

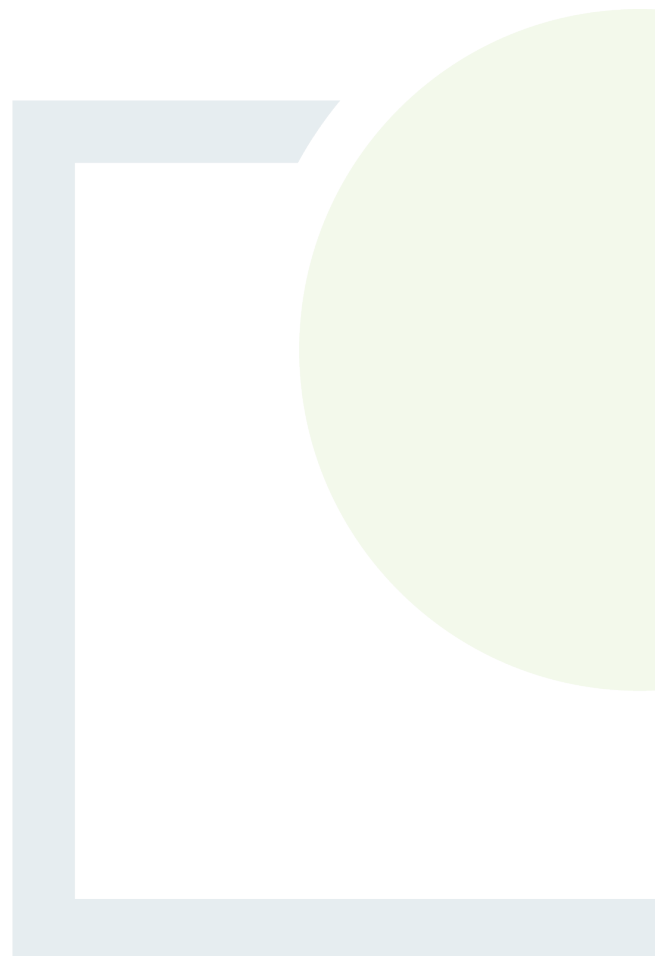


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APPENDIX 5.1

Scoping Responses



| Name | Email Address | Type of consultation | Date of Consultation | Response Received Yes/No - when | Status of Response | Response Summaries | Email Link |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Transport Infrastructure Ireland | INFO <information@tii.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| The Arts Council | Planning <planning@artscouncil.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Forestry Division: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine | Forestry Info <forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Bus Eireann | BECustomerCare@buseireann.ie | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| RTÉ Information Office | Info <info@rte.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Waterways Ireland | Corporate <corporate@waterwaysireland.org> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Health and Safety Authority | Contact Us <contactus@hsa.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Department of Transport | Transport Department of Transport <info@transport.gov.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Three Customer Care | Three Customer Care <customer.care@three.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications | DECC Customer Service <Customer.Service@decc.gov.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | Response 2: Please see attached a submission on behalf of Geological Survey Ireland (a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications) with regard to the subject entity. (Link to document in email) Please send an acknowledgment of receipt to PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie at your earliest convenience. | |
| Cork City Council | Marion Fanning <marion_fanning@corkcity.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2026 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| The Freedom of Information Central Policy Unit | PER CPU <cpu@per.gov.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| BT Ireland | gis.ireland@bt.com | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Virgin Media Ireland | Client Solutions <client.solutions@virginmedia.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Vodafone Ireland | VGE Billing Operations <vge_billingoperations@vodafone.com> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2026 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Met Eireann | Met Eireann <met.eireann@met.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Iarnród Eireann | IE Freedom of Information <foi@irishrail.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Imagine | Imagine Customer Service <care@imagine.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | Response 2: This development will not affect the Imagine network. | |
| Commission for Regulation of Utilities | Info CRU <info@crui.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment | Info <info@enterprise.gov.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Gas Networks Ireland | DIG <Dig@gasnetworks.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Cork County Council | PlanningInfo <PlanningInfo@CorkCoCo.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Department of Justice | Ministers Office <noreplymo-justice@corr.cloud.gov.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Environmental Protection Agency | Wexford Receptionist <REC_WEX@epa.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Bord Gáis Energy | BGEInfo <info@bordgais.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Towercom Limited | Raymond Ryan <rryan@towercom.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2026 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | The documentation has been reviewed by Towercom Limited and they do not have any comments to make. | |
| Irish Peatland Conservation Council | Irish Peatland Conservation Council <bogs@ipccc.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Irish Wildlife Trust | IWT Info <info@iwt.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 05/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Córas Iompair Éireann (CIE) | Graham Skelly <Graham.Skelly@cie.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 06/03/2025 | Detailed Response | Response: Can you please let me know if your scheme, or the proposed grid connection, interfaces with any railway? | |
| Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage | Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@hpws.gov.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 06/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| National Biodiversity Data Centre | National Biodiversity Data Centre <info@biodiversityireland.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 06/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| Southern Regional Assembly | Claire Breen <cbreen@southernassembly.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 06/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| National Museum of Ireland | licensing <licensing@museum.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 14/03/2025 | Detailed Response | Response : Please find attached the NMI observations for the above project. (Document link in email) | https://uss.ftco.ie/DMS/view_document.aspx?ID=1176063&Latest=true |
| Irish Landscape Institute | IrishLandscapeInstitute <ill@irishlandscapeinstitute.com> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 20/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | | |
| An Garda Síochána | CK.Bservices <CK.Bservices@garda.ie> | EIAR Scoping | 05/03/2025 | Yes - 25/03/2025 | Acknowledgement of receipt of report by email | Response 2: TETRA Ireland have requested further information for this case. See below. Need co-ordinates of turbines, proposed location possibly close to ESB Nagles. | |

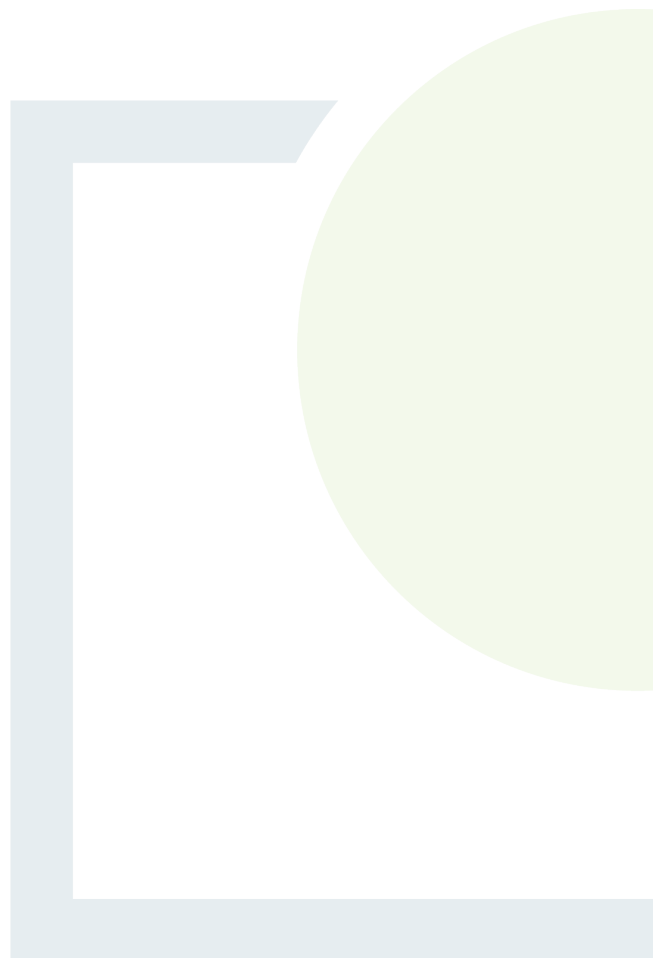


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APPENDIX 5.2

Scoping Letter



03 March 2025

Our Ref: P24308-FT-XX-XX-LT-PL-0002

Re: Proposed Coom Green Energy Park Grid Connection Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) Scoping Request

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are writing to you to on, behalf of our client, Coom Green Energy Park Limited, to request your feedback relating to the Proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) Grid Connection as part of the technical consultation process for the project's Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Coom Green Energy Park was granted planning permission in November 2023 (ABP Ref: ABP-308885-20). The project's associated grid connection was assessed as part of the original EIAR (hereinafter referred to as the 2020 EIAR) but did not form part of the planning application at the time. Coom Green Energy Park Limited now intend to apply for planning permission for this element of the project.

