

Appendix 1-2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



Ballinla Wind Farm

Community Engagement Report

Project: Ballinla Wind Farm **Country:** Ireland
Project Code: P00000

Responsible:

Revision history

Authored by	Date	Issue date	Rev no	Comments
JL	17 July 2025	July 2025	00	First Issue

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Initial public consultation for the Proposed Ballinla Wind Farm project began at a very early stage in the development process, with engagement with the local community beginning during initial feasibility and scoping stages back in 2023. In October 2023, the first round of in-person consultation took place. At this time, a dedicated Community Liaison Strategy (CLS) was developed by the Community Engagement Team for the project. Over the following months, the Community Engagement Team engaged with the local community and responded to their initial queries and provided feedback.

In 2023 the Proposed Development consisted of a 10-turbine layout. The larger Proposed Development was subsequently revised down to a 7-turbine design which is now being progressed for to planning application stage.

In November 2024, a second round of consultations involving in-person visits to all houses in the area was completed. Engagement will continue throughout the proposals, construction and operation. An information letter was delivered to each household in late June 2025, advising the community of when the planning submissions was due.

The public consultation process was underpinned by the 'Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement 2016,' which emphasises transparency, clarity, and active participation. The strategy involved multiple touchpoints with the community, ensuring residents were well-informed and could contribute to the project's evolution.

2. Overview

Currently there are 189 houses within a 1.6km radius of the Proposed Development have been visited, throughout the engagement process there was 175 face-to-face meetings. A further 12 meetings were held with representatives from local community groups. These sessions were designed to provide detailed insights and address specific concerns raised by the community, ensuring that every voice had the opportunity to be heard. To further enhance accessibility and ensure comprehensive community engagement, QR codes were included in the project brochures. These QR codes directed residents to the project's website and the virtual consultation room (VCR), making it easier for them to access up-to-date information and provide feedback on the proposal.

The core objective of the consultation approach was to ensure that every house within the Proposed Development area received comprehensive project materials. These materials, which included 756 project booklets, and 189 planning notification letters distributed across the local and wider area, were designed to help residents understand all aspects of the proposal, providing a platform for the community to discuss their concerns and address any misinformation that might be circulating.

The following information was provided to all residential dwellings within the consultation area:

- 2 project booklets (Oct 2023 & Nov 2024)
- Supplementary newsletter to notify households of the expected date for the submission of the planning application to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) – (June 2025)
- Contact details for contacting the Lead Community Liaison Officer
- Details on the dedicated project website – **www.ballinlawindfarm.ie**
- Details of the virtual consultation room (located on website)
- Dedicated project contact number - 057 937 9003
- Enquiries email address: **enquiries@ballinlawindfarm.ie**

2.1 Project Material

The Community Engagement team (CE Team) called to all residential properties in the proposed area with a detailed first round project booklet starting in October 2023. The main aim of these visits was for the CE Team to introduce themselves, provide contact details and to provide information on the project which was under consideration with a view to establishing a line of dialogue between the applicant and residents and to feedback the community input to the project design team.

2.2 Project Booklet 1 – Q4 2023

During the initial meetings, comprehensive information and a detailed booklet regarding the project under consideration were distributed by the CE team. The project booklet contained information about the project, provided opportunities for feedback, explained how this feedback would be incorporated into the design process, and offered further details on where additional information could be obtained. Contact information and website details were provided in the booklet.

The booklet also included educational material about climate change and fossil fuel dependency to provide context for the project's importance. Additionally, it highlighted how the project could benefit the local area and invited feedback from individuals on the potential use of the Community Benefit Fund. A flexible approach was adopted for scheduling meetings, ensuring arrangements could accommodate individuals at convenient times and locations. Engagement extended beyond the initially identified CLS area, reaching up to 1.6 kilometres and more from the proposed turbine locations. A total of 189 households were directly contacted with project information, and their feedback on the proposal was actively sought.

2.3 Project Website

A project-specific website (www.Ballinlawindfarm.ie) was created for this proposal. The website includes a virtual consultation room (VCR) featuring photomontages, videos, an EIAR process graphic, explanations on Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) and the SID application, as well as a detailed site location map. This website went live in November 2023 shortly after the commencement of community engagement. The purpose of the website is to provide the public and all stakeholders with an up-to-date platform on project information & consultation approach. The project website is used to provide context for the Proposed Development, an educational section to develop a greater understanding of the issues being faced, information on how these issues can be addressed and details on the need for renewable energy development. The website also provides information on the project and on the consultation approach. The website has evolved with the project, continually providing updated information through each phase. Visitors are encouraged to request additional information or subscribe to receive further updates through the website. The aim has been to keep the information clear, concise, and engaging on this website.

The website accrued 662 individual visitors, 1,335 visits, which include over 3,084 pages reviewed over the course of engagement on this proposed project. *(figures from 20/6/25)*

2.4 Project Booklet 2 Q4 2024

A second booklet was distributed by the Community Engagement team to all residential properties within the consultation area which were previously engaged with in October 2023. This second round of engagement was carried out in November of 2024 in advance of the submission of the planning application. This was to ensure that everyone in the local area was aware that firstly, the design review stage of the project was reaching its conclusion and that a planning layout had been established, and secondly, that people were notified and aware that a planning submission was due to be submitted in Summer 2025. A key update is the revised layout, which reduces the original proposal of 10 turbines to a 7 turbine layout. The reduction of turbines helps to achieve a greater setback from households especially on the northern part of the site, as well as a greater setback from the grand canal to over 500 meters.

This distribution of booklets process was carried out in person by the project Community Engagement team and efforts were made to meet with residents and community groups in the area again at this point to discuss the project and provide any updates or answer any concerns or queries. People were again encouraged to continue to provide feedback, to visit the project website for updates, or to contact the CE Team for additional information.

