Tel: + 353 (0) 1 6661453 | <http://www.garda.ie/>

 *Le do thoil, cuimhnigh ar an imshaol roimh priontáil an ríomhphost seo. Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.*

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**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday 13 May 2024 09:57

**Subject:** (External)North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

**This message is from an EXTERNAL SENDER - be CAUTIOUS, particularly with links and attachments.**

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Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Limited intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for the development of a proposed wind farm; and a separate planning permission for a substation which will facilitate connection of the wind farm to the national grid. We, Fehily Timoney and Company, are acting as the Agent for North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd, assisting them in making their planning application.

We have engaged with you in the past as part of pre-application consultations regarding a previous iteration of this Proposed Development. That iteration of the Proposed Development had been initially consented by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 following an appeal against Kildare County Council's decision (ABP Ref. 306500-20). However, we have made some changes to the layout and method of connection to the national grid and as such, we are now seeking planning consent for a slightly revised Proposed Development. Therefore, we are consulting with you to advise of the changes to the previously considered development proposal. We would be interested in receiving any opinions, further information or comments you may have on the Proposed Development application.

Please find attached scoping letter which details the recent changes to the Proposed Development.

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.

This message is for the intended recipient only. It may contain confidential or proprietary information. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it, destroy all copies of it and notify the sender. You must not use or disclose any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient. We may monitor all email communication through our networks. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the message states otherwise. We take reasonable precautions to ensure our emails are virus free. However, we cannot accept responsibility for any virus transmitted by us and recommend that you subject any incoming email to your own virus checking procedure. Fehily Timoney is registered in Ireland as a private company limited by shares. Registration No. 180497. Registered office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, Ireland

#### Disclaimer

Faisnéis í seo don té sin nó don eintiteas sin a bhfuil a sheoladh uirthi, agus dó siúd amháin, agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar rúnda agus/ nó ábhar faoi phribhléid a bheith iniata. Toirmisctear aon athbheithniú, atarchur nó leathadh a dhéanamh ar an bhfaisnéis seo, aon úsáid eile a bhaint aisti nó aon ghníomh a dhéanamh ar a hiontaoibh, ag daoine nó ag eintitis seachas an faighteoir beartaithe. Más trí bhotún a fuair tú é seo, cuir scéala chuig an seoltóir le do thoil agus scrios an t-ábhar d'aon ríomhaire. Is é polasaí An Gharda Síochána seoladh ábhair cholúil a dhícheadú, agus más dóigh leat gur ábhar colúil atá sa teachtaireacht seo ba cheart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus le [postmaster@garda.ie](mailto:postmaster@garda.ie) láithreach.

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**From:** [operations@water.ie](mailto:operations@water.ie)  
**To:** [Info](#)  
**Subject:** Irish Water Ref: 1001884504  
**Date:** Monday 13 May 2024 13:16:01

---

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your email. I have reviewed the information regarding your query ,

In order to have this matter investigated for you and for the appropriate actions to be taken, I have forwarded your query to our escalations department who would be of more assistance. The reference number for the information that I have passed on today is 7543070110, should you wish to keep this for your own records.

In the event that we require any further information, a member of our escalations department will be in contact with you. Thank you for contacting Uisce Éireann.

Yours sincerely,

Andrzej Kmiecik  
Customer Service Advisor - Email & Correspondence

Uisce Éireann  
Bosca OP 860, Oifig Sheachadta na Cathrach Theas, Cathair Chorcaí, Éire  
Uisce Éireann  
PO Box 860, South City Delivery Office, Cork City, Ireland

Telephone: 1800 278 278  
Text to Voice/Voice to Text: 1800 378 378

Is don duine amháin nó don eintiteas amháin ainmnithe ar an seoladh an fhaisnéis agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh na tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid den fhaisnéis. Tá toirmeasc ar aon daoine nó aon eititis; nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis- aon athbhreithniú a dhéanamh, aon atarchur a dhéanamh nó aon athdháileadh a dhéanamh, nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as an bhfaisnéis, nó aon ghníomh a bhraithfeadh ar an bhfaisnéis seo a dhéanamh agus d'fhéadfaí an dlí a shárú dá ndéanfaí sin. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas as aon ghníomh agus as aon iarmhairt bunaithe ar úsáid neamhúdaraíthe na faisnéise seo. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo agus séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann leis an bhfaisnéis a fháil. Má tá an ríomh-phost seo faighte agat trí dhearmad, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir más é do thoil é agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. D'fhéadfadh ríomhphost a bheith so-ghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasuithe neamhúdaraíthe. Séanann Uisce Éireann aon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin tar éis a sheolta. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfadh monatóireacht a bheith á dhéanamh ar theachtairreachtaí chuig Uisce Éireann agus ó Uisce Éireann d'fhonn ár ngnó a chosaint agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag teacht le beartais agus le caighdeáin Uisce Éireann. Is cuideachta gníomhaíochta ainmnithe é Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, a bunaíodh de bhun fhorálacha na n-Achtanna um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2007-2022, a bhfuil a bpríomh-ionad gnó ag Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.

----- Last Email Communication -----  
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Please click on the EML link against corresponding interaction ID in the Interact Log Characteristics table above.

Fehily Timoney  
Cork Core Road  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork  
T12D773

12<sup>TH</sup> June 2024

**Re: Scoping Request for the proposed Drehid Wind Farm , Co. Kildare.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Email: [felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie) or Web [gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences (www.gov.ie))

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; [gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences (www.gov.ie)) As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations, and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may

make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices are published online at: [gov.ie - Felling Licence Applications \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 14 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decision are published online at: [gov.ie - Felling Licence Decisions \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

It is important to note that when applying to a **Local Authority**, or **An Bord Pleanála**, for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
- b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
- c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
  1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;and
  2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.
  3. Please note that there must be absolute spatial consistency between the felling licence areas submitted to DAFM (second authority) and all related planning documents submitted to the first authority in respect of the felling area(s)

Yours sincerely,

---

**Catherine Boyce**  
**Felling Section**  
**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**  
**Johnstown Castle**  
**Co Wexford**





Mr. Cronin  
Fehily Timoney  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork  
T12 D773

28 May 2024

**RE: EIAR Scoping Consultation for the Proposed Drehid Wind Farm, County Kildare.**

Dear Mr. Cronin,

I refer to your letter, dated 13 May 2024, in relation to the EIAR scoping consultation for the proposed Drehid Wind Farm, Co. Kildare.

I wish to advise at the outset that any determination in relation to a planning consent is solely a matter for the planning authorities and/or ABP, as appropriate. Therefore, the following observation is made on a non-prejudicial basis, and is not intended to be used to rely on for a prospective planning application, nor is this observation to be relied on in the event of any commercial transaction pertaining to such lands and it is not to be relied on in the event of any contract exchange pertaining to same.

As a matter of practice, the Department of Defence does not provide observations or advice in the scoping process, except where the relevant parties have been directed by a planning authority to seek the Department's views.

Based on the information supplied and following consultations with the subject matter in the Irish Air Corps, the Department of Defence wishes to make the following observations:

- All turbines should be illuminated by Type C, Medium intensity, Fixed Red obstacle lighting with a minimum output of 2,000 candela to be visible in all directions of azimuth and to be operational H24/7 days a week. Obstacle lighting should be incandescent or, if LED or other types are used, of a type visible to Night Vision equipment. Obstacle lighting used must emit light at the near Infra-Red (IR) range of the electromagnetic spectrum, specifically at or near 850



nanometres (nm) of wavelength. Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light.

- Based on the information provided, if this proposed development was to go to the planning stage, the Department of Defence would be obligated to raise the following concerns and advise the planning authorities accordingly that the proposed Drehid Wind Farm lays in proximity to the Irish Air Corps Restricted Area EI-R16 within 20NM of Baldonnel and the area contained within Military Operating Areas, MOAs 3 and 4 within 20NM of Baldonnel.

Any Irish Air Corps (IAC) requirements for are separate to Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) require

We would appreciate if you could keep us informed on any progress relating to this proposed development.

Nothing in the above observation shall be taken as a binding response by the Minister for Defence in the event that a planning application is made. The Minister reserves the right to comment on an actual planning application as and when it is submitted in accordance with the provisions of the planning regulatory code.

Please contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Yours faithfully,

*Sent via e-mail*

---

Gillian Holden  
Property Management Branch  
Department of Defence  
Station Road  
Newbridge  
Co. Kildare W12 AD93

## Brian Cronin

---

**From:** Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday 28 May 2024 13:54  
**To:** Brian Cronin  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm  
**Attachments:** 28-05-2024 Observation Letter for Drehid Wind Farm Co Kildare.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi Brian.

Please see email below and attachment received in info inbox today.

Kind regards,

Kate

---

**From:** Defence Property Management Planning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 28, 2024 1:34 PM  
**To:** Info <info@ftco.ie>  
**Cc:** Sarah Kelly (Defence) <Sarah.Kelly@defence.ie>; Don Watchorn (Defence) <Don.Watchorn@defence.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Dear Mr. Cronin,

Re: EIAR Scoping consultation for the proposed Drehid Wind Farm, Co. Kildare.

In reference to your email and letter dated 13 May 2024, please attached the Department's response.

Kind Regards,  
Gillian

**Gillian Holden**

*Property Management Branch*

---

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

**Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.**

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.

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T+353 (045) 45 2043

M +353 87 1660640

E-mail: [gillian.holden@defence.ie](mailto:gillian.holden@defence.ie)

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

---

Follow us on Twitter: [Department of Defence](#) | [Civil Defence](#) | [Office of Emergency Planning](#)

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**From:** Defence Property Management Planning <[PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie](mailto:PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday 13 May 2024 12:54

**To:** [info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)

**Cc:** Gillian Holden (Defence) <[Gillian.Holden@defence.ie](mailto:Gillian.Holden@defence.ie)>; Sarah Kelly (Defence) <[Sarah.Kelly@defence.ie](mailto:Sarah.Kelly@defence.ie)>

**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Dear Mr. Cronin,

The Department of Defence wished to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail below re: Drehid Windfarm, County Kildare. We will consult with the relevant Military Authorities and we will revert in due course.

For your records, you may wish to note please note, the e-mail address for all planning relating correspondence to the Dept. of Defence is [propertymanagementplanning@defence.ie](mailto:propertymanagementplanning@defence.ie)

Kind Regards

**Don Watchorn**

*Property Management Branch*

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

**Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.**

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.

---

**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday 13 May 2024 09:57

**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Limited intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for the development of a proposed wind farm; and a separate planning permission for a substation which will facilitate

connection of the wind farm to the national grid. We, Fehily Timoney and Company, are acting as the Agent for North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd, assisting them in making their planning application.

We have engaged with you in the past as part of pre-application consultations regarding a previous iteration of this Proposed Development. That iteration of the Proposed Development had been initially consented by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 following an appeal against Kildare County Council's decision (ABP Ref. 306500-20). However, we have made some changes to the layout and method of connection to the national grid and as such, we are now seeking planning consent for a slightly revised Proposed Development. Therefore, we are consulting with you to advise of the changes to the previously considered development proposal. We would be interested in receiving any opinions, further information or comments you may have on the Proposed Development application.

Please find attached scoping letter which details the recent changes to the Proposed Development.

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.

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## Brian Cronin

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**From:** Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday 14 May 2024 09:49  
**To:** Brian Cronin  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm  
**Attachments:** 22-242-FT-EGN-XX-LT-EN-0003 - Drehid scoping letter.pdf

Kind Regards,  
Emma

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**From:** Defence Property Management Planning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 12:54 PM  
**To:** Info <info@ftco.ie>  
**Cc:** Gillian Holden (Defence) <Gillian.Holden@defence.ie>; Sarah Kelly (Defence) <Sarah.Kelly@defence.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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For your records, you may wish to note please note, the e-mail address for all planning relating correspondence to the Dept. of Defence is [propertymanagementplanning@defence.ie](mailto:propertymanagementplanning@defence.ie)

Kind Regards

**Don Watchorn**

*Property Management Branch*

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

**Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.**

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.

---

**From:** Info <info@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 13 May 2024 09:57  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.

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## Brian Cronin

---

**From:** Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 20 May 2024 10:50  
**To:** Brian Cronin  
**Cc:** windfarms@rte.ie; Johnny Evans  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm  
**Attachments:** 2RN signed agreement(1.1)Nth Kildare WF.pdf

Hi Brian,

I have changed the date on the agreement, signed it and attached it to this mail.

Regards

### Matthew Craig

Project Engineer  
Projects and Coverage Planning  
2RN  
Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland  
D24 WK28  
Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261  
Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

---

**From:** Brian Cronin <[brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 20, 2024 10:38:49 AM (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London  
**To:** Matthew Craig <[matthew.craig@2rn.ie](mailto:matthew.craig@2rn.ie)>  
**Cc:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>; Johnny Evans <[johnny.evans@2rn.ie](mailto:johnny.evans@2rn.ie)>; windfarms <[windfarms@rte.ie](mailto:windfarms@rte.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Good morning Matthew,

Thank you for your response to our scoping letter last week.

I've had a look at our records and it seems we have signed an agreement with 2RN in 2018. Will this suffice for your needs or is there a requirement to draw up a new agreement?

Many thanks,

Brian

---

**From:** Matthew Craig <[matthew.craig@2rn.ie](mailto:matthew.craig@2rn.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 11:08 AM  
**To:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

Cc: [windfarms@rte.ie](mailto:windfarms@rte.ie); Johnny Evans <[johnny.evans@2rn.ie](mailto:johnny.evans@2rn.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Hi Brian,

2rn have no fixed linking in the area.

There is however a risk of interference to broadcast services in the area.

We would therefore ask that a protocol be signed between the developer and 2rn and recommend that a TV reception survey be undertaken before construction commences.

Regards

**Matthew Craig**

Project Engineer

Projects and Coverage Planning

2RN

Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland

D24 WK28

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261

Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

---

**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:57:03 AM (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London

**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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d'fhéadfadh ríomhphost chuig, ó agus laistigh de RTÉ a bheith faoi réir an Achta um Shaoráil Faisnéise 2014, agus d'fhéadfadh go ndéanfaí é a nochtadh.

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Your Ref: 22-242-FT-EGN-XX-LT-EN-0003

Our Ref: **G Pre00174/2024**

*(Please quote in all related correspondence)*

10 June 2024

Brian Cronin,  
Fehily Timoney & Company,  
Core House,  
Pouladuff Road,  
County Cork,  
T12 D773

Via email: [brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)

**Re: Preplanning Consultation regarding the proposed Drehid Wind Farm application for an 11 turbine wind farm (max tip height 167 metres) and an 110KV substation to enable the connection of the wind farm to the national grid.**

A Chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are archaeological observations/recommendations of the Department.

The Department has reviewed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation documentation provided for the Proposed Drehid Wind Farm, in County Kildare.

The information provided was not sufficiently detailed to allow for a full assessment of the archaeological implications of this proposal, however the Department notes that an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) is scoped into the proposed EIA process as part of the overall Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) of the proposed development. This assessment must be carried out by a suitably qualified Consultant Archaeologist. The CHIA should incorporate a robust desk-study supported by a comprehensive field inspection as well as a visual impact assessment (to assist in identifying any possible impacts to the setting of sites or monuments). The CHIA should include an assessment of the possible effects of the proposal on the wider archaeological landscape. It is of importance that the study area for the CHIA should be of sufficient size and extent to support this.

Further to the above, and by way of general archaeological advice, please note that, whilst the proposed development site (PDS) may or may not contain within it known or subsurface Recorded Monuments and/or Archaeological sites that may require assessment as part of the overall CHIA, the PDS itself is located within a wider area of known archaeological settlement and activity (the Department's initial review of the Record of Monuments and



Places, [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) and cartographic sources). All of these Recorded Monuments, both within and outside the PDS, are subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under section 12 of the National Monuments Act 1930-2014.

It should be noted that in addition to site-specific vulnerabilities to impact on setting many monument types – for example prehistoric monuments such as Standing Stone Alignments, Standing Stone Rows, Single Standing Stones, as well as some megalithic tombs — are often considered to represent a wide area of associated archaeological settlement and activity. As a result, the bunding/stockpiling of materials, intrusion into viewsheds may have a negative visual impact on such monuments and may diminish or interrupt alignment views and alter key aspects of their original function and layout. The Visual Impact Assessment should:

- Set out the key characteristics of the monument(s) and its surroundings that contribute to its setting and the degree to which this setting is integral to the significance and appreciation of the monument.
- Assess the effects of the development —both positive and negative— on these key characteristics. The development should be considered in terms of its location and siting relative to the monument as well as its form, appearance and permanence.
- Be supported by appropriate illustrations of the monument, its setting and the development.