Fehily Timoney (FT) are writing to all technical consultees who were included as part of the original Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping process with this scoping update letter to invite them to comment on any technical issues that they feel should be considered in the EIAR which will be prepared as part of the proposed Grid Connection planning application process.

The proposed Grid Connection is comprised of two key elements:

- a) An underground 110 kV export grid connection cable (UGC) route from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110 kV substation located near Rathcormac, Co. Cork.
- b) An underground 33kV interconnector cable route between the western and eastern portions of the permitted CGEP wind farm development.

Please find enclosed the following documents for reference:

Appendix 1:

Copy of the original Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report (2019).

Appendix 2:

Drawing showing the permitted CGEP development and associated grid connection assessed in the 2020 EIAR.

Appendix 3:

Map showing the proposed underground interconnector cable route options under consideration.

The 110 kV export UGC from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110 kV substation is not expected to change from that assessed in the 2020 EIAR.

The underground interconnector cable route between the western and eastern portions of the permitted CGEP wind farm development may differ to that assessed in the 2020 EIAR. The route assessed in the 2020 EIAR (as shown in Appendix 2) traversed a combination of public roads and private lands. This route is being considered alongside three other potential alternative route options. There are currently 4 no. route options being considered for the underground interconnector cable route. These route options are presented in Appendix 3 and will traverse primarily private land corridors. Route Option 1 as shown in Appendix 3 represents the route assessed in the 2020 EIAR.

The Grid Connection cables will traverse the following townlands primarily along the public road: Ballynahina, Coolmucky, Farran South, Farran North, Corrin, Glanakip, Chimneyfield, Toorgarriff, Killeagh, Moneygorm, Inchinanagh, Knoppoge, Carrig, Tooreen, Lackendarragh North, Knockacullata, Knockaunacorrin, Moanlahan, Knockdoorty, Mullenataura, Commons, Glannasack, Knockananig, Coolnakilla, Kill-Saint-Anne North, and Rathcormack-Mountain.

The townlands that intersect the interconnector cable route are: Knocknacaheragh, Doonpeter, Chimneyfield, Coom (Midleton), Coom (Hudson), Knockaunalour, Killeagh and Mullenaboree.

As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any feedback you may have relevant to your area of expertise with respect to the proposed Grid Connection. We respectfully request that all feedback responses are submitted to us by Friday 28th March 2025, in order to provide the EIAR team adequate time to consider all information.

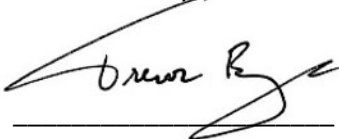
Your responses may be provided by email or by post to the following addresses:

By Email: cgep@ftco.ie

By Post: FAO - Trevor Byrne, Coom Green Energy Park Grid Connection, Fehily Timoney and Company, Core House, Pouladuff Road, Co. 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.

Yours sincerely,



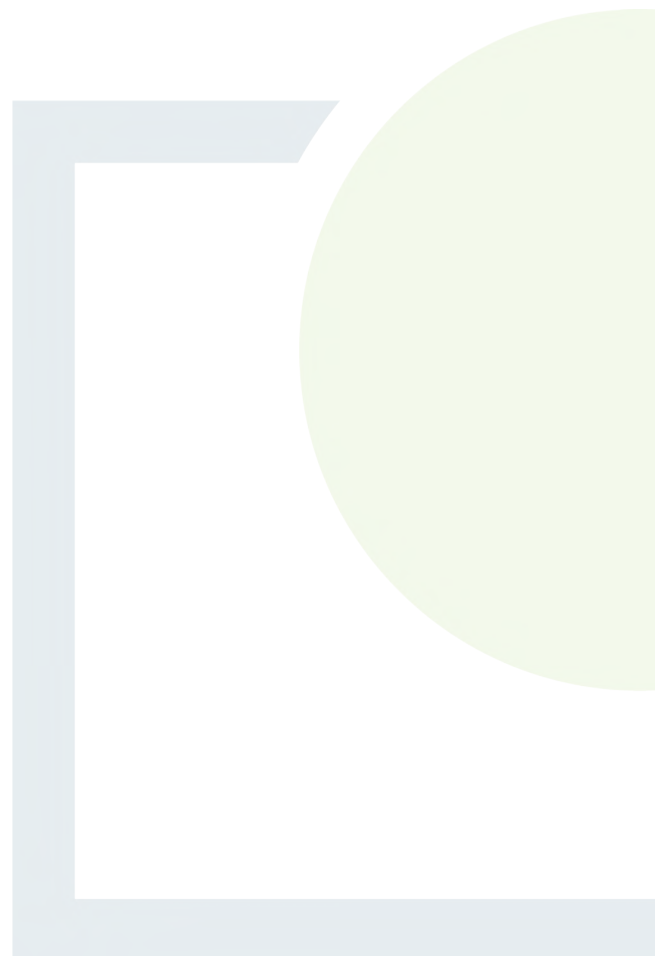
Trevor Byrne
for and on behalf of Fehily Timoney and Company
Encl.



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APPENDIX 1

Copy of Coom Green Energy
Park EIAR Scoping Report
(2019)





COOM GREEN ENERGY PARK (CGEP) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - SCOPING REPORT

JUNE 2019



Brookfield



CGEP ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - SCOPING REPORT

| Rev. Nr. | Description of Changes | Prepared by: | Checked by: | Approved by: | Date: |
|----------|------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| 0 | Issue for Consultation | EB/MM/MG/CF | TB | JH | 25/06/2019 |

Client: Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited and Coillte.

Keywords: Energy Park, Renewable Energy, EIA Scoping, Planning Application.

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

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 [Introduction](#)

Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited (BRIL) Ltd in partnership with Coillte intends to apply for planning consent for a renewable energy development referred to as the Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), located in North County Cork. The proposed CGEP site includes lands contained within the following townlands: Glashaboy North, Coom (Hudson), Tooreen South, Killeagh, Coom (Fitzgerald), Slievedotia, Mullenaboree, Knoppoge, Carrig, Knuttery, Lackendarragh North, Knockacullata, Knockdoorty, and Glannasack. The site is approximately 377 hectares in size.

A site location map is presented in Figure 1-1.

A number of grid connection options are currently being considered in order to supply power from the development to the Irish electricity network. One of which proposes to connect to the existing 110kV Barrymore substation near Rathcormac, Co. Cork via underground cable. The other option currently being **considered is a 'looped in' connection to the existing Kilonan-Knockraha 220kV overhead line (OHL) using a 220kV underground cable to a purpose built substation located within the project site.**

An initial round of statutory consultation took place in 2018 with consultees receiving a letter and supporting site boundary maps.