2.5 Planning Notification Letters Q3 2025

A planning notification letter was delivered to each household within the project area, a total of 189 letters were delivered. In instances where there wasn't access to deliver the letter, a letter was posted to the address. By using an post digital stamps we were able to receive confirmation that the letter was delivered to the household.

2.6 Public Representative Letter Q3 2025

Each councillor of the Edenderry Municipal District and local Offaly TDs received a letter outlining an overview of the project and informing each elected member of when the planning application for the proposed project is due to be submitted.

2.7 Virtual Consultation Room

A virtual consultation room (VCR) was set up for the public to obtain key information about the proposed project while sharing their views. The VCR was launched in November of 2024 following distribution of the second project booklet which was conducted in the form of door-to-door community engagement. The VCR demonstrated the evolution of the proposed project following community feedback from the first round of consultation in tandem with environmental assessment which guided the design process.

The VCR was broken down in the following headings:

- **Welcome video** assistant Project Manager David O’Leary set out an introduction to Statkraft, the parent company of the Applicant and a brief overview of the Project.
- **About Statkraft**, where Statkraft, the parent company of the Applicant, introduced who the company is to the website visitor.
- **Project overview and evolution** – where the Proposed Development was set out in simple terms for the public and the evolution of the Project was briefly synthesised.
- **Environmental Impact process** – this section set out the areas used to assess the potential positive and negative effects of proposed projects. A diagram was provided on the VCR explaining the EIAR process
- **Need for this project** – areas such as Sustainability, energy security and Climate action explain the benefits of wind energy and the need for projects such as this proposal.
- **Community Benefit Fund** – Overview of the community benefit fund and what can be expected for the community if the proposed project is successful to received planning consent.
- **A map of the Proposed Development layout** – detailed OSI map outlining the layout of the proposal along with local landmarks for reference
- **Project brochures** – download available to access the project brochures
- **Photomontages** – a sample of photomontages provided
- **Contact us** – contact details of the lead community liaison officer and an option for the public to provide their details and request further information

3. Key Issues Raised During Consultation

3.1 General Feedback

During our engagement with residents as part of the community consultation, people were actively encouraged to provide feedback on the proposal and/or their areas of concern. Feedback from meetings with people in the area showed that the need to

take effective climate action was recognised and it was apparent that many people in this area are considering what changes they will need to make in their daily lives to play their part in combatting climate change. The local community had an understanding that Ireland cannot continue to rely on imported fossil fuels such as oil and gas for its energy needs, the importance of Ireland's energy security and how this project could help to achieve this aim. Taking into consideration their concerns and queries, it was generally accepted that the Community Benefit Fund associated with the project would mean that people living closest to the development could benefit from locally generated electricity and the transition to a low-carbon society. There was significant interest in the benefits of this Fund and how it could deliver to the local area, with suggestions that the funding could support groups and rural schools.

3.2 Feedback on Shadow Flicker

Some individuals initially expressed concerns about shadow flicker, but they were informed that Statkraft is implementing a zero shadow flicker policy for properties in the area. During our consultation with those who engaged with us on this topic, we reiterated our commitment to using a zero shadow flicker policy.

3.3 Feedback on Visuals

As is the case in most communities, people's thoughts on how wind turbines look ranged from those who like the look of wind turbines and see them as a beacon of hope for the future, to those who have a negative view and do not like the look of them. The people who don't like the visual aspect of turbines raised this as a concern, stating that they did not like the view of turbines on the landscape.

Several people also said that while they didn't particularly like the look of wind turbines but accepted that wind farms have an important role to play in delivering effective climate action. It was generally accepted that the reduced number of turbines and increased setback was a positive in terms of the design of an acceptable proposal. The consultation team advised that photomontages would form part of the planning application and that they would have the chance to visualise the project once the design was complete and the planning application submitted for consideration. Further details of the alternatives and design process are contained in Chapters 4 of the EIAR: Alternatives.

3.4 Feedback on Design

The preliminary design was reviewed to reflect consultation responses commonly received from the local public. Areas queried included potential shadow flicker, setback distances, proximity to houses and noise. Feedback gathered during this consultation process in relation to the design of the proposal was relayed to the design team who worked to take on board the local community's views and concerns. A design review process was undertaken in which this feedback, along with technical appraisals, were considered. The process gave the design team the opportunity to make amendments to the design layout and the project being considered, based on the local feedback received. The proposed design resulted from this consultation process in a reduction from a 10-turbine layout to a 7-turbine layout. The design proposal being brought forward for consultation included an

increase in setback from houses and the grand canal with a setback distance of over 740m or more to the nearest residential property. These design changes were welcomed and were generally seen to address people's initial concerns.

3.5 Feedback on Property Value

In terms of other local issues raised, several people highlighted to the CLO that the value of their properties could be devalued as a result of this project. In this instance, the CLO explained that there is no peer reviewed research that we have seen which shows that wind farms affect property prices in Ireland. A major recent study in Scotland, a country of a similar size and a similar scale wind industry to Ireland, found no evidence of a negative impact on property prices. We recommended that those who raised this issue visit a wind farm and speak to residents living close to the project to get first hand experiences.

Feedback was also received on the community benefit aspect of the project. This is outlined in the section below in 'Consultation on Community Benefit'.

4. Consultation on Community Benefit Funding

4.1 Background to community benefit provided

Details were announced in October 2021 of the Government's second Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS). Renewable energy projects developed under this scheme have a significantly increased community benefit fund associated with them. For wind energy, this contribution is currently set at €2/MWh. This would offer a significant opportunity in terms of bringing economic, environmental, and social benefits to the local area. Feedback from the local community, which is set out below, highlighted a number of ways in which people felt this fund could be beneficial.

