



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 5

EIA SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

Appendix 5.1 – A copy of the EIA Scoping Request Letter
issued on 15 December 2024.

Appendix 5.2 – A copy of all scoping responses received.

Appendix 5.3 - SID Determination and Meeting Minutes

Appendix 5.4 - RPS Public Engagement Report (dated July
2025)

APPENDIX 5.1

A copy of the EIA Scoping Request Letter issued on 15 December
2024.



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

11 December 2024

Our Ref: P22-145/EIARScopingLetter

Re: Proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) Scoping Request

Dear Sir/Madam,

Dara Energy Limited intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development referred to as the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, located in Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council, approx. 2km south of the village of Bracknagh. The proposed project includes land contained within the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower, and Chevychase.

The enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the project's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (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. We respectfully ask that you forward all responses before Friday 28th February 2025 to provide the applicant team with adequate time to consider all material.

Your response may be forwarded by email or by post to following:

By Email: derrynadarraghwindfarm@ftco.ie

By Post: Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, Fehily Timoney & Company, Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773.

Should you have no comments to make on the proposed project, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this correspondence. If you have any further queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Robyn Nicholl MRTPI
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney and Company**

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DERRYNADARRAGH WIND FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING REPORT

Prepared for:

Dara Energy Limited



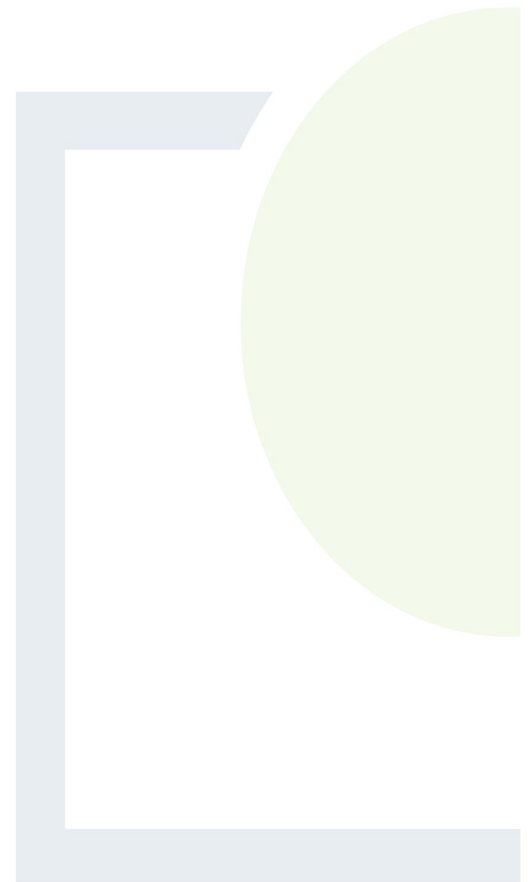
Date: December 2024

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DERRYNADARRAGH WIND FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING REPORT

REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT

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Abstract: This is a scoping report prepared for a proposed wind energy development at Derrynadarragh Wind Farm in County Kildare and County Offaly. 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 (EIAR) for the proposed project.

Please send all responses to: derrynadarraghwindfarm@ftco.ie

Or respond by post to:
Fehily Timoney and Company
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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 Introduction

Dara Energy Limited intend to apply for planning consent for a renewable energy development referred to as the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm. The proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm project includes lands contained within the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower, and Chevychase or Derrynadarragh in County Offaly and Aughrin and Derrylea in County Kildare. A site location map is included in Figure 1-1.

The Project is currently at an early stage of development. Detailed environmental assessments are ongoing to determine the appropriateness of the wind farm infrastructure within its environmental context, as such the final application site boundary is yet to be finalised.

Fehily Timoney & Company have been appointed as Planning and Environmental Consultants for The Project and will ultimately prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and relevant supporting documents, including a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), in support of the planning application. The EIAR will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU, as amended and the NIS will be prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

This is the Scoping Report prepared for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm.

1.1.2 The Proposed Project

The proposed wind farm site is located in the jurisdiction of Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council, approximately 2km south of the village of Bracknagh, 5km northwest of Monasterevin and approximately 6.5km northeast of Portarlinton.

The project team is currently considering a study area for a 9 no. Wind Turbine layout. The 9 no. Wind Turbine layout will consist of turbines with a max tip height of 186m. Constraints analysis is currently being completed for the positioning of the turbines on-site. 4 no. Wind Turbines are to be located in the jurisdiction of County Kildare and 5 no. Wind Turbines are to be located in the jurisdiction of County Offaly.

The proposed development is further detailed in section 2.1 of this report.

The grid connection route identified to supply power from the proposed development to the Irish National Electricity Grid will exit the site along the public road to Bracklone Substation (see Figure 2-1). It is proposed to construct a new substation on-site and connect by underground cable to the proposed Bracklone 110kV substation, located approximately 10km southwest of the proposed project. The proposed grid connection to the Bracklone substation passes through the townlands of Aughrim, Derrylea, Collnafearagh in County Kildare and the townlands of Inchacooly, Ullard, Lea, Loughmansland Glebe and Portarlinton in County Laois.

An indicative turbine delivery route has been identified for the project. This route will exit the M6 at junction 5 on to the N52 southbound for approximately 11.5km before utilising regional roads including the R420, R402, R400 and finally R419 in which the proposed site entrance is located. This route is subject to further detailed engineering and environmental assessment and may be subject to change. The final alignment of the turbine delivery route will be considered within the EIAR. The indicative turbine delivery route is discussed further in Section 2.3 of this report and shown in Figure 2-2.



1.1.3 The Applicant

The applicant for the proposed project is Dara Energy Limited. Dara Energy Limited is a renewable energy company which has been established to specifically develop this wind farm. Dara Energy Limited is a subsidiary of Inis Onshore wind limited, which is an investee of the Temporis Aurora fund.

Temporis has experienced teams in Ireland with significant expertise in the development, construction, operation of renewable energy technologies. The Temporis Aurora Fund's strategy is to create project development platforms across onshore wind, offshore wind and solar to deliver 2GW of renewable energy assets by 2030 and invest in energy-transition-enabling technologies. The Irish Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) an Irish sovereign development fund is the cornerstone investor in the Fund.

1.1.4 Purpose of the Scoping Report

This is a scoping report prepared for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm located within County Kildare, Offaly and Laois.

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

This scoping report will be distributed to a range of stakeholders who are considered to have appropriate and relevant prior experience of the factors involved, knowledge of the characteristics of the project type and of the environmental sensitivities likely to be present in the receiving environment as well as local knowledge and interest in the area.

A full list of the scoping consultees is included in Appendix 1 of this document.

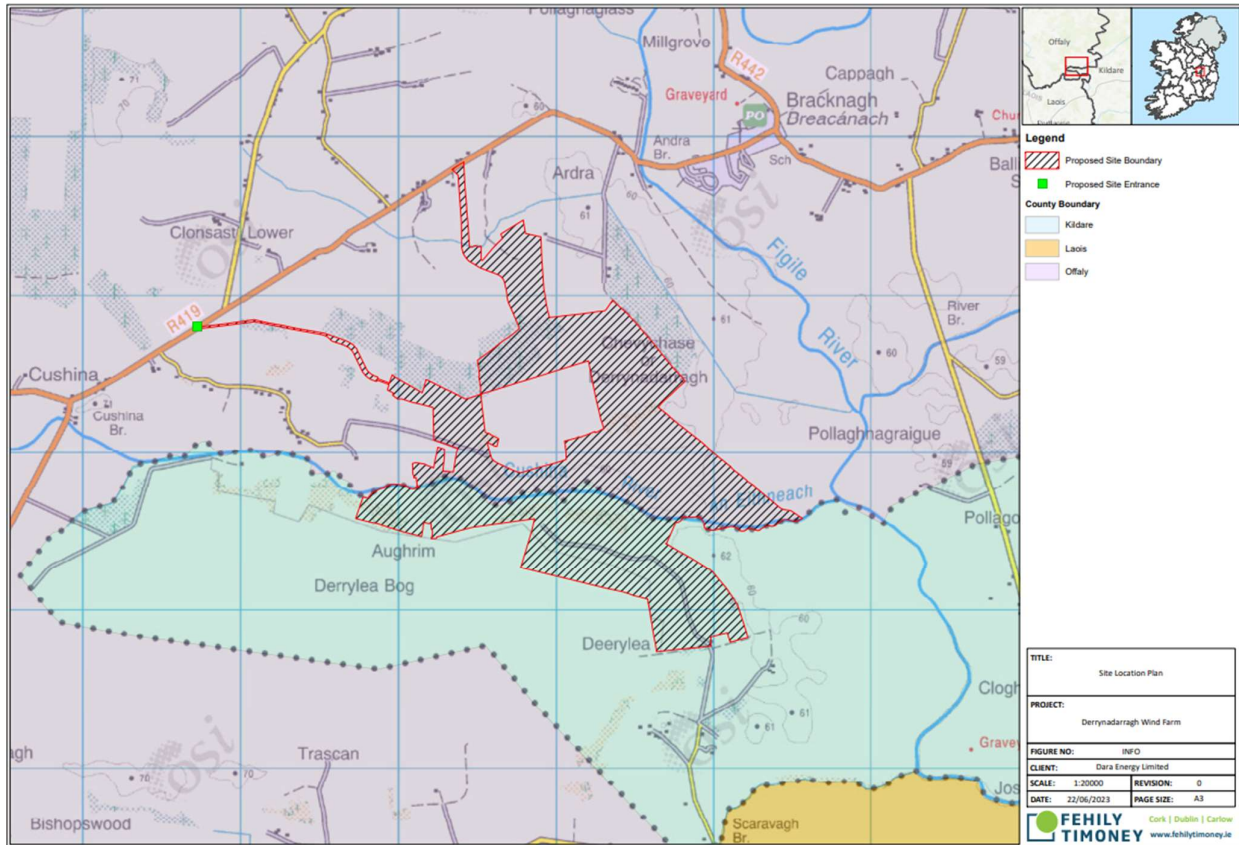


Figure 1-1: Site Location



1.2 Planning Process for Proposed Project

The proposed development will be submitted for planning consent pursuant to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to the relevant competent authority, An Bord Pleanála. The grid connection route associated with this project will be considered in the EIAR, and included in the planning application for the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm. The grid connection route passes through the jurisdictions of Kildare County Council and Laois County Council.

1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and the Function of the EIAR

Under Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a planning application for a development which comes within a class of development specified under Schedule 5 of Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in accordance with the 2014 Directive. Schedule 5, Part 2, 3. (i) includes installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) with more than 5 no. turbines or having a total output greater than 50 megawatts. Accordingly, as the proposed development will comprise 9 no. turbines, an EIAR will be prepared for the project in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The purpose of an EIAR is to provide a detailed description of the proposed development and outline potential impacts associated with the construction, operation, and decommissioning, of the project. Where adverse impacts have been identified, mitigation measures are proposed, and the residual impacts described. Potential cumulative impacts with other plans or projects will also be assessed.

1.4 Contribution to the EIAR

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

FT will be designing and preparing the EIAR for submission to An Bord Pleanála, as described in Section 1.2 above. In order to ensure the completeness and quality of the EIAR, the report will be prepared by competent experts.

Specialist contributors to the EIAR include:

- Wetland Surveys who have been conducting habitats and species surveys and will prepare the biodiversity chapter of the EIAR;
- Doherty Environmental who have been conducting bat surveys and will input into the biodiversity chapter of the EIAR;
- John Cronin & Associates who will prepare the Cultural Heritage assessment and appropriate EIAR chapter;
- Macro Works who will prepare the landscape and visual impact assessment and appropriate EIAR chapter.



1.5 Consultation

The stakeholder consultation process is being carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland-Guidelines for Community Engagement (2016) (available at: www.gov.ie).

Comments on the scope of the EIAR can be submitted by email to derrynadarraghwindfarm@ftco.ie or returned by post to Fehily Timoney and Company, Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork.

We ask all consultees to submit responses by Q1 2025 to provide adequate time to consider all responses. A list of statutory and non-statutory consultees who are included in the scoping process are detailed in Appendix 1 of this report.

It is envisaged that the responses from this consultation will inform the ongoing design process in addition to informing the scope of the environmental assessments.

1.5.1 Community & Stakeholder Consultation

RPS Group has been engaged to lead the public consultation and community engagement. This community consultation element of this project commenced in September 2024, and consists of:

- Dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO)
- Mailing List
- Dedicated Project Website, email address and phone
- Community Engagement Sessions (Morning and Evening)
- Letter Drop (2km range)
- Door to Door Consultation

The CLO has been resourced to deal with all queries and will conduct informal local community consultation in the area. Feedback from the CLO will be passed on to the project design team and EIAR team on an ongoing basis in order to allow the consultation process to inform the design process.

The CLO has undertaken the initial consultation with the local community (September-November 2024), and an in-person community consultation event will take place in early 2025 where surrounding residents and members of the local community will have the opportunity to speak to and ask questions to the project team. This event will be undertaken both during the morning and evening to allow for maximum engagement and to facilitate existing commitments for potential attendees.

1.5.2 Local Authority Consultation

Pre-planning meetings with An Bord Pleanála, Kildare County Council, and Offaly County Council have taken place in advance of the scoping process in order to discuss the proposed development with the development management team of each of the relevant authorities.



2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Proposed Wind Farm

Under the current design parameters, the proposed development will consist of 9 no. wind turbines with a max. tip height of 186m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, a bridge crossing, an on-site 110kV substation and compound including control buildings and associated electrical equipment, underground electrical and communication cabling options, drainage and sediment controls, temporary construction compound and tree felling.

The layout of the wind farm will be determined following environmental constraints analysis of the site and will be designed to avoid or minimise the potential environmental effects while at the same time maximising the energy yield of the wind resource passing over the project site.

The electricity generated by the proposed wind farm will be transmitted by a collector system of underground cables to the proposed on-site substation. The proposed project will also comprise underground cables from the proposed development to the National Grid connection point as well as improvements to the public road network required for the delivery of turbine components. This is discussed further in Section 2.2 below.

Access to the site will be made via a new site entrance along the R419 regional road.

2.2 Grid Connection

A new 110kV substation is proposed on-site which will collect the electricity produced by the wind farm. The grid connection route identified to supply power from the proposed development to the Irish National Electricity Grid will exit the site along the public road to Bracklone Substation (currently under construction). The route will follow the public road upon leaving the wind farm site, connecting the on-site substation to Bracklone Substation. It is important to highlight that consultation discussions have been undertaken with EirGrid on a variety of options, and this route has been identified as a viable option. The identified route is shown in Figure 2-1.

The proposed development will involve the construction of a new on-site 110kV substation which will then connect by underground cable to Bracklone substation (located approximately 11km southwest of the new proposed 110kV substation). Connection will be sought under the Enduring Connection Process (ECP) grid access regime. The grid connection route will be assessed in the EIAR.

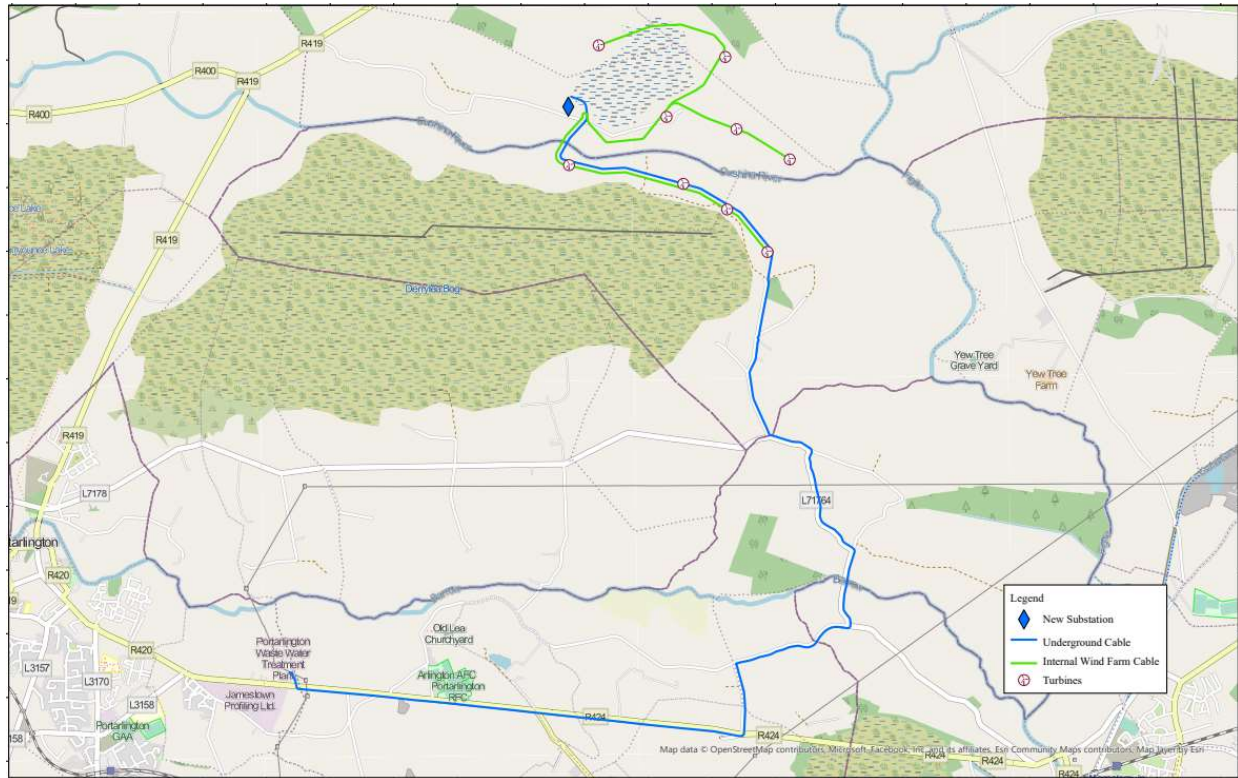


Figure 2-1: Proposed Grid Connection Route

2.3 Turbine Delivery Route

A number of the wind turbine components will enter the country through a designated port including the blades, tower sections and the nacelles. The wind turbine components will be delivered to site by special transport vehicles and assembled on-site. A number of routes are being assessed to determine the most appropriate turbine delivery route. This will involve a detailed engineer's assessment. Once identified, the turbine delivery route will be assessed as part of the EIAR.