The Department further advises that the following are also carried out as part of the overall CHIA to ensure a comprehensive assessment of the proposed development:

- The desk-study and field inspection regime should inform:
  - Targeted non-intrusive advance geophysical survey or prospection (such as Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys)
  - Targeted advance archaeological test excavation
- Any and all intrusive advance investigations (such as, but not limited to, ground investigations for soils/geology/hydrogeology) carried out as part of the EIA or design process should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

The results of these investigations should inform the EIA process and be incorporated within the EIA Report. The Department is happy to provide further advice and clarification as and if required in relation to the preparation of suitably comprehensive assessments as outlined above, with particular regard to the scope and locations for any advance non-intrusive



prospection or advance test excavation that would be appropriate to inform the assessment of this proposed scheme.

Notwithstanding the above, the Department awaits the submission of this assessment before commenting further.

The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority, in his role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at [manager.dau@npws.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@npws.gov.ie), or to the following address:

The Manager  
Development Applications Unit (DAU)  
Government Offices  
Newtown Road  
Wexford  
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

---

Sinéad O' Brien  
Development Applications Unit  
Administration



## Brian Cronin

---

**From:** Brian Cronin  
**Sent:** Friday 6 September 2024 11:18  
**To:** planning@daa.ie  
**Subject:** Drehid Wind Farm SID  
**Attachments:** P22-242 Drehid Scoping Update Letter -Specific to DAA.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Limited intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for the development of a proposed wind farm; and a separate planning permission for a substation which will facilitate connection of the wind farm to the national grid. We, Fehily Timoney and Company, are acting as the Agent for North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd, assisting them in making their planning application.

We have would have contacted you in the past as part of pre-application consultations regarding a previous iteration of this Proposed Development. That iteration of the Proposed Development had been initially consented by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 following an appeal against Kildare County Council's decision (ABP Ref. 306500-20). However, we have made some changes to the layout and method of connection to the national grid and as such, we are now seeking planning consent for a slightly revised Proposed Development. Therefore, we are consulting with you to advise of the changes to the previously considered development proposal. We would be interested in receiving any opinions, further information or comments you may have on the Proposed Development application.

Please find attached scoping letter which details the recent changes to the Proposed Development.

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.



**Brian Cronin**  
**Senior Environmental Scientist**

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Unit 3/4, Northwood House, Northwood Crescent, Northwood, Dublin 9, D09 X899  
t: +353 (0)1 6583500

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

## Brian Cronin

---

**From:** Planning <planning@iaa.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 24 July 2024 08:49  
**To:** Brian Cronin  
**Cc:** Emma Davidson; Planning  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Hi Brian,

Thank you for your email.

I have reviewed the email addresses provided and note you have the correct email address for Air Nav. For the daa, email address is as follows: [planning@daa.ie](mailto:planning@daa.ie)

Kind regards,

Dave

---

**From:** Brian Cronin <brian.cronin@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 23, 2024 12:21 PM  
**To:** Planning <planning@iaa.ie>  
**Cc:** Emma Davidson <emma.davidson@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

**\* This message originated from outside the Irish Aviation Authority. Please treat hyperlinks, attachments and instructions in this email with caution. \***

Dear Dave,

Thank you very much for your response to our scoping letter which we sent out a couple of months ago.

As you advised, we attempted to reach out to Dublin Airport Authority and AirNav Ireland. However, we cannot seem to get a response from either. Would you be able to advise on the best contacts for these? Below are the email addresses we've tried:

AirNav Ireland: [planning@airnav.ie](mailto:planning@airnav.ie)  
Dublin Airport Authority: [info@dublinairport.com](mailto:info@dublinairport.com)

If you know of better contact details I would really appreciate you providing same.

Many thanks,

Brian

---

**From:** Planning <[planning@iaa.ie](mailto:planning@iaa.ie)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2024 11:22 AM

**To:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Planning <[planning@iaa.ie](mailto:planning@iaa.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your scoping letter and request for comments in relation to the proposed North Kildare Wind Farm. The proposed development appears to be approximately 40km SW of Dublin Airport, as such, it is the observation of the Irish Aviation Authority, that even at this pre-planning stage, it would be prudent to engage as early as possible with daa Dublin Airport and the air navigation service provider, AirNav Ireland to undertake a preliminary screening assessment to confirm that the proposed wind farm and the associated cranes that would be utilised during its construction would have no impact on instrument flight procedures, communication and navigation aids or other en route communication, navigation and surveillance equipment.

It is likely that the following general observations would be proffered by the Authority during a formal planning process: In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to:

- (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development,
- (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and blade tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and
- (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection.

Kind regards,

Dave

The Times Building, 11-12 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2, D02 T449



---

**From:** Planning <[planning@iaa.ie](mailto:planning@iaa.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 5:30 PM

**To:** 'info@ftco.ie' <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Planning <[planning@iaa.ie](mailto:planning@iaa.ie)>

**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your email and I acknowledge receipt of the scoping letter for the proposed Drehid Wind Farm, Co Kildare.

We will review and revert as soon as practicable.

Kind regards,

Dave

---

**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:57 AM

**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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Please find attached scoping letter which details the recent changes to the Proposed Development.

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.

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**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Brian Cronin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm  
**Date:** Wednesday 29 May 2024 12:58:26  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Hi Brian,

Please see email below.

Kind regards,

Kate

---

**From:** Planning <planning@iaa.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 29, 2024 11:22 AM  
**To:** Info <info@ftco.ie>  
**Cc:** Planning <planning@iaa.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Dear Brian,

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- (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection.

Kind regards,

Dave

The Times Building, 11-12 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2, D02 T449



ÚDARÁS EITLIÓCHTA NA hÉIREANN  
IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY

---

**From:** Planning <[planning@iaa.ie](mailto:planning@iaa.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 5:30 PM  
**To:** 'info@ftco.ie' <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>  
**Cc:** Planning <[planning@iaa.ie](mailto:planning@iaa.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Dear Brian,

Thank you for your email and I acknowledge receipt of the scoping letter for the proposed Drehid Wind Farm, Co Kildare.

We will review and revert as soon as practicable.

Kind regards,

Dave

---

**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:57 AM  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.

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=====  
=====

**From:** [Mark Conroy](#)  
**To:** [Brian Cronin](#); [Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Jim Hughes](#)  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 14 May 2024 10:00:58  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

---

Hi Brian

Its not necessary to send out the original scoping letter. It was just the you indicated that you had previous engagement with Iarnród Éireann and I was trying to establish with whom. We can proceed with out assessment based on the recent information provided.

Regards

Mark



---

**From:** Brian Cronin <brian.cronin@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 9:54 AM  
**To:** Info <info@ftco.ie>; Mark Conroy <Mark.Conroy@irishrail.ie>  
**Cc:** Jim Hughes <jim.hughes@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Good morning Mr Conroy,

Thank you for your response to our scoping letter.

Dr Elaine Bennet from Fehily Timoney issued out a Scoping Report and cover letter to Iarnród Éireann on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018 (cover letter attached). However, our consultation tracker has recorded "no response to date" for Iarnród Éireann as of November 2018.

We would be happy to send you across the original scoping report from 2018 if required and/or set up a Teams call (or similar video conference-type call) to discuss the project with you.

Please advise how you would like to proceed.

Many thanks,

Brian



**Brian Cronin**  
Senior Environmental Scientist

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Unit 3/4, Northwood House, Northwood Crescent, Northwood, Dublin 9, D09 X899  
t: +353 (0)1 6583500  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie) [in](#) [t](#)

---

**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 9:14 AM

**To:** Brian Cronin <[brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Hi Brian,

See response to scoping letter below from Irish Rail

Kind Regards,

Emma

---

**From:** Mark Conroy <[Mark.Conroy@irishrail.ie](mailto:Mark.Conroy@irishrail.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 10:59 AM

**To:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Dear Mr Cronin

Can you please indicate whom within Iarnród Éireann that the previous iteration of the Proposed Development was discussed.

Regards

Mark

---

**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:57 AM

**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.

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**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Brian Cronin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 14 May 2024 14:08:39  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

---

Hi,  
See below from failte ireland

Kind Regards,  
Emma

---

**From:** planning applications <[planning.applications@failteireland.ie](mailto:planning.applications@failteireland.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 14, 2024 11:42 AM  
**To:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

Hi Brian,

Thanks for the information on the revised layout, no comments to make.

Best Regards,

**Shane Dineen**  
Environment & Planning Manager | Fáilte Ireland  
M +353 (0)86 7966200



[LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Facebook](#)

---

**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:57 AM  
**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Dear Sir/Madam,

North Kildare Wind Farm Limited intends to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission for the development of a proposed wind farm; and a separate planning permission for a substation which will facilitate connection of the wind farm to the national grid. We, Fehily Timoney and Company, are acting as the Agent for North Kildare Wind Farm Ltd, assisting them in making their planning application.

We have engaged with you in the past as part of pre-application consultations regarding a previous iteration of this Proposed Development. That iteration of the Proposed Development had been initially consented by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 following an appeal against Kildare County Council's decision (ABP Ref. 306500-20). However, we have made some changes to the layout and method of connection to the national grid and as such, we are now seeking planning consent for a slightly revised Proposed Development. Therefore, we are consulting with you to advise of the changes to the previously considered development proposal. We would be interested in receiving any opinions, further information or comments you may have on the Proposed Development application.

Please find attached scoping letter which details the recent changes to the Proposed Development.

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.

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**From:** [Info](#)  
**To:** [Brian Cronin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: TII Ref: TII24-127292 - EIA Scoping request for revised version of Drehid Wind Farm (previously permitted Kildare Reg. Ref. 181534) by North Kildare Wind Farm Limited  
**Date:** Monday 27 May 2024 11:14:42

---

Hi Brian,

Please see email below. It was received in the info inbox this morning.

Kind regards,

Kate

---

**From:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 27, 2024 10:58 AM  
**To:** Info <info@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** TII Ref: TII24-127292 - EIA Scoping request for revised version of Drehid Wind Farm (previously permitted Kildare Reg. Ref. 181534) by North Kildare Wind Farm Limited

**Dear Mr Cronin,**

Thank you for your correspondence of 13 May 2024 regarding the above. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

TII wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants with respect to proposed developments. TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines, as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at [www.TII.ie](http://www.TII.ie).

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIAR Scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road and/or light rail networks.

Having regard to the EPA's 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' (2022), it is recommended, as appropriate, that the national road and light rail networks are recognised as strategic transport assets under "material assets".

EIAR assessment and mitigation should have regard to the following:

- National Roads: Official policy for development at or near national roads is set out in in

the DoECLG's 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2012), available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/85b83-planning-guidelines-standards/>

- TII Publications: In addition, as part of TII's responsibilities for managing and improving the country's national road and light rail networks, TII sets development guidance and standards for traffic and road assessments and construction, that may be necessary by reason of proposed development location, scale or typology, to be prepared to accompany applications for developments or works. Technical guidance and standards are contained in TII Publications, available at <https://www.tiipublications.ie/>

In addition, the EIAR should have regard to, *inter alia*, the following:

#### **National Road Network:**

- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development.
- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office (RDO), with regard to the locations of existing and future national road schemes.
- The EIAR should have regard to any prior Environmental Impact Statement or Assessment Report and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- The EIAR should have regard to the provisions of Chapter 3 of the DoECLG's 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'.

#### **TII Publications:**

- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (TII Publication No. PE-PDV-02045) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.
- The designers and assessors are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.

#### **TII environmental assessment guidance:**

- The EIAR should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the 'Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the

Planning of National Road Schemes’ (National Road Authority (NRA), 2014).

- The EIAR should consider the ‘European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations, 2018, (S.I. no. 549 of 2018)’, and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see ‘Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of (NRA, 2014)’).

#### **Haul routes utilising the national road network:**

- Elements of the national road network are operated and managed by a combination of (Public Private Partnerships) PPP Concessions, Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC) and local road authorities, in association with TII. In relation to haul route identification, the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed, to ascertain any operational requirements, including delivery timetabling, etc., to ensure that the strategic function of the national road network is safeguarded.
- Separate structure approvals/permits and other licences and works specific deeds of indemnity may be required in connection with the proposed haul route, including where temporary modification to the road network may be required. Consultation with relevant local authorities, PPP Companies and MMaRC Contractors may also be required.
- All structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed, including abnormal weight load. Additionally, any damage caused to the pavement on the existing national road arising from any temporary works due to the turning movement of abnormal loads (e.g. tearing of the surface course, etc.), shall be rectified in accordance with TII Pavement Standards and details in this regard shall be agreed with the Road Authority prior to the commencement of any development on site.

#### **National Road Crossings:**

- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- The preferred method of necessary national road network crossings is by horizontal directional drilling (HDD). It is appropriate for the designers to contact [thirdpartyworks@tii.ie](mailto:thirdpartyworks@tii.ie) in order to co-ordinate and process approvals for this type of crossing that may include requirements for Section 53 consent and specific indemnities for the works.

#### **Potential cable routing:**

- Any grid connection and cable routing proposals should be developed to safeguard existing national roads and/or proposed road schemes, as TII will not be responsible for costs associated with future relocation of cable routing, where proposals are catered for in an area of a proposed national road scheme. In that regard, consideration should be given to routing options, use of existing crossings, depth of cable laying, etc.

In the context of the existing national road network, in accordance with the National Planning Framework National Strategic Outcome No. 2 ‘Enhanced Regional Accessibility’, there is a requirement to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the network. This requirement is further reflected in the National Development Plan, the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 ‘Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities’.

There is around 99,000km of roads in Ireland, the national road network which caters for strategic inter-urban travel consists of only approx. 5.4% of this. There is a critical requirement to ensure the strategic capacity and safety of this national road network is maintained and significant Government investment already made in the national road network is safeguarded.

The provision of cabling along the national road network represents a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network and TII is of the opinion that grid connection cable routing should reflect the foregoing provisions of official policy.

TII has identified a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network resulting from the laying of high voltage electricity cabling in the national road reservation, including:

- Impacts on embankments, bridges, drainage and road furniture infrastructure leading to future maintenance liabilities.
- Impediments to future maintenance and operations activities, such as safety barrier repair and French drain renewal.
- Impediments to future routine network improvements such as pavement overlay and strengthening, installation of new verge-side signs and other road furniture.
- Impacts on network traffic flows during installation.
- Impediment to future on-line upgrades of national roads because of the implications to road authority / TII in having to incur the additional costs of moving underground cables in order to accommodate the road improvements.

Proposals to lay cables in the national road reservation, including the construction of associated joint bays, have the potential to impact road authorities and TII in undertaking future maintenance and improvement requirements. There may also be additional cost implications to national road improvements and maintenance resulting from the presence of high voltage cabling within the national road reservation.

Section 12.4.1.1 ‘Accelerate Renewable Electricity Generation’ of the Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) outlines the objective of reaching 80% of electricity demand from renewable sources by 2030, through a range of measures, including:

*“All relevant public bodies will carry out their functions in a manner which supports the achievement of the renewable electricity targets, including, but not limited to, the use of road and rail infrastructure to provide a route for grid infrastructure where this is the optimal solution”.*

(Climate Action Plan 2024, p.163)

Consistent with CAP24, for all renewable energy developments requiring grid connection to the national grid, TII recommends that a full assessment of all route alternatives for grid connection takes place, including alternatives to public road, where appropriate, to demonstrate clearly that the 'optimal solution' in accordance with CAP 24 requirements is proposed in the subject application. In TII's experience, grid connection accommodated on national roads has the potential, *inter alia*, to result in technical road safety issues such as differential settlement due to backfilling trenches and can impact on ability and cost of general maintenance, upgrades and safety works to existing national roads.

Other consents or licences may be required from the road authority for any trenching or cabling proposals crossing the national road. The Authority requests referral of all proposals agreed and licensed between the road authority and the applicant, which affect the national road network.

Cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII. Any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network.

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

**Yours sincerely,**

---

**Andrew Moore**  
**Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive**

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**From:** Info <[info@ftco.ie](mailto:info@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 13, 2024 9:57 AM

**Subject:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited's intended application for planning permission for development of proposed wind farm

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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We have engaged with you in the past as part of pre-application consultations regarding a previous iteration of this Proposed Development. That iteration of the Proposed Development had been initially consented by An Bord Pleanála in 2020 following an appeal against Kildare County Council's decision (ABP Ref. 306500-20). However, we have made some changes to the layout and method of connection to the national grid and as such, we are now seeking planning consent for a slightly revised Proposed Development. Therefore, we are consulting with you to advise of the changes to the previously considered development proposal. We would be interested in receiving any opinions, further information or comments you may have on the Proposed Development application.

Please find attached scoping letter which details the recent changes to the Proposed Development.

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence.

Many thanks,

Brian Cronin.