4.2 Ballinla Wind Farm and Community Benefit

Ballinla Wind Farm is committed to ensuring that renewable energy delivers real and tangible benefits for the local communities. We view community involvement in such schemes as a fundamental requirement. The Community Benefit Fund for the local area, assuming an export capacity of in the region of 50.4MW (based on the proposed layout and working assumptions) and if developed under RESS will be approximately €240,000 per year for the local area for the duration of the scheme. The value of this fund will be directly proportional to the number of MWhs of electricity produced by the wind farm, and on the project being successful in securing RESS support and the duration of that support. This equates to a community benefit fund in the region of €3.6million over a 15-year period for the local area representing a significant opportunity to enhance the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the local area.

4.3 Feedback from the local community in terms of Community Benefit

During the consultation process, feedback was sought in terms of how the Community Benefit Fund could bring real and tangible benefits to the people living

in the local area. A total of 94 households enquired about the Community Benefit Fund.

People were not only asked to consider suggestions outlined in the project booklet; we also requested that they highlight the needs of the locality as well as local initiatives and organisation they felt could benefit from support.

Queries about the community benefit fund included:

The value of the fund - Community Benefit Fund of approximately €240,000 per annum

- Funding for canal walkway and information boards along the canal
- Home and energy efficiency support
- The potential to provide facilities such as a gym, cafés, creches, facilities for older people, including active age groups and Meals on Wheels. This was discussed with community groups.
- Tourism infrastructure
- Electric vehicle and bike charging points

The overriding message received from residents was that the Community Benefit Fund associated with this development should bring direct benefit to those living in the local area. The need for support on resident upgrades along with climate action was also important to residents; as a result, they suggested that the Community Benefit Fund be used to assist households to reduce their carbon footprint.

4.4 Administration of the Community Benefit Fund

During our consultation, we asked people how they felt the fund should be administered. The overwhelming feedback on this was that the community should have an input into how the fund would be administered. Community involvement in decision making around how community benefit funds should be allocated is a key feature of these funds under the RESS scheme and an approach which Ballinla Wind Farm endorses and encourages. It was also highlighted to the community that a fund administrator would be appointed to oversee the establishment of structures and to ensure that the administration of the fund was carried out in a compliant and transparent manner.

5. Conclusion of Public Consultation Process

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

Consultation was commenced at an early stage in the development process and feedback was actively sought on the Proposed Wind Farm. The design process incorporated the feedback received and changes were made to take account of local views where appropriate.

At all stages of the community engagement process, contact details in the form of a contact phone number and email address for enquiries were distributed. These contact details were included on the project booklets, project website along with the associated virtual consultation room. These details are again being incorporated into the newsletter to be distributing to coincide with the planning submission. Additionally, feedback facilities are provided on the project website and virtual consultation room.

Leading on from this consultation approach, the CLO has become well-known in the area and has worked to foster good relations in the local community. There was good engagement from the residents and constructive feedback was received both on the design and community benefit aspects of the project. The majority of people engaged in this process, advising how they felt that the proposal could be improved, raising any concerns that they held and providing feedback on how the Community Benefit Fund could be used to bring real benefits to the local area.

5.1 Community Benefit Scheme

An important part of the Proposed Wind Farm Development is the Community Benefit Scheme. The main benefits of the scheme include support for local community groups and support for local educational funds. The concept of directing benefits from wind farms to the local community is promoted by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC), the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI), the National Economic and Social Council (NESC) and the Wind Energy Ireland (WEI) among others.