1.1.2 [The Proposed Development](#)

The proposed development is located approximately 12km to the south east of Mallow in County Cork.

The energy park will comprise of up to 22 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, 2 no. substation compounds including control buildings and battery storage units, underground electrical and communications cabling, borrow pits, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compounds, tree felling and associated works. The applicant is also exploring the use of Solar Photovoltaics (PV) on substation building roof spaces as part of the energy park development.

It is proposed to supply power from CGEP to the Irish electricity network via underground cable to either the **existing substation located at Barrymore 110kV substation near Rathcormac, Co. Cork, or via a 'looped-in' connection to the existing Kilonan-Knockraha 220kV overhead line (OHL) using a 220kV underground cable (UGC) to a 220kV substation located at the CGEP Project site.** The cables will traverse the following townlands primarily along the public road: Ballynahina, Coolmucky, Farran South, Farran North, Corrin, Glanakis, Chimneyfield, Toorgarriff, Killeagh, Moneygorm, Inchinanagh, Knoppoge, Carrig, Tooreen, Lackendarragh North, Knockacullata, Knockaunacorrin, Moanlahan, Knockdoorty, Mullenataura, Commons, Glannasack, Knockananig, Coolnakilla, Kill-Saint-Anne North, and Rathcormack-Mountain. It is expected that the proposed development will have a generation capacity of approximately 100MW

The current design site layout (Design Iteration 2) is presented in Figure 1-2.

The proposed grid connection options being considered are shown in Figure 2-1.

1.1.3 [The Applicant](#)

The applicants for the proposed project are Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited (BRIL) and Coillte.

BRIL is a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable Partners, a global renewable energy company that develops, acquires, builds and operates utility-scale wind and solar power projects. BRIL has constructed and operates a portfolio of approximately 250 renewable power facilities in North America, Latin America and Europe with a combined installed capacity exceeding 10,000 megawatts.

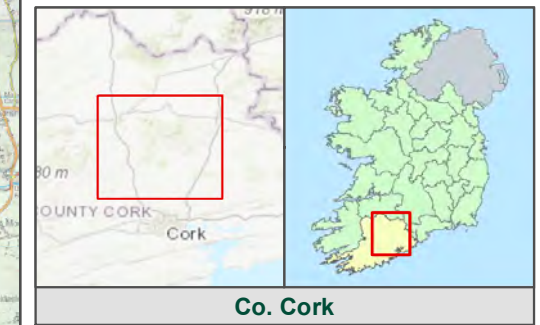
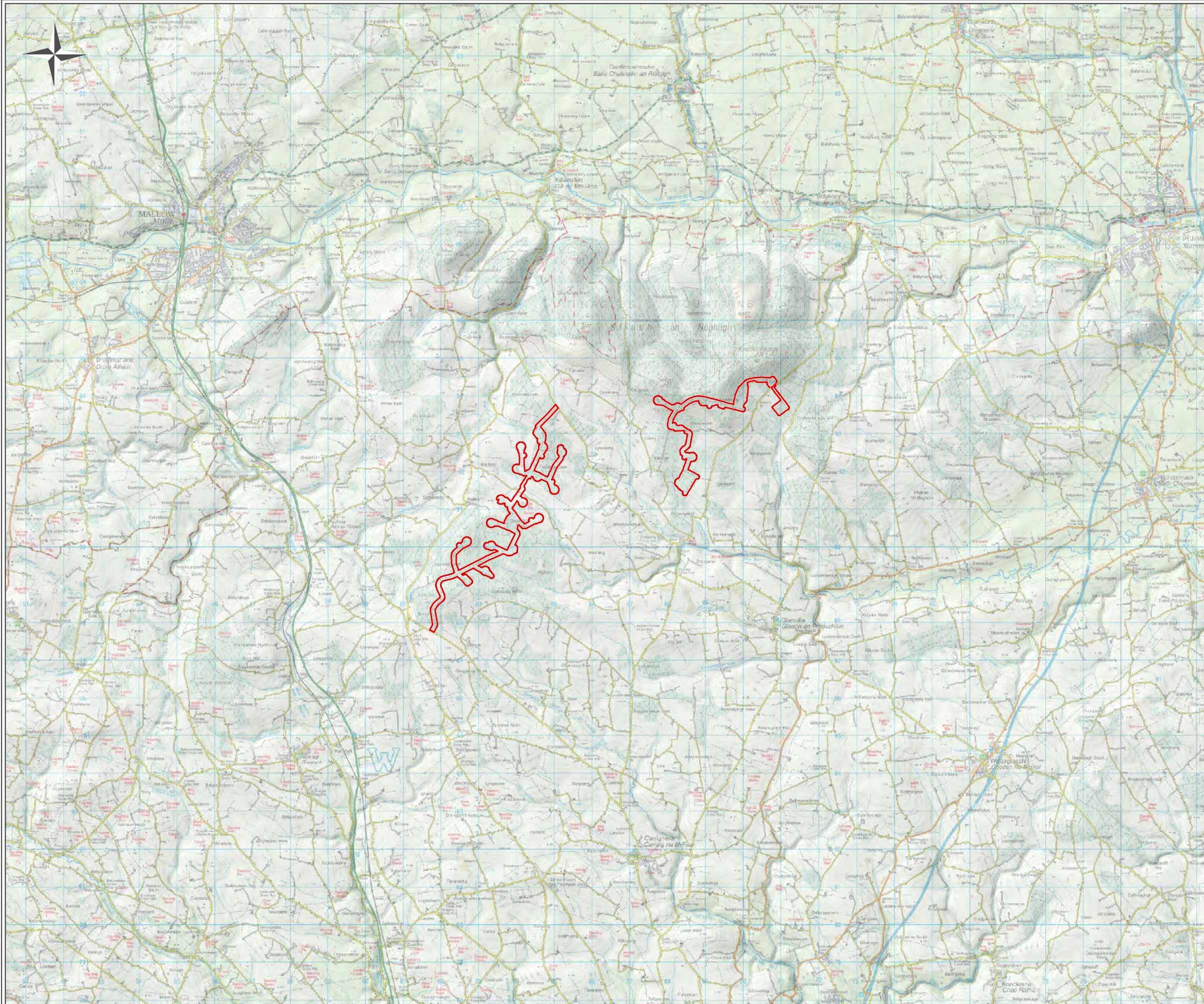
The Irish business today consists of more than 400 megawatts(MW)of operating wind capacity across 23 wind farms in nine counties and employs approximately 110 people at its Ireland and U.K business headquartered in Cork.

Coillte is a commercial forestry business in Ireland, owned by the state, and based in Newtownmountkennedy Co. Wicklow. Coillte manage approximately 7% of the country's land and operates three businesses, with the core business being commercial forestry. Coillte have developed a number of large scale renewable energy projects in Ireland including Galway Wind Park, Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm, Co. Roscommon, Raheenleagh Wind Farm, Co. Wicklow and Castlepook, Co. Cork.

1.1.4 Purpose of the Report

This is a scoping report prepared for the EIA for the proposed CGEP comprising primarily of a wind farm and associated battery storage in north Co. Cork.


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 EIA. In essence, the primary focus of scoping is to define the most appropriate assessment of significant effects related to the proposed development.