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Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag <https://www.tii.ie/about/about-tii/Data-Protection/?set-lang=ga>

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Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag <https://scanner.topsec.com/?d=2349&r=show&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.tii.ie%2Fabout%2Fabout-tii%2FData-Protection%2F%3Fset-lang%3Dga&t=1bed96c524b25db2ed35183935ca047dda63171b>

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Your Ref: 22-242-FT-EGN-XX-LT-EN-0003

Our Ref: **G Pre00174/2024**

*(Please quote in all related correspondence)*

10 June 2024

Brian Cronin,  
Fehily Timoney & Company,  
Core House,  
Pouladuff Road,  
County Cork,  
T12 D773

Via email: [brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)

**Re: Preplanning Consultation regarding the proposed Drehid Wind Farm application for an 11 turbine wind farm (max tip height 167 metres) and an 110KV substation to enable the connection of the wind farm to the national grid.**

A Chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are archaeological observations/recommendations of the Department.

The Department has reviewed the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Consultation documentation provided for the Proposed Drehid Wind Farm, in County Kildare.

The information provided was not sufficiently detailed to allow for a full assessment of the archaeological implications of this proposal, however the Department notes that an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) is scoped into the proposed EIA process as part of the overall Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) of the proposed development. This assessment must be carried out by a suitably qualified Consultant Archaeologist. The CHIA should incorporate a robust desk-study supported by a comprehensive field inspection as well as a visual impact assessment (to assist in identifying any possible impacts to the setting of sites or monuments). The CHIA should include an assessment of the possible effects of the proposal on the wider archaeological landscape. It is of importance that the study area for the CHIA should be of sufficient size and extent to support this.

Further to the above, and by way of general archaeological advice, please note that, whilst the proposed development site (PDS) may or may not contain within it known or subsurface Recorded Monuments and/or Archaeological sites that may require assessment as part of the overall CHIA, the PDS itself is located within a wider area of known archaeological settlement and activity (the Department's initial review of the Record of Monuments and



Places, [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) and cartographic sources). All of these Recorded Monuments, both within and outside the PDS, are subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under section 12 of the National Monuments Act 1930-2014.

It should be noted that in addition to site-specific vulnerabilities to impact on setting many monument types – for example prehistoric monuments such as Standing Stone Alignments, Standing Stone Rows, Single Standing Stones, as well as some megalithic tombs — are often considered to represent a wide area of associated archaeological settlement and activity. As a result, the bunding/stockpiling of materials, intrusion into viewsheds may have a negative visual impact on such monuments and may diminish or interrupt alignment views and alter key aspects of their original function and layout. The Visual Impact Assessment should:

- Set out the key characteristics of the monument(s) and its surroundings that contribute to its setting and the degree to which this setting is integral to the significance and appreciation of the monument.
- Assess the effects of the development —both positive and negative— on these key characteristics. The development should be considered in terms of its location and siting relative to the monument as well as its form, appearance and permanence.
- Be supported by appropriate illustrations of the monument, its setting and the development.

The Department further advises that the following are also carried out as part of the overall CHIA to ensure a comprehensive assessment of the proposed development:

- The desk-study and field inspection regime should inform:
  - Targeted non-intrusive advance geophysical survey or prospection (such as Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys)
  - Targeted advance archaeological test excavation
- Any and all intrusive advance investigations (such as, but not limited to, ground investigations for soils/geology/hydrogeology) carried out as part of the EIA or design process should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

The results of these investigations should inform the EIA process and be incorporated within the EIA Report. The Department is happy to provide further advice and clarification as and if required in relation to the preparation of suitably comprehensive assessments as outlined above, with particular regard to the scope and locations for any advance non-intrusive



prospection or advance test excavation that would be appropriate to inform the assessment of this proposed scheme.

Notwithstanding the above, the Department awaits the submission of this assessment before commenting further.

The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority, in his role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at [manager.dau@npws.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@npws.gov.ie), or to the following address:

The Manager  
Development Applications Unit (DAU)  
Government Offices  
Newtown Road  
Wexford  
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

---

Sinéad O' Brien  
Development Applications Unit  
Administration



Fehily Timoney  
Cork Core Road  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork  
T12D773

12<sup>TH</sup> June 2024

**Re: Scoping Request for the proposed Drehid Wind Farm , Co. Kildare.**

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Email: [felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie) or Web [gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences (www.gov.ie))

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; [gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences (www.gov.ie)) As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations, and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may

make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices are published online at: [gov.ie - Felling Licence Applications \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 14 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decision are published online at: [gov.ie - Felling Licence Decisions \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

It is important to note that when applying to a **Local Authority**, or **An Bord Pleanála**, for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
- b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
- c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
  1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;and
  2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.
  3. Please note that there must be absolute spatial consistency between the felling licence areas submitted to DAFM (second authority) and all related planning documents submitted to the first authority in respect of the felling area(s)

Yours sincerely,

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**Catherine Boyce**  
**Felling Section**  
**Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**  
**Johnstown Castle**  
**Co Wexford**



Brian Cronin  
Fehily Timoney  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork, T12 D773

05 June 2024

**Re: EIAR Scoping Consultation for the Proposed Drehid Wind Farm, County Kildare**

**Your Ref: 2-242-FT-EGN-XX-LT-EN-0003**

**Our Ref: 24/192**

Dear Brian,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data is made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases this data is a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.

With reference to your email received on the 13 May 2024, concerning the EIAR Scoping Consultation for the Proposed Drehid Wind Farm, County Kildare, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

### **Geoheritage**

A national inventory of geoheritage sites known as County Geological Sites (CGSs) is managed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. CGSs, as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include sites that are of national importance which have been selected as the very best examples for NHA (Natural Heritage Areas) designation. NHA designation will be completed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for Co. Kildare was carried out in 2005. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm.**

### **Groundwater**

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems. Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#) which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

**The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates aquifers classed as a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive' and a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Moderately Productive only in Local Zones' underlie the proposed wind farm.**



The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the range of groundwater vulnerabilities within the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface' in your assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greatest in these areas.

Our records show that there is a Public Water Scheme (PWS) ([Johnstown PWS](#)) with Inner and Outer source protection areas that are within the proposed wind farm area. Key to groundwater protection in general, and protection of specific drinking water supplies, is preventing ingress of runoff to the aquifer. Design of drainage will need to be cognisant of the public water scheme and the interactions between surface water and groundwater as well as run-off. Appropriate design should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons to include mitigation measures as necessary, such as SUDs or other drainage mitigation measures.

Any excavation required during development should ensure that groundwater flow within the zones of contribution to the groundwater abstraction points is not disrupted, resulting in diminished yields. Note that there could be other groundwater abstractions in the locality for which Geological Survey Ireland has not undertaken studies, and a robust assessment should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons including a survey of all current wells and water abstractions within the vicinity. Given the nearby drinking water sources (Public Water Scheme) and wells and boreholes, the effects of any potential contamination / dewatering as a result of the project would need to be assessed.

[GWClimate](#) is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the [Map viewer](#).

Geological Survey Ireland has completed Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) in partnership with Local Authorities, and there is now national coverage of GWPS mapping. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. **The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main reports is here:** <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx>

### **Geological Mapping**

Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. We would encourage you to use these data which can be found [here](#), in your future assessments.

**Please note we have recently launched QGIS compatible bedrock (100K) and Quaternary geology map data, with instructional manuals and videos. This makes our data more accessible to general public and external stakeholders. QGIS compatible data can be found in our downloadable bedrock 100k .zip file on the [Data & Maps](#) section of our website.**

### **Geohazards**

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.

Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated [Map Viewer](#). Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.

Geological Survey Ireland also engaged in a national project on Groundwater Flooding. The data from this project may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans, and is described in more detail under 'Groundwater' above.



### **Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)**

Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our [Minerals section](#) of the website. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our [Map Viewer](#).

**We would recommend use of the Aggregate Potential Mapping viewer to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area.** In keeping with a sustainable approach we would recommend use of our data and mapping viewers to identify and ensure that natural resources used in the proposed development are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities, and that consideration of future resource sterilization is considered.

### **Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments**

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx>.

### **Guidelines**

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:

- Institute of Geologists of Ireland, 2013. Guidelines for the Preparation of the Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Geology in Environmental Impact Statements.
- [EPA, 2022](#). Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)

### **Other Comments**

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at <mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie>, 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to the Geological Survey Ireland Planning Team at [GSIPlanning@gsi.ie](mailto:GSIPlanning@gsi.ie).

Yours sincerely,

### **Geoheritage and Planning Programme**

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.



**Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes**  
following European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018  
(S.I. No. 296 of 2018)

Geological Survey Ireland Programme	Dataset	Relevant EIA Topic	Coverage	Description / Notes / Limitations	Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer
Geohazards	Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map	Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape	National	Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c</a>
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Historic)	Water	Regional	Provide information of historic flooding, both surface water and groundwater. [A lack of flooding presented in any specific location of the map only indicates that a flood has not been detected. It does not indicate that a flood cannot occur in that location at present or in the future]	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc</a>
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Predictive)	Water	Regional	Provides information on the probability of future karst groundwater flooding (where available). [The maps do not, and are not intended to, constitute advice. Professional or specialist advice should be sought before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the flood maps]	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc</a>
Geohazards	Radon Map	Land & Soils/Air	National		<a href="http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/">http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/</a>
Geoheritage	County Geological Sites as adopted by National Heritage Plan and listed in County Development Plans	Land & Soils/Landscape	Regional	All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228</a>
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7e1b6ab8d58&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Physiographic units:	Land & Soils	National	Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a420f54877843aca1bc075c62b">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a420f54877843aca1bc075c62b</a>
Geological Mapping	GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas	Land & Soils	Regional	Includes 3D models	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b794c16093beb2212a850ce6&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f4818b794c16093beb2212a850ce6&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Geotechnical database	Land & Soils	National	Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a21718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a21718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c</a>
Goldmine	Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records	Land & Soils/Water	National	available online	<a href="https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html">https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater resources (aquifers)	Water	National	Data limited to 1:100,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater recharge.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale; long term annual average recharge	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater vulnerability.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Group scheme and public supply source protection areas.	Water	National	Not all PWS / GWS have SPZ / ZOC. Check with IW / coco / NFGWS for private supplies.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater Protection Schemes	Water	National	Data is limited to scale of 1:40,000. Data does not include all of the source protection areas	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Catchment and WFD management units.	Water	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	karst specific data layers	water	National	For areas underlain by limestone, includes karst features, tracer test database; turf/rough water levels (gwlevel.ie)	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Wells and Springs	Water	National	Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater body Descriptions	Water	National	Not exhaustive; only those in designated SACs; could be other GWDTEs; for more information contact NPWS / EPA / site investigations Also, Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy, November 2020	<a href="https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx">https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Geothermal Suitability maps	Land & Soils/Water	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9e46be08de41278b90a991160c0b9e">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9e46be08de41278b90a991160c0b9e</a>
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		<a href="https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/">https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/</a>
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands)	Water	Regional		<a href="http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/">http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/</a>
Marine & Coastal Unit	Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).	water / Land & Soils	Regional	Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally	<a href="https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx">https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx</a>
Minerals	Aggregate potential	Land & Soils/Material Assets	National	Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956</a>
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f1344416dc9956</a>
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	<a href="https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?zesting=7&amp;northing=7&amp;lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities">https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?zesting=7&amp;northing=7&amp;lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities</a> <a href="https://www.epa.ie/enforcement/mines/">https://www.epa.ie/enforcement/mines/</a>
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>
Tellus	Airborne geophysical data including radiometrics, electromagnetics and magnetics	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>
Tellus	urban geochemistry mapping (Dublin SURGE project).	Land & Soils	Regional		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>

- Notes:  
**1. The maps and data listed above are available on the Geological Survey Ireland map viewer <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/default.aspx>**  
**2. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data**  
**3. Geological Survey Ireland and Irish Concrete Federation published guidelines for the treatment of geological heritage in the extractive industry in 2008.**



## Brian Cronin

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**From:** Jamie Keogh <jamie.keogh@opw.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 20 November 2024 09:35  
**To:** Brian Cronin  
**Subject:** RE: Drehid Wind Farm SID  
**Attachments:** 180719\_Section 50 Brochure.pdf; 180719\_Section 50 Application Form - PDF.pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hi Brian

That's the Section 50 application form and information Brochure.

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**Jamie Keogh**  
*Drainage Maintenance*

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**Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí**  
Office of Public Works

**An Baile Nua, Baile Átha Troim, Co na Mí, C15 K8V0**  
Newtown, Trim, Co Meath, C15 K8V0

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<https://gov.ie/opw>

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---

**From:** Brian Cronin <brian.cronin@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** 19 November 2024 16:23  
**To:** Jamie Keogh <jamie.keogh@opw.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Drehid Wind Farm SID

Hi Jamie,

I'm sure our hydrologists have a copy of the brochure but would you mind sharing with me just in case?

Thanks,

Brian

---

**From:** Jamie Keogh <jamie.keogh@opw.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 19 November 2024 16:21  
**To:** Brian Cronin <brian.cronin@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Drehid Wind Farm SID

Hi Brian

Yes I had a look. I'm presuming all the pipelines / crossings will be designed to the current standards. Have you got a copy of the section 50 brochure?

Regards

Jamie Keogh

---

**Jamie Keogh**  
*Drainage Maintenance*

---

**Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí**  
Office of Public Works

**An Baile Nua, Baile Átha Troim, Co na Mí, C15 K8V0**  
Newtown, Trim, Co Meath, C15 K8V0

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---

**From:** Brian Cronin <[brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** 18 November 2024 14:04  
**To:** Jamie Keogh <[jamie.keogh@opw.ie](mailto:jamie.keogh@opw.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Drehid Wind Farm SID

Hi Jamie,

Hope you had a nice weekend.

Just wondering whether you got a chance to consider my previous email?

Many thanks,

Brian

---

**From:** Brian Cronin  
**Sent:** Monday 11 November 2024 18:38  
**To:** Jamie Keogh <[jamie.keogh@opw.ie](mailto:jamie.keogh@opw.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Drehid Wind Farm SID

Hi Jamie,

Thanks for coming back so quickly.

I don't have a map yet, we are working through the drawings at present. However, I can share the below points that can be opened on Google Maps, hope this helps.

We are proposing to enclose a section of OPW drain, approximately 120 m in length, centred here:

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/LGkoRnzK5YN15zWh8>

Proposing a clear span bridge to cross the Fear English river here (WC1):

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/36TiqfyoPVkrDGp57>

Proposing another clear span bridge to cross the Fear English here (WC2):

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/TSMjBQHuiW8dChP89>

And a third clear span bridge to cross the Fear English here (WC3): <https://maps.app.goo.gl/LV5eqgLj8DLik7266>

Then there are temporary crossings of OPW drains which will only be required for turbine delivery to site, and will subsequently be removed:

Temporary crossing 1 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/ZuMfvDa3koxuPtV1A>

Temporary crossing 2 <https://maps.app.goo.gl/xLxnbBvuHPKwpqSW8>

Any further questions please don't hesitate to ask. We would be happy to arrange a site visit with you if required.

Many thanks,

Brian

---

**From:** Jamie Keogh <[jamie.keogh@opw.ie](mailto:jamie.keogh@opw.ie)>

**Sent:** Monday 11 November 2024 18:25

**To:** Brian Cronin <[brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Drehid Wind Farm SID

Hi Brian

That's fine. Its me you will be dealing with. Have you a map showing the proposed bridge crossing.

Jamie

---

**Jamie Keogh**

*Drainage Maintenance*

---

**Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí**

Office of Public Works

**An Baile Nua, Baile Átha Troim, Co na Mí, C15 K8V0**

Newtown, Trim, Co Meath, C15 K8V0

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---

**From:** Brian Cronin <[brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** 11 November 2024 18:12

**To:** Jamie Keogh <[jamie.keogh@opw.ie](mailto:jamie.keogh@opw.ie)>

**Cc:** Geraldine Murtagh <[geraldine.murtagh@opw.ie](mailto:geraldine.murtagh@opw.ie)>; Flood Info <[floodinfo@opw.ie](mailto:floodinfo@opw.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Drehid Wind Farm SID

Hi Jamie,

Apologies for the delayed response, I was away at a public engagement event for another wind farm project with limited access to email.

The proposed wind farm is located in Drehid, Co. Kildare; approximately 3 km south of Johnstown Bridge.

Many thanks,

Brian

---

**From:** Jamie Keogh <[jamie.keogh@opw.ie](mailto:jamie.keogh@opw.ie)>

**Sent:** Tuesday 5 November 2024 15:02

**To:** Brian Cronin <[brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Geraldine Murtagh <[geraldine.murtagh@opw.ie](mailto:geraldine.murtagh@opw.ie)>; Flood Info <[floodinfo@opw.ie](mailto:floodinfo@opw.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Drehid Wind Farm SID

Hi Brian

Can you tell me where the wind farm is located and I may be able to get you the details of the engineer from that area.