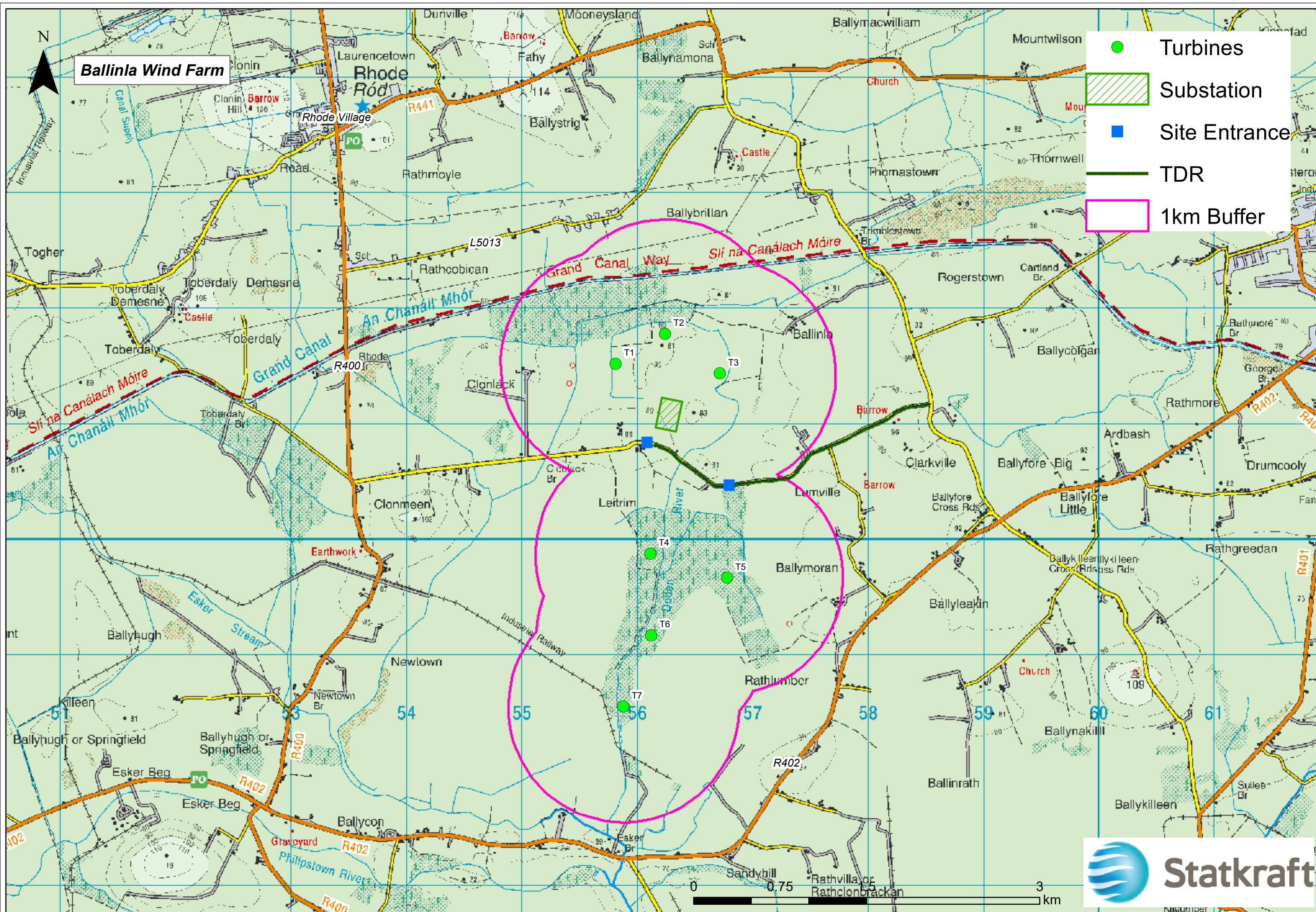
As set out in the terms of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS), all renewable energy projects applying for RESS will require a Community Benefit Fund prior to commercial operations of the Proposed Development. RESS requires a contribution of €2/MWh for all projects. Furthermore, the Community Benefit Fund will provide a minimum payment of €1,000 to all dwellings located within a one-kilometre radius from the project and sets out that a minimum of 40% of the funds shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises, whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Ballinla Wind Farm supports and endorses this approach to the delivery of community benefit funding and endeavours to work with local communities in a proactive and engaging way to deliver benefits for the local areas.

At the earliest stages of the development process, Statkraft sought to obtain positive engagement from the community in terms of considering what associated Community Benefit funds could mean to the area. Given that local residents best understand the needs and requirements of their community, consultation with local inhabitants on the structure of the community benefit package has been an integral part of developing this proposal. As detailed in Chapter 5 Population & Human Health - public consultation and engagement with the local community and businesses began at a very early stage in the development process. Feedback was actively sought on ideas for the format of the community benefit fund and how best to achieve maximum potential benefit from the available funding.

During public consultation, the local community clearly expressed a strong view that part of this fund should be ring-fenced to provide support to the residences in closest proximity to the Proposed Development through initiatives including the provision of a Near Neighbour scheme and support for adopting low carbon technologies which would reduce household energy usage and bills. Details of how the funds would be allocated would be developed in line with the RESS requirements which require community involvement in the decision-making processes.

6. Appendix

6.A Link to Map:	<u>Map link</u>
6.B Letter to public reps:	<u>local reps letter</u>
6.C Booklet:	<u>ballinla-booklet-Q4 2023</u> <u>ballinla-booklet - Q4 2024</u>
6.D Residents letter:	<u>Residents letter</u>
6.E Website:	<u>https://Ballinlawindfarm.ie/</u>
6.F VCR:	<u>https://Ballinlawindfarm.ie/this-opportunity/virtual-consultation/</u>
6.G Sorry Missed you cards:	<u>Statkraft DL Print Ballinla CE1 JL.pdf</u> <u>Statkraft DL Print Ballinla CE1 EH.pdf</u>



-  Turbines
-  Substation
-  Site Entrance
-  TDR
-  1km Buffer

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www.statkraft.com

Date: 23rd July 2025

RE: Ballinla Windfarm Proposal

Dear Deputy,

Statkraft Ireland is a renewable energy company proposing a development in the areas of Rhode, Ballinla and Ballyfore. We are writing to inform you that our community engagement team has completed two rounds of consultation for the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm development, for which we are hoping to submit a planning application in Q3 2025. This proposal consists of seven turbines, which once operational, would provide renewable energy to the local electricity grid system.

Statkraft has completed two phases of community engagement and is preparing to re-engage with the community before lodging the planning application for the proposed project. Members of the community have been engaging with us in an open manner – providing valuable feedback and challenging the design and evolution of the project.

Challenges around the cost of energy and the overall need for energy security in this country, coupled with strong views on the environment, were at the forefront of people's minds while engaging with them. They were also aware of the need to tackle climate change in an open and responsible way, so that every community is seen to be contributing.

For a project of this size and nature, and if successful in the planning process, it would be expected that a Community Benefit Fund in the region of €245,000 per year would be available to community groups and organisations for the duration of the scheme. The project will also involve the payment of development contributions and rates to Offaly County Council.

We have attached a copy of our project brochure. In addition to this, and as the project evolves, updated information will be added to our dedicated website **www.ballinlawindfarm.ie**.

Our Community Liaison Team can be contacted at enquiries@ballinlawindfarm.ie if you have any queries or need to arrange a meeting.

Kind Regards,



George O'Connor
Head of Comms and Stakeholder Management.
Statkraft Ireland.



Statkraft

Ballinla Wind Farm

Project Booklet

Q4 2023



Ballinla Wind Farm



Statkraft

■ Introduction

Statkraft is committed to delivering affordable renewable energy on to the Irish grid system and working with communities to explore how these projects might work best in their local areas. As a generation, we have a unique opportunity to make a real difference in securing our own energy independence. Statkraft is working to harness Ireland's natural resources to produce clean energy that can deliver for the present, while safeguarding our future.