An indicative turbine delivery route has been identified for the project. This route will exit the M6 at junction 5 and continue southbound on the N52 southbound for 8.6km, then taking the second exit on the Ardan Roundabout and continuing on the N52 southbound for 2.9km which includes taking the second exit at Cappancur Roundabout to stay on the N52. At the Cloncollog Roundabout, take the first exit onto the R420 and continue south-east bound on the R420 for 6.6km. Then turn northbound onto the R402 and continue northbound on the R402 for 8.3km including going through the village of Ballinagar. In the village of Daingean, turn onto the R402 Edenderry and continue on the R402 eastbound for 5.6km. Then turn southbound on to the R400 and continue on the R400 southbound for 14.8km. Finally turn northbound on the R419 and continue northbound for 1km before arriving at the Site Entrance.

This route is subject to further detailed engineering and environmental assessment and may be subject to change. The final alignment of the turbine delivery route will be assessed within the EIAR.





3. STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE EIAR

3.1 Content 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 required contents of an EIAR. In addition, the EIAR will be prepared in accordance with Directive 2014/52/EU (the 2014 EIA Directive), which was adopted in the EU on 16 April 2014.

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.

The EIAR will identify, describe and assess the direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the following factors:

- a) population and human health
- b) biodiversity, with particular attention to protected species and habitats
- 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).

3.2 EIAR Methodology

3.2.1 General

The EPA and the European Commission (EC) have published guidelines on the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, namely:

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Scoping (European Commission (EC), 2018);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EC, 2017); and



- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018).

The team will prepare the EIAR in accordance with these Guidelines.

Regard will also be had to best practice guidance for individual environmental topics, and 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) and the subsequent Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019).

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 Derrynadarragh Wind Farm project, 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
- Need for the Development & Alternatives Considered
- Description of the Proposed Development
- Policy and Legislation
- EIA Scoping, Consultation and Key Issues
- Air Quality and Climate Change
- Noise and Vibration
- Biodiversity
- Land, Soils and Geology (including hydrogeology)
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Population, Human Health & Material Assets
- Shadow Flicker
- Traffic and Transportation
- Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage
- Landscape & Visual
- Telecommunications & Aviation
- Interactions of the Foregoing

3.2.2 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 the construction, operation, and decommissioning phases of the proposed development will be outlined. Interactions with other environmental topics and the potential for cumulative impacts with other projects will also be assessed 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 (2022) Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports. 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.

3.2.3 EIAR Report Structure

The structure proposed for the EIAR is as follows:

- Volume 1 - Non-Technical summary
- Volume 2 - Main EIAR
- Volume 3 - Appendices for the EIAR
- Volume 4 – Photomontages and Visual Maps



4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

4.1 Introduction

The 'EPA Advice Notes (2003) on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statement' provides 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 summarise International, European, National and Local Energy and Planning Policy, the challenges associated with Climate Change and the related need for the proposed development.

4.2 Scheme of Description

The EIAR will describe each element of the project including the following:

- Existing Environment
- Landownership
- On-site Wind Resource
- Turbine Layout
- Power Output
- Typical Turbine Components
- Access Tracks and Hardstanding's
- Watercourse Crossings
- Grid Connection
- On-site Substation
- Electrical Cabling
- Traffic Management
- Turbine Delivery
- Tree Felling
- Other Wind Farms in Proximity
- Construction Overview
- Operation and Lifespan
- Community Benefit
- Decommissioning

In a judgement in 2014, *O'Grianna v. An Bord Pleanála*, Cork County Council and Framore Limited, it was ruled that a planning permission should not be granted for a wind farm project requiring a grid connection unless the cumulative effects of the wind farm and grid connection details are assessed 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 EIAR, this will be set out in the Description of Development at Chapter 2.

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

If planning consent 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 to the proposed grid connection point 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.

4.3 Construction Activities

The Derrynadarragh Wind Farm will have a defined planning boundary to include not only the turbines but all ancillary infrastructure such as transformers and crane hardstanding areas at each turbine, new and upgraded access tracks, on-site underground cabling, on-site substation and construction compounds. 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 Derrynadarragh Wind Farm:

- Construction programme
- Construction sequence and methodology
- Drainage control measures
- Temporary site facilities
- Site preparation works
- Access road construction and upgrade
- 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.

4.4 Consultation Program

Over the course of the design evolution and preparation of the EIAR, consultation will continue with the community, stakeholders and consultees. Feedback from this consultation process will be used to inform the iterative design of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm. As part of the EIAR, full details of all consultation will be documented and assessed.



5. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIAR

5.1 Population, Human Health & Material Assets

5.1.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The Population and Human Health Chapter of the EIAR will assess the likely significant effects of the proposed development on population and human health and safety with a particular reference to the topics of population, human health, socio-economic activity, land-use and recreation, amenity and tourism.

Population

The potential effects of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm on population trends and statistics (density, growth) will be addressed in this chapter.

Human Health

The potential effects on human health from the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm will be assessed.

Health and Safety

Details relating to health and safety arising from the proposed construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm will be assessed.

Socio-economic Activity

The potential effects of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm on employment and economic activities of the region and locality will be assessed.

Land-use

The assessment will address the potential effects of the proposed wind farm on existing and proposed land use.

Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm on residential amenity, recreational facilities and activities and tourism of the region.

Material Assets

The assessment will address the potential impact of the project on material assets including utility infrastructure and renewable and non-renewable resources in proximity to the project.

Vulnerability of the Project to Major Accidents and Natural Disasters

EU Directive 2014/52/EU which amends Directive 2011/92/EU states the following in relation to vulnerability of a project to natural disaster:

In order to ensure a high level of protection of the environment, precautionary actions need to be taken for certain projects which, because of their vulnerability to major accidents, and/or natural disasters (such as flooding, sea level rise, or earthquakes) are likely to have significant adverse effects on the



environment. For such projects, it is important to consider their vulnerability (exposure and resilience) to major accidents and/or disasters, the risk of those accidents and/or disasters occurring and the implications for the likelihood of significant adverse effects on the environment.

This section of the EIAR will examine the proposed project's vulnerability to major accidents and natural disasters, potential adverse impacts on human health and the environment, the magnitude of potential impacts, the likelihood of potential impacts and considers the preparedness of the project in case of accident, disaster or emergency.

5.1.2 Assessment Methodology

Population

With the purpose of analysing population trends and statistics on the proposed area, population data from the Central Statistics Office will be obtained for the study area defined by electoral division, including the area of the grid route corridor. The statistics of this data is compared against county and state trends and density.

Human Health

The assessment will contain a desk study review of the potential impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of renewable energy developments on human health using published and verified sources of information.

Health and Safety

The assessment will contain a desk study review of the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of renewable energy developments on health and safety using published and verified sources of information.

Socio-economic Activity

Data from the Central Statistics Office will be used to define the socio-economic baseline. Desktop research and consultation will provide an indication of economic activity in the study area. The potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed wind farm on employment and economic activity both directly and indirectly, will be assessed.

Land-use

The land uses in the area, which could potentially be affected by the proposed development, will be described using the latest Corine land cover data and desktop research. This data will be verified by subsequent walkovers and surveys.

Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

All areas of scenic beauty in addition to heritage, culture and leisure facilities and activities in the study area 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 Derrynadarragh Wind Farm to ascertain any potential impacts that may arise which could directly or indirectly affect 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. A study of the potential impacts that the proposed development 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

A desktop study will be carried out of all potential impacts to renewable and non-renewable resources in the area including potential impact to stone, sand and gravel and potential impact to forestry resources. Desktop research will be conducted to identify utility infrastructure in proximity to the project site and grid route. Consultation with utility companies will also be undertaken to identify potential impact to assets.

Vulnerability of the Project to Major Accidents and Natural Disasters

This study will examine the potential susceptibility of the proposed project to accidents or natural disasters. This will include examination of potential flooding, fire, major accidents involving dangerous substances and potential for slope failure.

5.1.3 Potential Impacts

Population

The potential effects arising from the proposed development on population trends are likely to be imperceptible. During construction the population of the project area will increase daily, given the enhanced employment opportunities associated with the proposed development. During operational phase no effects on population trends are expected. The assessment will consider the potential impacts during all phases of the proposed development.

Human Health

The potential effects arising from the proposed development which can impact on human health during construction, operational and decommissioning will be considered in this chapter. Once operational, turbines contribute to the production of renewable energy and for this reason, it is thought that the operational phase will deliver long-term positive effects to human health through the reduction of the required burning of fossil fuels.

Health and Safety

If not properly designed and constructed, there is the potential for construction and operational activities associated with the proposed development to impact on the health and safety of employees associated with the development as well as the public. Best practice construction and environmental management measures will be employed to prevent the potential for accidents. The EIAR will be accompanied by a comprehensive Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will include detailed health and safety requirements during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm.



With the implementation of measures outlined in the EIAR and CEMP, it is anticipated that the proposed development is not likely to have a potential significant impact on human health and safety (pending a full environmental impact assessment).

Socio-Economics

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

Land Use

The proposed development 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 the proposed land take of the wind farm. Full details of the potential effects will be contained in this chapter of the EIAR.

Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

Potential construction effects from the grid connection cables include full or partial closure of roads used within the area, while the cables are being installed. There may be temporary disruption to access routes and walking paths, however any disruption will be mitigated where possible by maintaining access where required, and where this is not possible, in minimising the impact, clearly communicating the timing and scope of works to the local community.

Potential visual impact on recreation, amenity and tourism facilities will also be examined as part of the landscape and visual assessment and will be considered as part of the impact assessment on recreation, amenity and tourism.

Material Assets

Potential effects on materials assets include utility infrastructure such as the electricity transmission network, gas network and water pipes. Effects on renewable and non-renewable resources will be considered including the effects on commercial forestry and the effects on quarry and waste facility resources. Potential impacts on the road network, telecommunications and aviation will be considered in other chapters.

5.2 Environmental Aspect: Shadow Flicker

5.2.1 Aspects to be addressed

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

5.2.2 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) as well as any other property considered sensitive (schools etc.) within 10 rotor diameters of a proposed turbine will be included in the assessment. The effect of shadow flicker is not considered significant beyond the distance of 10 rotor diameters from each turbine location.



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).
- Section 5.8 of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guideless (2019)
- The Irish Wind Energy Association 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' (2012).

Cumulative impacts of the proposed Derrynadarragh 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."

Potential cumulative impacts of shadow flicker between the proposed development and nearby wind turbines will be considered.

5.2.3 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.

5.3 Environmental Aspect: Noise and Vibration

5.3.1 Aspects to Address

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

5.3.2 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.

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) are currently the statutory guidelines for carrying out noise assessments for wind energy development in Ireland. Draft Guidelines were published in December 2019, and these are currently being reviewed by the developer. The Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, the Draft Wind Energy Guidelines 2019 and reference to the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) 'A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise' will all be considered in developing and assessing the wind farm.



The noise impact assessment will involve measurement of background noise levels and predicting noise impacts from the proposed development and nearby operational and consented developments. The background noise levels will be used to derive noise limits in accordance with relevant guidelines at the time the development is submitted for planning. In the event that the predicted noise levels exceed the noise limits, mitigation measures will be outlined.

Construction/decommissioning noise predictions will be carried out to determine the noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive locations. Noise prediction will be carried out using British Standard BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014, Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise. Predicted construction noise levels will be compared against noise levels in BS 5228:2009+A1:2014 Part 1. Where the impact significance identifies a requirement for mitigation, mitigation measures will be outlined.

5.3.3 Potential Impacts

Potential impacts of 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.

5.4 **Environmental Aspect: Traffic and Transportation**

5.4.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The traffic impact assessment will address the traffic impacts on the road network from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Derrynadarragh 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.

5.4.2 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.

A route survey will be carried out by a specialist transport consultant between the port of entry options and proposed project entrance locations. This survey will identify potential pinch points and locations that may require off site temporary upgrades to facilitate the safe transport of the turbines to the development area.

Auto Track vehicle swept path analysis (SPA) 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. SPA will also be carried out on pinch points identified in the transport route survey report.

The methodology for the traffic impact assessment will include a review of the traffic volumes and impacts which will be generated by the construction, operation, and decommissioning 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.



5.4.3 Potential Impacts

The greatest potential for traffic impact from the proposed Derrynadarragh 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 proposed project area 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 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 roads as well as the construction of turbine bases and hardstands. All of these activities have the potential to generate significant local traffic numbers.

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 proposed project area each morning and evening.

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.

5.5 **Environmental Aspect: Air Quality and Climate**

5.5.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The assessment will address the potential impacts on air quality and climate due to construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed development. The assessment will also include Carbon Balance calculations for the project.

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 the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm on micro-climate and macro-climate will be addressed. The project will also be assessed for compliance with the Climate Action Plan 2024, and the impact on climate and vulnerability to climate change in line with EU Directive 2011/92/EU (as amended by EU Directive 2014/52/EU).

5.5.2 Assessment Methodology

Air quality monitoring conducted by the EPA at a number of locations in the vicinity of the project will be reviewed and levels compared with the air quality standards. To assess the impacts of construction dust emissions, the approach and assessment criteria will follow the following guidance; Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (2011); Guidance on the assessment of dust from demolition and construction (Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM), 2014); and Guidance on the Assessment of the Impacts of Construction on Air Quality and the Determination of their Significance (IAQM, 2011).

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 (DMRB) (LA 105 - Air Quality, June 2024) 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 the proposed Derrynadarragh 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 (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation, which will not be required should the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm become operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

Carbon losses through the construction process can be calculated and carbon savings will be calculated using 'Calculating Carbon Savings from Wind Farms on Scottish Peat Lands'.

5.5.3 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 Derrynadarragh 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, 2011) 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 wind farm is not expected to have a negative impact on air quality.

The proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is expected to have a positive impact on emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation, which would not be required when the 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_x and SO_x, a calculation of same will be included in the EIAR.

5.6 **Environmental Aspect: Biodiversity**

5.6.1 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 proposed wind farm; including along and in close proximity to the on-site cable routes; on and in close proximity to the proposed substation, 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 project 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
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts along with Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive.
- The impact on any flight paths of bird and bat species
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts
- Rare and protected flora including species listed under the Flora Protection Order (2015) Habitats that can be considered as corridors and 'stepping stones' for the purposes of article 10 of the Habitats Directive
- Red data book species
- Aquatic ecology
- And biodiversity in general.

5.6.2 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 will be consulted.

Bird survey methods will be 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 scope of the bird surveys will include vantage point surveys, transect surveys, point counts, raptor survey, breeding wader, and Collision Risk Modelling used to quantify the risk of collision with wind farm turbines

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 will be based on NRA guidelines (2009¹), CIEEM guidelines and EPA guidelines. The habitat mapping exercise will have regard to the 'Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping' (Smith et al., 2011²) 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).

Bat surveys will be undertaken in accordance with Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2019³). Winter and breeding roost surveys will be required.

¹ NRA (2009). Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines. Published by the National Roads Authority.

² 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.

³ Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Renewable UK, Scottish Power Renewables, Ecotricity Ltd., the University of Exeter and the Bat Conservation Trust (2019): Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation.



Activity surveys will also be required during the bat activity season April to September as per Bat Conservation Ireland and Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines.

The proposed project will require surveying for terrestrial mammal species including inter alia Badger, hare and Otter. The otter is a qualifying interest for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC which is hydrologically connected to the River Cushina which passes through the subject site.

During the course of ecological surveys of the project area, other species of fauna shall be noted and considered in the ecological appraisal.

5.6.3 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 proposed wind farm and including along and in close proximity to the proposed cable route and proposed haul route.

The ecological evaluation of the project area 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 on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022) will be used where applicable.

Potential impacts of the wind farm on biodiversity include:

- Direct loss of habitat due to the footprint of the wind farm;
- 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 downstream 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 from operational turbines;
- 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.



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

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

5.6.4 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) will be undertaken separately to any EIA and, as part of the AA process, a formal AA screening exercise will be undertaken which will provide an evidence-based determination of which EU designated sites have potential for significant effects and will have regard to the Council Regulation 2022/2577 of 22 December 2022 laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy. During the AA process, mitigation measures can be developed to reduce / avoid effects on European Sites.

See Chapter 7 of this report for a high-level overview of the Appropriate Assessment process.

5.7 **Environmental Aspect: Land, Soils, Geology and Slope Stability**

5.7.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The assessment will address soils, bedrock and groundwater underlying the proposed wind farm site. A slope stability assessment will be conducted for the site.

5.7.2 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 project area. In addition, the following will also be conducted:

- A review of the characteristics of the entire project area (ground conditions, topography, vegetation cover/condition and peat formation, if any, across the project area)
- Identification of past and present land use of the project area (grazing, forestry etc.) and their current impact on the existing ground conditions
- Identification of potential borrow pit locations (if required)
- Identification of areas for possible storage/reinstatement of peat or other materials
- Identification of potential for peat landslide (if peat is identified) - 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.

5.7.3 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 drainage is a potential direct permanent effect that, without mitigation, could alter the existing hydrogeological balance;
- 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 area.
- 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;
- 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 project; and
- Sanitary waste arising from temporary construction compounds could lead to contamination of groundwater.

At the proposed substation and along the grid route, the potential impacts are the pollution of groundwater from an oil or fuel spillage during construction.

5.8 Environmental Aspect: Water Quality and Hydrology

5.8.1 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 Derrynadarragh Wind Farm will also be addressed. A flood risk assessment will also be carried out.



5.8.2 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 consideration of the policies and objectives within the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029 and the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 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 freshwater 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 project area will be undertaken. These surveys will include noting and examining the hydrological features and land use across the project area. The information gained on these site visits will influence the development of the preliminary layout, providing input 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 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.

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 project, 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.

For the access tracks, any watercourse crossings will be identified, and a preliminary design of the proposed watercourse crossings prepared. It is anticipated that the development will propose 1 no. watercourse crossing over the Cushina River which dissects the site. 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 or significant projects.



- Consider potential drainage into sensitive catchments.
- 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.

5.8.3 Potential Impacts

The main potential impact from the construction of typical wind farm developments 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.
- Haulage roads passing close to watercourses could allow the migration of silt-laden run-off into watercourses (crushable stone in 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 project area 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 project include impacts on localised flooding patterns and downstream structures as well as cumulative hydrological impacts with neighbouring developments.

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 may 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.

Knowing the sources of these potential impacts on water quality allows for a range of mitigation measures to be prepared including a surface water management plan, installation of silt management infrastructure such as silt fencing, silt traps and stilling ponds and a water quality monitoring program, among other best practice measures, in order to avoid negative impact on water quality, biodiversity and fisheries. These mitigation measures will be detailed in the EIAR.



5.9 Environmental Aspect: Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

5.9.1 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.