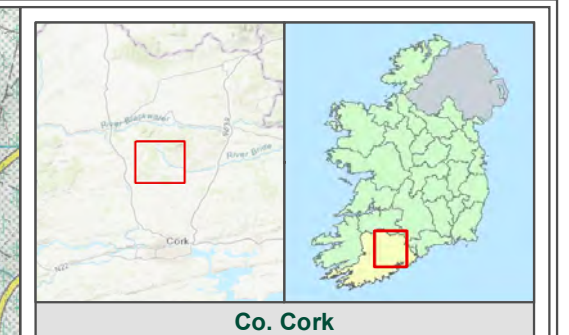
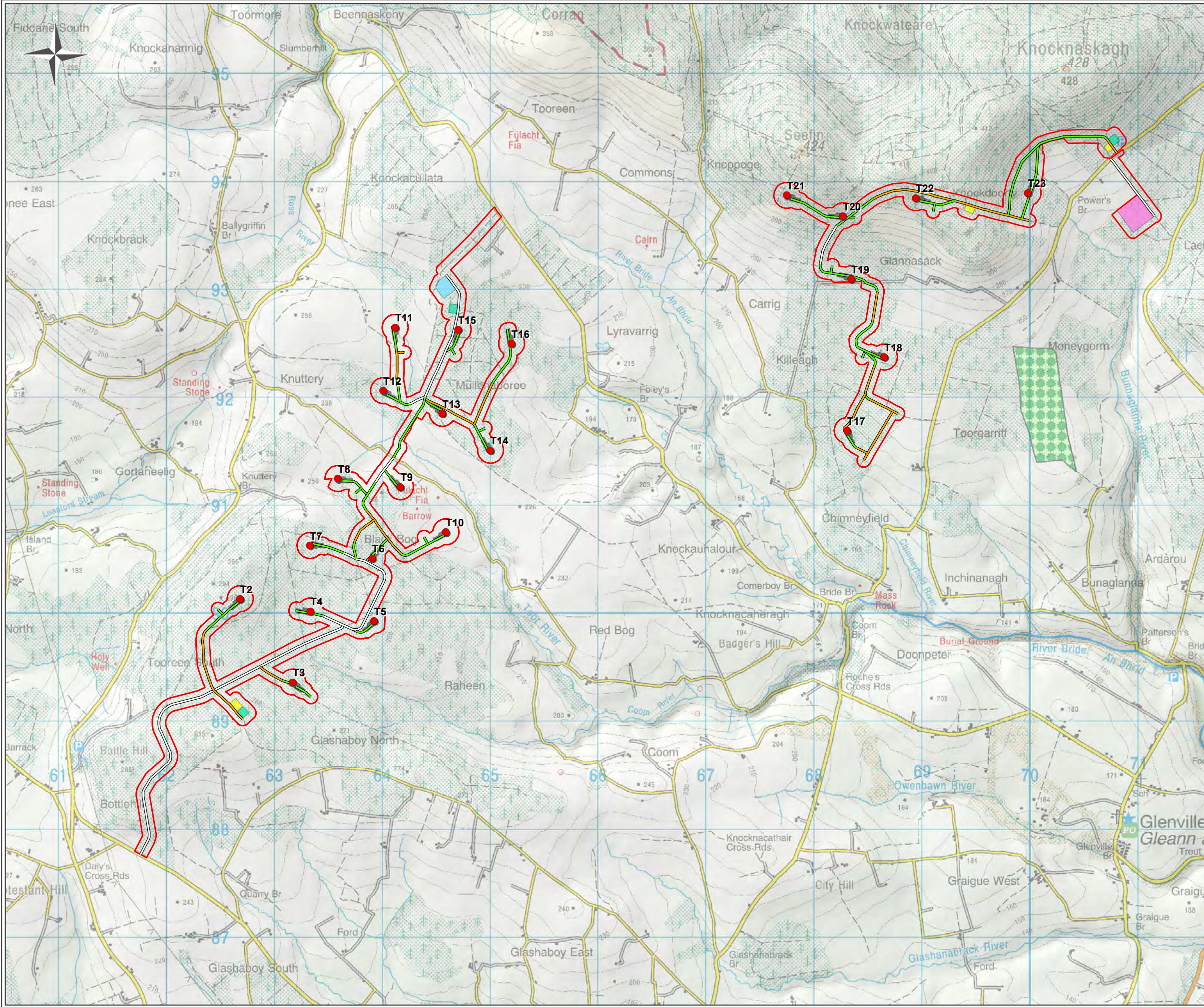


Legend
 Proposed Development Boundary

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Figure Title | Site Location |
| Figure No. | 1.1 |
| Project | Coom Green Energy Park |
| Client | Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte |
| Scale | 1:100,000 |
| Page Size | A3 |
| Revision | A |
| Date | 15/09/2018 |

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Legend

- Proposed Turbine Layout
- ▭ Proposed Development Boundary
- ▭ Proposed Borrow Pit
- ▭ Proposed Temporary Compound
- ▭ Proposed Turbine Hardstanding
- ▭ Replanting Area

Substations

- ▭ Proposed IPP Substation at Knockacullata
- ▭ Proposed Grid Connection Substation at Lackendarragh

Proposed Access Roads

- Existing Road
- Existing Road Upgrade
- New Road

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Figure Title | Current Design Layout |
| Figure No. | 1.2 |
| Project | Coom Green Energy Park |
| Client | Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte |
| Scale | 1:35,000 |
| Page Size | A3 |
| Revision | A |
| Date | 29/05/2019 |

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1.2 Planning Process for the Proposed Development

It is intended that the proposed development will be submitted for planning directly to An Bord Pleanála pursuant to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Act 2006 (as amended), subject to a pre-application consultation process with An Bord Pleanála. Pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Infrastructure Development was commenced in December 2018 under An Bord Pleanála case reference number PL04.303322.

1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and the Function of the EIAR

Under Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, a planning application for a development which comes within a class of development specified under Schedule 2 of Part 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in accordance with the 2014 Directive. Accordingly, as the proposed development will have more than 5 no. turbines and a generating capacity of greater than 5MW, 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 and operation of the project. Where adverse impacts have been identified, mitigation measures are proposed and the residual impacts described.

1.4 Contributors to the EIAR

This Scoping Report has been prepared by Fehily Timoney & Company (FT) on behalf of BRIL and Coillte. 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 Environmental Impact Assessment Report for submission to An Bord Pleanála as described in Section 1.2 above.

Specialist contributors to the EIAR include:

- Macro Works who will prepare the landscape and visual impact assessment;
- John Cronin & Associates who will prepare the Cultural Heritage assessment;
- Inis Environmental Consultants who will be carrying out the ecological surveys and preparing the biodiversity section of the EIAR and the Natura Impact Statement.

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 (available at: www.dccae.gov.ie). Comments on the scope of the EIAR can be submitted by email to cgep@ftco.ie by Friday the 8th of August 2019.

Project Website

A project website has been set up to inform the public of the project (<https://coomgreenenergy.com>). The website is being used to notify members of the public of upcoming public consultation events and any changes in the design and layout as a consequence of consultations. It is also being used to inform members of the public of research and development in the renewable energy sector.

Community Consultation

Since March 2018, the Project Team has been carrying out door to door consultation in the areas closest to the proposed development area to discuss the project with local residents. A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) has been appointed and is available for calls and meetings with members of the public.

As the design process progresses, one-to-one meetings will be ongoing with update leaflets/newsletters distributed in the local area to provide clear information on the main aspects of the project as it evolves. The Project Website will also display up to date information and will evolve with the project to provide a source of updated information as the project progresses.

The project team organised community information events in the area in November and December of 2018. Three community information events were held in total: in Glenville (28th November 2018), Mounreabbey (30th November 2018) and Whitechurch (5th December 2018). The objective of these events was to inform the local communities of the proposed development, to provide information pertaining to the proposed development and to seek feedback from the local community in terms of local knowledge and any issues that need to be addressed in the EIA.