Communities around Rhode have long been a pioneer of energy. For decades you have played a key role in powering homes and business in this region and across the country and continue to do so by supporting renewable energy projects.

The Ballinla Wind Farm project offers many opportunities for you and your community. Should this project come to fruition, your local community can look forward to benefits including job creation, funding to support the community, and reduced energy costs for homes and businesses through the Government-led RESS scheme.

■ The need for this project

Projects like Ballinla 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.

Electricity prices have put huge pressure on households and businesses, especially as the cost of living continues to rise. Recently, some providers have begun to reduce the price of electricity thanks to the increase in renewable energy on the Irish grid. However, 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.

The impacts of climate change on our world are indisputable. We are all being challenged to consider the role we play in climate action. Renewable energy sources not only reduce our reliance on imported, polluting fossil fuels but they also ensure security of supply through climate-driven disruptions.

WIND ENERGY CUTS THE PRICE OF WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY

The Average
Price of Electricity in
Ireland in August 2023:

€ 106.46
Per Megawatt
Hour

In August 2023 the Average Price of
Electricity on the days with:



MOST WIND ENERGY

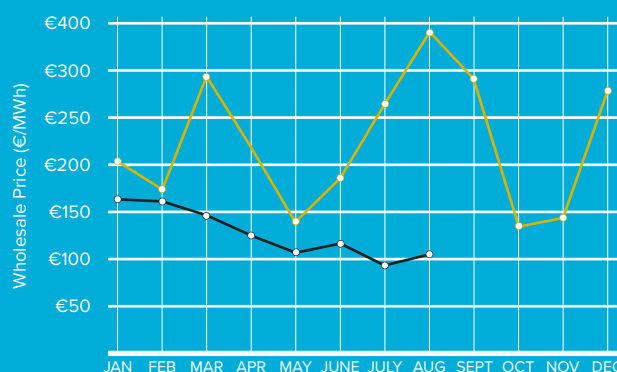
€ 88.34
Per Megawatt Hour



LEAST WIND ENERGY

€ 123.07
Per Megawatt Hour

MONTHLY PRICE COMPARISON — 2022 — 2023



2023

Source: Wind Energy Ireland



■ Differing opinions

We understand that people have differing opinions on the development of renewable energy projects. However, given the critical need for Ireland to have its own secure, sustainable energy supply, and what this project has the potential to deliver locally, we believe it is vital that everyone is given the opportunity to reach their own conclusion based on the merits of this proposal.

The transition to a low-carbon economy will inevitably bring visual changes to Ireland's landscape. People's feelings about wind turbines range from those who see them as a beacon of hope for the future, to those who simply do not like the way they look. Individuals who do not like the visual aspect will invariably raise this as a concern. On the other hand, those who like turbines often appreciate what they can deliver from a sustainability and energy security perspective.

Our intention is to provide accurate information on what is being considered and to seek feedback on the following: how the design could be worked best to deliver a truly sustainable project that is both suitable and appropriate for the local area, and how the associated Community Benefit Fund could have a positive and meaningful impact on the daily lives of local people.

■ This proposal

We believe this proposal has the capacity to deliver climate action while bringing very real benefits to the local area and its people.

This proposal is to develop a 10-turbine wind farm near Rhode, Co. Offaly. Under this proposal, the turbines, with a tip height of 185 metres, would be developed in two clusters. The location under consideration was initially identified following a review of areas that could allow for the development of this type. All wind energy proposals with an output of over 50MW are deemed by planning to be strategic projects given what they potentially have to offer. Therefore, submission directly to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application is a planning requirement for this proposal. Offaly County Council will be expected to review and actively input on any submission.

It is important to Statkraft that our projects are considered in terms of the climate challenges being addressed. It is also vital that they are appropriate for the area, suitably located and delivered as part of a just transition. In addition, these projects bring real benefits to local people and support the economic, social, and environmental sustainability of local areas.

Local appropriateness is a fundamental consideration, so community feedback on the design proposal is very welcome.

■ This Proposal At A Glance

- 10 turbine project
- Distance to nearest turbine – over 700m
- Over 55 MW of renewable energy to the Irish electricity grid
- Zero shadow flicker policy
- Height of turbine up to a maximum of 185m
- Total Community Benefit Fund of circa €4 million, depending on the final design
- Over €825,00 a year in annual rates payments to Offaly County Council. These rates go towards public services including street lighting, libraries, footpath and road upkeep.
- Associated works will include access tracks, met mast, turbine foundations and hard standing areas, drainage works, temporary site compound, grid systems services, substation, underground electrical and communications cables between turbines, and an underground cable to connect the proposed project to a local substation.
- All cables underground





■ How this project has evolved over time

At the initial stages of consideration, designers drafted a project outline that would maximise the wind energy potential of the site. Staying in line with the guidelines, the following initial assumptions were made: the initial distances to houses was taken at 500m (subsequently increased), shadow flicker curtailment was taken at the maximum allowable levels and the turbine height was taken at 120m. Once this concept layout had been established, the design team took into consideration increased distances from homes in the area. It was found that increasing the setback distance from 500m to a minimum of 740m reduced the number of turbines from 12 to 10.

Placing local appropriateness as a fundamental consideration, further optimisation of this design was carried out in terms of factors including commonly received community feedback during which distance to houses, number of turbines, shadow flicker and noise were considered. It was found that it was possible to increase the distances to houses, reduce turbine numbers further and improve general performance levels of the proposed wind farm by increasing the tip height by 65m.