Regards

Jamie Keogh

---

**Jamie Keogh**

*Drainage Maintenance*

---

**Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí**

Office of Public Works

**An Baile Nua, Baile Átha Troim, Co na Mí, C15 K8V0**

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**From:** Flood Info <[floodinfo@opw.ie](mailto:floodinfo@opw.ie)>  
**Sent:** 30 October 2024 15:19  
**To:** Jamie Keogh <[jamie.keogh@opw.ie](mailto:jamie.keogh@opw.ie)>  
**Cc:** Geraldine Murtagh <[geraldine.murtagh@opw.ie](mailto:geraldine.murtagh@opw.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: Drehid Wind Farm SID

Hi Jamie,

I hope this email finds you well,

Could you please advise on a reply to the below.

Kind regards,  
Sarah

---

**From:** Brian Cronin <[brian.cronin@ftco.ie](mailto:brian.cronin@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 30 October 2024 11:33  
**To:** Flood Info <[floodinfo@opw.ie](mailto:floodinfo@opw.ie)>  
**Cc:** Jim Hughes <[jim.hughes@ftco.ie](mailto:jim.hughes@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** Drehid Wind Farm SID

Good morning,

We would be grateful if the OPW would consider engaging with us in pre-application consultation for a proposed development – ‘Drehid Wind Farm’, which we intend to lodge a planning application for in early 2025.

We have attempted to contact the OPW in the past to request pre-application consultation but have not gotten a response. We have a number of access tracks on the proposed wind farm which will require crossing arterial drainage by way of clear-span bridges and temporary crossing structures. We also have a proposed substation which will require culverting a section of arterial drainage.

Please see the attached letter which details the various interactions the proposed development would have with arterial drainage.

We would appreciate some feedback from the OPW, and would be happy to set up a meeting or site visit to discuss the project with you.

Many thanks,

Brian



**Brian Cronin**  
Senior Environmental Scientist

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Unit 3/4, Northwood House, Northwood Crescent, Northwood, Dublin, D09 X899  
t: +353 1 658 3500  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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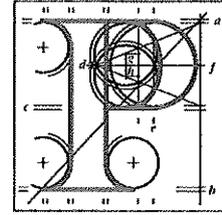
## APPENDIX 5.4

### Pre-application Consultation with An Bord Pleanála



**Our Case Number:** ABP-314463-22

**Your Reference:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited (Statkraft Group)



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Fehily Timoney and Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork  
Co. Cork  
T12 D773

**Date:** 1st November 2022

**Re:** Proposed development to consist of up to 12 wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid.  
Townland of Drehid, Co. Kildare

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the first meeting of the 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2022.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Eimear Reilly  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737184

PC07

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution

JH / DC

02 Nov 2022

Job No.

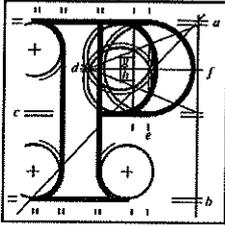
Correspondence No. 3

Comment:

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaos Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902





An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting ABP-314463-22

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	ABP-314463-22 - Proposed development to consist of up to 12 wind turbines in the townland of Drehid, Co. Kildare		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> / 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	26/10/22	<b>Start Time</b>	11:00 a.m.
<b>Location</b>	Virtually	<b>End Time</b>	11:25 p.m.

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>		
<b>Staff Members</b>		
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)		
Anthony Kelly, Planning Inspector		
Eimear Reilly, Executive Officer	e.reilly@pleanala.ie	01-8737184
<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>		
Kevin MacMahon, Senior Project Manager, Statkraft Group		
Jim Hughes, Project Director, Fehily Timoney & Company		
Brian Cronin, Senior Project Environmental Scientist, Fehily Timoney & Company		

## **Introduction**

The Board's representative referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 29<sup>th</sup> August 2022, requesting pre-application consultation under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board's representative mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.

**Presentation made by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant, North Kildare Wind Farm Limited, is a subsidiary of Statkraft Ireland and is a part of the wider Statkraft Group, and the agent is Fehily Timoney & Company. The prospective applicant gave an overview of the nature and extent of the proposed development which was stated to be a windfarm comprising of 12 no. turbines with a tip height of 169m. Located approximately 2.05km south of Johnstown Bridge and approximately 4.89km east of Carbury, the proposed development is within the townlands of Ballynamullagh, Kilmurry, Coolree, Mulgeeth and Drehid, County Kildare.

In relation to planning history, the prospective applicant noted that permission was previously granted by the Board following an appeal for a wind farm comprising of 12 turbines with a tip height of 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks with an underground grid connection to Dunfiirth substation via the L1004 public road (ABP-306500-20), and that this decision is currently subject of a judicial review.

The prospective applicant explained the rationale for the proposed development, stating that having regard to changes in turbine technology and the increased MW output from turbines, it now seeks permission for a 12 turbine development with a maximum export capacity (MEC) of 60MW as opposed to the 49 MW which it could facilitate at the time of submitting the initial application to Kildare County Council.

It was noted that a related pre-application consultation (ABP-311394-21) under Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, has been submitted for a 110kV substation and an on-site 110kV loop-in/loop-out connection to the Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line which would supersede the permitted connection to Dunfiirth.

The prospective applicant noted that the proposed development would be subject to Environmental Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment and that a Natura

Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be prepared with the application. The existing NIS and EIAR will be updated to reflect changes and basis for the project and will include all pertinent information including up-to-date surveys to cover the overall project area.

The surveys that have been completed are as follows: Breeding Birds and Winter Birds, Lizards, Aquatic Ecology, Terrestrial Habitats, and Bats.

The prospective applicant outlined its opinion that the proposed development is a strategic infrastructure development as its output is in excess of 50MW, contributes to the Climate Action Plan, and, as it would provide clean renewable energy to the region, will displace carbon dioxide and is, therefore, of strategic and national importance.

#### **Discussion:**

Following a query from the Board's representatives, the prospective applicant clarified that the instant meeting and pre-application consultation request relates only to the development of the 12 turbines and not to the 110kV substation.

The Board's representatives advised that the prospective applicant address in the application any issues that arose during the previous application and advised that the Department of Defence are consulted prior to application. The prospective applicant replied that it has addressed these issues and concerns.

Following a query from the Board's representatives the applicant confirmed that they intend to submit an application for a specific overall turbine tip height.

The Board's representatives advised that photomontages include views of the proposed development from the nearby villages.

Following a query from the Board's representatives, the prospective applicant stated that the grounds for the judicial review associated with the permitted wind farm were numerous and that a judgement may be made in the next couple of months.

The Board's representatives expressed the opinion that the proposed development would likely constitute strategic infrastructure development due to the reasons noted by the prospective applicant but stated that the determination is ultimately a matter for the Board.

Following a query from the prospective applicant, the Board's representatives advised that other applicants are submitting the entire project under s.37B or submitting both elements separately under s.37B and s.182, and that this is up to the prospective applicant to decide.

**Conclusion:**

The Board's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will issue shortly and that the onus is on the prospective applicant to request closure of the pre-application process or to request a further meeting.

 28/10/22

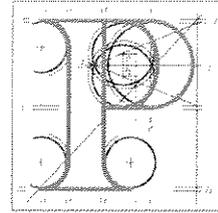
**Ciara Kellett**

**Assistant Director of Planning**



**Our Case Number:** ABP-314463-22

**Your Reference:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited (Statkraft Group)



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Fehily Timoney and Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork  
Co. Cork  
T12 D773

Distribution *RC / JH*  
02 JAN 2024  
Job No: *P22-242*  
Correspondence No:  
Comment:

**Date:** 22 December 2023

**Re:** Proposed development to consist of up to 12 no. wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid.  
Townland of Drehid, Co. Kildare.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the meeting of the 23rd November 2023.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

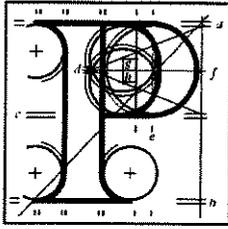
Ashling Doherty  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737160

PC07

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaio Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902





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## Record of Meeting ABP-314463-22

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	Proposed development of 11 no. wind turbines with a tip height of 169 metres in the townlands of Ballynamullagh, Kilmurry, Coolree, Mulgeeth, and Drehid, Co. Kildare.		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting		
<b>Date</b>	23/11/2023	<b>Start Time</b>	11:30 a.m.
<b>Location</b>	MS Teams	<b>End Time</b>	12:05 p.m.

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>
Stephen Kay, Assistant Director of Planning
Anthony Kelly, Planning Inspector
Donal Donnelly, Senior Planning Inspector
Ashling Doherty, Executive Officer
Lauren Griffin, Executive Officer
Breda Ingle, Executive Officer
<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Brian Cronin, FTCO
Rita Mansfield, FTCO
Kevin MacMahon, Statkraft
Jane O'Connor, Statkraft
Alexander Brem, Statkraft

The meeting commenced at 11.30 a.m.

The Board welcomed the prospective applicant to the meeting and introduced those attending from the Board. The Board mentioned general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process as follows:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or any legal proceedings.

This pre-application consultation meeting was held in conjunction with pre-application ABP-311394-21 which relates to a substation and grid connection to serve the proposed Drehid Windfarm.

**Presentation by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant set the context for the subject pre application consultation request. Permission was originally granted by the Board (Ref. ABP-306500-20) for a 12 no. turbine windfarm on foot of a first party appeal against refusal of permission issued by Kildare County Council. The prospective applicant noted that this permission was subsequently quashed on judicial review for reasons relating to the detail of drawings submitted and the implications of the Derryadd judgement. It should be noted that this original application included for a sub station and grid connection.

The applicant gave an update on the proposed development. The Drehid Wind Farm is proposed to be located approximately 2.05km south of Johnstown Bridge and approximately 4.89km east of Carbury in Co. Kildare. The development is proposed to comprise 11 no. Turbines, the design of which has been narrowed down to 2 potential turbine models. Depending on the final turbine model selected the proposed development will have a capacity between 49.5 – 52.8.MW with a tip height of 169 metres. A 110kV onsite substation including control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, 2 no. overhead line single circuit strain towers, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compounds, tree felling, and associated works are also proposed. Alterations to the design and layout of the overall project from the previous pre-application consultation include a reduced number of turbines from 12 no. to 11 no.,the relocation of turbine no. 5, the addition of new access track and the provision of an on site 110kv sub station with loop in connection to the Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line .

The prospective applicants highlighted the fact that a separate pre-application consultation under section 182 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended), is active for the proposed 110kv substation and loop in loop out connection to the Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line, (ABP Ref. 311394-21).

The prospective applicant stated that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be submitted with the application. Surveys completed to date include breeding birds and wintering birds, aquatic ecology, terrestrial habitats, and bats. Peat probing has commenced with further such investigations required due to changes to the access tracks which have yet to be finalised.

The rationale behind the proposed development was also presented which included The Climate Action Plan 2023, and how the proposed development has the potential to provide approximately 49.5 – 52.8 MW of renewable electricity which would represent 0.8% of the 6GW national onshore target of 2025.

The prospective applicant stated that they considered that the proposed development was such as to comprise strategic infrastructure on the basis that the development comprised a wind farm development with a total output of greater than 50MW and one that would be of strategic economic importance to the State or region as well as contributing substantially to the fulfilment of objectives contained in the National Planning Framework and regional Planning Guidelines relevant to the area. The fact that the electricity generated by the proposed development could be used outside of the confines of County Kildare was also noted.

**Discussion:**

The Board's representatives raised the previous application (ABP Ref. 306500-20) which was quashed in a judicial review. This was an application for 12 turbines with an output of below the 50MW threshold which was why it was submitted to the Planning Authority Kildare County Council in the first instance. The revised proposal put forward at the start of this pre application consultation was for 12 turbines with an output of 60MW. As the turbine dimensions in the proposed development are the same as those provided for in the original application clarity was sought on the increase in output. In response, the prospective applicant clarified that the increased output from the development was due to increased efficiency and increased power ratings of the turbines. The prospective applicant also stated that the 2 potential turbine models currently being assessed are 4.5MW and 4.8MW ratings, with technology improving over time.

The Board's representatives noted that the design flexibility legislation provided for under the Planning and Development Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act, 2022 has not been commenced for Section 37 projects and advised that if a number of turbine models were to be proposed as part of an application then each turbine model will need to be presented and individually assessed in the application.

The Boards representatives highlighted the fact that as the output of the turbines could range between 49.5 – 52.8MW, the lower level would fall short of the 50MW threshold requirement under the 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule of the Act, as amended. If a maximum export capacity range was proposed which would sit on both sides of the 50MW threshold it may be difficult to appropriately decide on whether the proposed development would or would not comprise SID.

Therefore, the Boards representatives stated that the proposed development may not be such as to meet the threshold for SID and if the prospective applicant proceeded with the 4.5MW turbines the planning application should be submitted to the planning authority.

The Boards representatives noted that the particular circumstances of this case as they relate to the threshold set out in the Seventh Schedule were unusual and committed to revert to the prospective applicant in the event that they had further comments to make on this issue, (see Note 1 attached to this record).

The Board's representatives noted that there had been a relatively recent application and subsequent permission for a windfarm development very similar to that the subject of this pre application request (Kildare Co. Co. Ref. 18/1534; ABP Ref. 306500). It was advised that all issues arising in the course of the assessment of this previous application be reviewed and assessed.

The prospective applicant stated that the reason for the proposed relocation of the substation from its original position was due to peat stability and peat depth issues. It was stated that the depth of peat at the revised site is approximately 0.5 metres. The Board's representatives specifically highlighted the importance of submitting a comprehensive peat stability report with the application.

The Board's representatives highlighted the recent additions to the Fifth Schedule of the Planning and Development Regulations relating to EIA and rural restructuring.

The prospective applicant was advised to ensure that this new class was considered in the screening assessment particularly with regard to hedgerow removal. The class in the Fifth Schedule to the Regulations relating to private roadways was also highlighted to the prospective applicant.

In response to a question from the Board's representatives, the prospective applicant confirmed that the reason for the reduction in the number of turbines from 12 no. To 11 no. and revisions to access tracks was due to the withdrawal of landowner consent.

In response to a question from the prospective applicant the prospective applicant confirmed the closet residential dwelling will be 589 metres from the nearest turbine.

The Boards representatives noted the adoption of the Kildare County Development Plan, 2023 since the decision on the previous application on the site. In response to a question from the Board's representatives, the prospective applicant stated that all turbines proposed would be located within the area where wind energy development is indicated as being open for consideration in the plan.

**Conclusion:**

The onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The record of the instant meeting will issue in the meantime and the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting.

The meeting concluded at 12:05 a.m.



**Stephen Kay**

**Assistant Director of Planning**

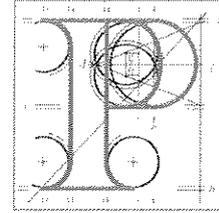
**Note to Record**

With regard to the issue relating to the range of maximum export capacity referenced in the above Record of Meeting and the concerns raised by the Board representatives regarding the SID status of these options, it is considered that the way the application is proposed to be submitted presents a problem for the Board in determining whether the proposal comes within a class of development specified in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2000 (as amended). Further clarification on this issue in the form of a proposal which clearly meets a class of development in the Seventh Schedule is required from the prospective applicant.



**Our Case Number:** ABP-314463-22

**Your Reference:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited (Statkraft G



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Fehily Timoney and Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork  
Co. Cork  
T12 D773

Distribution JH  
24 APR 2024

Job No:  
Correspondence No: 2  
Comment:

**Date:** 23 April 2024

**Re:** Proposed development to consist of up to 12 no. wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid.  
Townland of Drehid, Co. Kildare.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board hereby serves notice under section 37B(4)(a) that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a) and (b) of the Act. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Any application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Board considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed.

Attached is a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development.

- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Minister for the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Minister for Rural and Community Development
- Kildare County Council

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- Eastern & Midland Regional Assembly
- EirGrid
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Uisce Eireann
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- An Taisce
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- The Heritage Council
- Office of Public Works

Further notifications should also be made where deemed appropriate.

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board will make available for inspection and purchase at its offices the documents relating to the decision within 3 working days following its decision. This information is normally made available on the list of decided cases on the website on the Wednesday following the week in which the decision is made.

The following information relates to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

#### **Judicial review of An Bord Pleanála decisions under the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts (as amended).**

A person wishing to challenge the validity of a Board decision may do so by way of judicial review only. Sections 50, 50A and 50B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as substituted by section 13 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, as amended/substituted by sections 32 and 33 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and as amended by sections 20 and 21 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011) contain provisions in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of the Board.

The validity of a decision taken by the Board may only be questioned by making an application for judicial review under Order 84 of The Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986). Sub-section 50(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires that subject to any extension to the time period which may be allowed by the High Court in accordance with subsection 50(8), any application for judicial review must be made within 8 weeks of the decision of the Board. It should be noted that any challenge taken under section 50 may question only the validity of the decision and the Courts do not

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adjudicate on the merits of the development from the perspectives of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and/or effects on the environment. Section 50A states that leave for judicial review shall not be granted unless the Court is satisfied that there are substantial grounds for contending that the decision is invalid or ought to be quashed and that the applicant has a sufficient interest in the matter which is the subject of the application or in cases involving environmental impact assessment is a body complying with specified criteria.