Feedback forms were available to attendees and over 50 no. feedback forms were completed from the first round of workshops. The main issues were recorded by the applicant and answers to the most prevalent questions were published on the project website.

A noise workshop presentation was held on the 9th of May 2019 in the Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel. An additional workshop presentation regarding engineering aspects of the project was held on the 14th May 2019 in the Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel. The purpose of the two workshop presentations followed feedback from community workshops held in November and December of 2018 where it was requested that more technical workshops be carried out.

These workshops were designed to provide attendees from the community with information on specific technical issues associated with the design and environmental impact assessment of the development from the experts who will be carrying out the work on behalf of the Applicant. The format of the events consisted of a presentation by the relevant expert followed by a Q&A session with members of the audience.

Feedback from the events were recorded and will inform the EIA process.

Statutory and Non-Statutory Scoping and Consultation

A scoping letter was issued to statutory and non-statutory consultees in August 2018. The scoping letter outlined details of the applicants, the proposed development description, the location of the development and the proposed structure of the EIA. The scoping letter was accompanied by maps showing the proposed development site location, study area boundary and indicative grid connection route options. The responses from this consultation have informed the ongoing design process in addition to informing the scope of the environmental assessments.

The function of this Scoping Report for the EIA, is to inform consultees of the development with detailed layout design and to seek further feedback to inform the final design.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Proposed Wind Farm

The proposed development will comprise of up to 22 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, 2 no. substations including control buildings and battery storage; and associated ancillary works. The current layout, Design Iteration 2 (DI2), is illustrated in Figure 1.2. The layout of the proposed wind farm has been designed to minimise the potential environmental effects of the wind farm while at the same time maximising the energy yield of the wind resource passing over the site.

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

2.2 Proposed Substations and Battery Storage

It is proposed to construct 2 no. onsite electricity substation compounds within the proposed development site as shown in Figure 2.1. These will provide a connection point between the CGEP and the proposed grid connection point at either the existing Barrymore substation **or from a 'looped-in' connection to the existing Killonan-Knockraha 220kV overhead line.**

It is also intended to include battery storage units within the substation compounds. One of battery storage's basic roles is to act as a power reserve, for when electricity generation drops below demand. The reserve capacity within the battery storage unit can then be called on at a **moment's** notice. There are large variations in system demand on the electricity grid, varying over the course of a day and over monthly periods. Because of these changes in demand the power generation and grid must deal with large transitions between lows and highs, not only over the course of a day or week but also second-by-second. Battery storage is a means of storing and releasing electrical energy just like a rechargeable battery, mobile phone or electric car. The unit comprises a group of battery racks which are sealed within the container and are monitored and controlled for performance, temperature and other safety factors. The containers are sealed, fireproof and house all the necessary control and safety systems.

2.3 Grid Connection

It is proposed to supply power from CGEP to the Irish electricity network via underground cable to either the existing substation located at **Barrymore 110kV substation near Rathcormac, Co. Cork, or via a 'looped-in' connection to the existing Killonan-Knockraha 220kV overhead line (OHL) using a 220kV underground cable (UGC) to a 220kV substation located at the CGEP Project site.**

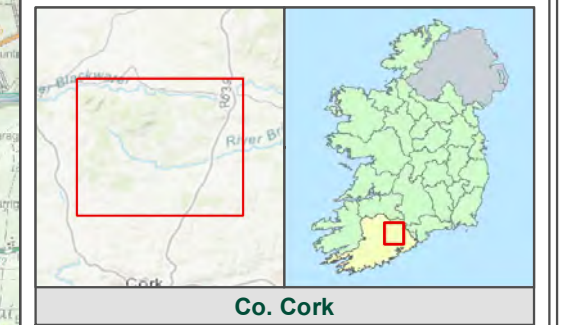
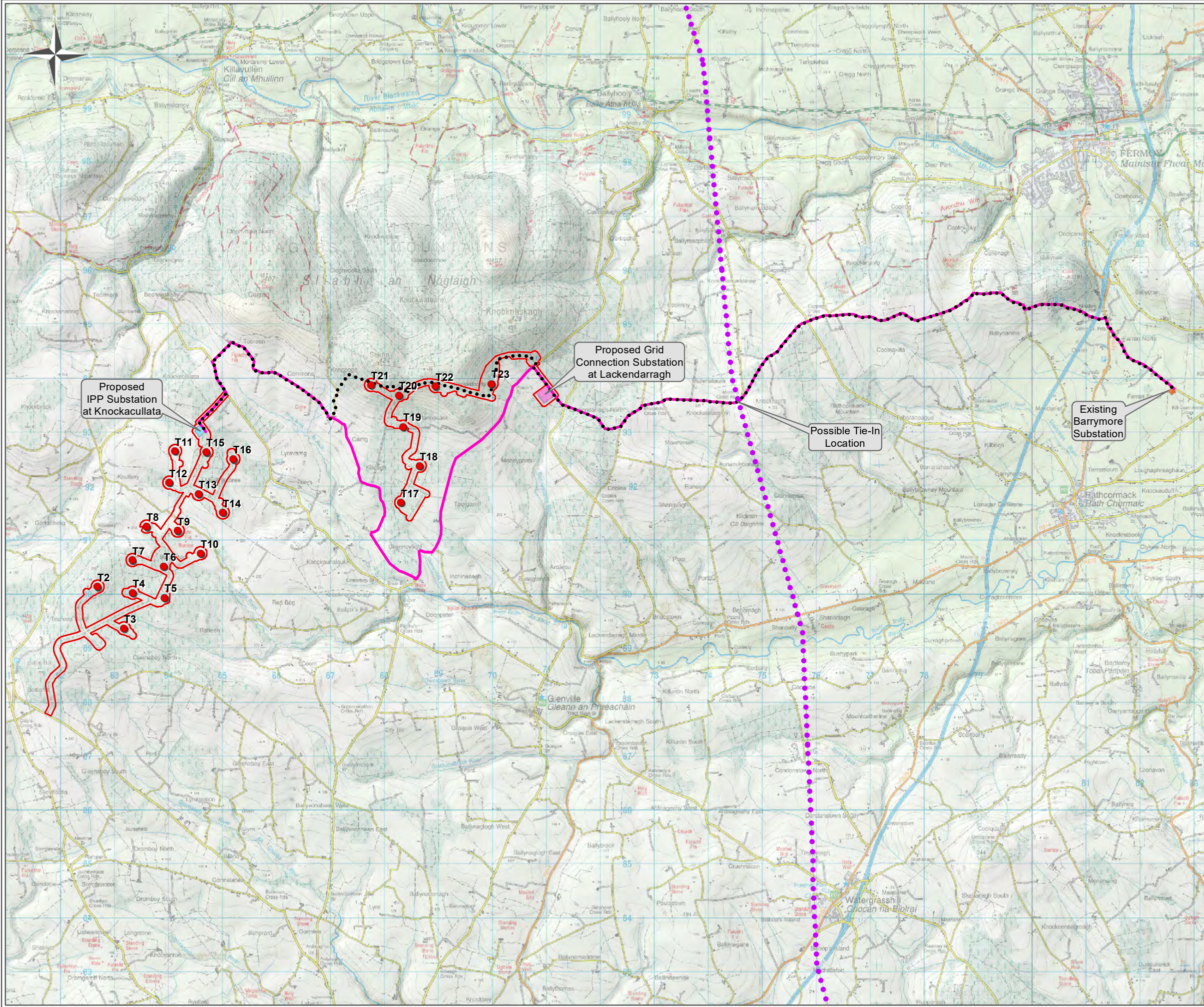
The proposed grid connection options being considered are shown in Figure 2-1.