The design changes are set out in the table on the following page:

Ballinla Project Evolution	Concept Design	Current Design Proposal
Distance to Houses	500m	Minimum 740m
Number of Turbines	12	10
Shadow Flicker	In line with guidelines	Eliminated - no shadow flicker
Turbine Height	120	185
Potential Capacity	c. 42MW	c. 55MW

■ Design stages and next steps

This proposal is still at design stage and as such details of the proposal may change. Our community engagement team will be working in the area to ensure that information is available and that you have an opportunity to discuss the various aspects of this proposal.

Overview of the Design Stages		
Design Stage	% Design	Description
Initial Scoping	0 - 40%	Based on high level information
Preliminary Layout	40% - 80%	Fluid and frequently open to change
Design Layout	80% - 100%	Sufficiently fixed to allow meaningful discussion
Planning Layout	100%	Fixed for presentation to the appropriate planning authority

We would like to hear how you think that this proposal could work best in the area, how you think it could bring the most benefit to the local area and to discuss any queries or concerns that you might have regarding the proposal.

We would also like to discuss with you the reasons behind why this project is being brought forward for consideration and the issues that we need to consider in terms of the move from a fossil fuel-based electricity system towards renewable electricity.

Our community liaison team will be calling to people in the local area, and we would invite you to meet with us. If you would like to contact us to arrange a visit, please do not hesitate to do so on the contact details located at the back of this booklet.

■ Site Map





■ Community Benefit Fund

A dedicated Community Benefit Fund is a great way to invest in sustainable, local initiatives that benefit the entire community. The funds are directly linked to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (below) and focus on areas such as sustainable communities, climate action, decent work and economic growth, and quality education.

The Ballinla Wind Farm, as proposed, could bring with it funding in the region of an estimated **€275,000 each year, or over €4 million** over a 15-year period. 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 local heritage initiatives
- Job creation and investment into local economy
- Tourism
- Funding for recreation projects such as sports clubs and local amenities
- Support for local education schemes

■ Local people know the local area best

In all communities, it is the local people who know the area best. It is you, the people who live here that know the strengths, weaknesses, desires and aspirations of the area. As an area with a community that has proven its ability to identify opportunities and to develop successful initiatives, we believe that the Community Benefit Fund associated with this project could deliver very significant benefits for the local area.

The fundamental principle of any community benefit package that we roll out is that we seek to work with local people to deliver increased environmental, economic, and social sustainability to local communities.

We would be very interested in hearing what ideas you have on how this wind farm could deliver the most benefit to you and your local area.

■ What are the Sustainable Development Goals?

The Sustainable Development Goals or Global Goals are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”. The SDGs were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by 2030.



■ Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS)

Guidance on how the community benefit funds associated with RESS projects are to be administered is centred around community decision-making. Therefore, decisions on what will be funded will rest with the local community in the form of a specially formed committee. This means that the community has a direct say in how the project benefits their local area. The local communities in this area have a great history in community involvement and that involvement will be key to the success of the fund. The guidance on how the fund will be divided includes allocations for: nearby houses; not-for-profit community enterprises aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals; administration fees, and initiatives proposed by clubs and societies and other not-for-profit enterprises. The Community Benefit Fund is a great opportunity for local communities to play a central role in the transition to a zero-carbon, more sustainable, future. They will be instrumental in supporting sustainable initiatives in their locality and ensuring that their area benefits directly from the transformation of our energy system.

■ 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). The sustainability of the project is also strengthened by delivering climate action and by ensuring a responsible supply chain. Supply chain management covers health and safety, environment and climate, human rights, labour rights, and business ethics. Sustainability is also supported through essential and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Statkraft is an active business supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. For every wind farm we build, there is the potential to build environmentally sustainable measures into the project design. Wind farms can make a positive contribution to the habitat types and diversity of an area through several measures including: planting wildflower meadows; providing sections of species-rich grass; improving hedgerows; tree planting, and providing bird nesting. A Biodiversity Management Plan will be provided as part of the planning submission. We see that biodiversity will be integral to the project and our goal is to help maximise the potential for the area. Wildflower meadows, bird boxes and insect hotels are among the measures included in our management plan.

Please contact us if you have any ideas for further enhancing the biodiversity of the area.

■ Our sustainable energy future

There are many challenges that we face in terms of energy security, climate change and global instability. But we can be optimistic about the future. Ireland is on the right path to decarbonisation and has ambitious targets when it comes to climate action. Renewable energy is a vital part of a cleaner, more sustainable future. Support for appropriate, well-thought-out projects like this one will make a positive contribution to the country, and the world, for generations to come.

■ Our obligations and responsibilities

As a developer of renewable energy, and as a society in general, we have a responsibility to do what is right, and to do so in the right way. 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 warrant nothing less. Should this proposal come to fruition, it is our responsibility to operate the wind farm in a responsible way. This is something we take very seriously. 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.

If you have thoughts or ideas on this proposal, please reach out to us and let us know.

■ Typical configuration





For more information, visit the following websites

www.windenergyireland.com Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)	www.epa.ie Environmental Protection Agency
www.seai.ie Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)	www.gsi.ie Geological Survey Ireland
www.un.org/climatechange UN Climate Change Website	www.npws.ie National Parks and Wildlife Service
www.climatecouncil.ie Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council	www.offaly.ie Offaly County Council

Talk to our Community Liaison Team

The Community Liaison Team have many years' experience in both wind energy 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. Please do have a look at the information provided.