5.9.2 Assessment Methodology

The assessment will comprise a desk study and field walkover survey and will be based on EPA guidelines and relevant national and international best practice guidelines.

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 (RPS) and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) in the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029 and the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027;
- 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 project 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 folklore/traditions and Gaeltacht areas;
- Other documentary sources;
- A review and interpretation of aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets; and
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approach will be undertaken.



Designated architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage features will be considered up to 5km of the proposed turbines. All undesignated cultural heritage features will be considered within 500m of the proposed turbines. Selected highly sensitive heritage assets of national and international importance, including UNESCO World Heritage Sites will be considered within 25km of the proposed turbines. The assessment of potential impacts on the setting of such assets will be carried out in consultation with the Landscape and Visual assessment for the proposed development and will include a review of relevant photomontages.

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 project area 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. A drone survey will also be undertaken to assess if any potential features with surface expressions not visible at ground level are observable within the boundary. 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 locations. 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. A survey of alignments and views from stone circles and stone rows located in the surrounding landscape will be assessed.

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 assessment of potential impacts on the setting of such assets will be carried out in consultation with Macro Works (Landscape and Visual consultants for the proposed development) and will include a review of relevant photomontages.

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.



5.9.3 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 unrecorded 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. This includes potential impacts on the formal ritual alignments of monuments which may focus on landscape features, other monuments or astronomical events.
- 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 potential for negative direct impacts on cultural heritage features occurs during the construction phase. Once the wind farm is operational, the potential for negative direct impacts on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage assets will be negligible. The proposed development will avoid the known locations of all recorded archaeological sites.

5.10 Environmental Aspect: Aviation and Telecommunications

5.10.1 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.

5.10.2 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, Department of Defence, 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; and
- 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 existing cables, which could potentially be affected by the installation of the cables associated with the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, mapping of telecommunications cables will be obtained, and potential impacts assessed.

5.10.3 Potential Impacts

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 the provider.

The siting of wind turbines may have implications for the operations of the Communications, Navigation and Surveillance systems used for Air Traffic Control for the separation and safety of aircraft. Wind turbine siting may also have implications for the flight paths of aircraft.

5.11 Environmental Aspect: Landscape and Visual Impact

5.11.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The landscape and visual assessment report will appraise the existing landscape character of the project area 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. A suitable, bespoke study area will be proposed following further detailed analysis of the project. 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’s for Kildare and Offaly
 - 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 the Kildare and Offaly CDP and adjacent local authority CDPs



- Relevant policy objectives within neighbouring counties within the 30km Study Area.
- Visual context
 - Zone of Theoretical Visibility
 - Viewshed Reference Points.
 - Route Screening Assessment.

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.

5.11.2 Assessment Methodology

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

- Desktop study of the project area in relation to its overall wider context;
- Visit to the project area and its environs;
- Visit to assess potential 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 2023 - 2029 and the Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 and any relevant policy within neighbouring county Laois which falls within the 30km 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 project area 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 project area; and
- 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.
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government 2019, Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines.
- 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, 2022, Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports.
- 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, 2022.

5.11.3 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 proposed project area and highlight the areas where the proposed turbines will theoretically be visible from, as well as the cumulative visual impact arising from the existing wind farms nearby. 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 proposed 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 project boundary, thereby including parts of County Laois. Assessments of and objectives for landscape character will be looked at in the Development Plans of 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 in the 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 (including significant archaeological 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. APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT - OVERVIEW

Appropriate Assessment (AA) will be undertaken separately to any EIA, as part of the AA process. Firstly, a formal AA screening exercise will be undertaken which will provide an evidence-based determination of which EU designated sites have potential for significant effects and will have regard to the Council Regulation 2022/2577 of 22 December 2022 laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy. During the AA process, mitigation measures can be developed to reduce / avoid effects on European Sites.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report will be prepared by FT in respect of the proposed development, so as to enable the competent authorities to carry out a Screening for Appropriate Assessment or Appropriate Assessment as required by Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC ("the Habitats Directive") and sections 177U and 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) ("the Planning 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 Planning Act, a Screening for 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 significant effects on a European site cannot be discounted during Screening for Appropriate Assessment, then the competent authority must proceed to an Appropriate Assessment including a determination as to whether the proposed development would adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

European sites, as defined in the Planning Act, comprise both Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) 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 Planning 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 significant effect on a European site (alone or in-combination with other plans and projects) 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).

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 development area of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is not located within a designated nature conservation site; however, the subject lands are located either side of the Cushina River. Cushina River provides surface water connectivity to the Figile River c. 250m downstream from the site to the east, eventually joining the River Barrow c. 5.9km downstream. The River Barrow is included in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site Code: 002162). As a result, there is a hydrological connection between the proposed development and the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

The potential for significant effects and effects on site integrity will need to be assessed as part of a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening and it is likely that a Natura Impact Statement will be required.



For each European Site, the qualifying interests or special conservation interests 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 impacts 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 competent authority proceeds to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment on the submitted Natura Impact Statement. 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.

Information on the main alternatives studied by the developer and why they were excluded will also be provided within the Natura Impact Statement.

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:

- Avoidance
- Reduction
- 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.



7. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, INDIRECT AND INTERACTION OF EFFECTS

7.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The cumulative impact of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm with other projects with the potential to overlap spatially or in time, 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. An example of a project within the public domain can be projects that are listed in the County Development Plan's or National Policies or Guidelines. 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.

7.2 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 Derrynadarragh 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.

7.3 Receiving Environment

Potential cumulative visual impacts will be examined against existing and permitted wind farms in the vicinity in combination with the proposed project. Other planned, permitted or constructed projects in the area will be considered for potential cumulative impact. Furthermore, significant projects within the region will also be considered for potential cumulative impact, such as future road projects or other infrastructure projects.

7.4 Potential Impacts

If other projects of similar scale and type are under construction at the same time as the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, there could be potential for cumulative impact due to increased construction traffic, increased demand on construction materials and skills as well as potential for increased runoff to local streams, potential for in-combination visual impact and potential for increased noise impacts.

Positive cumulative impacts are also possible, for instance, improvement to air quality as a result of renewable energy projects and achievement of national and international renewable energy generation targets.



7.5 Conclusion

The scoping report has set out a description of the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm Development in County Kildare and County Offaly. The methodology and contents of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been detailed and different elements of the report have been set out. It is intended that consultees consider the proposed project from their relevant area of expertise. We hope that all consultees will submit comments and inform the EIAR process. If you have comments you would like to share with the EIAR team regarding the assessment of the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm project, please forward them to the email address provided below, or by post to Fehily Timoney and Company (address below).

Please send all responses to: derrynadarraghwindfarm@ftco.ie

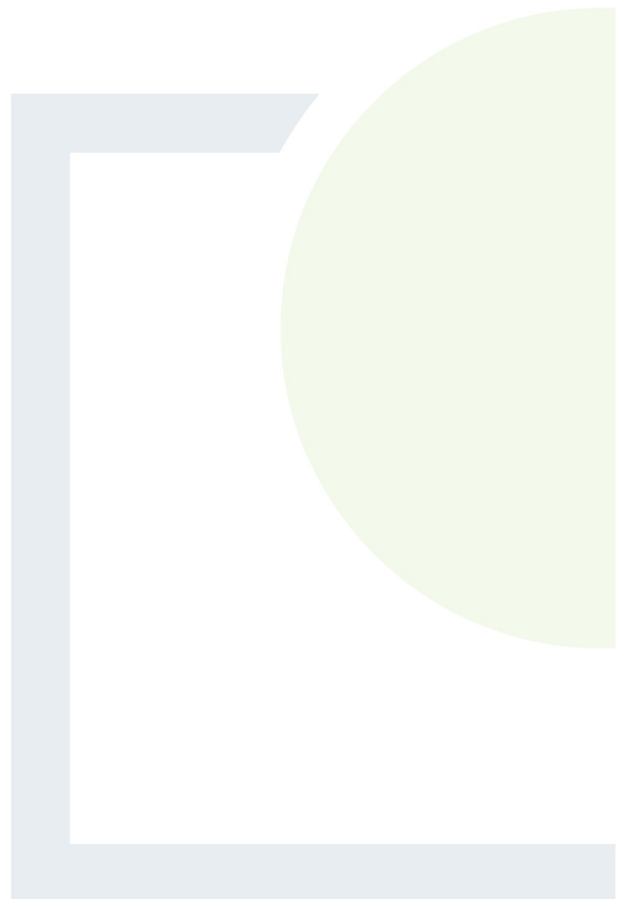
Or respond by post to:
Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
County Cork
T12 D773



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF CONSULTEES



	Organisation	Contact Email Address
1	An Chomhairle Ealaíon (The Arts Council)	planning@artscouncil.ie ; reception@artscouncil.ie
2	2RN	windfarms@rte.ie
3	Airwave	info@airwave.ie
4	AirNav Ireland	planning@airnav.ie
5	An Garda Síochána - Portlaoise	portlaoise_ds@garda.ie
6	An Garda Síochána- Clonbologue	tullamore.district@garda.ie
7	Angling Council of Ireland	anglingcouncil@gmail.com ; secretaryaci1@gmail.com
8	An Taisce	advocacy@antaisce.org ; planning@antaisce.org ; info@antaisce.org
9	Arra Communications	info@arra.ie
Aerodromes and nearby air strips:		
10	Limetree Airfield	limetreeairfield@yahoo.ie
11	Benfield Airfield	info@funfly.ie
12	Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI)	admin@batconservationireland.org ; info@batconservationireland.org
13	Biodiversity Ireland	info@biodiversityireland.ie
14	BirdWatch Ireland	info@birdwatchireland.ie
15	Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland	enquiries@bsbi.org
16	Broadcasting Authority of Ireland	rwoods@bai.ie
17	BT Ireland	infrastructure.ireland@bt.com
18	Coimisiún na Meán	info@cnam.ie
19	Butterfly Conservation Ireland	conservation.butterfly@gmail.com
20	Commission for Communications Regulation	industry@comreg.ie
21	Commission for Regulation of Utilities	customercare@cru.ie ; info@cru.ie ; planning@cru.ie
22	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	info@agriculture.gov.ie
23	Department of Defence	propertymanagementplanning@defence.ie ; info@defence.ie
24	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	minister@housing.gov.ie
25	Development Application Unit	manager.dau@npws.gov.ie
26	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications	customer.service@decc.gov.ie ; communicationsunit@DCCAE.gov.ie
27	Department for Rural and Community Development	foi@drdcd.gov.ie
28	Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media	secretary.general@chg.gov.ie ; catherine.martin@oireachtas.ie ; diary@tcagsm.gov.ie
29	Eir	customercare@openeir.ie ; seamus.okeefe@openeir.ie
30	EirGrid	info@eirgrid.com
31	EMR Integrated Solutions	dominic.crudden@emrsolutions.ie
32	Enet	info@enet.ie
33	Environmental Protection Agency	info@epa.ie , eiaplanning@epa.ie
34	ESB Networks	esbnetworks@esb.ie
35	Fáilte Ireland	planning.applications@failteireland.ie
36	Forestry Service	forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie
37	Gas Networks Ireland	networksinfo@gasnetworks.ie
38	Geographical Society of Ireland	secretary@geographicalsocietyireland.ie
39	Geological Survey of Ireland	GSIPlanning@decc.gov.ie
40	Health and Safety Authority	landuseplanning@hsa.ie
41	Health and Safety Executive	planning.ddg@hse.ie ; yoursay@hse.ie
42	Heritage Council	mail@heritagecouncil.ie
43	Imagine Broadband	ronnie.oneill@imaginegroup.ie care@imagine.ie
44	IMS Connect	denis.ahern@imedia.ie

45	Inland Fisheries Ireland	info@fisheriesireland.ie ; environmentalplanning@fisheriesireland.ie ; nifa.secretary@gmail.com
46	Irish Air Corps	info@military.ie
47	Irish Aviation Authority	info@iaa.ie ; planning@iaa.ie ; licensing@iaa.ie
48	Irish Farmers Association	dg@ifa.ie
49	Irish Peatland Conservation Council	bogs@ipcc.ie
50	Irish Rail	online@irishrail.ie ; foi@irishrail.ie
51	Irish Raptor Study Group	chairman@irsg.ie
52	Irish Wildlife Trust	info@iwt.ie
53	Kildare County Council	plandept@kildarecoco.ie
54	Laois County Council	planning@laoiscoco.ie ; environmentadmin@laoiscoco.ie
55	Lightnet Broadband	enda@lightnet.ie
56	Magnet Networks	support@magnet.ie
57	Met Eireann	met.eireann@met.ie
58	National Monuments Service	nationalmonuments@housing.gov.ie
59	National Parks and Wildlife Service	manager.dau@npws.gov.ie
60	Northern and Western Regional Assembly	info@nwra.ie
61	Office of Public Works	info@opw.ie
62	Offaly County Council	customerservices@offalycoco.ie
63	Premier Broadband	info@premiernet.ie
64	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland	info@seai.ie
65	Teagasc	info@teagasc.ie
66	Telecommunications Section, An Garda Síochána	ICT_Executive_Director@Garda.ie
67	Tetra Ireland (TI)	tetraireland.info@motorolasolutions.com
68	The Irish Tourist Industry Confederation	info@itic.ie
69	Three Ireland	planning@offalycoco.ie ; customer.care@three.ie
70	Towercom	rhennesy@towercom.ie
71	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	info@tii.ie
72	Uisce Eireann	customerservice@water.ie
73	Viatel Ireland Ltd	info@viatel.com
74	Virgin Media Ireland Ltd	clientsolutions@virginmedia.ie
75	Vodafone Ireland Ltd	care@vodafone.ie
76	Waterways Ireland	corporate@waterwaysireland.org
77	Weston Airport	info@westonairport.com
78	Wireless Connect Ltd	info@wirelessconnect.ie



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APPENDIX 5.2

A copy of all scoping responses received

From: [Roger Woods](#)
To: [Cathal Creedon](#)
Cc: [Robyn Nicholl](#)
Subject: RE: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)
Date: Thursday 12 December 2024 10:19:50
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Hi Cathal

Coimisiún na Meán does not perform an in-depth analysis of the effect of wind turbines or electrical sub stations on FM networks. However, we are not aware of any issues from existing windfarms or electrical sub stations into existing FM networks. Also, the proposed sub station is not located close to any existing or planned FM transmission sites.

Regards

Roger

Innealtóir Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach | Senior Executive Engineer

T: +353 (0)1 644 1200 | rwoods@cnam.ie



1 Áras Shíol Bhroinn, Bóthar Shíol Bhroinn, Baile Átha Cliath, D04 NP20, Éire.

1 Shelbourne Buildings, Shelbourne Road, Dublin, D04 NP20, Ireland.

Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda agus is leis an duine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chuige/chuici a bhaineann siad. Muna duitse an ríomhphost seo, ní ceart é a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí. Iarrtar ort teachtaireacht a sheoladh chuig an seoltóir nó chuig info@cnam.ie, agus an ríomhphost seo a scrios.

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Déan machnamh ar an timpeallacht, le do thoil, roimh an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Cathal Creedon <cathal.creedon@ftco.ie>
Sent: Thursday 12 December 2024 09:21
Cc: Robyn Nicholl <robyn.nicholl@ftco.ie>
Subject: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)

You don't often get email from cathal.creedon@ftco.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you that we have attached the scoping report as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a wind farm which will be

referred to as the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, located in Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council. The report is attached, along with a cover letter outlining the details of the submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Cathal Creedon.



Cathal Creedon

Graduate Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

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Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House,
Pouladuff Road,
Cork,
T12 D773

31 December 2024

Re: Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, Co Kildare and Co Offaly

Without Prejudice

Dear Ms. Nicholl,

I write with regard to your letter and attached documentation dated 11th December 2024 relating to the proposed located in Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council, approx. 2km south of the village of Bracknagh. The proposed project includes land contained within the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower, and Chevychase.

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 observations are made on a non-prejudicial basis, and are not intended to be used to rely on for a prospective planning application, nor are these observations to be relied on in the event of any commercial transaction pertaining to such lands and they are 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.

Having consulted with the Military authorities, the Department of Defence wishes to make the following observations:

- The Minister for Defence is responsible for the regulation of military aviation, whereas the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) is responsible for the safety regulation of civil aviation including aerodromes. The IAA does not have remit for military aviation or installations. Safeguarding of military flight operations and installations is intended to protect both current and future aircraft operations and also to take account of the security requirements associated with some of those operations.



- 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 nanometers (nm) of wavelength. Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light
- Any Irish Air Corps (IAC) requirements for are separate to Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) requirements.

Nothing in the above observations 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.

We would appreciate if you could keep us informed on any progress relating to this proposed development, in particular if this development was to progress to the planning stage.

Please contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Best regards

Phil

Philomena Evans

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 452224

From: [Defence Property Management Planning](#)
To: [Cathal Creedon](#)
Cc: [Robyn Nicholl](#)
Subject: RE: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)
Date: Thursday 12 December 2024 21:26:13
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

Dear Mr. Creedon,

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail and attached documentation.

We will consult with the relevant Military authorities and revert in due course.

Kind regards,

Phil

Philomena Evans
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 452224

E-mail philomena.evans@defence.ie

From: Cathal Creedon <cathal.creedon@ftco.ie>
Sent: Thursday 12 December 2024 09:21
Cc: Robyn Nicholl <robyn.nicholl@ftco.ie>
Subject: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you that we have attached the scoping report as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a wind farm which will be referred to as the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, located in Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council. The report is attached, along with a cover letter outlining the details of the submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Cathal Creedon.



Cathal Creedon

Graduate Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

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From: [Info - EirGrid](#)
To: [Cathal Creedon](#)
Cc: [Robyn Nicholl](#); info@eirgrid.com
Subject: RE: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)
Date: Thursday 12 December 2024 11:24:21
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Cathal,

In the interests of expediency of applications, and due to reduced resources, it is EirGrid policy not to comment on EIAR Scoping Reports.

Kind regards,

Customers & Connections

[EirGrid.com](https://eirgrid.com)



From: Cathal Creedon <cathal.creedon@ftco.ie>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 9:21 AM
Cc: Robyn Nicholl <robyn.nicholl@ftco.ie>
Subject: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Cathal Creedon.



Cathal Creedon
Graduate Planner

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EirGrid plc - Transmission System Operator, Ireland.
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Oibritheoir Eangach Leictreachais na hÉireann.
160 Bóthar Shiól Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

Registered Office

The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

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EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects



July 2023

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1. Introduction

Tourism is a growing sector and substantial part of the Irish Economy. It contributes to both urban and rural economies in every part of the country. The impact and interaction of tourism with the environment is complex and the assessment of environmental impacts is of utmost importance to creating a sustainable tourism economy and protecting the natural resources that are so often a tourism attraction.