The proposed grid connection route will follow the route of existing public and private roads between the proposed CGEP site and the point of connection with the existing grid network.

Connection will be sought under the Enduring Connection Process (ECP) grid access regime. The proposed grid connection route options are shown in Figure 2.1. The grid connection will be considered in the environmental impact assessment.

All grid connection cables will be underground. An element of overhead line works would be required for the 220kV loop-in option where the proposed underground cables from the development meet the existing overhead line (OHL) should this option be adopted.

A 220kV Loop-In from the existing overhead line would require a new 220kV line/cable interface mast to be installed on either side of an existing OHL tower. The OHL conductor will be terminated at the two new structures in order to facilitate the loop in to the new Coom Green Energy Substation. The existing OHL tower structure would then be dismantled and removed from the circuit.



Legend

- Proposed Turbine Layout
- Existing 220KV Overhead Line
- Proposed Cable Route Option 1
- Proposed Cable Route Option 2
- Proposed Development Boundary

Substations

- Existing Barrymore
- Proposed IPP Substation at Knockacullata
- Proposed Grid Connection Substation at Lackendarragh

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Figure Title | Grid Connection Route Options |
| Figure No. | 2.1 |
| Project | Coom Green Energy Park |
| Client | Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte |
| Scale | 1:70,000 |
| Page Size | A3 |
| Revision | A |
| Date | 29/05/2019 |

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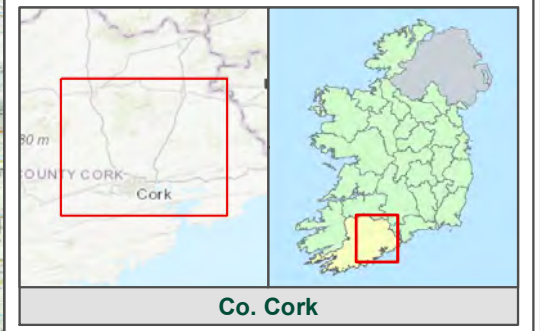
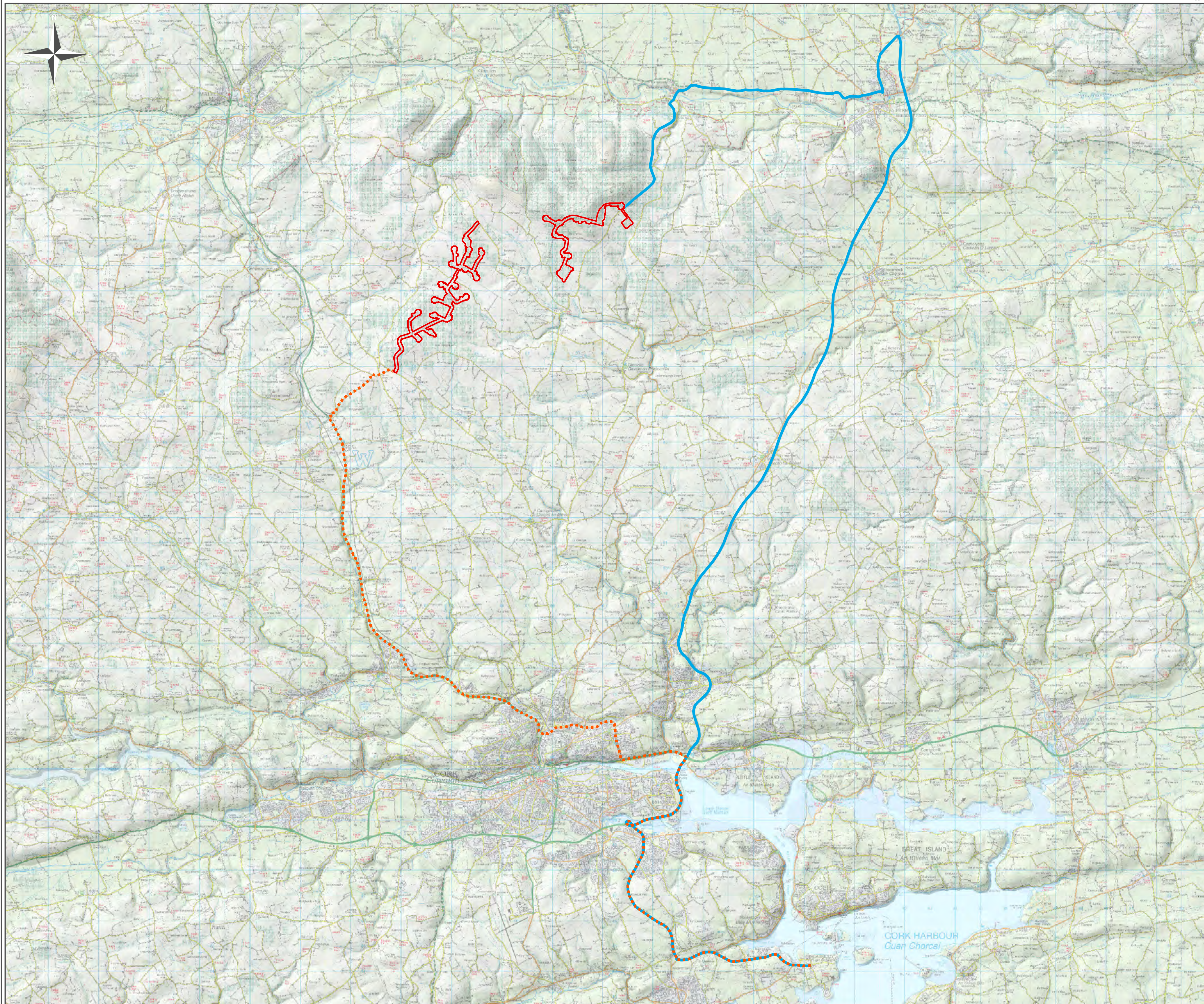
2.4 Turbine Delivery

A number of components will enter the country through the ports including the blades, tower sections and the nacelles. The turbines will be assembled on site, which will be delivered to site by special transport vehicles. A number of routes to site have been surveyed to determine the most appropriate turbine delivery route. There are 2 no. routes identified to transport the wind turbine components to the site:

Route 1: The first route leaves the M8 Motorway at Junction 14, following the R639 Regional Road into Fermoy town and on to meet the N72 National Road. It continues on the N72 as far as a turn off just before Ballyhooly village. The TDR continues on this local road to the site entrance for the proposed Coom Energy Park.

Route 2: The second route leaves the N20 National Road at Lissavoura Cross Roads, following the Local Road **to the top of Protestant Hill before going right, through Daly's Cross Roads as far as Bottlehill; the location of the site entrance.**

The above routes are shown on Figure 2-2.



Co. Cork

Legend

- Proposed Development Boundary

Proposed Turbine Delivery Routes

- Route 1
- Route 2

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|------------------|------------|
| Figure Title | Turbine Delivery Routes | | |
| Figure No. | 2.2 | | |
| Project | Coom Green Energy Park | | |
| Client | Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte | | |
| Scale | 1:150,000 | Page Size | A3 |
| Revision | A | Date | 18/06/2019 |

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3 STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE EIA

3.1 Contents of the EIA - Statutory Requirements

The EIA will be prepared in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, which sets out the contents of an EIA. In addition, the contents of Directive 2014/52/EU, which was adopted in the EU on 16 April 2014 will also be included in the preparation of this EIA (the 2014 EIA Directive).

The purpose of the EIA 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 EIA 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 EIA Methodology

3.2.1 General

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

- Draft Advice Notes on Preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015);
- Draft Guidance on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2017);
- 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);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018).