If you have any further questions, you can contact our dedicated Community Liaison Officer on the contact details provided below.



www.ballinlawindfarm.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**

■ Contact Us

Community Liaison Officer

John Lowry

Phone: 057 937 9003

www.ballinlawindfarm.ie



Ballinla Wind Farm

Project Booklet

Q4 2024



Ballinla Wind Farm



Statkraft

■ Thank you for your engagement

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. This project's dedicated Community Liaison Team have endeavoured over the past number of months to visit and speak with households in the locality and would firstly like to thank the community for their patience and feedback thus far.

Our team have developed a deeper understanding of the local area, which we increasingly appreciate as an area of high historical and cultural importance. The many archaeological sites and rich history are something we have had the privilege to experience, and we hope that we can continue to work together to preserve and celebrate them into the future.

During our time speaking with you, the community, we gained a greater understanding of the local community's main areas of interest in relation to the proposed development.

We are currently conducting our second round of consultation and will continue to be available to meet with residents to discuss the project, and indeed any further suggestions you may have.



■ How this project has evolved

Following our recent community engagement, further optimisation of this design was carried out. As with all our projects, local appropriateness is a fundamental consideration and the Grand Canal Way historical and recreational importance was foremost in nearly every engagement.

We have redesigned the project and increased the setback distance from the canal to the nearest turbine from 123 meters to 506 meters, an increase of 437 meters. Our design team have also optimised our turbine layout by reducing the number of turbines from 10 to 7. Despite this reduction, we are still able to achieve an output exceeding 50MW. The type of turbines selected remains unchanged, and the tip height is maintained at 185 meters.

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

■ Community Benefit Fund

A dedicated Community Benefit Fund is a great way to invest in sustainable, local initiatives that benefit the entire community. The Ballinla Wind Farm, as proposed, could bring with it funding in the region of an estimated **€250,000 each year, or over €3.7 million** over a 15-year period. A dedicated Community Benefit Fund is a great way to invest in sustainable, local initiatives that benefit the entire community including enhancing the amenity along the Grand Canal Way. Below are some examples of can be achieved and advanced locally.

- ▶ Installation of historical signage and information boards along the canal
- ▶ Further development of walking and cycling paths including shelter and charging points
- ▶ Conservation initiatives to protect and enhance the habitat
- ▶ Energy efficiency schemes for households
- ▶ Funding for local sports clubs
- ▶ Community gardens
- ▶ EV charging points



■ Local people know the local area best

In all communities, it is the local people who know the area best. It is you, the people who live here that know the strengths, weaknesses, desires and aspirations of the area. As an area with a community that has proven its ability to identify opportunities and to develop successful initiatives, we believe that the Community Benefit Fund associated with this project could deliver very significant benefits for the local area.

Should the project secure planning approval, Statkraft will help establish a steering committee in accordance with RESS guidelines, enabling the community to decide how to allocate funds for projects that offer lasting economic, social, and cultural benefits.

■ 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). The sustainability of the project is also strengthened by delivering climate action and by ensuring a responsible supply chain. Supply chain management covers health and safety, environment and climate, human rights, labour rights, and business ethics. Sustainability is also supported through essential and meaningful stakeholder engagement. Statkraft is an active business supporter of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. We recognise the importance of biodiversity and a full Biodiversity Management Plan will be provided as part of the planning submission. We aim to explore ways to enhance the area's potential. Possible measures could include wildflower meadows, bird boxes, and insect hotels.

■ Our obligations and responsibilities

As a developer of renewable energy, and as a society in general, we have a responsibility to do what is right, and to do so in the right way. 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 warrant nothing less. Should this proposal come to fruition, it is our responsibility to operate the wind farm in a responsible way. This is something we take very seriously.

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.