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

This guidance document has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland to update their EIA guidelines in line with changes in legislative and guidance requirements.

2. Background to this Document

Tourism is one of the largest and most important sectors of the economy, providing employment for approximately **260,000 people**, an economic contribution of **€9.5 billion**, and exchequer revenue of **€1.8 billion** in 2019, which helps fund other key public services.

In 2019 Ireland welcomed **9.7 million overseas visitors**.

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority established by the Irish Government in May 2003. Fáilte Irelands role is to support the tourism industry and work to sustain Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination. They provide a range of practical business supports to help tourism businesses better manage and market their products and services.

Fáilte Ireland also work with other state agencies and representative bodies, at local and national levels, to implement and champion positive and practical strategies that will benefit Irish tourism and the Irish economy.

Fáilte Ireland promotes Ireland as a holiday destination through a domestic marketing campaign (DiscoverIreland.ie) and manage a network of nationwide tourist information centres that provide help and advice for visitors to Ireland.

Tourism related projects cover a broad range of plans, programmes and developments, from the Wild Atlantic Way to a single hotel conversion. These guidelines apply to projects involving or impacting upon tourism. A tourism plan, strategy or programme where it is part of the statutory plan making process under the Planning and Development Acts (as amended), may be more appropriately assessed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as discussed in the next section.

It should be borne in mind that EIA is required where there is anticipated to be a significant impact on the environment, where tourism projects are of a prescribed type or meet thresholds identified below.

Where Natura 2000 Designated Sites are potentially affected by tourism development Appropriate Assessment must be carried out by the appropriate authority in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

Environmental Impact Assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before planning based decisions are made. The assessment results in a report, called an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Legislation

These guidelines are produced under current EIAR legislative requirements, having regard to Directive 2011/92/EU (known as 'Environmental Impact Assessment' – EIA Directive), as amended by Directive EU 2014/52 which came into effect in May of 2017. These requirements were transposed into Irish Law on 1 September 2018 as most of the provisions of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) came into effect. The principle of both Directives is to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.

Statutory Guidance

In response to the changes to the EIAR requirements under Directive EU 2014/52, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports in May 2022. The Guidelines are a statutory document to be regarded by those preparing EIARs and the decision makers considering the EIARs.

Some of the key changes to the EIA Directive introduced by Directive 2014/52/EU are as follows:

- Additional information to be provided in the project description to describe the location of the project, the technologies and substances used, the construction of the project and required demolition;
- The requirement for consideration of alternatives has changed from a requirement to provide 'An outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for this choice, taking into account the environmental effects' to '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';
- A refinement of the environmental factors to be considered in the assessment with an increased focus on resource efficiency, climate change, biodiversity and disaster prevention;
- Changes to Prescribed Environmental Factors with 'Land' being added, 'Human Beings' replaced by 'Population & Human Health' and 'Flora & Fauna' replaced by 'Biodiversity';

- The developer is required to have competent experts to prepare the EIAR and the Board is required to have access to sufficient expertise to assess the EIAR;
- Requirement for the incorporation of mitigation and monitoring measures in consents and ensuring that developers deliver these measures;
- The requirements for the assessment of cumulative effects with existing and/or approved projects, taking into account existing environmental issues to be considered; and
- Reasoned decisions made with regard to the EIA outcomes must be provided.

In addition to the EPA statutory guidance, the Department of Housing has produced Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment in August 2018.

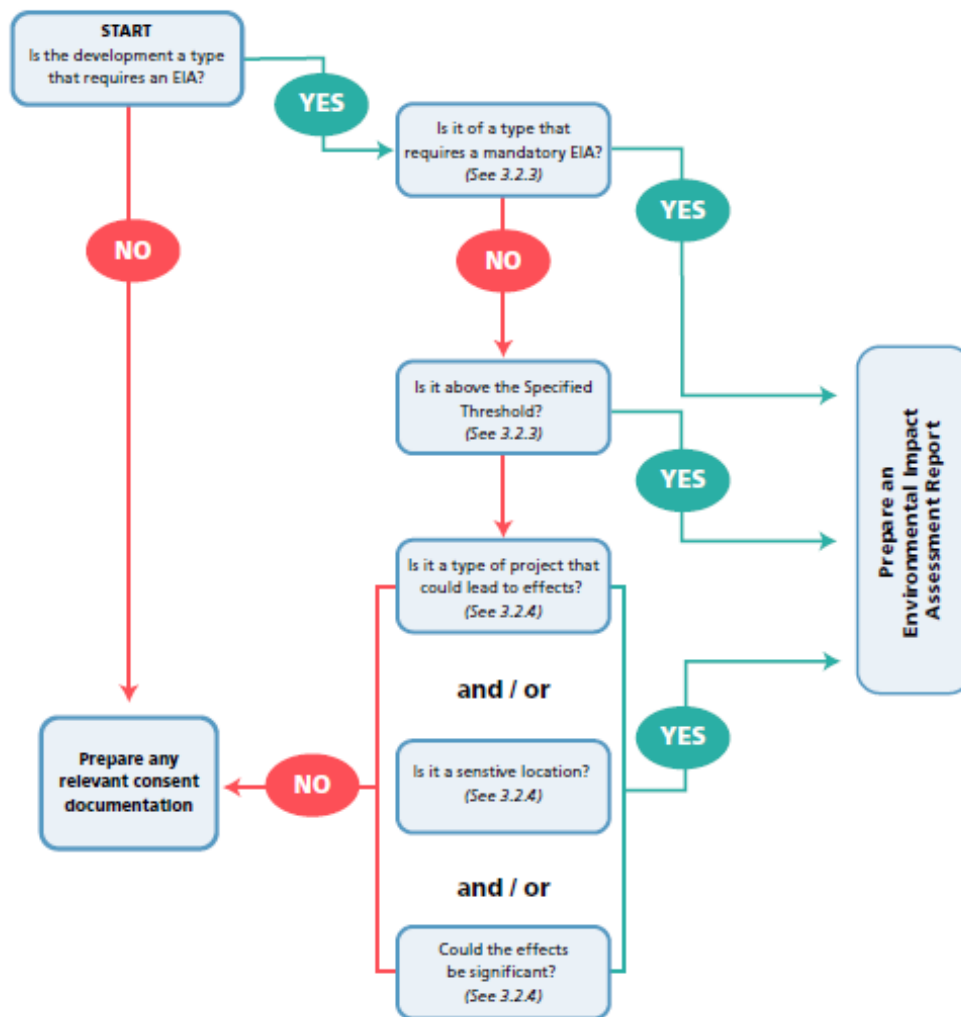
The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to the EPA EIAR Guidelines. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as 'screening' and the process to determine the breadth and scope of an EIAR is known as 'scoping'. Guidance on this can be found in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines.

Screening

Through EIA Screening, developments are either considered as requiring an EIAR due to the project type or because they exceed a threshold level. The screening process begins by establishing whether the proposal is a 'project' as understood by the Directive (as amended).

The prescribed development types and thresholds are set out in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive as transposed into Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2010-2018 (as amended). Development which does not exceed these thresholds but may require an EIAR are called sub threshold. Sub-Threshold considerations are outlined in Schedule 7 of European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) as transposed from Annex III of the Directive. The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports note that projects at first glance may not appear to come under the Schedule but on closer examination when the process is further examined, they may do so because of the sensitivity or significance of the receiving environment etc. Sub threshold developments require an EIAR if they are likely to have significant environmental impacts and must undergo assessment for likely significant impacts through an EIAR screening report. The contents of a screening report for subthreshold development are contained in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

Tourism locations should be identified as sensitive receptors in screening assessments for particular impacts, depending on scale and sensitivity, as they would in a full EIAR. Section 6 below can act as guidance for Screening Reports as well as for full EIAR.

The screening process for considering where an EIAR is necessary, is summarised above in Figure 1 (excerpted from Figure 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines).

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a more strategic level of environmental assessment that examines plans, policies, objectives and programmes specifically rather than projects. For some tourism developments it may be more appropriate that they be examined through SEA, while individual projects or specific proposals are likely to be more assessed through EIAR. If a project is part of a plan, programme or policy/objective assessed by SEA there may still be a requirement for an EIAR for that development (subject to EIA Screening assessment).

EIAR Scoping

Scoping an EIAR is an opportunity to look at the breadth of issues and ensure that any areas of possible significant impact are assessed. Identifying sensitivities and stakeholders should take account of tourism facilities and consider Fáilte Ireland in scoping requests where necessary.

4. Assessing Tourism

There is no legal definition of ‘tourism’ in Irish legislation. The UNWTO definition of sustainable tourism is *“Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities”*. This is widely accepted as a key definition of tourism as we move to a more sustainable future.

Tourism assessments are frequently carried out by economic consultants and by specific tourism consultants. It is always advisable, particular for tourism projects, that suitably qualified and experienced personnel are used to determine the impact of tourism related projects or to assess the impact of more general proposals on a tourism asset identified in a particular location. There is a requirement for EIAR under current legislation to contain a statement of competency within all EIAR documents, including screening and scoping reports.

Projects which involve a tourism element

Tourism projects are wide ranging and diverse. While there are some projects which cater to tourism and are easily identified as such - Hotels, Museums, etc. there are other projects where tourism is a key service or element, but which may not be immediately obvious – walking/cycling/forest trails, greenways, blueways, community facilities and others. EIAR conducted for developments containing tourist elements should be completed in accordance with the current guidance from the EPA.

Projects which include a tourism element can have potential for particular environmental effects which differ from a non-tourism development. These impacts can be intermittent, event related, inconsistent, dependent on weather, temporal, temporary or seasonal. This is considered within the prescribed environmental topics for EIAR outlined in Section 7 below.

Projects which may have an impact upon tourism

While tourism projects may be diverse, the projects which can impact tourism are considerably more wide ranging, from large infrastructural developments to local energy developments. Disruption to or suppression of a tourist resource or amenity can have very local or more strategic impacts, directly or indirectly- for example energy projects in a rural area can have both a negative and positive impact in different regards. There can be temporary, periodic or even seasonal impacts occurring during construction or operational periods.

According to the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Facts 2019 Report, the most important factors in determining the attractiveness of tourism destinations for visitors to Ireland are;

- Beautiful Scenery and Unspoiled Environment
- Hospitality
- Safety
- Nature, Wildlife and Natural Attractions
- History and Culture

- Pace of Life

These factors used for the promotion of tourism in Ireland are also barometers of sensitivity to change in tourism sensitive or dominant locations where development may have an impact upon the tourism asset. The potential for development to impact these sensitivities, and the environmental criteria under which they can be considered, are identified in section 7 of the guidelines.

5. Guiding Principles of EIAR

As outlined in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, the fundamental principles to be followed when preparing an EIAR, including screening and scoping, are:

- Anticipating, avoiding and reducing significant effects
- Assessing and mitigating effects
- Maintaining objectivity
- Ensuring clarity and quality
- Providing relevant information to decision makers
- Facilitating better consultation.

Environmental assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications

As per Section 2.5 of the EPA Guidelines, EIAR is required to be completed by '*competent experts*'.

Contributors to the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, including screening and scoping assessments, should be qualified and competent. Sufficient expertise, in the relevant field of the project concerned, is required for the purpose of its examination by the competent authorities in order to ensure that the information provided by the developer is complete and of a high level of quality so that a full and proper assessment can be undertaken.

For tourism related projects, or projects likely to affect tourism assets, competent experts in the area of tourism should be utilised in the environmental assessment.

The competency of all involved in the production of an EIAR or any related report (e.g. Screening and scoping) is required to be stated at the beginning of the EIAR report with further details as necessary in each following chapter.

Where tourism projects involve for example heritage or cultural components, input from heritage consultants, conservation architects, or historians may be required.

7. EIAR Requirements

The following are the key requirements for an EIAR under the current guidance. This is not a definitive list and should be read in conjunction with regulations.

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;
- baseline assessment;
- assessment of effects;
- cumulative impact;
- interaction of impacts;
- mitigation & monitoring; and
- residual impacts

Project Description

Project descriptions are required to describe the whole project including site, scale, design and key factors. It is important that the EIAR and design team have a consistent understanding of the development description in full. The key requirements are outlined in section 3.5 of the EPA Guidelines however they identify the following;

- the location of the project
- the physical characteristics of the whole project
- the main characteristics of the operational phase of the project
- an estimate, by type and quantity, of the expected residues and emissions

The location of the project should include identifying key sensitive receptors (including tourism receptors). In the operational phase of the project any tourism based, or potentially tourism related activity, should be identified.

Assessment of Alternatives

The assessment of the various reasonable alternatives is an important requirement of the EIA process.

Where tourism projects are location dependent the assessment of reasonable alternatives should consider alternative methods, layouts, technologies and mitigations, detail the key considerations culminating in the selection of the option/design, the reasoning for these and the environmental effect of these decisions. This is particularly important for tourism projects which are often location tied. The EPA EIAR Guidelines indicate that it is generally sufficient to provide a broad description of each main alternatives and the key issues associated with each, showing how environmental considerations were taken into account in deciding on the selected option.

Baseline Assessment

Baseline descriptions are evidence based, current descriptions of environmental characteristics with consideration of likely changes to the baseline environment evidenced in planning histories, unimplemented permissions, and applications pending determination. Baseline assessments should identify any tourism sensitivities in the zone of influence of a development. This zone of influence of a development is highly dependent on its **Context, Character, Significance, and Sensitivity**, as outlined in the EPA EIAR Guidelines. These characteristics apply to both the development and the environment.

For example, in a tourism context;

The location of sensitive tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected should be highlighted, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of in combination impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development.

The character of an area from a tourism perspective should be described and the principal types of tourism in the area. Where relevant, the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values should be stated and where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities.

The significance of the tourism assets or activities likely to be affected should be highlighted. Reference to any existing formal or published designation or recognition of such significance should be included. Where possible the value of the contribution of such tourism assets and activities to the local economy should also be provided.

If there are any significant concerns or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism stakeholders and interest groups, this should be highlighted. 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 or impacted.

In addition, the baseline should include any methodologies employed in the study to obtain information, if particular databases are used to locate sensitive receptors they should be acknowledged. In relation to tourism information, the suggested information sources at the end of this document are a non-exhaustive list which may be of assistance in identifying tourism receptors.

Impact Assessment

The topics for consideration of impact are prescribed in the EIA Directive and transcribed into Irish law by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018). Impact assessment should contain the likely significant effects of a development arising from both construction and operation of a development. Advice on describing the effects is contained within the EPA EIAR Guidelines and includes the **quality, significance, extent, probability, type** and **duration** of the effect, with particular descriptors for each. In describing effects upon tourism receptors these descriptors should take account of the particular aspects and sensitivities of tourism, for example a temporary annual effect from a development may have different impacts upon tourism if it falls at peak season rather than off-peak.

Impact assessment should be carried out as per EPA guidelines and the best practice for that prescribed topic. It may be considered appropriate to consider impact on tourism under the 'Population and Human Health' and / or 'Landscape' topics as suggested below.

Population and Human Health

The consideration of tourism projects within the Population and Human Health is extensive, with impacts ranging from rural employment population impacts of seasonal tourism, to the health impact of air pollution from increased traffic in urban areas.

The impact upon tourism can be considered within this section through the sensitivities of Hospitality, Safety and Pace of Life. Changes in population can impact the perception of pace of life or safety in a particular location. Impacts upon these issues in areas which rely heavily on tourism or have a particular sensitive tourism generator should be considered in this section. The EPA guidelines makes reference to amenity “..which may be relevant under ‘Population and Human Health’ and ‘Landscape’”.

Biodiversity

Particular tourist activities can have a significant impact upon biodiversity. Landscapes which are ‘unspoiled’ can be attractors of tourism. However, the disturbance to ecology must be managed to minimise impacts.

Biodiversity is also a tourism asset and should be protected as such from other development and should be provided for in proposals where possible.

The assessment should also consider current Government policy on nature conservation as outlined in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (NBAP) (and subsequent iterations (Including draft NBAP recently open for public consultation, to cover 2023 to 2027) which also includes Ireland's vision for biodiversity below.

'That biodiversity and ecosystems in Ireland are conserved and restored, delivering benefits essential for all sectors of society and that Ireland contributes to efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems in the EU and globally.'

Land, Soils and Geology

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however particular activities or facilities which use geological features may have an impact upon soils and geology, such as mountain biking trails, recreational uses of old quarries etc.

The impact upon Geotourism related to geoheritage within the natural environment, e.g., any impacts on UNESCO Global Geoparks, of which we currently have three on the island of Ireland; Copper Coast in Co. Waterford, Burren and Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare, and Cuilcagh Lakelands in Cavan and Fermanagh should be considered (where applicable) in this section.

Indirect impacts such as material use for extensive landscaping and public realm should also be considered.

Water

Tourism uses can be water intense, depending on development type. Recreational use of a surface water feature, water-based leisure centres etc have different impacts to standard development.

Air Quality and Climate

Tourism impact upon air quality is dependent on the activity proposed and sensitivity of the location. If the tourism project includes a large increase in transportation services, collection of baseline air emission data is advised. Transportation emissions affect not only air quality, but also greenhouse gases. Changing climatic patterns due to climate change should be factored into this analysis.

Noise and Vibration

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however the impact upon tourism of issues of noise and vibration can be significant. Construction adjoining hotels for example should consider the sensitivity of the development and ensure mitigation is in place.

Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

The different transport patterns associated with tourism activities is a key impact of tourism and should be considered especially for tourism projects. These produce temporal and seasonal changes on the norm and specialist consideration and interpretation should be given. Tourism proposals should, where possible, be well served by public transport and should be accessible by modes other than the car. The impact of traffic on tourism assets can be substantial and can vary in severity according to season, the weather, etc. The impact of construction traffic can be a particular concern in tourism sensitive areas in terms of noise pollution and visual impact. The construction programme of developments should work to

avoid peak tourism periods in tourism areas and should consider planned or anticipated tourism events and festivals.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage can be a key component of tourism projects and the impact of tourism on the maintenance of cultural heritage should be given the utmost consideration, whether positive or negative. As a tourism attraction, cultural heritage should be strongly considered in non-tourism developments and the impact upon tourism considered as a potential impact.