The EIA team will have regard to these guidelines in the preparation of the EIA.

The team will also have regard to best practice guidance for individual environmental topics. Regard will also be paid to the 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' published by the Irish Wind Energy Association and the 'Wind Energy Development Guidelines' published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2006) or the latest adopted revision at the time of application.

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

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

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

- Non-technical Summary
- Introduction
- Site Selection & Consideration of Alternatives
- 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 EIA 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 EIA.

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

Potential Impacts

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

The evaluation of the significance of the impact is also undertaken. Where possible, pre-existing standardised criteria for the significance of impacts will be used in accordance with the guidelines set out in the EPA (2015) Draft Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements. 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 EIA Report Structure

The structure proposed for the EIA is as follows:

Volume 1 - Non Technical summary

Volume 2 - Main EIA

Volume 3 - Appendices for the EIA

Volume 4 - Photomontages and Visual Maps

4 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIAR

4.1 Introduction

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

The EIAR will summaries 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 Alternatives Considered

The alternatives, which were considered, when developing the overall configuration of the proposed CGEP, will be described and the technology options for the project will be outlined in Chapter 2 Introduction and Project Rationale.

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

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

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

4.3 Scheme Description

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

- Community Benefit Package
- Existing Environment
- Landownership
- On Site Wind Resource
- Turbine Layout

- Power Output
- Turbine typical components
- Access Tracks and Hardstandings
- Watercourse crossings
- Grid Connection
- Onsite substations
- Battery storage
- Electrical cabling
- Traffic Management
- Tree felling
- Replant lands
- Wind farms in proximity
- Construction overview
- Operation and lifespan
- Decommissioning

In a judgement in 2014, *O’Grianna v. An Bord Pleanála, Cork County Council* and Framore Limited, it was ruled that all planning permission should not be granted for a wind farm project requiring a grid connection unless the grid connection details are provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Arising from this it is essential that the details of this project and its proposed grid connection should be provided in the EIA process, this will be set out in the Description of Development in detail in Chapter 3, while Chapter 2 will provide a detailed assessment of alternatives considered in relation to the preferred grid connection route.

The operating procedures and hours, staffing, monitoring, maintenance requirements, and the provision for decommissioning of the proposed CGEP 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 site 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.

4.4 Construction Activities

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

Information will be provided on the following aspects of the construction of the CGEP:

- Construction programme
- Construction sequence and methodology
- Drainage control measures
- Temporary site facilities
- Site preparation works
- Access road construction and upgrade
- Borrow pits and reinstatement works
- Cable installation on site

- Turbine foundation and associated hardstanding area construction
- Turbine delivery and installation
- Commissioning

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

4.5 Consultation Programme

Outlined in Section 1.5 of this report are the primary consultation methods and events that have been conducted to date. Over the course of the final design and preparation of the EIA, consultation will continue with the community, stakeholders and consultees. As part of the EIA, full details of all consultation will be documented and assessed.

4.6 Environmental Aspect: Population, Human Health and Material Assets

4.6.1 Aspects to be Addressed

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

Population

The potential impacts of the proposed CGEP on population trends and statistics on population (density, age) will be addressed in this chapter.

Human health

The potential impacts on human health from the proposed CGEP will be assessed.

Health and Safety

Details relating to health and safety arising from the proposed construction, operation and decommissioning of the green energy park will be assessed.

Socio-economic activity

The potential impacts of the proposed CGEP on employment and the main economic activities of the region as well as property values will be addressed in this chapter.

Land-use

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed CGEP on land use.

Recreation, amenity and tourism

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed CGEP on residential amenity, recreational facilities and tourism of the region.

Material assets

The potential impact of the proposed development on physical infrastructure including renewable and non-renewable resources as well as utility infrastructure will be assessed.

4.6.2 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. The statistics of this data is compared against county and state trends, density and age.

Human health

The assessment will contain a desk study review of the impacts of the operation 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 operation 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. The potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed CGEP on population, employment and economic activity both directly and indirectly, will be assessed.

Land-use

The main land uses in the area, which could potentially be affected by the proposed development, will be described using Corine 2018 land cover data and this data will be verified by subsequent walkovers and drive-by surveys.

Recreation, amenity and tourism

All areas of scenic beauty in addition to heritage, culture and leisure facilities in the areas will be identified. A review of the main recreational activities in the area likely to be affected will be conducted. Residential amenities and recreational facilities, such as forestry in public ownership, walking paths, sports facilities, will be recorded and potential impacts assessed.

An assessment will then be conducted for each element of the proposed CGEP 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

Information on the existing material assets within the receiving environment will be obtained and assessed in the context of the proposed development. The CGEP will also be considered under the material assets section in its own right as it will be classed as a renewable resource.

4.6.3 Receiving Environment

The proposed development is located c. 9.1km from the Mallow, c. 1.5km from Fermoy, and c. 16km from Cork City. Other settlements within the vicinity of the proposed development include Glenville, c. 4km from the site boundary, Grenagh which is c. 5.5 km from the site boundary and Rathcormac which is located c. 10.5km from the proposed development.

A survey of existing dwellings was carried out by FTC in April 2018. According to the house survey, there are 70 no. houses located within the initial 1.36km study area of which 30 comprise a mix of residential and commercial, and a further 2 receptors characterised as commercial only.

4.6.4 Potential Impacts

Population

The potential impacts arising from the proposed development on population during construction are likely to be slight positive, given the opportunities for enhanced employment opportunities associated with the proposed development. During operational phase these impacts would likely be reduced to imperceptible. The assessment will consider the potential impacts during all phases of the proposed development.

Human health

The potential affects arising from the proposed development can impact 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 positive impacts to human health.

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 Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan which will include detailed health and safety requirements during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the green energy park. With the implementation of measures outlined in the EIAR and oCEMP, it is anticipated that the proposed development is not likely to have a potential significant impact on human health and safety.

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 this land take. Full details will be contained in this chapter of the EIAR.

Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

Potential construction impacts 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 disruption to access routes and walking paths, however any disruption will be mitigated where possible by maintaining access for people throughout, and where this is not possible, in minimising the impact, clearly communicating the timing and scope of works to the local community.

Material Assets

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

4.7 Environmental Aspect: Shadow Flicker

4.7.1 Aspects to be addressed

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

4.7.2 Assessment Methodology

A shadow flicker assessment will be carried out using ReSoft Windfarm software (version 4.2.2.1) to predict the time and duration of shadow flicker on windows of habitable or permitted houses within 10 rotor diameter from a proposed turbine, as informed by the house and planning surveys.

The methodology used for **the shadow flicker assessment will be performed in consideration of the "Wind Energy Development Planning Guidelines" DoEHLG (2006) and the Irish Wind Energy Association (2012) "Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry"**. This methodology includes:

- Calculation of sunshine factor based in the historical measurements from the closes Met Éireann meteorology station.
- Calculation of shadow flicker levels for the final turbine layout.
- Where exceedances are predicted, detailed mitigation measures, including an outline potential turbine shut-down will be proposed.

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

Based on latest draft guidelines, a demonstration of the potential for the development to comply with zero shadow flicker and a curtailment analysis to demonstrate potential downtime will also be provided.

4.7.3 Receiving Environment

The general receiving environment is rural. The majority of buildings in the vicinity of the proposed development are residential or agricultural buildings. A survey of existing dwellings was carried out by FT in April 2018 up to a distance of 1.36km from the proposed development boundary.