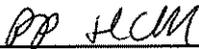
Section 50B contains provisions in relation to the cost of judicial review proceedings in the High Court relating to specified types of development (including proceedings relating to decisions or actions pursuant to a law of the state that gives effect to the public participation and access to justice provisions of Council Directive 85/337/EEC i.e. the EIA Directive and to the provisions of Directive 2001/12/EC i.e. Directive on the assessment of the effects on the environment of certain plans and programmes). The general provision contained in section 50B is that in such cases each party shall bear its own costs. The Court however may award costs against any party in specified circumstances. There is also provision for the Court to award the costs of proceedings or a portion of such costs to an applicant against a respondent or notice party where relief is obtained to the extent that the action or omission of the respondent or notice party contributed to the relief being obtained.

General information on judicial review procedures is contained on the following website, [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie).

Disclaimer: The above is intended for information purposes. It does not purport to be a legally binding interpretation of the relevant provisions and it would be advisable for persons contemplating legal action to seek legal advice.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie) quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



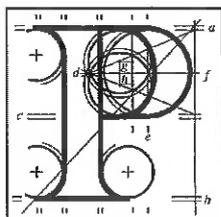
Niamh Hickey  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737145

PC09

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**An  
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Record of 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting

ABP-311394-21

<b>Development</b>	110kV electrical substation, a 110kV loop in/loop out cable connection to the Kinnegad -Rinawade 110kV overhead line and all associated development		
<b>Location</b>	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	15/12/2021	<b>Time</b>	15:00p.m. – 16:00p.m.
<b>Attendees</b>			
<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>			
Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)			
Donal Donnelly, Senior Planning Inspector			
Jennifer Sherry, Executive Officer	j.sherry@pleanala.ie	01-8737266	
<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>			
Declan Morrissey, Fehily Timoney and Company			
Jim Hughes, Fehily Timoney and Company			
Kevin MacMahon, Statkraft Ireland			
Jane O'Connor, Statkraft Ireland			

## **Introduction**

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant requesting pre-application consultations and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive from the Board.

The Board mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or any legal proceedings.

## **Presentation by the prospective applicant**

The proposed development, the subject of this pre-application consultation meeting, is for a 110kV substation and an on-site 110kv loop-in/loop-out connection to the Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line to serve permitted development Drehid Wind

Farm. The Board granted permission in September 2020 under ABP-306500-20 (Kildare County Council Reg. Ref: 18/1534) for Drehid Windfarm to include 12 wind turbines with a tip height of 169m, underground grid connection to Dunfiirth substation and associated site works.

The prospective applicant advised the rationale for the proposed development is guided by EirGrid as Dunfiirth substation is not suitable for a generator connection and would require a complete rebuild of the substation. The prospective applicant stated the proposed development will include the following infrastructure:

- 1 no. 110kV onsite substation including control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, 2 no. overhead line single circuit strain towers, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compounds, tree felling and associated works.
- Approx. 1,200 metres of 110kV double circuit underground electricity cable and two single circuit strain towers to facilitate connection to the existing Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line.

A number of drawings were discussed in the presentation provided of the site layout, site location and indicative substation layout. The prospective applicant stated survey work is ongoing and completed in some areas. The prospective applicant advised that it is their intention to include an EIAR and NIS with the application, using the information previously gathered for the application for Drehid Wind Farm.

In conclusion to the presentation, the prospective applicant stated that the current proposed development will form part of the transmission network. The prospective applicant stated it is their opinion the proposed development should be considered a strategic infrastructure development.

## **Discussion**

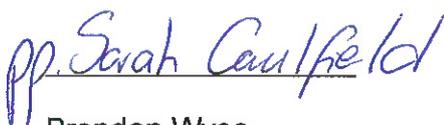
The following matters were discussed as part of the meeting:

- The Board's representatives advised it is their preliminary view that the proposed development would constitute a strategic infrastructure development but that it is ultimately for the Board to make a determination on the matter.
- The Board's representatives noted the proposed substation is to be located in the townland of Killyon and advised the prospective applicant to clarify the townlands affected by the proposed development.
- In response to the Board's representatives' query, the prospective applicant confirmed that no direct planning application has been made to Kildare County Council for the alternative connection proposal, which was previously determined by the Board not to be Strategic Infrastructure Development (ABP-308828-21). The prospective applicant also advised that the High Court challenge to Drehid Wind Farm is still before the courts.
- The Board's representatives noted the planning history of the area and advised the prospective applicant to consider the adequacy of the local road network for access during construction, residential amenity of dwellings to the north and east of the site, construction traffic, ecology and biodiversity of protected species located within 1km of the site. The prospective applicant stated it would have a good understanding of the local biodiversity from baseline surveys of the habitats that have been undertaken.
- The Board's representatives further stated that due consideration in the NIS should be given to the in-combination effects of the permitted solar farm and wind farm in the area.
- The Board's representatives noted the proximity of national monuments to the north of the site and the possible presence of a pathway through the substation site, as shown in historic mapping. The prospective applicant advised that this should be reflected in any cultural heritage assessment.

- The prospective applicant in response to the Board's representatives' query advised they have been in discussions with EirGrid throughout the process and it is not confirmed yet if the substation will become an EirGrid asset.
- The Board's representatives noted if the prospective applicant intends to submit an EIAR that it should be very focused on the assessment of the proposed development. There should be no doubt or possibility that the permitted development for Drehid Wind Farm is being revisited.

## Conclusion

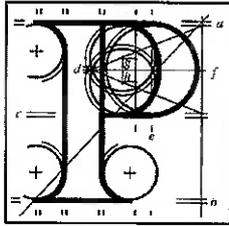
The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. Following this, the prospective applicant should seek a second meeting with the Board or request closure to the pre-application process in writing. If closure to the pre-application is requested, the reporting inspector will complete the report and recommendation which will be forwarded to the Board for determination. A copy of the procedures will be attached, and the decision will then issue to the prospective applicant.



Brendan Wyse

Assistant Director of Planning





An  
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## Record of Meeting ABP-311394-21 2nd meeting

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	110kV electrical substation, a 110kV loop in/loop out cable connection to the Kinnegad - Rinawade 110kV overhead line and all associated development. In the townlands of Ballynamullagh, Kilmurry, Coolree, Mulgeeth and Drehid, Co. Kildare.		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	23/11/23	<b>Start Time</b>	11.00 a.m.
<b>Location</b>	MS Teams	<b>End Time</b>	11:30 a.m.

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>
Stephen Kay, Assistant Director of Planning
Donal Donnelly, Senior Planning Inspector
Anthony Kelly, Planning Inspector
Ashling Doherty, Executive Officer
Lauren Griffin, Executive Officer
Breda Ingle, Executive Officer
<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Brian Cronin, FTCO
Rita Mansfield, FTCO

Kevin MacMahon, Statkraft
Jane O' Connor, Statkraft
Alexander Brem, Statkraft

The meeting commenced at 11.00 a.m.

The Board welcomed the prospective applicant to the meeting and introduced those attending from the Board. The Board mentioned general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process as follows:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or any legal proceedings.

### **Presentation by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant gave an update on the proposed development and noted that this meeting is being held in conjunction with pre-application consultation 314463-22, for Drehid Wind Farm.. The proposed location is approximately 2.05km south of Johnstown Bridge, and approximately 4.89km to the east of Carbury in Co. Kildare. The rationale for the proposed substation is based on the unsuitability of other substations, including the Dunferth Substation, and the fact that there is no additional capacity on the Derryiron-Maynooth 110kV overhead line. Based on this, the proposed applicant is now seeking permission for a 110kV substation and an on-site 110kV loop-in/loop-out connection to the Kinnegad-Rinawade 110kV overhead line.

Following alterations to the design of the proposed wind farm development, the number of turbines has decreased from 12 to 11, turbine no. 5 has been relocated, and amendments are proposed to the access track (see Record of Second Meeting on Ref. 314463 held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2023). The proposal the subject of this pre application consultation will comprise 1 no. 110kV substation, including control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compounds, tree felling and associated works. It also includes approximately 1,050m of 110kV double circuit underground electricity cable and 2 no. single circuit strain towers to facilitate connection to the existing Kinnegad-Rinawade 110 kV overhead line.

The prospective applicant stated that a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) will be submitted with the application. It was stated that surveys completed to date include breeding birds and winter birds, lizards, aquatic ecology, terrestrial habitats, bats, peat probing and topographical surveys.

**Discussion:**

The prospective applicant confirmed that the location of the proposed substation presented at the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting has since been moved approximately 400m north. This is due to peat probing highlighting that peat depth was significant at the previously proposed location. The land is a mixture of farmland and forestry with some concentration of peat in the forestry. The depth of the peat at the proposed substation location is approximately 0.5m.

The Board's representatives sought clarification if the new proposed substation location would require tree felling to which the prospective applicant confirmed it would to a certain degree although the extent of such felling was likely to be less than that shown on the drawings presented in the presentation to the Board.

A discussion was held having regard to drainage channels and watercourses to the west of the proposed site. The prospective applicant stated that the OPW Boyne arterial drainage channel and a tributary of the River Boyne, the Blackwater Longwood watercourse, skirts along the west of the proposed development. As part of the EIAR, consideration will be given to the cumulative effects of ongoing maintenance of the arterial drainage channel with the project to ensure their drainage is a standalone, compared to the actions the OPW take within the area.

The prospective applicant confirmed they have completed 2 seasons for the surveys and also have extensive data from the previous application.

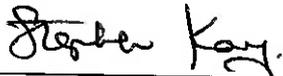
The Board's representatives restated the opinion given at the first pre application consultation meeting that screening for AA and any NIS prepared should give full consideration to the in combination effects of the permitted solar farm and proposed wind farm development (Revised Drehid Wind Farm the subject of pre application consultation Ref. ABP-314463-22).

The Board's representatives stated that their preliminary view is that the proposed substation application is a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) but the decision will lie solely with the Board.

**Conclusion:**

The onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The record of the instant meeting will issue in the meantime and the prospective applicant can submit any comments it may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 a.m.



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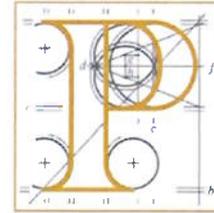
**Stephen Kay**

**Assistant Director of Planning**



**Our Case Number:** ABP-311394-21

**Your Reference:** North Kildare Wind Farm Limited



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Statkraft Ireland  
Building 4200  
Cork Airport Business Park  
Cork  
T12D23C

**Date:** 23 April 2024

**Re:** 110kV electrical substation, a 110kV loop in/loop out cable connection to the Kinnegad - Rinawade 110kV overhead line and all associated development.  
In the townlands of Ballynamullagh, Kilmurry, Coolree, Mulgeeth and Drehid, Co. Kildare.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board hereby serves notice that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Any application for approval for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 182A(1) of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Board considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed.

The following is a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development.

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Kildare County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland/ National Transport Association
- Irish Water
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- An Taisce
- Heritage Council
- Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Commission of Regulation of Utilities

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- Irish Aviation Authority
- Health & Safety Authority
- Office of Public Works
- ESB
- EirGrid

Further notifications should also be made where deemed appropriate.

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Board will make available for inspection and purchase at its offices the documents relating to the decision within 3 working days following its decision. This information is normally made available on the list of decided cases on the website on the Wednesday following the week in which the decision is made.

The following contains information in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

### **Judicial review of An Bord Pleanála decisions under the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts (as amended).**

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The validity of a decision taken by the Board may only be questioned by making an application for judicial review under Order 84 of The Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986). Sub-section 50(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires that subject to any extension to the time period which may be allowed by the High Court in accordance with subsection 50(8), any application for judicial review must be made within 8 weeks of the decision of the Board. It should be noted that any challenge taken under section 50 may question only the validity of the decision and the Courts do not adjudicate on the merits of the development from the perspectives of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and/or effects on the environment. Section 50A states that leave for judicial review shall not be granted unless the Court is satisfied that there are substantial grounds for contending that the decision is invalid or ought to be quashed and that the applicant has a sufficient interest in the matter which is the subject of the application or in cases involving environmental impact assessment is a body complying with specified criteria.

Section 50B contains provisions in relation to the cost of judicial review proceedings in the High Court relating to specified types of development (including proceedings relating to decisions or actions pursuant to a law of the state that gives effect to the public participation and access to justice provisions of Council Directive 85/337/EEC i.e. the EIA Directive and to the provisions of Directive 2001/12/EC i.e. Directive on the assessment of the effects on the environment of certain plans and programmes). The general provision contained in section 50B is that in such cases each party shall bear its own costs. The Court however may award costs against any party in specified circumstances. There is also provision for the Court to award the costs of proceedings or a portion of such costs to an applicant against a respondent or notice party where relief is obtained to the extent that the action or omission of the respondent or notice party contributed to the relief being obtained.

General information on judicial review procedures is contained on the following website, [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie).

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D01 V902	D01 V902

Disclaimer: The above is intended for information purposes. It does not purport to be a legally binding interpretation of the relevant provisions and it would be advisable for persons contemplating legal action to seek legal advice.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Board or email [sids@pleanala.ie](mailto:sids@pleanala.ie) quoting the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Niamh Hickey  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737145

VC11

Teil  
Glao Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost

Tel (01) 858 8100  
LoCall 1800 275 175  
Fax (01) 872 2684  
Website [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
Email [bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902



## APPENDIX 5.5

### Community Consultation





**Element Power Ireland Limited**  
Unit C, Building 4200  
Cork Airport Business Park  
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Ireland  
T12 D23C

T +353 (21) 2427786  
F + 353 (21) 2380187  
E info@elpower.com

[www.elpower.com](http://www.elpower.com)

**10 Moyglare Abbey  
Maynooth  
Co. Kildare**

**Date: 03-07-18**

Dear Councillor Cronin,

**Re: Proposed Drehid area wind energy project**

As you are most likely aware, Element Power Ireland is a company working in the area of developing renewable energy projects which will help Ireland on its very important path of transitioning to becoming a low carbon economy.

As a part of our ongoing endeavours to identify areas where suitable and appropriate renewable energy projects can be developed we would like to advise you that, having reviewed feedback and information from Kildare County Council and An Bord Pleanala, an area to the south of Johnstown Bridge and to the north of Timahoe, centering around the townland of Drehid has emerged as an area which we would like to put forward for consideration for a wind energy proposal.

Whilst the previous Maighne planning application will be well known in Kildare, this Drehid Wind Farm proposal will be fundamentally different. It is envisaged that the area under consideration may be suitable for up to 14 turbines which is significantly smaller than previous proposals.

Through discussions that have been held over the past number of years it has become clear that early stage community involvement is important. This being a new application is at a very early stage in the planning and development process. It is our intention to engage with the local community in a meaningful, transparent and open way at this early stage of the process in order to seek out feedback from the local community on what might be considered suitable and appropriate. This feedback will be incorporated into the design process and will ultimately influence the form of the project to be brought forward.

As a public representative for this area we would welcome your feedback also and we would hope that you will encourage your constituents to engage proactively with us as we endeavour to develop a proposal which will reflect the views of the people in the local community. Some of the key fundamentals that we intend to build into our proposals include the following:

- Engagement at an early stage in the development process
- Circulation of a design layout for comment

Element Power Ireland Limited

Registered Office: Unit C Building 4200, Cork Airport Business Park, Cork, Ireland, T12 D23C | Company Number: 487313  
Directors: Tim Cowhig, Michael O'Neill, Nick Hexter, Dermot Byrne, Sean Maguire, Kevin O' Donovan, Peter Harte



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Ireland  
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F + 353 (21) 2380187  
E info@elpower.com

[www.elpower.com](http://www.elpower.com)

- We intend to actively seek out feedback from people in the local community
- Feedback will be incorporated into the design process
- We intend to provide information to the local community on an ongoing basis during the design progresses
- We would like to investigate the idea of community or shared ownership should there be an interest in this in the local community

We recognise that people in this area will have been familiar with locations as proposed in the previous Maighne proposal and as such our preliminary layout is based on those locations that people will be familiar with. We have intentionally not altered these locations as people will have had a significant period of time during which to form their thoughts and views on this layout. It is now our intention to seek feedback from those living locally on what these thoughts and views are so as to allow local feedback to provide direction on a design and layout which will work best and be the most appropriate for the local area.

If you would like to meet with us to discuss our proposals we will gladly make ourselves available. In the meantime, please be advised that we will be circulating the enclosed letter and map in the Drehid area as an initial starting point for developing dialog. We are currently developing a project website ([www.drehidwindfarm.ie](http://www.drehidwindfarm.ie)) which when complete will provide further information on our proposals as they evolve.