Archaeology

Archaeology can be of tourism interest and can be an attractive or key component of tourism projects. Archaeology can be a tourism attractor and given that national policy emphasis on the non-renewable nature of the archaeology and archaeological heritage, focus should be a presumption in favour of its preservation in-situ or where preservation in-situ is not the option chosen, there must be preservation by record (i.e. archaeological excavation and recording must take place) in line with statutory requirements.

Material Assets; Waste Management

Tourism is a resource heavy activity and can impact waste streams and waste segregation. Impacts here should be considered strongly and with knowledge of the variation that arises from the particular tourist activity. Waste and Waste disposal issues can also impact the perception of an unspoiled environment, effecting tourism, which should be considered.

Material Assets

Material assets outside of the material assets already referenced that should be considered are built services (utilities) and infrastructure. Tourism development should include impact assessment on built services (utilities) and infrastructure while non tourism related development should consider the effect on tourism, which should be considered.

Landscape

The visual impact of a tourism development, especially in locations which are visually sensitive or renowned for their scenic or landscape beauty, should be considered carefully. A development intended to utilise or enjoy a particular vista or environment should minimise impact upon that environment.

Major Accident and Natural Disaster

There is a requirement for tourist developments to describe expected significant effects on the environment of the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents and/or natural disasters relevant to it. Where appropriate measures should be identified to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such accidents or disasters, including resulting from climate change, on the environment and detail the preparedness for the proposed response.

Interaction of Impacts

Where two or more environmental impacts combine or interact they should be considered under the prescribed topics. It is best practice to provide a table of interactions within an EIAR or EIA Screening Report.

Cumulative Impact

The cumulative impact is that of the project combined with any known likely project which will interact or compound an environmental impact.

Transboundary Impact

Transboundary impacts should be included in EIAR. In the case of tourism, especially international travel, the transboundary impacts may not be proximate to the EIAR site.

Mitigation & Monitoring

Mitigation should follow the hierarchy of minimisation in descending order of preference- Avoid, Reduce, Remedy.

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 impact.

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.

Remedy any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities.

Mitigation measures must be measurable and achievable within the bounds of the project.

With regard to Monitoring, Article 8a of the EIA Directive requires that:

1. 'The decision to grant development consent shall incorporate at least the following information ...

(b) any environmental conditions attached to the decision, a description of any features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment as well as, where appropriate, monitoring measures. ... 4 Member States shall ensure that the features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment are implemented by the developer, and shall determine the procedures regarding the monitoring of significant adverse effects on the environment. The type of parameters to be monitored and the duration of the monitoring shall be proportionate to the nature, location and size of the project and the significance of its effects on the environment. Existing monitoring arrangements resulting from Union legislation other than this Directive and from national legislation may be used if appropriate, with a view to avoiding duplication of monitoring.'

Residual Impacts

The residual impacts are the final predicted or intended impacts which occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented.

8. Sources of information on Tourism

Information available online

Fáilte Ireland

Fáilte Ireland offers detailed research analysis and insights into the Irish Tourism Industry. The National Tourism Development Authority has a portfolio of research across a number of areas including facts and figures, Environmental Surveying and Monitoring, briefing papers and reports and visitor feedback. The Fáilte Ireland website has a dedicated research library which can be accessed [here](#)

Fáilte Ireland also manages an environmental surveying and monitoring database as part of the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme which can be accessed [here](#). The purpose of this is to work with and demonstrate to our stakeholders and partners that we are committed to the sustainable development of the Wild Atlantic Way, and to be able to pre-empt and avoid environmental effects in the future should they occur.

Discover Ireland:

Operated by Fáilte Ireland, the Discover Ireland website includes comprehensive information on tourist attractions in destinations all around Ireland, including listings for activities, accommodation, events and experiences for every county, major town and region in Ireland. The website features elements from the four destination brands – Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Visit Dublin and can be accessed [here](#).

Tourism Ireland

Tourism Ireland is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a holiday and business tourism destination. Tourism Ireland publishes a range of research documents including; visitor facts and figures, seasonal updates and industry insights which are accessible [here](#)

Local Authorities

Local Authorities are an invaluable source of information. They produce tourism strategies and audits of tourism assets within their jurisdiction. Local authorities will also produce landscape and seascape studies. Protected views and prospects as well as the record of protected structures and other designated protected buildings are contained within the Statutory Development Plans.

Regional Assemblies

Regional Assemblies can also be consulted on high level strategic tourism and potential Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) should be consulted.

Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is Ireland's national statistical office and their purpose is to impartially collect, analyse and make available statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy. The Tourism and Travel Section of the Central Statistics Office is the major source for tourism statistics in Ireland and is updated regularly.



Fehily Timoney & Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork, T12 D773

23 January 2025

Re: EIAR Scoping Report for Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, Co Offaly
Your Ref: P22-145/EIARScopingLetter
Our Ref: 24/428

Dear Sir/Madam,

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 interpretation and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability.

With reference to your email received on the 12 December 2024, concerning the EIAR Scoping Report for Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, Co Offaly, we recommend using our various data sets when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes for developments, plans and policies. For more detailed information on how to access this data please access 'Data and Maps' [Data & Maps \(gsi.ie\)](#) on our 'Geoscience for planning' webpage. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly (please refer to each individual dataset's metadata for correct attribution).

For specific data available for Environmental Assessment and Planning topics please follow this link [\[Data by Environmental Assessment and Planning Topic \(gsi.ie\)\]](#), where you will find our data arranged by environmental assessment topic as illustrated below:

Land and soils <i>Soil</i> - Subsoils (Quaternary Geology) - Tellus Geochemistry - Geotechnical <i>Geology</i> - Bedrock - Geophysics - Bedrock & Quaternary 3D	Water <i>Groundwater</i> - Aquifers GW vulnerability, GWPSs (GWPPs) <i>Surface water</i> - Tellus Geochemistry <i>Estuarine & marine waters</i> - Marine and coastal <i>Flooding</i> - GWClimate - Karst	Climate Change <i>Carbon accounting / Carbon balance</i> - Geothermal - Carbon capture and storage <i>Climate change trends</i> - National coastal change assessment
Cultural Heritage <i>Archaeology</i> - Cherish <i>Underwater Archaeology</i> - Shipwrecks	Material Assets <i>Built Services</i> - Natural resources (Minerals & Aggregates) - Active quarries	The Landscape <i>Landscape Appearance & Character</i> - Physiographic units <i>Historical landscapes</i> - Historic mines
Other Relevant Data		
<i>Natural (Geo) hazards</i> - Landslide Susceptibility Mapping - Groundwater flooding - Coastal vulnerability - Subsidence - Radon	<i>Natural heritage</i> - Geoheritage (County Geological Sites) - Dimension Stone/Stone Built Ireland	



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 redacted for confidentiality and 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>.

If we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

Trish Smullen
Geologist
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
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 are 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 these data are a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.

From: [Planning](#)
To: [Cathal Creedon](#)
Cc: [Robyn Nicholl](#)
Subject: RE: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)
Date: Friday 13 December 2024 10:16:04
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear Cathal,

Thank you for your email and scoping report in relation to the proposed Darrynadarragh Wind Farm.

The proposed wind farm is proximate to the licenced Aerodrome – Clonbullogue Co. Offaly.

Please engage directly with the aerodrome licensee, Irish Parachute Club to make them aware of the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm proposal.

Mr. Tony Donnelly
Irish Parachute Club,
Clonbullogue Airfield,
Co.Offaly
Tel: - 046 97 30103
Email: shop@skydive.ie and info@skydive.ie

Based on the licensee's observations, it may be necessary to undertake an aeronautical safety assessment to consider the potential impact of the wind farm on the safety of aircraft operations at Clonbullogue Airfield.

In any case, 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.

Please note that following [the separation of the Irish Aviation Authority and Air Navigation Ireland \(the IAA ANSP\) from the 30th April 2023](#), Air Navigation Ireland has responsibility for the maintenance and safeguarding of en route communications and navigation surveillance equipment in Ireland.

As such, please forward your request for consultation by email to: planning@airnav.ie

Kind regards,

Dave

From: Cathal Creedon <cathal.creedon@ftco.ie>
Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 9:21 AM
Cc: Robyn Nicholl <robyn.nicholl@ftco.ie>
Subject: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)

*** This message originated from outside the Irish Aviation Authority. Please treat hyperlinks, attachments and instructions in this email with caution. ***

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you that we have attached the scoping report as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a wind farm which will be referred to as the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, located in Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council. The report is attached, along with a cover letter outlining the details of the submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Cathal Creedon.



Cathal Creedon
Graduate Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

www.fehilytimoney.ie

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Registered Number: 211082 Place of Registration: Ireland A limited liability company

Cathal Creedon
Fehily Timoney & Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
County Cork

8 January 2025

Proposed Derrynadarragh Windfarm, EIAR scoping

Dear Mr. Creedon,

IFI is charged with the protection, conservation and promotion of fisheries within our functional area. Board policy is aimed at maintaining a sustainable fisheries resource through preserving the productive capacity of fish habitat by avoiding habitat loss and mitigating harmful alteration to habitat.

This site is in the upper Barrow catchment with two associated watercourses, one a small tributary of the Figile and Barrow Rivers the second the Cushina River an important salmon spawning tributary of the Barrow system.

Previous site visits by IFI to the section of Cushina within the development site highlighted modifications to this section of the Cushina river. The modifications noted included:

- Deepening
- Widening
- Significant over-deepening of the Cushina River has resulted in the removal of all/most gravels from this section of channel as the river here was excavated down to subsoils beneath the river. In addition, the underlying subsoils here are composed of heavy clay with little/no associated gravel in the bed/bank for gravel recruitment and natural habitat restoration. The over-deepening here has increased the cross-sectional area of the river here resulting a significant reduction in flow velocities and because of this the substrate of the bed of the Cushina through this section of channel is dominated by deep silt deposition. Similar hydro-morphological damage to the Cushina River upstream means that there is no gravel transport from upstream to replace those removed previously.
- Significant over-widening of the Cushina has resulted in a highly degraded hydro-morphology with the loss of natural sinuosity and natural instream variation characterized by the pool/glide/riffle sequence. The over-widening of the Cushina has also increased the cross-sectional area of the river here significantly with a reduction in flow velocities resulting in a channel characterized by deposition of silt and an over-abundance of aquatic plants clogging the channel.

Human intervention will be necessary to facilitate recovery of the fisheries habitat here and Inland Fisheries Ireland request that this proposed development include habitat restoration of the section of Cushina River flowing through the proposed development site.

It is important to stress that habitat restoration of the Cushina River is likely to improve the flood conveyance capacity of the Cushina at this location as increased flow velocities will reduce the growth of instream floating/emergent vegetation which is the main issue contributing to flooding on over-deepened/over-widened channels in the upper Barrow catchment.

IFI note that this development will include the construction of a new river crossing of the Cushina. Any new crossing of the Cushina River should be a clear span structure and the design and construction method statement for its construction must be agreed with IFI.

Previous visits to this section of the Cushina river have highlighted excellent riparian/terrestrial habitat along long sections of the Cushina River. IFI request that in choosing a location for the new river crossing here that a location which will limit the necessity to remove any such habitat be chosen.

IFI note that the proposed development area includes a small tributary of the Figile River which flows parallel and to the north of the Cushina River. The maps provided would suggest that an access road from the development site to the Bracknagh-Portarlinton road is proposed and will require a new crossing of this watercourse. IFI request clarification if an access road is proposed here and if so, would highlight that the design and construction method statement for its construction must be agreed with IFI.

Other concerns of IFI include

- As referred to above, our knowledge of the site is that the subsoils throughout are composed of heavy/fine clay which is prone to erosion and likely to result in the generation of significant suspended solids. The construction of significant roadways and excavations for turbines and associated hardstands through these fine clays have potential to generate significant quantities of suspended solids, with the Cushina or Figile River being the ultimate receptor for this material if adequate steps are not put in place to address this.
- One of the potential impacts of projects such as this is the discharge of silt-laden waters to fisheries streams. Silt can clog salmonid spawning beds, and juvenile salmonids are particularly sensitive to siltation of gill structures. Similarly plant and macro-invertebrate communities can literally be blanketed over, and this can lead to loss or degradation of valuable habitat.
- Systems should be put in place to ensure that there shall be no discharge of suspended solids or other deleterious matter to watercourses during any phase of works at this site.
- The design and sizing of the surface water drainage system must ensure that no suspended solids enter the surface water network flowing to the Cushina/Figile, even during periods of prolonged heavy rainfall.

- IFI request that the focus of any works methodology be measures which eliminate/reduce the generation of suspended solids.
- All surface waters from the site and access roads should be channelled through adequately sized petrol/oil interceptors prior and be subject to attenuation prior to discharge to surface waters.
- If silt settlement ponds are proposed for this facility. It is important that they are oversized to cope with all eventualities.
- The activities proposed for this site are likely to result in significant lorry traffic to and from the site, with potential for the generation of significant suspended solids pollution in the associated road run-off. It is imperative that the potential for suspended solids pollution from road run-off associated with vehicles entering and leaving this site is fully addressed.

Please feel free to contact us if you require any clarification.

Yours faithfully,

Donnachadh Byrne
Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer

Please note that any further correspondence regarding this matter should be addressed to Mr. Donnachadh Byrne, Senior Fisheries Environmental Officer, Inland Fisheries Ireland, 3044 Lake Drive, Citywest Business Campus, Dublin 24

From: [Paul Brunel](#)
To: [Cathal Creedon](#); [Robyn Nicholl](#)
Cc: ronnie.oneill@imaginegroup.ie
Subject: RE: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)
Date: Thursday 12 December 2024 11:16:00
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.jpg](#)
[image007.jpg](#)
[image008.jpg](#)
[image009.png](#)
[image010.png](#)
[image001.png](#)
[20230808_BNM_Areas.kml](#)

Hi Cathal,
In August 2023 we received a request from Bord na Móna for information relating to telecommunication links in five Development areas as per attached .kml file.
We provided the following information for the area below, now known as Derrynadarragh Wind Farm:

Walsh Island Area

A map of a field? ? Description automatically generated with medium confidence



We have three microwave links at Cellnex Gracefield GAA, located within this area.

Two over the same path to Dunmurry Hill:

	KE013 Towercom Dunmurray Hill	OY020 Cellnex Gracefield GAA
Latitude	53.1986 N	53.168281 N
Longitude	6.9336 W	7.216377 W
ITM Eastings	671252	652395
Northings	716993	713375
Elevation (m)	159.13	86.96

Antenna Height 1(m)	14.20	23.4
Antenna Height 2(m)	14.20	23.4
Frequency 1 (MHz)	6670.00	
Frequency 2 (MHz)	6830.00	
Path length (km)	19.21	

One to Kilmullen:

	LS025 Cellnex Tirhogar Kilmullen	OY020 Cellnex Gracefield GAA
Latitude	53.144005 N	53.168281 N
Longitude	7.143859 W	7.216377 W
ITM Eastings	657276	652395
Northings	710730	713375
Elevation (m)	83.40	86.96
Antenna height (m)	20.00	20.00
Frequency (MHz)	22806.00	
Path length (km)	5.57	

Please confirm that you will consider our microwave links in relation to any proposed wind turbine locations, Fresnel zone clearances & set-back safety buffers.



Kind Regards,

Paul Brunel

Transmission Planner,

Network Deployment.



www.imagine.ie



086 388 1962



Sandyford Business Centre |
Blackthorn Road |Sandyford |
D18AW89



Disclaimer: www.imagine.ie/email-disclaimer/

From: Ronnie O'Neill <Ronnie.ONeill@imagingroup.ie>

Sent: 12 December 2024 09:23

To: Paul Brunel <Paul.Brunel@imagingroup.ie>

Subject: Fw: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)

Not sure if your on the mail.



Ronnie O'Neill
Head of Network Deployment

www.imagine.ie
086 8277 022
Sandyford Business Centre |
Blackthorn Road Sandyford |
D18AW89

Disclaimer: www.imagine.ie/email-disclaimer/

From: Cathal Creedon <cathal.creedon@ftco.ie>

Sent: Thursday, December 12, 2024 9:20:36 AM

Cc: Robyn Nicholl <robyn.nicholl@ftco.ie>

Subject: EIAR Scoping Report (Derrynadarragh Wind Farm)

This email originated outside of the organisation - please exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to inform you that we have attached the scoping report as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for a wind farm which will be referred to as the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, located in Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council. The report is attached, along with a cover letter outlining the details of the submission.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require any further information.

Kind regards,

Cathal Creedon.



Cathal Creedon
Graduate Planner

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www.fehilytimoney.ie

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Non statutory EIA Scoping Report

APPLICANT: Dara Energy Ltd

PROPOSAL: Wind Energy Development at Derrynadarragh. The proposed development will include up to 5 no. wind turbines (Co Offaly).

REPORT DUE DATE: 28th February 2025

Introduction

The applicant has submitted an EIAR Scoping Report as part of a stakeholder consultation process for a proposed development likely to comprise of:

- The erection of 9 no. wind turbines (5 in Co Offaly) with an overall ground to blade tip height of 186m.
- Construction of site access tracks, upgrading of existing tracks, turbine hardstand areas and turbine foundations.
- A bridge crossing
- An on-site 110kV substation and compound including control buildings and associated electrical equipment.
- Underground electrical and communication cabling options.
- Drainage and sediment controls.
- Temporary construction compound and tree felling.
- Underground cables from the proposed development to the National Grid connection point as well as improvements to the public road network required for the delivery of turbine components.
- Access to the site will be made via a new site entrance along the R419 regional road.

Given that the proposal development will be subject of a SID application OCC cannot issue a formal scoping EIA, as this is the responsibility of An Bord Pleanála.

Please note that any comments made by Offaly County Council are non binding in the formal planning process.

However, please have regard to the following internal comments from sections of Offaly County Council.

Roads Section:

General Requirements

- A Construction Management Plan shall be submitted to OCC. Contents to include implementation of planning conditions and EIS requirements.
- Traffic and Transport Assessment to be carried out in accordance with TII publication, Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines PE-PDV-02045, May 2014.
- OCC to be advised of details of PSDP, PSCS and contractors.
- A road opening licence will be required from OCC
- Insurances
- Performance bond
- A dedicated liaison engineer to be appointed by OCC and all associated costs covered by the Developer.