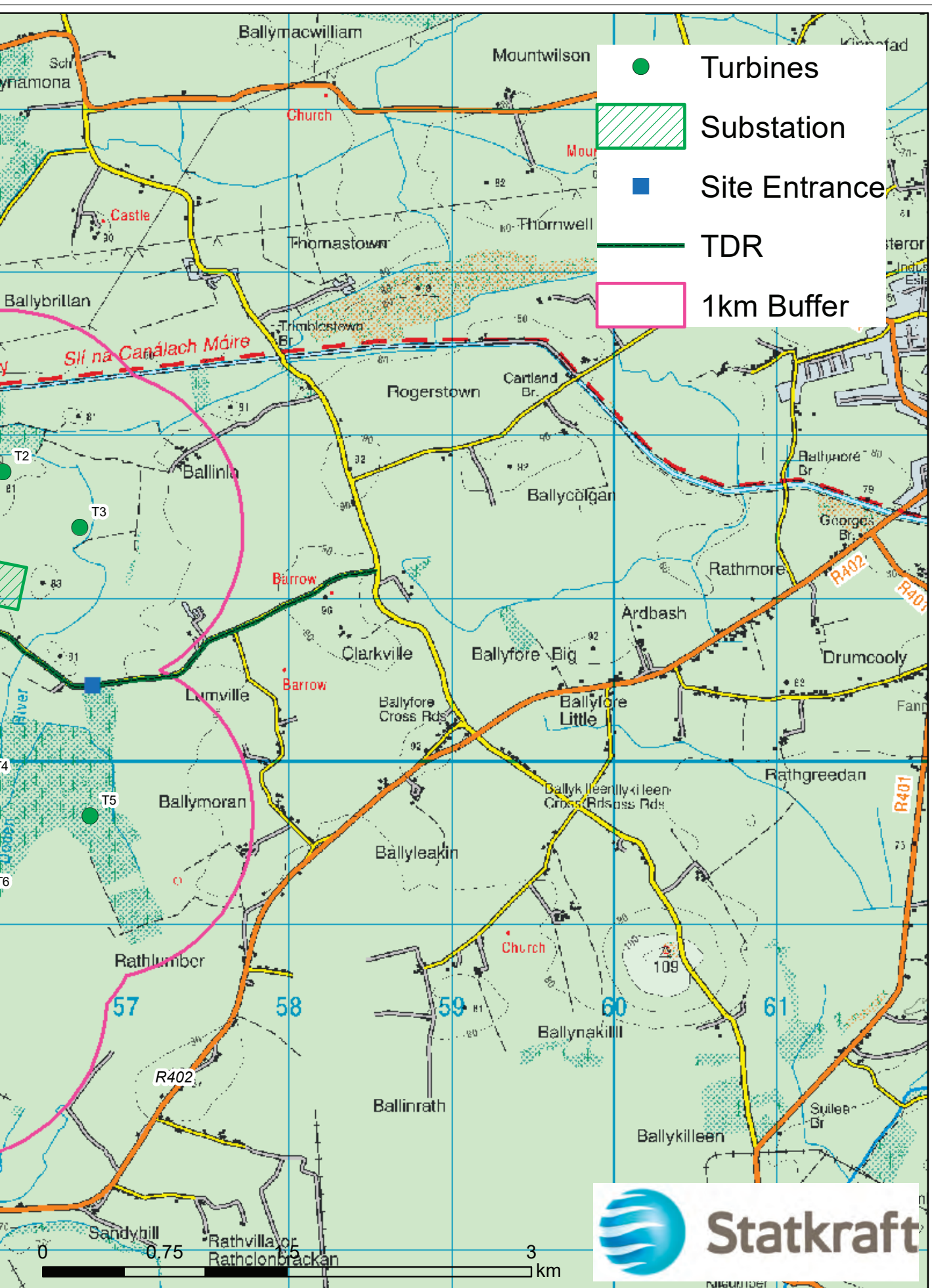
■ This Proposal At a Glance

- 7 turbine project
- Residence distance to nearest turbine - 740m*
- Over 50 MW of renewable energy to the Irish electricity grid
- Commitment to zero shadow flicker policy
- Height of turbine up to a maximum of 185m
- Total Community Benefit Fund of circa €3.7 million, depending on the final design
- Over €825,00 a year in annual rates payments to Offaly County Council. These rates go towards public services including street lighting, libraries, footpath and road upkeep
- Associated works will include access tracks, turbine foundations and hard standing areas, drainage works, temporary site compound, grid systems services, substation, underground electrical and communications cables between turbines, and an underground cable to connect the proposed project to a local substation
- All cables underground

*A residential property is within this area by agreement









For more information, visit the following websites

www.windenergyireland.com Wind Energy Ireland (WEI)	www.epa.ie Environmental Protection Agency
www.seai.ie Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)	www.gsi.ie Geological Survey Ireland
www.un.org/climatechange UN Climate Change Website	www.npws.ie National Parks and Wildlife Service
www.climatecouncil.ie Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council	www.offaly.ie Offaly County Council
www.localenterprise.ie/green Local Enterprise Office	

■ Talk to our Community Liaison Officer

Our lead Community Liaison Officer, John Lowry. He is also supported by a dedicated team who have years of experience in both renewable energy and community development. 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 or wider environmental, cultural or recreational development 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. Please do have a look at the information provided.

If you have any further questions, you can contact our dedicated Community Liaison Officer on the contact details provided below.



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■ Contact Us

Community Liaison Officer
John Lowry
Phone: 057 937 9003
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Statkraft

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T12 AE76
PHONE:
+353 21 242 7786

INTERNET:
www.statkraft.com

Date: 22nd July 2025

RE: Ballinla Windfarm Proposal

Dear resident,

Thank you for your ongoing contribution and valuable feedback since we began community engagement back in October 2023. Your contributions have played an essential role in shaping the Ballinla Wind Farm proposal to better reflect the interests of the community. Statkraft remains committed to open lines of communication and will continue to be available by phone and email throughout the project's progression, should planning approval be granted.

As we prepare to submit the planning application in Q3 2025, through the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) process and as we move forward, we will keep you updated and ensure transparency at every stage of the project.

Challenges around the overall need for energy security in this country, coupled with strong views on the environment were at the forefront of people's minds throughout our engagement as was the overarching need and responsibility to tackle climate change in an open and responsible way.

This proposal if successful in the planning process, would expect to attract a RESS Community Benefit Fund in the region of approx. €245,000 per year available to community groups and organisations for the duration of the scheme. The project will also involve the payment of development contributions and rates to Offaly County Council.

Updated information will be added to our dedicated website **www.ballinlawindfarm.ie**. Our Community Liaison Team can be contacted at enquiries@ballinlawindfarm.ie if you have any queries or need to arrange a meeting.

Kind Regards,

George O'Connor

George O'Connor
Head of Comms and Stakeholder Management.
Statkraft Ireland.

Ballinla Wind Farm Proposal

Sorry We Missed You

Please find our booklet on the proposed Ballinla wind farm. This booklet will give an overview of the project which currently has a fixed Design Layout.

We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you in person in the next few days. Please contact us using either of the numbers provided to organise a mutually convenient time and date.

John Lowry 057 9379003

Community Liaison Team

e-mail; enquiries@ballinlawindfarm.ie

SK House ID





Website: ballinlawindfarm.ie

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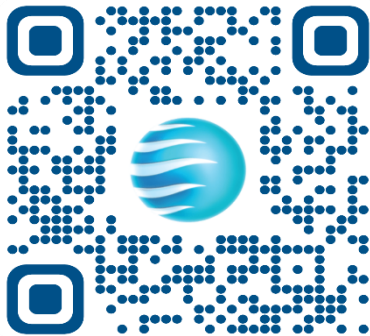
Eva Hill 057 9379004

Community Liaison Team

e-mail; enquiries@ballinlawindfarm.ie

SK House ID





Website: ballinlawindfarm.ie