We trust that this will give you an understanding of where our proposals are at presently, how we would like to work forward and what we are working towards.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

---

Pat O'Sullivan  
**Head of Communications/Stakeholder Engagement**

Encl:

1. Drehid Area Wind Energy Introductory letter

# We want to talk to you about this proposal

## Local input to the design process

We are working to bring forward a wind energy proposal that would not only help tackle the issues of climate change and fossil fuel dependency but that would be suitable and appropriate for the local area and which would work for the local people.

There are approx. 250 wind farms in Ireland and as a developer and operator of wind farms across the country, we have seen how a mutually beneficial relationship can be achieved between the wind farm and the local community.

This said, all communities are different and all communities have their own needs and requirements. One of the main reasons that we would like to discuss our proposals with people is to gain feedback from those living in the local area which would allow us to tailor our proposals to reflect what people in the local area are telling us would work best. People will have many different questions including:

What would it be like to live in an area near a wind farm?

I have heard about shadow flicker - will this be an issue?

I have been told that noise is an issue - is this true?

How far will the turbines be from me?

What roads will be used during the construction?

Are wind turbines really effective at reducing CO<sub>2</sub>?

We would like the opportunity to answer these questions, provide information and to take on board feedback which will inform the design process of the project. Through this process we would hope to bring forward a proposal which will reflect the views of the community. We would hope that you will be in a position to make an informed decision on how this proposal would work in your local area.

## Why is the Drehid area being considered as a suitable location?

A review of the information available including feedback from Kildare County Council and An Bord Pleanála has indicated the area under consideration is one of the most appropriate areas in Co Kildare for the development of wind energy. The area under consideration is seen to have the capacity to accommodate up to 14 turbines as detailed on the current design proposals. Local feedback will influence how this design develops.

The Drehid area has been indicated as being an area which is robust in character from a landscape point of view and is detailed in the current Kildare County Development Plan as being an area which has the capacity to accommodate a wind energy project. Issues that were previously raised by the planning authorities included concerns over extensive cabling in local roads and the proximity of a high number of turbines to canals. The proposed location minimises the need for cabling on public roads (requiring only approximately 1km of public road cabling) and there are no canals in the local area.

Importantly, we are engaging with the local community to establish what final form the Drehid Wind Farm proposal will take.

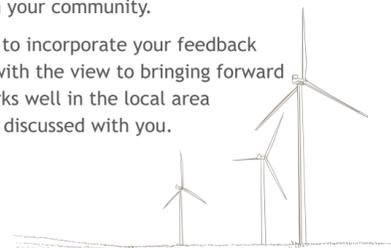
## Is this the same proposal as before?

The Drehid Wind Farm under consideration is a new proposal and will form a new planning application. Whilst the area under consideration overlaps with an area that was previously proposed in the Maighne application, Drehid Wind Farm is at the design stage and will follow a separate design path. The proposed 14 turbine layout is now a design layout and as such the detail is not set in stone. We have purposely used these locations as our starting point as people will have had much time to consider their views and develop their thoughts on this proposal. We would like to hear what those thoughts and views are.

## What will meeting with us achieve?

We would like to open a two-way dialog with people in the area. We would like to provide information and details for consideration and we would like to receive feedback on the proposed design and potential opportunities in the area. We would like to know how you think the project could work from your own personal point of view and from the point of view of the wider community. We would also like to know how you think this project can bring a real positive difference to your life and to those around you in your community.

Our design team will work to incorporate your feedback into our design proposals with the view to bringing forward a viable project which works well in the local area and reflects what we have discussed with you.



## Where can I find out more about Wind Energy?



### 1 Visit a wind farm!

If you want to really experience wind energy for yourself, without any doubts about the quality and accuracy of the information you are getting - visit a wind farm and talk to the people living in that area. Locally, the Mount Lucas Wind Farm consists of 27 turbines of a similar scale.

### 2 Visit the following websites:

<a href="http://www.iwea.ie">www.iwea.ie</a> Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) and <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqKZkcxKR8">www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqKZkcxKR8</a>	<a href="http://www.climatecouncil.ie">www.climatecouncil.ie</a> Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council
<a href="http://www.windenergy.ie">www.windenergy.ie</a> - Wind Energy Facts	<a href="http://www.kildarecoco.ie">www.kildarecoco.ie</a> - Kildare County Council
<a href="http://www.seai.ie">www.seai.ie</a> Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)	<a href="http://www.epa.ie">www.epa.ie</a> - Environmental Protection Agency
<a href="http://www.un.org/climatechange">www.un.org/climatechange</a> UN Climate Change Website	<a href="http://www.gsi.ie">www.gsi.ie</a> - Geological Survey Ireland
	<a href="http://www.fisheriesireland.ie">www.fisheriesireland.ie</a> - Inland Fisheries Ireland
	<a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> - National Parks and Wildlife Service

### 3 Talk to our Project Communication Officer

George O'Connor has been appointed as the dedicated Community Liaison Officer for this project. George has many years' experience in both wind energy and working with communities. Whilst he is very knowledgeable about renewable energy projects, he also has a very good understanding and appreciation for the fact that people and communities will have many different thoughts on what would be appropriate for an area. Pat O'Sullivan and Jim O'Reilly will be working alongside George and as such we will be in a position to discuss this proposal with you over the coming weeks and months.

We would encourage anyone who has an interest in this proposal to contact us as below:

By phone:  
George O'Connor - 086 0126 843

By email:  
[enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie](mailto:enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie)

## Information / Misinformation

Information is available from many sources in relation to wind energy however much of this can be inaccurate and misleading. Unfortunately, there is also much information put into the public domain aimed at misrepresenting individual projects. This being the case, it is important to make sure that the images or information that you have to hand are accurate. We are happy to provide accurate information on this project or guidance to help direct you towards sources of genuine peer reviewed information should you request it.

*"Climate change is a fundamental problem that we must solve and not merely pass on to the generations to come. We can't let our children and grandchildren look back on this critical period in time and say that we failed them."*

Mary Robinson

## Contact us:

**Element Power**  
Axis Business Park, Clara Road Tullamore, Co Offaly  
Phone: 057 936 1540  
Email: [enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie](mailto:enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie)  
[www.drehidwindfarm.ie](http://www.drehidwindfarm.ie)



# 36,000

capacity to provide clean renewable power for over 36,000 Irish homes



*Considering opportunity, promoting engagement, striving for sustainability*

# INFORMATION BOOKLET

## Drehid Wind Energy Development

July 2018

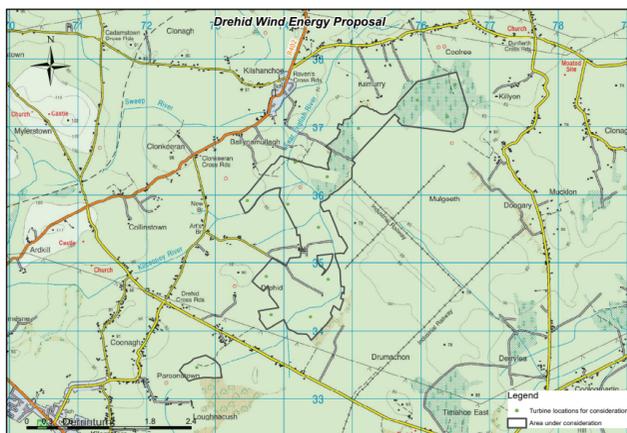




## Introduction

There is a very real and immediate need in Ireland to address the threats posed by climate change and our country's dependency on imported fossil fuels. 97% of scientists now agree that climate change is real and it is accepted that unless we take steps towards limiting the rate of increase of global temperatures the consequences will be dramatic.

Element Power Ireland is involved in the development, construction and operation of renewable energy projects in various locations around the country. These projects include wind energy, solar PV, interconnection and flexible grid services including battery storage. We believe that wind energy has a real potential for the future and an ambition of ours is to play a meaningful role in developing Ireland's existing renewable energy sector in a sustainable way to allow the country to reach its goals. Through consultation with the local community, we intend to work to establish how this wind energy proposal in the Drehid area can bring real benefit to the local area whilst also playing a part in addressing climate change.



Site Location Map

## Opportunities, Challenges & Benefits

Feedback and information available from planning authorities and other organisations has indicated that the area around the townland of Drehid would be suitable for a wind energy proposal. Whilst this can be seen as an opportunity to bring forward a renewable energy project which will bring real benefits to the area, it also presents the challenge of developing a proposal which takes on board the views of people in the area and which will ultimately work well in the locality, bringing real and tangible benefits to the people living there. Climate change and fossil fuel dependency are very real and immediate challenges for us all however, working together through proactive dialogue, opportunities can be identified to tailor the proposed design for the local area and ensure that the project will ultimately bring benefits to those living there.

Within this brochure we will endeavour to outline why we need to consider renewable energy projects and how we intend to work with the local community to design a project which will be appropriate. We would like to hear how you think a proposal might work best locally and how the maximum benefit could be extracted for the local area should this proposal ultimately be developed.

### Why would I consider having a wind farm in my area?

In short, because it has the potential to make a real difference to your life in a very positive way. Ireland has committed to moving towards becoming a low carbon economy and this will require changes in the way society operates. We are of the belief that renewable energy projects should support the environmental, economic and social sustainability of local communities. As mentioned previously, we would like you to consider how a wind farm (if developed in the area) could bring the maximum benefit to the local area. The following table outlines some of the areas where we would see that real and significant opportunities exist.

	LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES	NATIONAL BENEFITS
ENVIRONMENT	<b>Energy Efficient Homes and Transport Schemes</b> to reduce individual household's energy usage <b>Energy Efficiency Community Projects</b> Community energy projects <b>Environmental Projects</b> Projects with an Environmental Benefit could be considered through the community benefit fund	<b>Green Power for Irish homes</b> Potential to provide green energy to in excess of 36,000 Irish homes <b>Carbon reduction and CO<sub>2</sub> Savings</b> It is estimated that this these wind turbines could save 74,000 tonnes of CO <sub>2</sub> per year which would otherwise be produced from burning fossil fuels <b>No Grid Upgrades Required</b>
	<b>Community Ownership</b> The opportunity for individuals to invest in and get a return from the wind farm <b>Household Dividend</b> Direct return from the wind farm for houses in the area <b>Energy Efficient Homes and Transport</b> Reduce household bills into the future <b>Local Business Support Scheme</b> Maximise the number of businesses providing services and materials to the project <b>Jobs : 75 jobs</b> would be created during the construction and operation of this wind farm	<b>Climate Change and 2020 fines</b> This wind farm would help to reduce our impending EU fines for failing to reach our 2020 targets <b>Reducing the spend on imported fossil fuels</b> Less oil and gas would need to be imported to generate electricity <b>Rates and Taxes</b> Revenue will be paid to the government and local authority <b>Cheaper Electricity Prices</b> Renewable energy development is placing a downward pressure on fossil fuel prices – keeping energy prices lower
ECONOMIC		
SOCIAL	<b>Local Services</b> Recreational and other services can be developed for people living in the local area <b>Local Facilities</b> Facilities to service the local community could be developed. Again we would appreciate feedback on what would be of most benefit to the local area.	<b>Climate Change</b> Climate Change is having an impact on society across the country as a result of adverse weather and severe storms <b>Air Quality &amp; Fossil Fuels</b> The EPA has advised that 3 people a day die in Ireland as a result of air pollution resulting from the amount of fossil fuels that we burn.

## Why do we need to develop more renewable energy?

In recent years Ireland has experienced many severe weather events. Between October 2017 and July 2018 alone we have experienced severe storm conditions associated with Storm Ophelia, exceptional snowfall associated with the Beast from the East and most recently the drought conditions resulting from one of the warmest and driest period for decades. Our weather is becoming more extreme but it is still possible for us to limit the effects that climate change will have.

Developing suitable and appropriate renewable energy projects is of fundamental importance to our country's future. Addressing our dependency on fossil fuels and moving towards becoming a low carbon economy are essential for protecting our energy supply and limiting the effects of climate change on our environment for the generations that follow us.

Where a location has the potential to accommodate a wind energy project, it is important that the wind energy project respects and works with the local people and local area. It is clear that we must take action and it is clear that we must take action in the right way!

**“2016 was the hottest year on record, setting a new high for the 3rd year in a row”**

### Climate Change and Global Warming

Climate change and global warming has the potential to have massive and permanent ramifications for our climate and way of life. Scientists agree that if action is taken now to limit the rate of increase in global temperatures the worst of the effects can still be avoided.

*“Global warming has to be limited to below 2°C compared to the average temperature in preindustrial times to prevent the most severe impacts of climate change and possibly catastrophic changes in the global environment”*

- European Commission climate action

97% of Scientists now agree that Climate Change is directly as a result of human activity and more specifically from the release of carbon from the burning of fossil fuels. Action on climate change is being taken at government level across the EU.

**Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Director General, Laura Burke, has stated “We are an island nation, vulnerable to climate change. We’ve a great deal to gain by becoming a leader in moving to a low carbon economy.”** Hopefully this will happen!

### Fossil Fuels and Energy Dependency

The world is heavily dependent on depleting fossil fuel reserves and the population of the world continues to grow. The way we as a people harness and use energy will be challenged in the coming years. It is estimated that there will be an additional 1 million people living in the Republic of Ireland by 2050. That equates to an increase of over 20% in terms of people - all with a demand for electricity Ireland is one of the most fuel import dependent countries in the EU, importing approx. 88% of its fuel to meet its energy requirements in 2015.

This said, Ireland is committed to combating Climate Change by reducing carbon emissions and therefore reducing its dependence on Fossil Fuels. We have a legal obligation to diversify our energy sources by 2020 requiring the development of renewable energy to avoid substantial fines.

**We have a world class wind resource which can help meet the required targets and generate economic and local benefits.**

*Harnessing wind energy is a very efficient and effective way of converting an abundant natural resource to electricity*

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) have stated that in 2015 wind energy:

**Avoided €238 million in fossil fuel imports**  
**Reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 2.67 Mt**

Studies have been carried out which confirm that proposed wind farm would generate enough green electricity to displace the amount of carbon used during its manufacture and construction within 10 months of operation. After this, all electricity generated would displace carbon which would be released from burning fossil fuels.







REVISED DESIGN LAYOUT

## Where can I find out more about Wind Energy?



### 1 Visit a wind farm!

If you want to really experience wind energy for yourself, without any doubts about the quality and accuracy of the information you are getting - visit a wind farm and talk to the people living in that area. Locally, the Mount Lucas Wind Farm consists of 27 turbines of a similar scale.

### 2 Visit the following websites:

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<a href="http://www.windenergy.ie">www.windenergy.ie</a> - Wind Energy Facts	<a href="http://www.kildarecoco.ie">www.kildarecoco.ie</a> - Kildare County Council
<a href="http://www.seai.ie">www.seai.ie</a> Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)	<a href="http://www.epa.ie">www.epa.ie</a> - Environmental Protection Agency
<a href="http://www.un.org/climatechange">www.un.org/climatechange</a> UN Climate Change Website	<a href="http://www.gsi.ie">www.gsi.ie</a> - Geological Survey Ireland
	<a href="http://www.fisheriesireland.ie">www.fisheriesireland.ie</a> - Inland Fisheries Ireland
	<a href="http://www.npws.ie">www.npws.ie</a> - National Parks and Wildlife Service

### 3 Talk to our Project Communication Officer

George O'Connor is the local Community Liaison Officer for this project. George has many years' experience in both wind energy and working with communities. Whilst he is very knowledgeable about renewable energy projects, he also has a very good understanding and appreciation for the fact that people and communities will have many different thoughts on what would be appropriate for an area. Pat O'Sullivan and Jim O'Reilly will be working alongside George and as such we will be in a position to discuss this proposal with you over the coming weeks and months.

We would encourage anyone who has an interest in this proposal to contact us as below:



By phone:  
George O'Connor - 086 0126 843



By email:  
[enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie](mailto:enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie)



*"Climate change is a fundamental problem that we must solve and not merely pass on to the generations to come. We can't let our children and grandchildren look back on this critical period in time and say that we failed them."* Mary Robinson



*Considering opportunity, promoting engagement, striving for sustainability*

#### Privacy Policy

On May 25th 2018 the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect. GDPR is a new European wide data protection regulation that will strengthen data protection for all individuals within Europe. Element Power is committed to ensuring your information is kept secure at all times. We have updated our privacy policy and you can view it at [www.drehidwindfarm.ie/privacy-statement](http://www.drehidwindfarm.ie/privacy-statement). If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact our Data Protection Officer at [data.compliance@elpower.com](mailto:data.compliance@elpower.com) For further information on GDPR and how it affects you please visit [www.gdprandyou.ie](http://www.gdprandyou.ie)

#### Contact us:

Element Power, Axis Business Park, Clara Road Tullamore, Co Offaly  
Phone: 057 936 1540 Mobile: 086 0126 843  
Email: [enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie](mailto:enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie)  
[www.drehidwindfarm.ie](http://www.drehidwindfarm.ie)



## INFORMATION BOOKLET

### Drehid Wind Energy Development

September 2018



A commitment to  
**zero** Shadow Flicker  
at all homes in the area

**32,400**  
capacity to provide clean  
renewable power for  
over 32,400 Irish homes

**€1,250,000**  
Total value of fund the  
wind farm could bring  
within 5 years of operation



## INTRODUCTION

Over the past number of months, we have been meeting with people to gather feedback on how this project could be tailored for the local area. Our goal has been to develop a design that would reflect what people in the local area have been telling us would work best and also to establish how you think this proposal might bring the most benefit to the local area. In this booklet we will outline the main areas of concern that people have raised and we will endeavour to explain the changes that we have made in order to address these issues. We will also outline the feedback that we received in terms of community benefit and the opportunities for this proposal to be of benefit to people in the local area.