- Long term damage fee or works in lieu.
- Developer to consult with An Garda Síochána, emergency services and bus operators in relation to each stage of the works
- Liaison with the public, residents, businesses and schools.
- Allow for briefing of Elected Members in affected Municipal Districts

Haulage and Material Delivery Routes

- Detailed programme of deliveries to be submitted to OCC in advance of commencement of deliveries. Details to include dates and times, number of loads, weights, road closure and diversion routes, support vehicles, etc.
- Identification of landowners at all nodes and entry/exit points requiring temporary or permanent works. If OCC consider that the land used for any temporary or permanent works would be beneficial for the improvement of the existing road, then the developer shall carry out a design for the improvement and implement same.
- Pre-condition survey of delivery routes, consisting of a video survey and photographs, and a detailed survey of all node locations to be carried out and a copy submitted to OCC. Survey at nodes to include drainage, landscaping, surfacing, boundary fences/hedges/gates, signage.
- Where OCC consider a proposed delivery route is not in a suitable condition, the developer shall upgrade the road or junction in advance of delivery operations.
- Any damage caused to the road shall be repaired to its previous condition, to the satisfaction of OCC.
- Developer to consult with all service providers (including Uisce Éireann) in relation to turbine delivery routes. OCC to be advised of any alterations required.
- Developer to consult with An Garda Síochána and emergency services in relation to the turbine deliveries.
- Design and construction details for temporary modifications at node points to be submitted, for approval by OCC. Details to include arrangements for both delivery phases and road open phases. Road safety audits in accordance with TII Road Safety Audit Guidelines, GE-STY-01027, December 2017 to be carried out, if appropriate. OCC may request All EIS requirements to be achieved.
- Abnormal load permits will be required.
- Any alterations affecting the width of the existing road shall be reinstated to the original width, unless otherwise agreed with OCC. Where roads are widened, the specification shall be that of the existing road at a minimum.
- An emergency plan shall be submitted.
- Liaison with local groups such as Tidy Towns, etc.
- Liaison with the TII for transportation on the motorway.
- All areas affected by the works shall be fully reinstated to their original condition. Where landscaping has been removed, similar plants of similar maturity shall be used for reinstatement. Where it is not possible to replace mature trees, younger trees plus additional landscaping shall be provided in lieu to enhance the area. Where hedging is removed and new hedging planted as reinstatement, suitable fencing shall be provided for the protection of the hedge, and maintenance shall be provided until the hedge is established. Where grass is replaced with new seeding, the grass shall be maintained until it is established. Full reinstatement shall be completed within one month of the final delivery.
- Traffic management plan to be submitted for haulage of materials, including at entry/exit points.

- Pre-condition survey of delivery routes, consisting of a video survey and photographs, a Road Condition Survey, and an FWD Survey where required, to be carried out and a copy submitted to OCC.
- Where OCC consider a proposed haul route is not in a suitable condition, the developer shall upgrade the road or junction in advance of haulage operations.
- Any defects that appear during the haulage period shall be rectified by the developer.
- Any damage caused to the road shall be repaired to its previous condition, to the satisfaction of OCC.
- Public roads shall be kept free of mud, dust, spillages and debris. Any necessary measures shall be put in place at site entry/exit points.
- Details of cable installation to be submitted to OCC in advance of commencement of works. Details to include works programme, construction details, cross-sections for each road showing location of trench in road and existing road width, existing services.
- Where road closures are required, an application must be submitted to OCC at least 8 weeks in advance.
- Where road works speed limits are required, an application shall be submitted to OCC at least 8 weeks in advance. Signs to be erected by the developer.
- Pre-condition structural surveys on adjacent properties shall be carried out where necessary.
- All works shall be in accordance with the TII Specification for Road Works unless otherwise specified.
- Reinstatement of the trench in local and regional roads shall be in accordance with the latest version of "Guidelines for the Opening, Backfilling and Reinstatement of Trenches in Public Roads" (The Purple Book), except where noted otherwise.
- Reinstatement of the trench in national roads shall be in accordance with the latest version of "Specification for the Reinstatement of Openings in National Roads", except where noted otherwise.
- After temporary reinstatement of the trench:
 - A full width overlay shall be provided on all local roads.
 - A half road permanent reinstatement shall be provided on regional roads > 6.0 metres wide.
 - National road – to be agreed with TII and OCC
- All permanent restoration shall be agreed with OCC.
- Ironworks shall be raised & reset as necessary and road markings and road studs reinstated.
- All existing watercourse crossings/bridges shall be identified and detailed designs submitted to indicate how these will be crossed.
- The developer shall allow in his programme for accommodation of local events, such as charity walks and cycles.
- A defects liability period of 2 years shall apply. This shall commence when written notification has been given that the permanent reinstatement/overlay has been completed.

Municipal District of Edenderry

On examination of the scoping report submitted by Dara Energy Limited in relation to a proposed wind energy development at Derrynadarragh Wind Farm, the Municipal District of Edenderry would comment as follows.

- The proposed turbine delivery route shall be subject to a swept path analysis assessment to determine the capability of the route proposed. Pinch points, including junctions and entrances to the development and alterations required to achieve a clear delivery route shall be identified with proposals of required alterations etc included.
- Determination of the road network capacity shall be carried out by the applicant. As the road network through the Municipal District of Edenderry is founded on Peat subsoils, this characteristic must be given due diligence when determining the impact of development traffic and delivery routes for the project. A schedule of materials required to construct the development shall be developed and delivery quantities and frequency of deliveries shall be used when calculating the impact this development will have on the road network. Significant infrastructural upgrades will inevitably need to be carried out to accommodate the development and such should be included as part of proposals. A detailed Transport Management Plan including details of the road network/ haulage routes and the vehicle types to be used to transport materials on and off site and a schedule of control measures for exceptionally wide and heavy deliveries shall be included in the submission.
- All ancillary road infrastructure such as bridges, tunnels, culverts along the proposed Construction Haulage route and Turbine delivery route will require detailed structural assessments to establish their capabilities to facilitate the Construction related traffic of such a development. If Infrastructural improvements are deemed as required in order to facilitate construction, these plans shall be included as part of the submission.
- A Traffic Impact Assessment shall be included as part of the submission and relevant Health and Safety mitigation measures as required shall be submitted. This shall include risk assessments and mitigation measures required to be implemented by the applicant/ developer during the construction of such a development. Particular consideration shall be given to other road users, pedestrians and the local population around the locus of the development area.
- Cable Route – Refer to Laois Co Co and Kildare Co Co. It is noted that the cable route construction will be located in Counties Laois and Kildare only. Offaly County Council therefore have no comment to make on the cable route.
- Scoping Report should be referred to Kildare & Laois County Council also for comment.

Relevant section of the Offaly County Development Plan

The Applicant's attention is directed to the Offaly County Council Development Plan 2021-2027 Wind Strategy and Volume One-Chapter 3, Chapter 4 and Chapter 13 DMS-109 of the *Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027*. Please note that other sections, policies and objectives of the plan shall also be relevant to the proposal.

OCC would also request that a separate document be included which briefly summarises all significant potential impacts of the development, mitigation measures proposed for each significant impact and residual impacts if the mitigation measures are implemented.



Enda Finlay
Graduate Planner

27th February 2025



Ed Kelly
ASEP

27th February 2025

From: [Housing Manager DAU](#)
To: [Derrynadarragh Windfarm](#)
Subject: Your Ref: P22-145/EIARScopingLetter Our Ref: G Pre00395/2024 Proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm
Date: Friday 7 February 2025 08:59:52
Attachments: [G Pre003952024.pdf](#)

A Chara,

Attached please find the archaeological observations/recommendations of the Department in relation to the aforementioned EIA Scoping Report.

Can you please confirm receipt of same?

Kind Regards,
Sinéad

—
Sinéad O' Brien
Executive Officer

—
Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit
Oifigí an Rialtais
Government Offices
Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford Y35 AP90
—

APPENDIX 5.3

SID Determination and Meeting Minutes

Our Case Number: ABP-320137-24



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution RN/JH

09 SEP 2025

Job No: *P22-145*

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Co. Cork
T12 D773

Date: 08 September 2025

Re: Proposed development of a 9 no. wind turbine renewable energy project and 110kV on site substation in the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower and Chevychase or Derrynadarragh near Bracknagh, in County Offaly and the townlands of Aughrim and Derrylea near Monastervin in County Kildare

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Commission 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), (b) and (c) of the Act. Accordingly, the Commission 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 Coimisiún Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Commission considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed. You are advised that the provisions of the REDIII Directive (2023/2413) were transposed by SI 274/2025 – European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 and that any new strategic infrastructure development renewable energy related applications must conform with the requirements which are now in place as set out in the Regulations. Furthermore, mandatory EIA scoping provisions will come into effect on the 1st October 2025.

Attached is a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development.

1. Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
2. Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine
3. Minister for the Climate, Environment and Energy
4. Minister for Enterprise, Tourism and Employment
5. Minister for Arts, Media, Communication, Culture and Sport
6. Laois County Council.
7. Kildare County Council
8. Offaly County Council
9. Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly

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D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

10. Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
11. An Taisce
12. An Chomhairle Ealaíon
13. Fáilte Ireland
14. The Heritage Council
15. National Parks & Wildlife Service
16. Inland Fisheries Ireland
17. Irish Water
18. Irish Aviation Authority
19. Health Service Executive
20. Commission for Regulation of Utilities
21. 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 Commission 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 Coimisiún Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Judicial review of An Coimisiún Pleanála decisions under the provisions of the Planning and Development Acts (as amended).

A person wishing to challenge the validity of a Commission 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 Commission.

The validity of a decision taken by the Commission 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 Commission. 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.

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	communications@pleanala.ie

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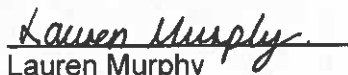
Section 50B contains provisions in relation to the cost of judicial review proceedings in the High Court relating to specified types of development (including proceedings relating to decisions or actions pursuant to a law of the state that gives effect to the public participation and access to justice 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.

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 Commission or email sids@pleanala.ie quoting the above mentioned An Coimisiún Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Commission.

Yours faithfully,


Lauren Murphy
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737275

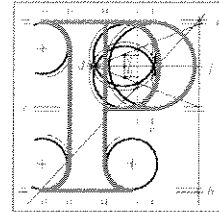
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D01 V902	D01 V902

Our Case Number: ABP-320137-24

Your Reference: Dara Energy Limited



An
Bord
Pleanála

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
Co. Cork
T12 D773

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution *TM / RN*

03 OCT 2024

Job No: *P22145*

Correspondence No: *1*

Comment:

Date: 02 October 2024

Re: Proposed development of a 9 no. wind turbine renewable energy project and 110kV on site substation

In the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower and Chevychase or Derrynadarragh near Bracknagh, in County Offaly and the townlands of Aughrim and Derrylea near Monastervin in County 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 **11th September 2024.**

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,

PP DC

Ellen Moss
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737285

PC07

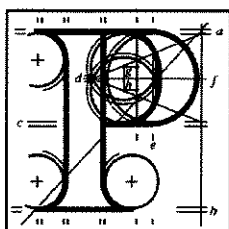
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An
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Pleanála

Record of 1st Meeting ABP-320137-24

Case Reference / Description	Proposed development of a 9 no. wind turbine renewable energy project and 110kV on site substation, in the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower and Chevychase or Derrynadarragh near Bracknagh, in County Offaly and the townlands of Aughrim and Derrylea near Monastervin in County Kildare		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	1 st Meeting		
Date	11 th September 2024	Start Time	11:00am
Location	MS Teams	End Time	11:45am

Representing An Bord Pleanála

Una Crosse (Assistant Planning Director) Chair

Laura Finn (Senior Planning Inspector)

Lauren Murphy (Executive Officer)

Representing the Prospective Applicant

Nicholas Lyons, Dara Energy Limited

Damien Courtney, Dara Energy Limited

John Crean, Dara Energy Limited

Austin Coughlan, Dara Energy Limited

Jim Hughes, Fehily Timoney

Robyn Nicholl, Fehily Timoney
Patrick Crushell, Ecologist

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 9th July 2024, requesting pre-application consultations under section 37E 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 representatives 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 provided a presentation to the Board's representatives in respect of the proposed development. This presentation has been placed on the file.

The prospective applicant concluded the meeting presentation by discussing next steps they intend to take, and if no further pre application meeting is required they intend to seek closure of this pre application consultation.

Discussion:

- The Boards representatives began the discussion by raising a question in relation to the purpose of the proposed bridge development crossing the Cushina River. The prospective applicant clarified that the purpose of this bridge crossing will be used as a Turbine Delivery Route during the construction phase and thereafter as access to the proposed site during the operational stage.
- The Boards representatives sought clarity on any consultations that had been undertaken with prescribed bodies in relation to the proposed bridge crossing with the prospective applicant clarifying that they propose to consult with the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). The prospective applicant stated that they have carried out flood risk assessments which will make up part of their Natura Impact Statement as part of their planning application.
- The prospective applicant stated that their design team will assess the proposed bridge and propose a method of construction to comply with the guidelines set out by the OPW and IFI and will obtain the necessary licences. They will also include a comprehensive construction methodology report as part of their Environmental Impact Assessment.

- The Boards representatives note that there are two proposed substations associated with the proposed development and questioned the rationale for same. The prospective applicant clarified that the Brathlone 110kV substation is already permitted, however it has not yet been constructed and the proposed 110kV substation located on site would be constructed and handed over to EirGrid to become part of the network. Cumulative impacts of the Brathlone substation development will be identified with the EIAR.
- The prospective applicant clarified that at this stage it was proposed to submit one EIAR in respect of both the proposed wind energy and grid connection infrastructure.
- The prospective applicant queries if the proposed 110kV substation could be submitted as part of the Wind Farm development application under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The Board representatives noted that the Board had previously accepted applications that incorporated both wind energy and grid connection infrastructure under s.37, however the final decision on the most appropriate way in which to present such applications lies with the prospective applicant informed by their own advice.
- The prospective applicant outlined that they have consulted with EirGrid and presented them with assessments and studies carried out to date. EirGrid will not provide a formal grid connection offer until planning permission for the proposed development has been approved. However, the prospective applicant stated that as a preliminary view based on consultations undertaken with EirGrid, there is currently capacity to connect the proposed development to the Brathlone 110kV substation.
- The prospective applicant clarified that there are multiple landowners but are unsure of the exact figure but c. 6-10 landowners.

- The Boards representatives gave their preliminary opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development but stated that the final determination is a matter for the Board.

Conclusion:

The Board's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the pre-application consultation process. The Board's representatives advised that the record of the meeting will be issued in the meantime and that the prospective applicant can submit any comments they may have in writing or alternatively bring any comments for discussion at the time of any further meeting.

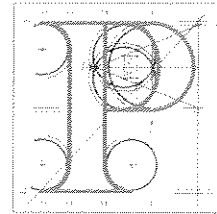
The Meeting concluded at 11:45am.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Una Crosse', is written over a horizontal line.

Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning

Our Case Number: ABP-320137-24
Your Reference: Dara Energy Limited



An
Bord
Pleanála

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
Co. Cork
T12 D773

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution **JH1RN**

15 JAN 2025

Job No:

P22-145

Correspondence No:

2

Comment:

Date: 13 January 2025

Re: Proposed development of a 9 no. wind turbine renewable energy project and 110kV on site substation
In the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower and Chevychase or Derrynadarragh near Bracknagh, in County Offaly and the townlands of Aughrim and Derrylea near Monastervin in County 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 12th December 2024.

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,


Lauren Murphy
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737275

PC07

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution

15 JAN 2025

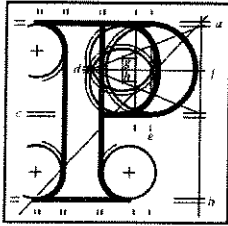
Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

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Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting

ABP-320137-24

Case Reference / Description	Proposed development of a 9 number wind turbine renewable energy project and 110kV on site substation in the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower and Chevychase or Derrynadarragh near Bracknagh, in County Offaly and the townlands of Aughrim and Derrylea near Monastervin in County Kildare.		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting	3 rd Meeting		
Date	12/12/2024	Start Time	11:00am
Location	MS Teams	End Time	11:10am

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Una Crosse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Laura Finn, Senior Planning Inspector
Lauren Murphy, Executive Officer

Representing the Prospective Applicant
Robyn Nicholl, Fehily Timoney
Nicholas Lyons, Dara Energy Limited
Maria Fitzgerald, Dara Energy Limited

Introduction

The Board welcomed the prospective applicant to the meeting and introduced those attending from the Board. The Board gave the prospective applicant an opportunity to introduce its team.

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 22nd November 2024 requesting a third pre-application consultation meeting under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

Presentation made by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant began the presentation by advising the Boards representatives that following from legal advice they received, they do not intend on seeking a design flexibility opinion on the proposed wind turbine or the grid connection aspect of the proposed development.

The prospective applicant advised that the proposed development is intended to consist of 9 number wind turbines, the wind turbine specification proposed was set out in the presentation.

The prospective applicant concluded the presentation by providing a brief overview of the proposed grid connection aspect of the development which will involve the construction of a new onsite 110kV substation with a 110kV underground cable connecting to the Bracklone Substation, which is currently under construction.

Discussion:

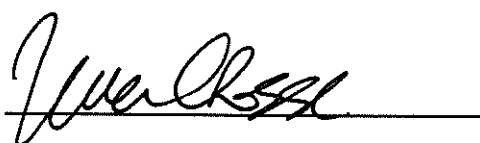
- The Boards representatives began the discussion by noting that the prospective applicant has clarified that they do not wish to seek a design flexibility opinion on the proposed development.
- The Boards representatives asked the prospective applicant to clarify if the proposed locations of the wind turbines have been altered since the first meeting. The prospective applicant advised that the proposed turbine locations have not been altered.

- The representatives of the Board asked the prospective applicant to provide an update on their consultations with relevant bodies. The prospective applicant informed the Board's representatives that they had distributed an Environmental Impact Assessment Report scoping document to all parties consulted on the 12th December 2024, with a deadline of February 2025 for responses and feedback to be submitted.
- The Boards representatives advised the prospective applicant that consultations with the Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and the Office of Public Works (OPW) would be advisable prior to submitting the application to address any issues or concerns they may have in relation to the proposed development, and particularly the bridge crossing, which was discussed in the first meeting.
- The prospective applicant explained that the purpose of the third pre-application meeting was to clarify their intention to submit a single turbine option and a single grid route option as part of their application for the proposed development. However, they informed the Boards representatives that they do not plan to conclude the pre-application process until they have finalized the proposal description.

Conclusion:

The Board's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The Board's representatives advised that the record of the instant meeting will be issued in the meantime and that 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 11:10.