**Your views have influenced what is now being considered. If permitted and built, this project will always reflect the views of the people who discussed this project with us. There are fewer turbines, they are located further away from homes and there will be no Shadow Flicker at any homes in the area.**

Since beginning this consultation process, there have been a number of exciting developments in terms of community benefit. One of these is that details of the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) have been launched. This includes a commitment from the government to ensure significantly increased funding for local communities where

projects are developed under this scheme. For the community around Drehid, the RESS scheme would allow for a fund in the region of €250,000/year. To put this in perspective, within 5 years of operation, this wind farm would have the potential bring €1,250,000 to the local community.

A question that people have often asked us during our consultation is:

**‘How would this wind farm be of benefit to me?’.**

From talking to you, we have gotten a very strong impression that people in the local area want direct benefit for their households as they feel that community benefit funds very often only benefit certain sectors of society. People have said that they want local households to receive real and tangible benefits from the project through direct return. Given the value of this fund, some people have also suggested that it should be used to develop industry and employment opportunities in the local area.

We have taken this feedback on board and we are developing a proposal for how this might be achieved. There will also be a requirement for any project which comes under the RESS scheme to offer an investment opportunity to those in the local area. We would invite anyone who may be interested in the concept of investing in a wind farm and getting a return from it to contact us.

**We want this project to make a real positive difference to people’s lives. People have said that as a starting point, they would like to have significantly lower electricity bills in the future. We are committed to making this happen should the project be developed.**

### Why is this project being considered?

A number of people have queried why we are asking you to consider a wind energy proposal here again. There are three main reasons for this:

1. We previously received feedback from the planning authorities and county council that would indicate that this area may have the potential to accommodate a wind energy development.
2. It is clear that action must be taken on Climate Change/Our Fossil Fuel dependency and where an opportunity exists to develop renewable energy, it should be explored.
3. We are asking people to consider this proposal so that we can take your feedback on board and make changes to our design that reflect what you are telling us.

We believe that it is this project warrants consideration. Importantly we are working with the community to allow you the opportunity to influence any proposal that will be brought forward for consideration by the planning authorities.

## DESIGN REVIEW

### Feedback on Shadow Flicker

Many people spoke to us about Shadow Flicker saying that they felt it would be intrusive in their homes and something that was one of their main concerns. 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.

### Revised Proposal in terms of Shadow Flicker

We can confirm that there will be zero Shadow Flicker at homes in the area. This will be achieved by installing software and equipment on the turbines which will identify weather conditions that would cause Shadow Flicker (including wind direction, speed, sun light and sun position). When these weather conditions are identified, the turbines will automatically shut down. As is required in our Environmental Impact Assessment Report we will fully assess the potential for Shadow Flicker at all homes in the area but importantly, we will commit in this report and in our planning application to zero Shadow Flicker at homes in the local area.

### Feedback on proximity & set back distances

Many people have expressed a desire to have the distance between turbines and houses increased. It was felt that the minimum set back required by the current guidelines 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.

### Revised proposal in terms of proximity

The minimum distance between houses in the wider community and turbines has been increased from 500m to 640m. In order to achieve this, the number of turbines proposed has been reduced from 14 to 12. 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.

### Feedback on Noise

Some people have raised concerns that noise may be an issue from the wind farm.

### Revised Proposal in terms of Noise

As this revised proposal has increased the set back distances to houses as detailed above, noise that may be heard at homes in the area of the wind passing over the blade of the turbines will also be reduced. If you have any concerns in terms of wind farms in this regard we would always advise visiting a wind farm and talking to the people in that area.

## Community Benefit

In keeping with the positive goals of addressing climate change by developing renewable energy, proposals such as this wind farm seek to bring opportunities for real environmental, economic and social benefits for the local area.

### Feedback on local needs

The main messages that we received from talking to people over the past number of months included:

- People felt that local clubs and voluntary organisations in the area are well funded and that there would be limited benefit from putting more funding into these organisations.
- People felt that the proposal should bring direct benefit to the households and individuals in the local area through direct return and employment opportunities
- People felt that the community fund should provide some support to green initiatives for local households

### AS A STARTING POINT:

#### Local Electricity - Lower Local Bills

In terms of taking a step towards addressing the feedback above, we have looked at ways in which this project could lead to reduced electricity bills in the local area.

Feedback that we have received from you:

- There should be direct return from the wind farm to people in the local area.
- If electricity is being generated locally that there should be a discount on electricity bills locally. Taking this on board we have worked to establish of how we might achieve this whilst also promoting better energy usage.
- €1,114 equates to an average electricity bill. The average household usage of electricity in Ireland is 4,200kWh per year resulting in an approximate bill of €1,114 per year. Some houses will have higher bills and some will be lower.

**Should this project be granted planning permission, a portion of the wind farm Community Benefit Fund will be used to pay €1,114 directly to all houses within 1km of the wind farm to contribute to local electricity bills.**

#### Increased direct benefit or support for the development of local employment

From talking to people there have been two main lines of thought. Some people were of the opinion that local households should receive the majority of the community fund available. Others thought that, given the significant sums of money that could potentially be available under the RESS scheme, it should be used to attract and develop local industry.

On our project website we will have a facility for you to vote on which option you would prefer or if you would like to see a mix of both. **You can visit [www.drehidwindfarm.ie](http://www.drehidwindfarm.ie) to have your say on this issue and to learn more about this proposal.**

### A greener living scheme

Interest has been expressed in a scheme that would assist people locally to reduce their carbon footprint. We would propose that the community fund would introduce further initiatives through a Greener Living Scheme which would help people reduce their carbon footprint and their household bills. In this way many houses would have the potential to greatly reduce their electricity bills below the value of €1,114 resulting in them having a net surplus. Others may decide that they would like grant assistance from the fund to buy electric cars.

### Commuting - a local issue

A number of people raised commuting as a local issue. Commuting generally costs a lot of time, money and carbon. There are two ways in which the community fund could be used to help people in this regard.

1. The development of a ‘Hot Desk Office’ in a local town or village. This office would be equipped with high speed broadband and office facilities for people who may be able to work remotely from their workplace. It could also create local employment and support local business start-ups.
2. Grant assistance for people who would like to consider buying an electric car. Electric vehicles can reduce your fuel bill by up to 74% whilst also reducing your carbon footprint!

### Other aspirations expressed by the local community include:

- The development of an Educational Fund for those in the local area
- The development of a local amenity walkway
- Support for people interested in buying electric vehicles and the development of local charging points
- Support towards local childcare facilities and local schools

### The new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)

In July this year, the government announced details of the new renewable energy support scheme (RESS) which is aimed at encouraging the development of a sustainable renewable energy mix in Ireland. There are two very significant community opportunities for projects which will be developed under this scheme.

1. A very significant increase in community funds. For this proposal it would mean that there would be in the region of €250,000/year available for the local community should the project be permitted and ultimately developed through RESS
2. A community investment opportunity for those living within 10km of the project with priority given to people living within 5km.



## AT A GLANCE

### Design Changes

- » Fewer turbines - 12 turbines now being considered.
- » No Shadow Flicker - A commitment to Zero Shadow Flicker at all homes in the area.
- » Further away - Turbines have been moved further away from homes
  - ✓ The distance to homes in the wider area has increased from 500m to 640m.
  - ✓ There are now 86 houses within 1km.
  - ✓ 60 of these would be 800m or more from a turbine (previously there were 180 houses within 1km).
- » Amenity Walkway - with recreational facilities now being considered.

### Local Benefit Changes:

- » Direct return - The value of an average yearly electricity bill (€1,114) will be available annually for all houses who are within 1km of the proposal.
- » Greener Living Initiative - An annual fund to be set aside to assist those who would like to lower their carbon footprint and bring their energy bills down.
- » Increased Community Fund - This proposal under the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme would attract over €250,000/year in funding for the local area.
- » Investment Opportunity - We would like talk to people who may be interested in investing in this wind farm and getting a return from it. Under the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme, a community investment opportunity would be available for anyone within 10km of the proposal with priority being given to those within 5km.



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# Drehid Wind Farm

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Project Booklet

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Q3 2024





# Drehid Wind Farm



# Statkraft

## ■ Introduction

Statkraft is committed to delivering affordable renewable energy on to the Irish grid system and engaging with communities to explore how these projects might work best in their areas. We work to harness Ireland's natural resources to produce clean energy that can deliver for the present, while safeguarding our future.

As you may know, Statkraft have been working on the proposed Drehid Wind Farm project for a number of years and we appreciate your patience and engagement thus far. Should this project come to fruition, it offers many opportunities for you and your community. Through the government-led Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), your local community can look forward to benefits including job creation, funding to support the community, and reduced energy costs for homes and businesses.

Our Community Liaison Team will be engaging with people in the local area over the coming weeks, and will be available to discuss the project.

## ■ Why your area is being considered for this project

Projects like Drehid Wind Farm enable communities to utilise their own natural resources and provide clean affordable energy solutions that reduce carbon emissions and our dependence on expensive fossil fuels.

The people of Kildare have always harnessed their natural surroundings to power their county. At one time, the county's canals served as vital arteries to transport energy, with barges delivering fuel such as coal across Ireland. Businesses were powered and industry thrived – transforming the county into one of Ireland's most innovative, progressive regions.

While coal might have served Kildare well during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the days of relying on costly, polluting fossil fuels are being consigned to history. Now is the time to find new ways of using the county's natural resources to power its world-renowned companies and indigenous businesses, and to sustain future employment.

As with all our projects, local appropriateness is a fundamental consideration. The areas around Drehid, Ballynamullagh, Kilmurry, Coolree, Mulgeeth and Killyon are zoned as *open to consideration* for wind farm developments in the Kildare County Development Plan with planning permission for this particular project been initially granted by An Bord Pleanála in 2020.

The nearby solar farm, which is currently under construction, is a symbol that Kildare is adapting to new ways of using its natural resources to generate clean energy and combat climate change.

Kildare is home to world-renowned companies and is brimming with industry and innovation; generating wind energy to power its businesses and local communities would be a natural step for such a forward-thinking county.

Electricity prices have put huge pressure on households and businesses, especially as the cost of living continues to rise.

To keep these prices stable, there must be a continued supply of clean energy. Irish wind farms protect consumers every day by reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels.

## WIND ENERGY CUTS THE PRICE OF WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY

The Average Wholesale price of Electricity in April:

**€88.52**  
Per Megawatt Hour

In April 2024 the Average Price of Electricity on the days with:

**MOST WIND ENERGY**  
**€51.55**  
Per Megawatt Hour

**LEAST WIND ENERGY**  
**€111.05**  
Per Megawatt Hour

Source: Wind Energy Ireland



## ■ This proposal

This proposal is to develop an 11-turbine wind farm in north Kildare. The location under consideration was initially identified following a review of areas that could allow for the development of this type.

The proposed project includes sections of Coillte property in addition to other third-party lands. If you have any queries related to Coillte, please contact [lsinfo@coillte.ie](mailto:lsinfo@coillte.ie).

This proposal has the capacity to deliver climate action by supplying thousands of homes and businesses in Kildare and across Ireland with green power while bringing very real benefits to the local area and its people.

## ■ Different perspectives

The shift to a low-carbon economy will require some changes in Ireland's landscape and we understand that renewable energy projects may generate mixed views within communities. Some people may find wind turbines aesthetically pleasing and symbolic of a better future, while others may dislike their appearance. Our goal is to provide accurate information on our plans and to seek feedback on the following aspects: how to design this project in a way that maximises its sustainability and suitability for the local area, and how the associated Community Benefit Fund (CBF) could make a meaningful contribution to the lives of local people.

**A Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) is a development which is of strategic economic or social importance to a local area.**

## ■ How your feedback has shaped project design

Designers drafted a project outline that would maximise the wind energy potential of the site. Placing local appropriateness as a fundamental consideration and taking on board feedback received from the local community, further optimisation of this design was carried out. Originally, this project secured planning as a 12-turbine layout but is now being brought forward as a revised 11-turbine proposal with an approximate output of 52MW. The setback distance of the nearest property is 640m with approximately 70% of the properties in excess of 800m.



## ■ Project at a Glance

- 11-turbine project
- 110kV on-site substation
- Over 52MW of renewable energy to the Irish electricity grid
- Zero shadow flicker policy
- Height of turbine up to a maximum of 169m
- Total Community Benefit Fund of circa €3.9 million, over a 15-year period, depending on the final design
- Annual rates payments to Kildare County Council. These rates go towards public services including street lighting, libraries, footpath and road maintenance
- Associated works will include access tracks, met mast, turbine foundations and hard standing areas, drainage works, temporary site compounds, underground electrical and communication cables between turbines, and an underground cable to connect the proposed project via a loop-in connection to the existing Harristown-Dunfirth (Tee)-Rinawade 110 kV overhead line

## ■ Strategic Infrastructure Development

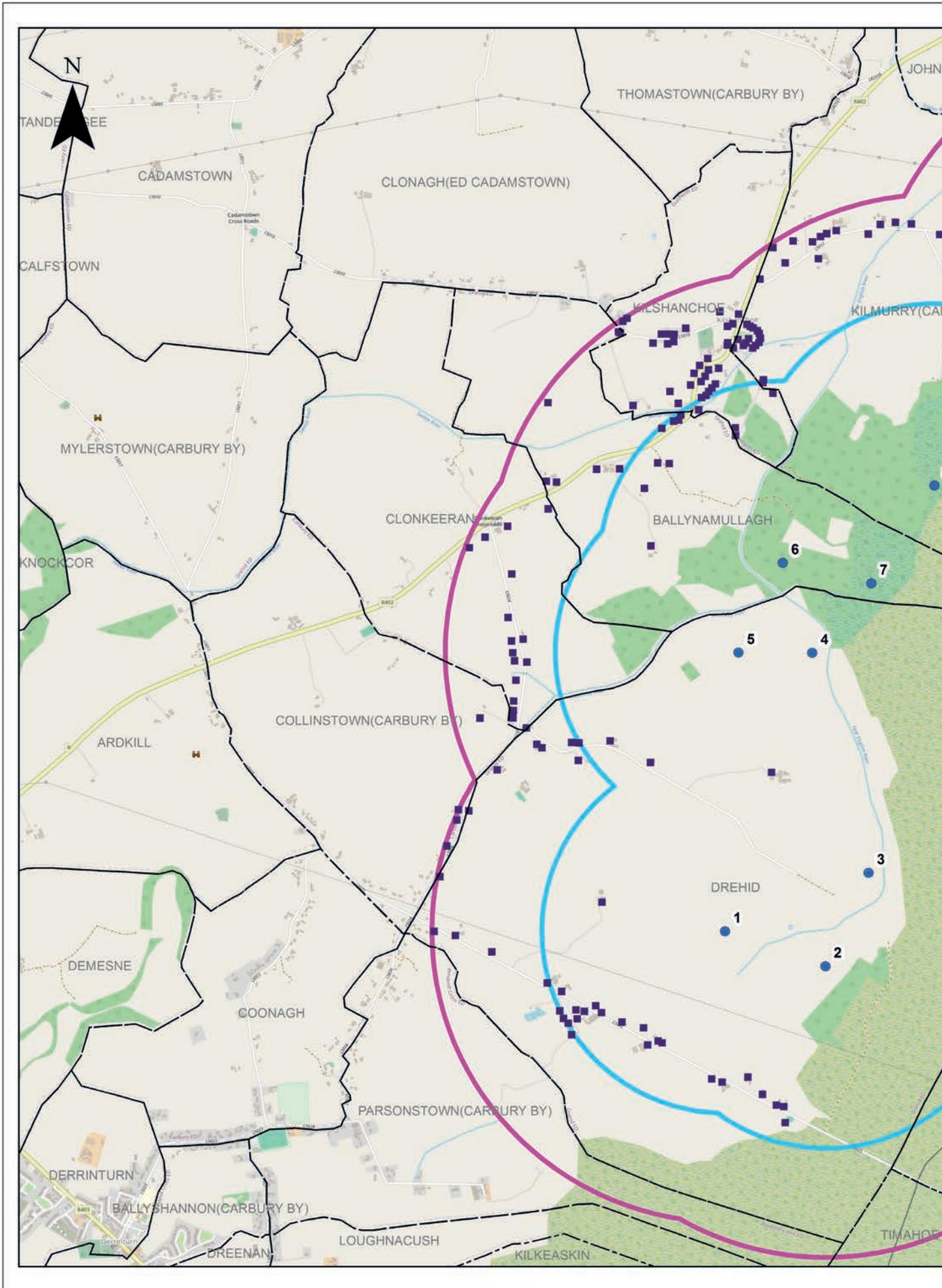
Wind farms with a total output greater than 50 megawatts are considered a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). In a pre-application meetings with An Bord Pleanála. It was determined that the 52MW wind farm and the 110kV substation were both considered SID and it was determined that separate SID applications would be submitted at the same time to An Bord Pleanála. Kildare County Council will also be consulted on the applications.