Una Crosse

Assistant Director of Planning

APPENDIX 5.4

RPS Public Engagement Report (dated July 2025)

DERRYNADARRAGH WIND FARM PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY

July 2025

IE000776
A02
July 2025

Document status					
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Prepared for:

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1 ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

RPS was appointed by Dara Energy Limited to conduct community engagement for the early-stage development of the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm. David Martin of the RPS Project Communications team was appointed as Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for the project. The CLO (David Martin) undertook the engagement accompanied by a colleague from the RPS project communications team.

Two periods of stakeholder engagement were held in autumn 2024 and spring 2025.

In preparation for the initial round of engagement a community information leaflet was produced, to give stakeholders project information in an accessible way while also providing contact information for the project, this can be seen in **Appendix A**. A calling card was also produced to accompany the project information leaflet if there was no engagement with a property, this can be seen in **Appendix B**. Finally, a project website was established which contains the project information, contact details, a google maps location of the site and supporting documents. The website was updated with a Frequently Asked Questions section to address reoccurring stakeholder questions. Screenshots from the project website can be seen in **Appendix C**.

Additional communications materials were created for the second period of consultation. A letter inviting residents to the public information event was developed, including project information and contact details for the CLO, this can be seen in **Appendix D**. An updated project leaflet was produced which can be seen in **Appendix E**. Pull-ups to display the project information and a map showing the proposed preliminary layout of the turbines were also produced for the public information event, copies of these can be seen in **Appendix F**.

During both periods of engagement, the RPS staff drove in a white car, branded with the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm logo and name. This can be seen in **Appendix G**.

In this engagement report the term Stakeholder is being used to refer to residents of Bracknagh Co. Offaly and the surrounding countryside.

1.1 Purpose of Engagement

The purpose of the community engagement in 2024 was to visit all dwellings within a 1km radius of the proposed project study area to inform them of the proposed project. This entailed outlining the project's benefits and potential impacts, as well outlining the Community Benefit Fund and discussing ideas regarding the fund. Each pre-identified dwelling was visited on multiple occasions within a four-week period. Dates of periods of engagement can be seen in the section below.

Over the first two days of engagement, the project information leaflet was delivered to all dwellings. Where no homeowner / resident was present a calling card was left along with the leaflet.

A second round of community engagement was held in spring 2025. It was aimed at generating further awareness of the project and inviting the local community to attend the public information event on 7th May 2025. In advance of the event, the CLO delivered a community letter to over 200 homes previously identified for the 2024 engagement and newly identified. This community letter invited the household to the event, provided project information and contact details for the CLO.

The letter was folded around the updated project information leaflet and put into letter boxes and doors. A number of copies were handed directly to residents following brief discussions in relation to the project and the upcoming event.

1.2 Dates and Time Engaged

Engagement with the pre-identified dwellings occurred across several days during a four-week period between 11th September and 3rd October 2024.

Engagement time varied, and included visits in the morning, afternoon and evening until 7:30pm. This was to maximise the chance that those working shift work, nights, part-time, full time and those commuting to other areas e.g., Dublin, were home when the engagement took place.

The invitation and updated project leaflets were delivered 10 days in advance of the event to give the community enough time to be made aware of the public information event.

1.3 Information Service

The project phone line and email service went live on 1st September 2024. The phone and email were highlighted to all stakeholders engaged with. Stakeholders have contacted both the phone and email for more in-depth conversations about the project or to have follow up conversations.

Phone line: 087-1698635

Email: Community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

Website: www.derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

1.4 Numbers Engaged

The numbers below reflect stakeholders that engaged with the CLO upon a visit to their house in autumn 2024. Some people were engaged with on more than one occasion.

Date	Numbers Engaged
11th September 2024	65
19th September 2024	43
20th September 2024	27
24th September 2024	7
27th September 2024	7
3rd October 2024	18

Table 1 - Number of people engaged with by RPS staff in autumn 2024.

1.5 Houses not Directly Engaged

Throughout the engagement period in autumn 2024, although all residential dwellings identified received a project information leaflet and at least one calling card. A number of stakeholders were not present or did not answer the door when attempts were made to visit and revisit. This number is approximately 30.

2 MAP OF THOSE ENGAGED

The maps below show the number of dwellings engaged in each area surrounding the project area.

2.1 South of the Study Area



2.2 The Road into the Study Area



2.3 The Road leading into Bracknagh Village



2.4 Bracknagh Village



3 PUBLIC INFORMATION EVENT

A public information event was held from 2-8pm on the 7th May 2025 for local residents, stakeholders and members of the public. The event was organised by the CLO on behalf of Dara Energy Limited.

The event was held in the local community hall, Bracknagh Community Hall, which is located within one of the housing estates in the village. This location was selected to ensure convenient access for the local community.

The CLO and two other members of the RPS Project Communications team facilitated the information event along with representatives from the appointed environmental specialists Fehily Timoney, who are carrying out the environmental impact assessment, and representatives from the developer, Inis Onshore Wind.

Project information pull-ups and maps showing the proposed preliminary layout of the turbines were displayed for attendees to read and consider. Members of the team were available to answer any questions attendees had on the proposals and document any feedback received. Approximately 50 stakeholders attended the event.

Additional information to support some stakeholder's queries was issued directly to them following the event. The feedback gathered at this event is reported in **Section 4**, below.

4 STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

In general stakeholders were positively disposed to the project.

However, a number of stakeholders also informed us that they would be opposed to the project.

Stakeholders mentioned previous plans for a seven-turbine wind farm in the area, which was not developed, and was not supported by the community.

Some stakeholders proposed that the project be developed as a Solar Farm instead, which they said would get community support.

On the proposed project location, various stakeholders asked who owned the land proposed to be used and speculated as to who it could be.

Stakeholders also questioned if forestry or trees will be planted around the turbines and if bog cutting will still be allowed on the site.

On Ecology, it was asserted by local people that there are at least two curlews nesting in the area. People asked if the project could improve the biodiversity of the site for wildlife, rewet the bogland and create an eco-park centred around renewable energy generation.

On the project's operational phase, residents requested that a designated person be made available for the community to contact to address any potential issues that may arise.

4.1 Topic 1: Community Benefit Fund

Throughout the engagement periods, stakeholders were informed of the community benefit fund (CBF) and asked for suggestions for possible local projects that could be helped by the fund. Stakeholders raised various local issues and projects that they wished to be considered for inclusion in the funding.

Stakeholders questioned the CBF, how it works, when first payments will be made, how the application process takes places, who sits on the committee and asked about independent oversight.

Suggestions for the CBF also included;

- Solar PV panels for the local Primary School to reduce their energy bills;
- The inclusion of a public walkway into/around the wind farm development (possibly using the access road);
- Speed bumps through the village to reduce passing car speed;
- The improvement of safety measures of drop-off facilities at the local Primary School, such as a lay-by or the purchase of a small strip of land opposite the school;
- The improvement of parking facilities around the community hall;
- Purchase of the community hall from Bord na Móna;
- The purchase of land within the village for a playground;
- Local jobs;

Stakeholders expressed an interest in the project investing in one or some of these suggestions prior to the commencement of the construction / operation of the project as a sign of good faith and commitment to the community and the area into the future.

Stakeholders asked if the fund could be applied to residential energy bills to help with the cost of energy, and stakeholders referenced the Near Neighbour Scheme.

Further information as to what the CBF can or cannot do was requested to be provided to stakeholders prior to the lodging of the planning application.

4.1.1 Home Energy Upgrades

Home energy upgrades, insulation and Solar PV panels were a reoccurring theme amongst stakeholders. It was said that a portion of the CBF could be allocated towards home energy improvements, that stakeholders

could apply for funding from to compliment government funding streams such as those from the SEAI. This was said to be an important aspect of the CBF, along with direct energy payments, which stakeholders also said would be a positive benefit to the whole community. Amongst stakeholders who recently upgraded their own homes or have recently refurbished / decorated their homes, the idea of direct energy payments was more appealing.

Suggestions for the CBF in relation to home energy upgrades included;

- New windows and doors;
- Home insulation;
- Direct payments to electricity bills;
- Subsidised energy costs.

4.1.2 Community Amenities

A number of the stakeholders raised community amenities as their top priority for the community benefit fund.

It was said by some that the fund could potentially cause division within the community unless proper engagement and consensus can be reached as to the fund's administration. It was suggested by stakeholders that an independent element to the CBF administration would be welcomed.

A representative from the local clay pigeon club asked if their shooting rights would be affected by the project and if the CBF could go towards the development of a car park area along the access road for their club's use.

4.2 Topic 2: Issues and Concerns

Throughout the engagement with stakeholders, a number of conversations centred on potential issues, concerns and objections to the project.

Concerns surrounded potential noise issues (including low frequency noise), shadow flicker, visual impacts, perceived risk of property being devalued, cost of energy, the carbon cost of the project, wildlife concerns, flora and fauna concerns and impact on forestry, amongst others.

A few stakeholders said they felt that there are too many wind turbines in the area and in Offaly in general. They felt that if this project goes ahead, they will be able to see wind farms or turbines from every side of their house. One stakeholder felt that the technology is wasted after its lifespan, and it harms the environment.

Stakeholders also asked for photomontages to be produced to understand the potential visual impact from various points around the community.

A number of residents we spoke to expressed their opposition to the project for various reasons, from the proposed proximity to the village, the number of turbines, their size, and the number of other wind farms in the area.

Questions regarding the impact on the proposed bog land were raised as it was said to be a carbon sink and the amount of concrete needed for turbine foundations was questioned in this regard. Stakeholders asked about the 'carbon cost of the project', requested the carbon calculations be made available and that a 'carbon buy-back' time (the time it takes the project to become carbon neutral / negative) is calculated.

4.2.1 Construction

Stakeholders expressed concern about the potential impact of the construction phase of the project. They said that currently construction trucks disrupt daily lives, shake windows and damage local roads. They questioned if the CBF could be diverted to improving the road network upon completion of the construction element of the project.

It was also questioned where the construction traffic would come from, and it was asked that the village and particularly the bridge into the village be avoided, as it was said that current construction trucks are

damaging it. Stakeholders also asked about construction traffic routes and the possible use of Walshe's / Wallace's Lane for construction traffic.

Haul routes for the larger parts of the turbines were also discussed with residents. People said that road closures should be avoided as the community have previously been severely impacted by road closures for other similar projects.

4.3 Topic 4: Grid Connection

Several stakeholders questioned the grid connection points and the route to be used to connect to these points. The cable route and its impact on local roads was discussed on various occasions with stakeholders.

4.4 Topic 5: Project Communications and Information

Throughout the engagement period, stakeholders requested that when more information becomes available, that it is made public to the community for their input.

It was said that a community information event would be welcomed. People asked that environmental experts, planning experts, the project team and any other expert that contributed to the planning application be present at this information event.

Of the stakeholders that were engaged multiple times in September / October 2024 they said that further information would help inform their opinion of the project.

4.4.1 Contacts in the Community

Over the course of the engagement period, a number of contacts within the community were gathered, and are listed below. Their contact details are not included in this report for GDPR reasons.

- Bracknagh Community Association
- Bracknagh Community Hall
- Clay Pigeon Club
- GAA Club
- Local Shop
- Public House.

Appendix A Community Information Leaflet 2024



Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

Information Leaflet Autumn 2024

Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy project located on the border of East Offaly and West Kildare. The purpose of the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm project is to generate renewable electricity to power homes, farms, businesses, schools, hospitals and other workplaces in Ireland.

Dara Energy is a wholly Irish company with offices in Cork and in Dublin. The project team is highly skilled and knowledgeable with a huge amount of experience, specific to rural Ireland. The project team has a proven history of working successfully in partnership with developers, landowners, and communities to promote sustainable energy sources.

We propose to lodge a planning application with An Bord Pleanála next year. We have therefore commenced the pre-application stage, including outlining proposals to the planning authority.

We want to engage with you, the local community, to hear your feedback including local knowledge of the area, to inform our technical studies and design work as we prepare planning application documents over the coming months.

The Project

The proposed site is on a mix of agricultural, peatland and forestry lands on the Offaly-Kildare border, 1km from the village of Bracknagh, Co. Offaly, 6km east of Rathangan, Co. Kildare and 4.5km northeast of Portlannington, Co. Laois.

The proposed project will consist of nine (9) wind turbines. The wind farm will be connected to the national electricity grid via underground cables and an existing ESB substation. There would be a 110KV substation within the site.

If planning consent is granted, we anticipate that the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm would produce up to 130GWhr of electricity per year for Ireland's electricity grid - that amount of energy would power approx. 30,000 Irish homes.

If planning consent is achieved, it will take 18-24 months to build and mobilise the wind farm. The project could be operational by spring 2028 at the earliest.



Community Liaison Officer

Community Liaison Officer (CLO), David Martin, has been appointed to engage with the community and answer any queries you may have. David can be contacted by phone on 087-1698635 and by email at community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

Current Status

The project team is currently preparing a planning application which we hope to lodge with the planning authority next year. The Environmental Impact Assessment process is underway, and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is being prepared as part of the planning application. The project team has undertaken several technical studies to inform our approach, including archaeological and ecological appraisals, and noise impact assessments.

Indicative Project Timeline



Construction, Operation and Maintenance

If the project is granted planning permission, construction will take approximately 18 months. In the early stages it will involve deliveries of materials such as cement, concrete and cables, and later delivery of the turbines.

As part of the planning application, Dara Energy will prepare a Traffic Management Plan to set out how it will manage construction vehicles to ensure road safety for all workers and other road users.

Health and Safety is a priority for Dara Energy. Including for all its workers, the construction team, the community and everyone involved / impacted by the project.

When the wind farm is in operation, it will be operated remotely. Maintenance checks will be undertaken by our specialist team every few months. The operation and maintenance of the wind farm will not result in any substantial additional traffic on the local roads.



Project Factsheet

Size

If planning permission is approved, the proposed wind farm would contain **nine (9) Wind Turbines**, each with a maximum height of 186 meters

Clean Electricity

The proposed wind farm could produce **130GWhr of electricity per year** – enough to power 30,000 homes, and displace over 2 million tons of carbon over its lifetime

Environmental

The Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is being designed to comply with best practice planning and environmental guidelines using the latest available technology. This will ensure that the project achieves the clear benefits of wind energy in the context of tackling climate change and will not materially affect the amenity of the natural and built environment

Community Benefit

The proposed wind farm would include a **Community Benefit Fund (CBF)** contributing up to **€260,000 per year** to local community groups and organisations or **€3.9 Million** over 15 years

Setback Distance

The minimum setback distance will be at least **745 meters**.

Contact Us

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
Phone: 087-1698635
Email: community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie
Website: www.derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie



In 2023, Ireland's wind provided 35% of our country's total electricity needs!



Dara Energy Limited

Dara Energy Limited is an Irish renewable energy firm working to enable a sustainable energy future for the people of Ireland. Backed by the Temporis Aurora Fund, whose investors include the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF). The involvement of ISIF gives the people of Ireland a direct stake in our future success. We are passionate about developing our projects in a sustainable way.

At Dara Energy we work closely with local communities and key stakeholders, to ensure their views are heard to maximise the positive impact our projects have on the communities where we operate.

The Project Team

The project team is highly skilled and knowledgeable with a huge amount of experience, specific to rural Ireland. The project team has a proven history of working successfully in partnership with developers, landowners, and communities to promote sustainable energy sources.

Contact Us

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
Phone: 087-1698635
Email: community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie
Website: www.derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

Ireland is a global leader in producing and using renewable energy. We are ranked best (1st) in the world for powering our electricity needs through renewable energy. Wind is Ireland's largest and cheapest source of renewable electricity*.



*<https://www.esa.ie/technologies/wind-energy/>

Appendix B Calling Card



Sorry We Missed You

Dear Resident,

Sorry we missed you today.

We wish to speak to you about Dara Energy's proposed wind project, the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm.

We ask that you read the information leaflet accompanying this and contact us if you have any questions - see our details overleaf. In the meantime our project team will be visiting other residents in the area and will aim to visit you again.

We hope to hear from you soon.

From the Derrynadarragh Wind Project Team



Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

Community Liaison Officer



087-1698635



www.derrynadarragh.ie



community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie



[illegible]

Appendix D Community Information Leaflet 2025


Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

Information Leaflet
19th May 2025

Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy project located on the border of East Offaly and West Kildare. The purpose of the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm project is to generate renewable electricity to power homes, farms, businesses, schools, hospitals and other workplaces in Ireland.

Dara Energy is a wholly Irish company with offices in Cork and in Dublin. The project team is highly skilled and knowledgeable with a huge amount of experience, specific to rural Ireland. The project team has a proven history of working successfully in partnership with developers, landowners, and communities to promote sustainable energy sources.

We propose to lodge a planning application with An Bord Pleanála in Autumn 2025. We engaged last September to gather information and concerns from the community and this is an update on the layout which we are looking for further consultation on prior to submitting for planning.

The Project

The proposed site is on a mix of agricultural, peatland and forestry lands on the Offaly-Kildare border, 1km from the village of Bracknagh, Co. Offaly, 8km east of Rathangan, Co. Kildare and 4.5km northeast of Portlannington, Co. Laois.

The proposed project will consist of nine (9) wind turbines. The wind farm will be connected to the national electricity grid via underground cables and an existing ESB substation. There would be a 110KV substation within the site. A preliminary layout can be found on our website www.derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie and at our community information event on the 7th May in the community hall in Bracknagh.

If planning consent is granted, we anticipate that the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm would produce up to 130GWhr of electricity per year for Ireland's electricity grid - that amount of energy would power approx. 30,000 Irish homes.

If planning consent is achieved, it will take 18-24 months to build and mobilise the wind farm. The project could be operational by spring 2029 at the earliest.

Please attend our community information event to learn more about the project and speak to members of the project team.

Bracknagh Community Hall

Wednesday 7th May

2pm - 8pm



Community Liaison Officer

Community Liaison Officer (CLO), David Martin, has been appointed to engage with the community and answer any queries you may have. David can be contacted by phone on 087-1698635 and by email at community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

Current Status

The project team is currently preparing a planning application which we hope to lodge with the planning authority in early Autumn. The Environmental Impact Assessment process is still underway, and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is being prepared as part of the planning application. The project team has undertaken several technical studies to inform our approach, including archaeological and ecological appraisals, and noise impact assessments. We have preliminary layout for consultation which we will have on display at our community information event.

Indicative Project Timeline



The timeline shows the following stages:

- 2016 - 2020:** Environmental Surveys & Design
- 2020 - 2022:** Planning
- 2022 - 2025:** RESS Auction & Grid Connection
- 2025 - 2026:** Construction
- 2026 - 2028/2029:** Operation

Ongoing Community Engagement is shown as a continuous bar across the timeline.

Construction, Operation and Maintenance

If the project is granted planning permission, construction will take approximately 18 months. In the early stages it will involve deliveries of materials such as cement, concrete and cables, and later delivery of the turbines.

As part of the planning application, Dara Energy will prepare a Traffic Management Plan to set out how it will manage construction vehicles to ensure road safety for all workers and other road users.

Health and Safety is a priority for Dara Energy, including for all its workers, the construction team, the community and everyone involved / impacted by the project.

When the wind farm is in operation, it will be operated remotely. Maintenance checks will be undertaken by our specialist team every few months. The operation and maintenance of the wind farm will not result in any substantial additional traffic on the local roads.



Project Factsheet


Size

If planning permission is approved, the proposed wind farm would contain **nine (9) Wind Turbines**, each with a maximum height of 186 meters.


Clean Electricity

The proposed wind farm could produce **130GWhr of electricity per year** – enough to power **30,000 homes**, and displace over 2 million tons of carbon over its lifetime.


Environmental

The Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is being designed to comply with best practice planning and environmental guidelines using the latest available technology. This will ensure that the project achieves the clear benefits of wind energy in the context of tackling climate change and will not materially affect the amenity of the natural and built environment


Community Benefit

The proposed wind farm would include a **Community Benefit Fund (CBF)** contributing up to **€260,000 per year** to local community groups and organisations or **€3.9 Million** over 15 years


Setback Distance

The minimum setback distance will be at least **745 meters**.

Contact Us

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm
Phone: 087-1698635
Email: community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie
Website: derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

Frequently Asked Questions

Traffic

How will the wind farm be accessed during construction and operation?

A new site entrance is proposed along the R419, to the north of the site, to serve as construction and operation access to the proposed wind farm site, with temporary use of the existing site access to the south during construction stage only.

A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the construction phase will be a key element of our planning application. Its purpose is to set out a process to manage traffic at construction stage for construction vehicles and deliveries to the site. The TMP will set out how we will manage construction traffic to minimise the impact on the local roads and residents.

In addition, the project team will seek to continue engaging with the local community at construction stage to coordinate activities, listen to your feedback and make any adjustments to minimise impacts of construction traffic on the local area.

Component Delivery Route

Components will be delivered from the M6 from Tullamore along the following proposed route, along this route there will be works carried out to enable the safe delivery of components, all deliveries will require garda escort and will be coordinated to ensure minimal disruption.

Turbines

What size will the turbines be?

The turbines will have a tip height of 186m and rotor length of 81m.

Will there be any shadow flicker?

Planning Guidelines require all wind farms to avoid any possible occurrences of shadow flicker. This can be achieved by installing solar sensors on the turbines in order to slow or shut it down during times of possible shadow flicker.

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Appendix E Project Information Pull-ups

Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

Dara Energy Ltd

Dara Energy Limited is an Irish renewable energy firm working to enable a sustainable energy future for the people of Ireland. Backed by the Temporis Aurora Fund, whose investors include the Ireland Strategic Investment Fund (ISIF) our purpose is to harness Ireland's vast wind energy potential to accelerate and deliver Ireland's transition to a clean, sustainable, low-carbon energy system. The Fund is dedicated exclusively to the development of renewable energy projects in Ireland and the involvement of ISIF gives the people of Ireland a direct stake in our future success. We are passionate about developing our projects in a sustainable way.

At Dara Energy we work closely with local communities and key stakeholders, to ensure their views are heard to maximise the positive impact our projects have on the communities where we operate.

The project team is highly skilled and knowledgeable with a huge amount of experience, specific to rural Ireland. The project team has a proven history of working successfully in partnership with developers, landowners, and communities to promote sustainable energy sources.

Where are Dara Energy based?

Dara Energy is an Irish owned company with offices in Dublin and Cork.

Project Team

David Martin will be the Community Liaison Officer for the project. David is a member of the RPS consulting communications team and he has a thorough appreciation of rural communities and agricultural issues from his home background and RPS experience.

Nicholas Lyons is the Senior Project Manager for the project. Nicholas has over 12 years of experience working in renewable developments.

Roy Butler is the projects Land Manager with over 25 years experience in Land and property Management.

Fehily Timoney are the expert Planning consultants who in conjunction with specialist ecologists and other specialist consultants will carry out the Environmental Impact Assessments.

Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

The Proposed Project

Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is a proposed renewable energy project located on the border of East Offaly and West Kildare. The purpose of the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm project is to generate renewable electricity to power homes, farms, businesses, schools, hospitals and other workplaces in Ireland.

The proposed project will consist of nine (9) wind turbines. The wind farm will be connected to the national electricity grid via underground cables to an existing ESB substation. There would be a 110KV substation within the site.

The proposed site is on a mix of agricultural, peatland and forestry lands on the Offaly-Kildare border, 1km from the village of Bracknagh, Co. Offaly, 8km east of Rathangan, Co. Kildare and 4.5km northeast of Portarlinton, Co. Laois.

We propose to lodge a planning application with An Bord Pleanála in Autumn 2025. We engaged last September to gather information and concerns from the community and this is an update on the layout which we are looking for further consultation on prior to submitting for planning.

Indicative Project Timeline

Activity	Start Year	End Year
Ongoing Community Engagement	2016	2029
Environmental Surveys & Design	2016	2020
Planning	2020	2025
RESS Auction & Grid Connection	2025	2026
Construction	2026	2028
Operation	2028	2029



Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

Community Liaison Officer

Community Liaison Officer (CLO), David Martin, has been appointed to engage with the community and answer any queries you may have. David can be contacted by phone on 087-1698635 and by email at community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

Environmental Impact Assessment

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is currently being undertaken by our expert environmental consultants, Fehily Timoney & Company. As part of the EIA process, a detailed report called an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), will be prepared, and submitted alongside the planning application later this year.



The EIAR is a key component of the planning application. The EIAR will set out what measures are proposed to ensure the project does not have any adverse effect on the local environment. The EIAR requires the co-ordination and presentation of a wide range of relevant information to allow for the overall assessment of a proposed development. To allow for ease of presentation, and consistency when considering the various environmental factors considered, a structure is used for the main body of the Report.

Construction, Operation and Maintenance

If the project is granted planning permission, construction will take approximately 18 months. In the early stages it will involve deliveries of materials such as cement, concrete and cables, and later delivery of the turbines.

As part of the planning application, Dara Energy will prepare a Traffic Management Plan to set out how it will manage construction vehicles to ensure road safety for all workers and other road users.

Health and Safety is a priority for Dara Energy, including for all its workers, the construction team, the community and everyone involved / impacted by the project.

When the wind farm is in operation, it will be operated remotely. Maintenance checks will be undertaken by our specialist team every few months. The operation and maintenance of the wind farm will not result in any substantial additional traffic on the local roads.



Derrynadarragh Wind Farm

Key Project Information



Size

If planning permission is approved, the proposed wind farm would contain **nine (9) Wind Turbines**, each with a maximum height of 186 meters.



Clean Electricity

The proposed wind farm could produce 130GWhr of electricity per year – enough to power 30,000 homes, and displace over 2 million tons of carbon over its lifetime.



Environmental

The Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is being designed to comply with best practice planning and environmental guidelines using the latest available technology. This will ensure that the project achieves the clear benefits of wind energy in the context of tackling climate change and will not materially affect the amenity of the natural and built environment



Community Benefit

The proposed wind farm would include a Community Benefit Fund (CBF) contributing up to €260,000 per year to local community groups and organisations or €3.9 Million over 15 years



Setback Distance

The minimum setback distance will be at least 745 meters.

Current Status

The project team is currently preparing a planning application which we hope to lodge with the planning authority in early Autumn. The Environmental Impact Assessment process is still underway, and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is being prepared as part of the planning application. The project team has undertaken several technical studies to inform our approach, including archaeological and ecological appraisals, and noise impact assessments. We have preliminary layout for consultation.

If planning consent is achieved, it will take 18-24 months to build and mobilise the wind farm. The project could be operational by spring 2029 at the earliest.

Contact Us

Monday - Friday: 9am - 5pm

Phone: 087-1698635

Email: community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

Website: derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie





**Derrynadarragh
Wind Farm**

Community Benefit Fund

In line with Government policy and Wind Energy Ireland, as part of the terms of development, if the project gets development consent, Dara Energy will provide for a Community Benefit Fund.

Dara Energy through Derrynadarragh Wind Farm will provide €2 per megawatt (MWh) of energy produced, over the lifetime of the wind farm.

This equates to approximately **€260,000** per year or **€3.9 million** over the lifetime of the project.

We are asking for community feedback on how we could administer and manage the CBF. Lots of different models are used around the country, and it is important for us to manage this in an appropriate and user-friendly way that maximises the benefits of the Derrynadarragh Wind Farm CBF to the relevant local communities

The Community Benefit Fund will commence when the wind farm becomes operational, i.e., spring 2029 at the earliest that is if planning consent is granted in 2025 and construction / mobilisation taking about 2.5 years.

Frequently Asked Questions

Turbines

What size will the turbines be?

The turbines will have a tip height of 186m and rotor length of 81m.

Will there be any shadow Flicker?

Planning Guidelines require all wind farms to avoid any possible occurrences of shadow flicker. This can be achieved by installing solar sensors on the turbines in order to slow or shut it down during times of possible shadow flicker.

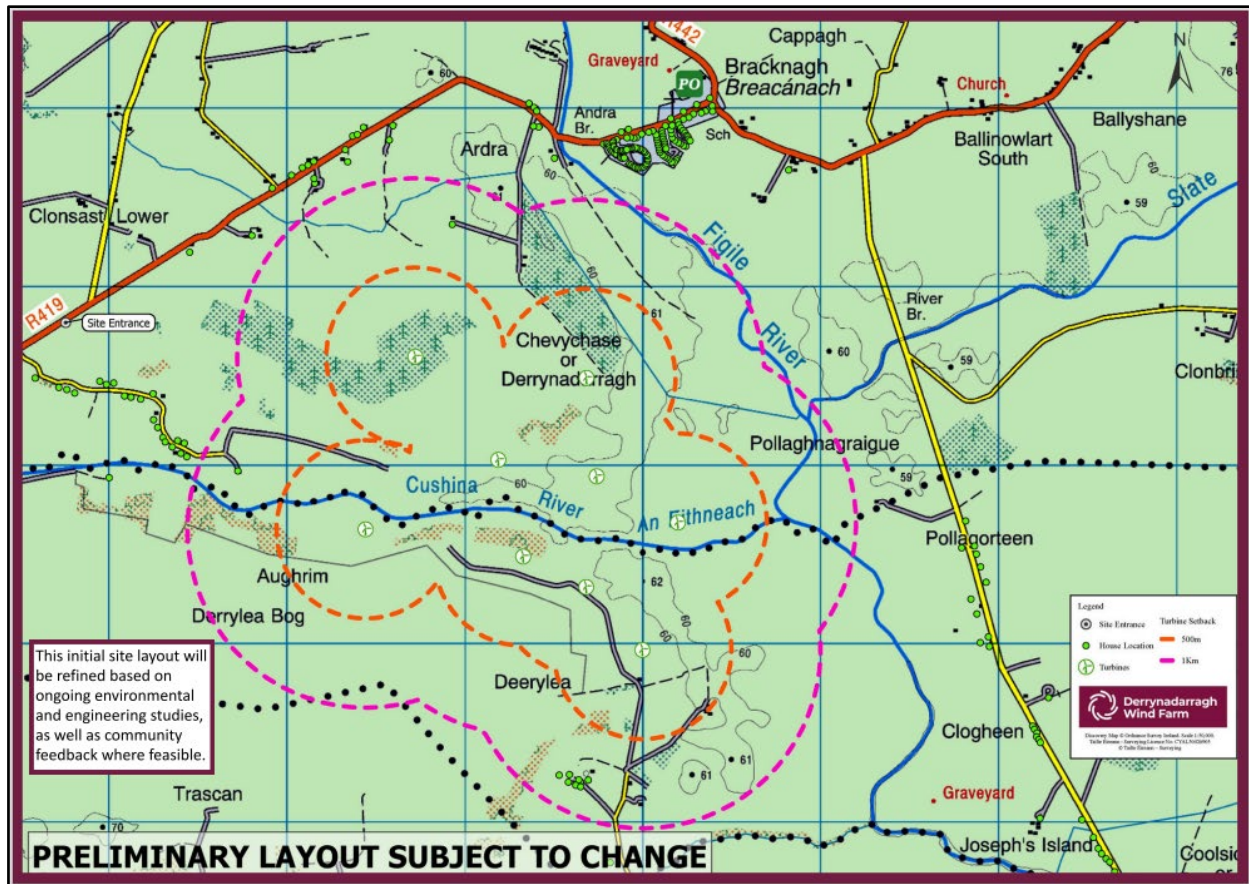
Traffic

How will the wind farm be accessed during construction and operation?

A new construction access route will be provided through private lands close to the proposed wind farm. Construction traffic will avoid existing nearby minor roads / laneways.

A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) for the construction phase will be a key element of our planning application. Its purpose is to set out a process to manage traffic at construction stage for construction vehicles and deliveries to the site. The TMP will set out how we will manage construction traffic to minimise the impact on the local roads and residents.

In addition, the project team will seek to continue engaging with the local community at construction stage to coordinate activities, listen to your feedback and make any adjustments to minimise impacts of construction traffic on the local area.



Appendix F Invitation Letter



Dear Resident,

I am writing to you to update you on the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm which is proposed to be located on the border of East Offaly and West Kildare approx. 1km from the village of Bracknagh.

We would like to invite you to a public information event regarding the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm. This event will take place on **Wednesday 7th May from 2 PM to 8 PM** at the **Bracknagh Community Hall, R51 CD85**.

This is an opportunity to learn more about the proposed wind farm project, engage with members of the project team, and ask any questions you may have. We will also have the indicative proposed layout of the wind farm on display for your review and input.

Last September, we conducted house to house community engagement to gather your thoughts and feedback about the proposed development. We appreciate your input, and we have taken your suggestions into consideration as we continue to develop the project. Since then, we have continued our environmental and technical studies to further inform the projects development.

Enclosed with this letter is an updated information leaflet that provides further details about the proposed Derrynadarragh Wind Farm project. For additional information, please visit our project website at derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie.

We hope to see you there and look forward to discussing the proposed project with you.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me using the email or phone number listed below.

Kind regards,

David Martin
Community Liaison Officer
Derrynadarragh Wind Farm



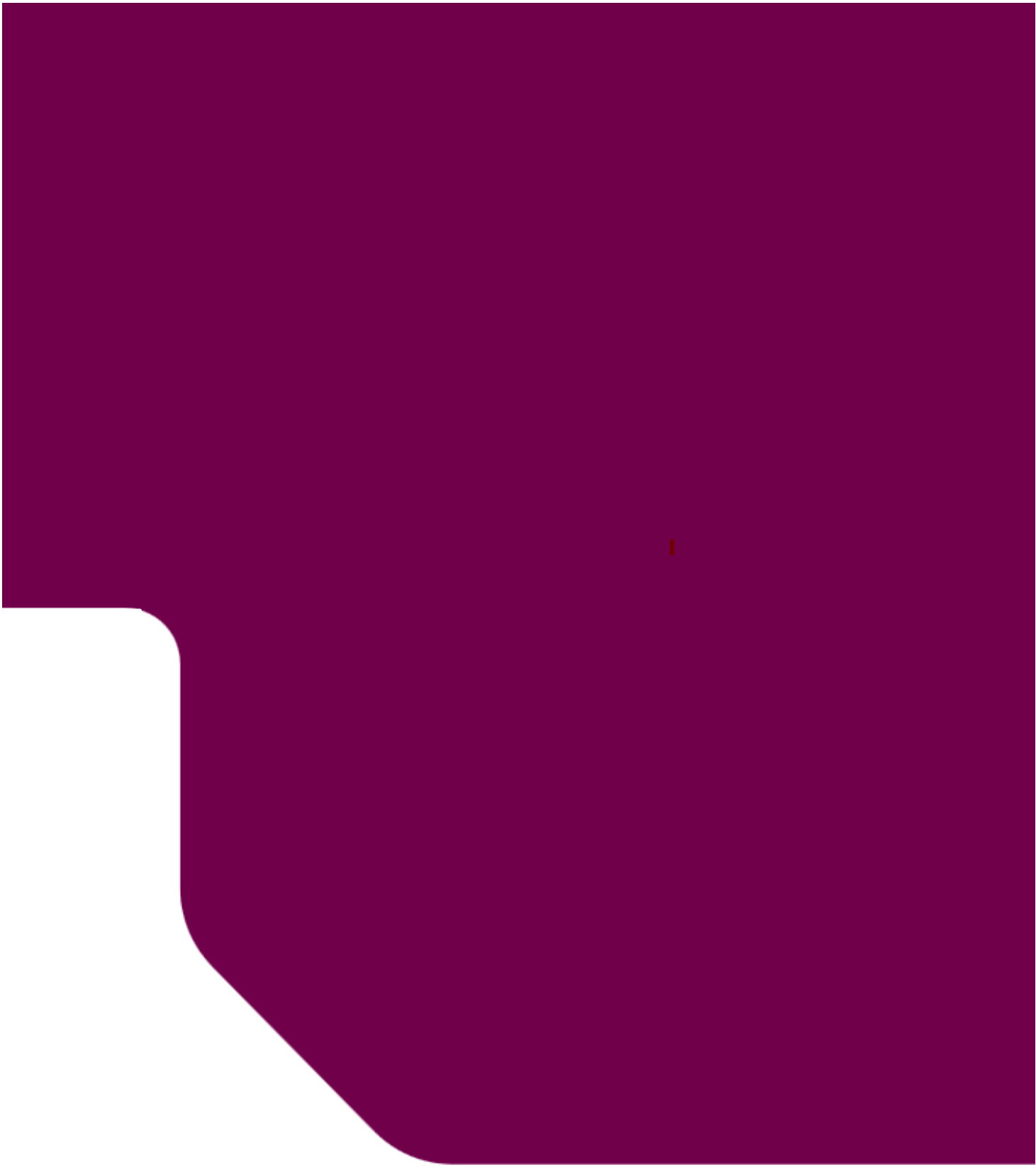
community@derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

derrynadarraghwindfarm.ie

Tel: 087-1698635

Appendix G Community Engagement Vehicle







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