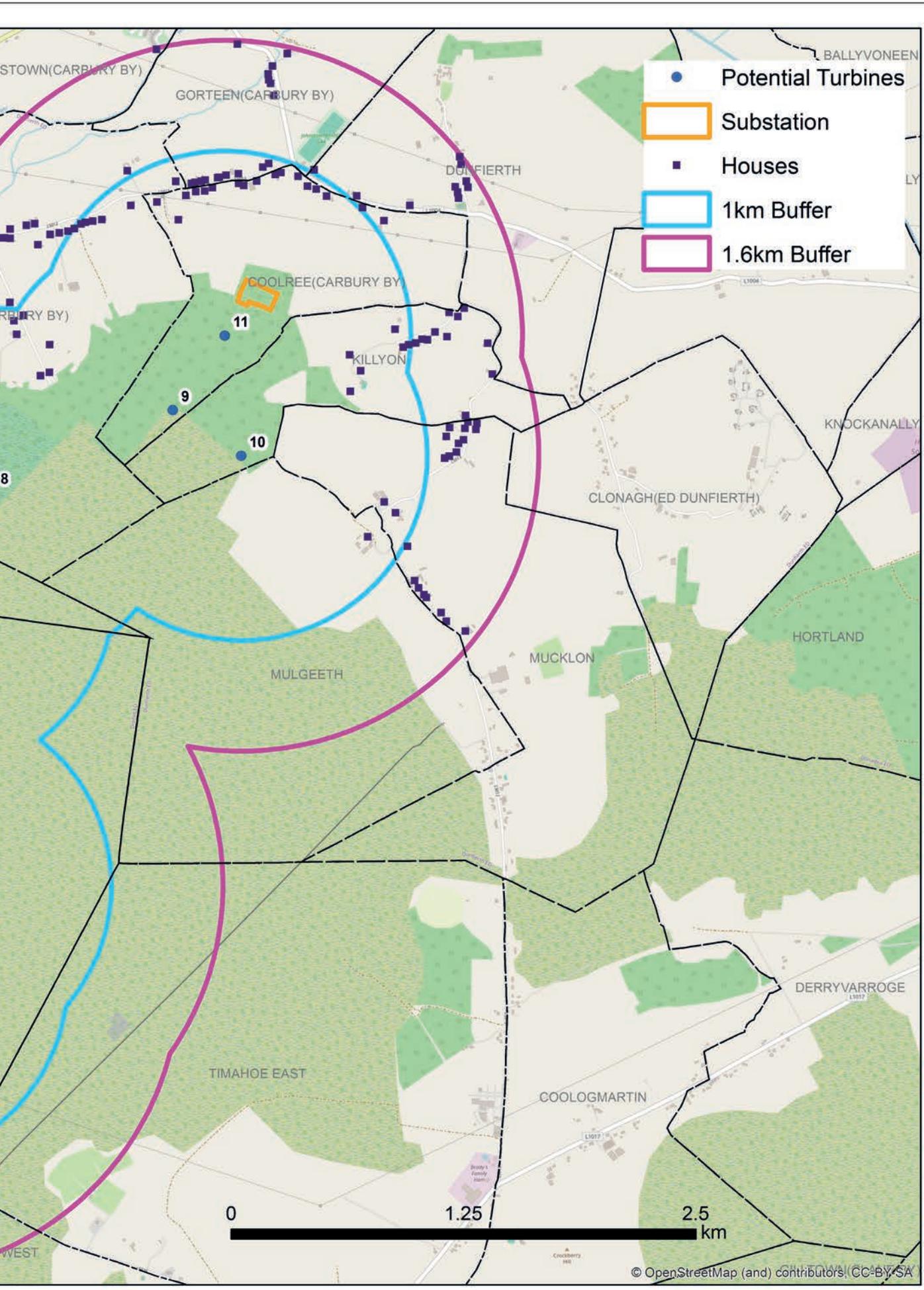
## ■ Typical Configuration





## ■ Site Map





© OpenStreetMap (and) contributors (CC-BY-SA)





## ■ Community Benefit Fund

A dedicated Community Benefit Fund (CBF) is a great way to invest in sustainable, local initiatives that benefit the entire community. Guidance on how the Community Benefit Funds associated with RESS projects are to be administered is centred around community decision-making.

The funds are designed to be allocated for local community initiatives that reflect the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ensuring that our communities develop towards a healthy, inclusive and green future. If you have any questions in relation to the CBF, please contact the Community Liaison Officer whose contact details are on the back of this booklet.

The Drehid Wind Farm, as proposed, could bring with it funding in the region of an estimated €260,000 each year, or over €3.9 million over a 15-year period. The following are some examples of what has been considered in other areas where we have worked and might give a good indication of what can be achieved and advanced locally.

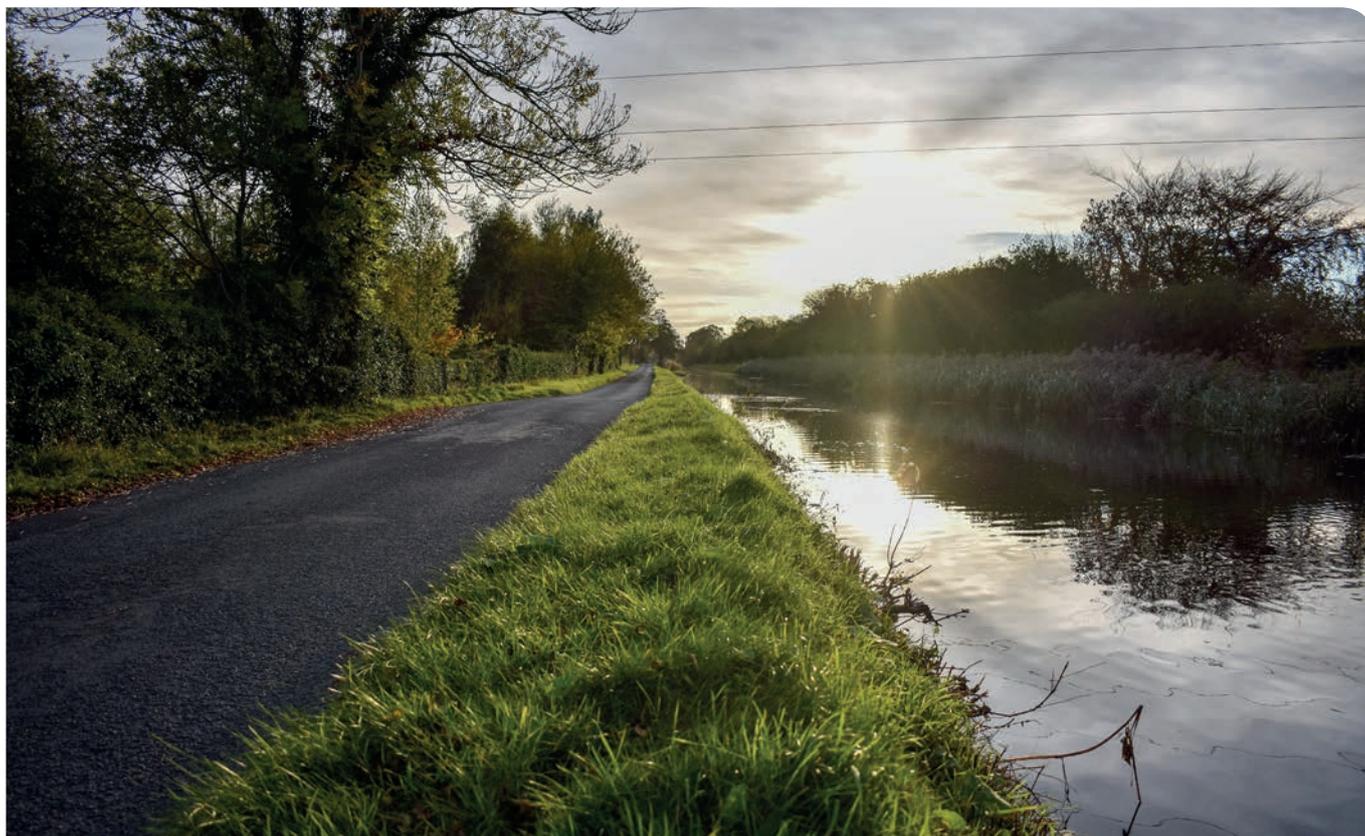
## ■ How the CBF can benefit your community?

- Direct benefit schemes, such as near neighbour payments
- Energy efficiency schemes for households
- Funding for amenity and equestrian trails
- Funding for local heritage initiatives
- Job creation and investment in the local economy
- Support for local education schemes
- Biodiversity initiatives
- Local festivals and events

**Should this project go ahead, we will liaise directly with local and county-wide sustainability and community groups to ensure the CBF is utilised.**



*[Find out more about the UN SDGs here](#)*



**If you have any suggestions for biodiversity initiatives that Statkraft could implement alongside the project, please contact the Community Liaison Officer whose contact details are located at the back of this booklet.**



### ■ Our obligations and responsibilities

We would hope that our first steps in the development of this proposal will be recognised as open, transparent, and respectful. Addressing climate change and energy security warrants nothing less. During consultation, our objective is not to seek support for the proposal, but to provide information to allow you to develop your own considered opinion, based on accurate information, on what this proposal has to offer. As this process develops, we will continue to work with you to ensure that this wind farm delivers effective climate action while also delivering for the local area.

### ■ Project sustainability

Our ambition is to contribute to a more sustainable future for all. At the same time, the way we develop our projects in local communities must be sustainable and responsible – and we are guided by the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



### ■ Sustainability of the project includes:

- Stakeholder engagement which provides us with valuable input and helps us to continuously improve and strengthen our relationships and business practices
- A biodiversity plan is provided as part of all planning submissions. Typical biodiversity measures included are: planting wildflower meadows, providing sections of species-rich grass, improving hedgerows, tree planting and providing bird nesting
- Supply chain management. This covers health and safety, environment and climate, human rights, labour rights, and business ethics





## For more information, please visit the following websites

<b>www.windenergyireland.com</b> Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)	<b>www.epa.ie</b> Environmental Protection Agency
<b>www.seai.ie</b> Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)	<b>www.gsi.ie</b> Geological Survey Ireland
<b>www.un.org/climatechange</b> UN Climate Change Website	<b>www.npws.ie</b> National Parks and Wildlife Service
<b>www.climatecouncil.ie</b> Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council	<b>www.kildarecoco.ie</b> Kildare County Council

## Talk to our Community Liaison Officer

The Community Liaison Officer for this project is John Lowry who is also supported by a dedicated team who have years of experience in renewables and working with communities. While they are very knowledgeable about renewable energy projects, they also appreciate the fact that individuals and communities have different thoughts on what works in their individual areas. The team are available to provide information on this proposal or indeed the wider issues of climate action. We would encourage anyone who has an interest in this proposal to get in touch with us using the contact details below.

### ■ Dedicated Website

There is a dedicated project website in place where all information and updates relevant to the project will be posted. This also provides you with the opportunity to share your feedback.

If you have any further questions, you can contact your dedicated Community Liaison Officer on the contact details provided below.



**www.drehidwindfarm.ie**



*"Climate change is a fundamental problem that we must solve and not merely pass on to the generations to come. We can't let our children and grandchildren look back on this critical period in time and say that we failed them." Mary Robinson*

### Privacy Policy

Here at Statkraft we take your privacy seriously and we treat your information with respect. To facilitate environmental safety management systems and to ensure appropriate assessment and development; consultation and domiciliary data within the study area is collected. For more information about how Statkraft processes personal data, please consult our general privacy policy at <https://www.statkraft.ie/privacy-statement/> – or you can also direct any specific questions you have to [privacy@statkraft.com](mailto:privacy@statkraft.com).

### ■ Contact Us

Community Liaison Team

John Lowry

**Phone:** 057 9379043

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



**Statkraft**



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+353 21 242 7786

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[www.statkraft.com](http://www.statkraft.com)

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025

## RE: Drehid Windfarm Proposal

Dear Cllr,

I'm writing to inform you that we're in the process of finalising plans for a proposed revision of the Drehid windfarm development that initially secured planning in 2020 but was later subject to a judicial review. The revised proposal involves the instillation of 11 turbines along with a new substation and grid connection. This proposed development will contribute renewable energy to the local grid network. As part of our commitment to community engagement, Statkraft have a dedicated community engagement team visiting households, seeking feedback on the proposal but also providing project information booklets and direction to a dedicated project website.

The project under current RESS guidelines would have a Community Benefit Fund of €2 per megawatt-hour (MWh) circa €260,000 / year for 15 years. This fund aims to support the economic, environmental, social, and cultural well-being of the local community. Additionally, the project will contribute to sustainable community initiatives, benefiting those living near the project.

I have attached a copy of our project brochure. As the project evolves, new information will be added to the dedicated website. [www.drehidwindfarm.ie](http://www.drehidwindfarm.ie) or scan QR code to visit site:



All queries can be forwarded by email to: [enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie](mailto:enquiries@drehidwindfarm.ie)

We value your input and look forward to engaging with you throughout this process. Together, we can create a sustainable future for Ireland.

Kind Regards,

*George O'Connor*

George O'Connor  
Head of Comms and Stakeholder Management.  
Statkraft Ireland.



For more information, please visit the following websites

<a href="http://www.windenergyireland.com">www.windenergyireland.com</a> Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)	<a href="http://www.epa.ie">www.epa.ie</a> Environmental Protection Agency
<a href="http://www.seai.ie">www.seai.ie</a> Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)	<a href="http://www.gsi.ie">www.gsi.ie</a> Geological Survey Ireland
<a href="http://www.un.org/climatechange">www.un.org/climatechange</a> UN Climate Change Website	<a href="http://www.coillte.ie">www.coillte.ie</a> Coillte Ireland
<a href="http://www.climatecouncil.ie">www.climatecouncil.ie</a> Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council	<a href="http://www.kildarecoco.ie">www.kildarecoco.ie</a> Kildare County Council

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### Contact Us

Community Liaison Team  
John Lowry  
Phone: 057 9379043  
[www.drehidwindfarm.ie](http://www.drehidwindfarm.ie)

# Drehid Wind Farm

Q1 2025





# Thank you for your engagement

We would like to thank you for taking the time to share feedback and speak with our Community Engagement Team over the past number of months. We have endeavoured to meet with as many members of the community as possible as we believe that understanding the local area, its people, environment, and history forms a core part of how we approach the design, development, and operation of renewable energy projects.

As part of Statkraft's commitment to community engagement, we strive to build strong, lasting relationships with the communities. We believe that by working closely with you, we can develop projects that not only meet Ireland's current and future energy needs but also reflect the values, expectations and ambitions of the local community.

# Benefits for you and your community

A dedicated Community Benefit Fund (CBF) is designed to support initiatives that align with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Drehid Wind Farm, as proposed, could bring with it funding in the region of an estimated €260,000 each year, or over €3.9 million over a 15-year period. Projects that improve local wildlife habitats, celebrate culture and heritage, and promote inclusive economic opportunities may qualify for funding. Below are some examples of what has been considered in other areas where we have worked and might give a good indication of what can be achieved and advanced locally.

- Direct benefit schemes, such as near neighbour payments
- Energy efficiency schemes for households
- Funding for amenity and equestrian trails
- Funding for local heritage initiatives
- Job creation and investment in the local economy
- Support for local education schemes
- Biodiversity initiatives
- Local festivals and events

Learn more about SDGs:



We have updated the proposed Drehid Wind Farm project website which provides additional information including the Environmental Impact Assessment process along with the benefits to the local community that the project could provide under the current RESS guidelines.

We aim to submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála in March. For any further queries, please contact the Community Liaison team using the details provided.



# This proposal at a glance

- 11-turbine project
- 110kV on-site substation
- Over 52MW of renewable energy to the Irish electricity grid
- Zero shadow flicker policy
- Height of turbine up to a maximum of 167m
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- Recreational amenity trail
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- Associated works will include access tracks, turbine foundations and hard standing areas, drainage works, temporary site compounds, underground electrical and communication cables between turbines, and an underground cable to connect the proposed project via a loop-in connection to the existing Harristown-Dunfirth (Tee)-Rinawade 110 kV overhead line

# Site Map