4.7.4 Potential Impacts

Shadow flicker occurs at certain times of the year when the sun is shining and low in the sky, and where the movement of turbine blades cast moving shadows over areas in the vicinity of the turbines. These moving shadows can periodically reduce light coming from, for example, the window of a room, causing the light to appear to flicker.

For shadow flicker to occur, a number of conditions must be reached:

- That there is a sufficient level of sunlight shining at a low angle in the sky;
- That the turbine is directly between the sun and the dwelling, and;
- That the blades are turning and no screening is obscuring views.

CGEP will operate a zero shadow flicker policy for all dwellings in the area. In order to achieve this, a dedicated shadow flicker system will be installed at the green energy park to prevent shadow flicker impact from occurring at any house. The shadow flicker system will comprise of a programmed module that will monitor intensity of sunlight, position of the sun, and potential for flicker based on the location and height of houses.

The monitoring system will send a signal to the turbine that is anticipated to cause shadow flicker effect, instructing it to shut down temporarily for the duration of the impact. This system is highly effective in preventing shadow flicker and takes advantages of emerging technologies relating to wind farm technology.

4.8 Environmental Aspect: Noise and Vibration

4.8.1 Aspects to be addressed

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

4.8.2 Assessment Methodology

The noise and vibration impact assessment will address impacts from the construction and operation of the CGEP as well as carrying out noise monitoring to quantify the baseline noise levels in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Noise Monitoring

The survey methodology will be based on the Institute of Acoustics Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise (May 2013) and the associated supplementary notes relevant to the baseline measurements and analysis.

The guidance states that at least two weeks monitoring is typically required to collect all necessary data. If insufficient wind data is collected after two weeks, the monitoring periods will be extended until such time as sufficient wind speed and direction data has been measured.

The noise monitoring will be carried out in accordance with ISO 1996 Parts 1 and 2, A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise, The Institute of Acoustics, May 2013 and the Supplementary Guidance Note 1: Data Collection, September 2014.

The data analysis and reporting will be carried out applying relevant sections from the IOA Good Practice Guide and the following supplementary notes:

- Supplementary Guidance Note 2: Data Processing and Derivation of ETSU-R-97 Background Curves, September 2014
- Supplementary Guidance Note 4: Wind Shear, July 2014

Three rounds of noise monitoring at 18 noise monitoring locations has taken place to characterise the noise environment in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Wind speed data was obtained from a permanent mast and a Lidar unit (the lidar unit was positioned at two locations, the location was dependent on where on site the noise meters were installed).

Data was measured for a minimum of two weeks and up to five weeks in some cases until such time as sufficient data had been deemed to be collected. The predicted noise levels will be assessed against the noise **limits in the "preferred draft approach"**.

Following detailed engagement between the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), **an emerging "preferred draft approach" to the Review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines** was jointly announced on 13 June 2017.

The emerging "preferred draft approach" was outlined to update the general public, stakeholders and planning authorities on the progress made and timetable for conclusion of the Review of the 2006 Guidelines, in the light of the elapse of time since the review commenced in 2013.

The "preferred draft approach" proposes noise restriction limits consistent with World Health Organisation standards, proposing a relative rated noise limit of 5dB(A) above existing background noise within the range of 35 to 43dB(A), with 43dB(A) being the maximum noise limit permitted, day or night. The noise limits will apply to outdoor locations at any residential or noise sensitive properties.

Data Analysis and Limit Derivation

The baseline noise measurements will be correlated with the standardised 10m height wind speed and rainfall data and then plotted to provide wind speed versus averaged background noise levels at each monitoring location. The averaged prevailing background noise level as a function of wind speed will be used to derive the daytime and night-time noise limits for increasing wind speeds and allow derivation of daytime and night-time noise limits based on the DoEHLG Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) and/or noise limits in accordance with the Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, draft issued in June 2017.

Operational Impact Analysis and Mitigation Design

Operational noise predictions will be carried out to determine the noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive locations. Noise predictions will be carried out using International Standard ISO 9613, Acoustics – Attenuation of Sound during Propagation Outdoors. The noise modelling parameters and assumptions used will be in accordance with the recommended parameters in 'A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise', The Institute of Acoustics, May 2013.

It is proposed that the methodology in the Wyle Report is used to calculate the directivity. Calculating the directivity is not a trivial exercise and requires extensive work. The method requires octave band information from each turbine at each receptor.

The predicted operational noise levels from the proposed development as well as the cumulative predicted operational levels from all nearby operational and consented developments will be compared against noise limits derived using the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 and the Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, draft issued in June 2017.

The noise predictions will also be assessed against the World Health Organisations Night noise guidelines for Europe (2009) which identifies a target of 40 dB L_{night} outside night noise guideline. The L_{night}, outside is the night-time noise indicator (L_{night}) of Directive 2002/49/EC. It is the long-term average sound level determined over all the night periods (23:00 – 07:00) of a year. This requires long term wind speed data to be analysed during night-time periods. The data will be binned into various wind speeds and directions. This data in combination with the predicted noise levels for wind directions and wind speeds will be used to calculate a predicted L_{night}, outside at each of the monitoring locations.

Cumulative Impact

The predicted noise the proposed development and the other operational and consented dwellings will also be considered. It is proposed to depart from the above and apply the methodology outlined in the IOA guidelines. The potential cumulative impacts and the need to determine whether it is necessary to model the potential cumulative impacts will be appraised in accordance with the IOA guidelines. The IOA guidelines state... "If the proposed wind farm produces noise levels within 10 dB of any existing wind farm/s at the same receptor location, then a cumulative noise impact assessment is necessary." The IOA guidelines also state... "Equally, in such cases where noise from the proposed wind farm is predicted to be 10 dB greater than that from the existing wind farm (but compliant with ETSU-R-97 in its own right), then a cumulative noise impact assessment would not be necessary."

In addition to the cumulative impact from nearby operational and consented wind farms, part of the proposed development will be on Bottlehill landfill which is a licenced facility. Therefore, the noise impact from the proposed development within the licensed area in combination with the noise emissions from landfill activities will be considered as part of the cumulative assessment for the development.

Construction Impact Analysis and Mitigation Design

Construction 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.

4.8.3 Receiving Environment

A survey of existing dwellings was carried out by FTC in April 2018 to a distance of up to 1.36km from the proposed development boundary. No turbine will be located within 750m of a dwelling.

4.8.4 Potential Impacts

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

4.9 Environmental Aspect: Traffic and Transportation

4.9.1 Aspects to be addressed

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

4.9.2 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 site 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 site.

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 and operation of the wind farm. The traffic generated by the construction workforce, by the transport of materials and equipment as well as future maintenance-related activities will be predicted.

The traffic distribution pattern on the local road network during construction will be examined and impacts determined.

The potential disruption to the road network during the installation of the cables and the availability of alternative routes will be assessed, where required. Recommendations will be made to mitigate any potential traffic impacts on the road network.

4.9.3 Receiving Environment

A number of routes to site have been surveyed to determine the most appropriate turbine delivery route. There are 2 no. routes identified to transport the wind turbine components to the site:

Route 1: The first route leaves the M8 Motorway at Junction 14, following the R639 Regional Road into Fermoy town and on to meet the N72 National Road. It continues on the N72 as far as a turn off just before Ballyhooly village. The TDR continues on this local road to the site entrance for the proposed Coom Energy Park.

Route 2: The second route leaves the N20 National Road at Lissavoura Cross Roads, following the Local Road **to the top of Protestant Hill before going right, through Daly's Cross Roads as far as Bottlehill; the location of the site entrance.**

The proposed development is located in the vicinity of the Bottlehill Landfill and access to the site will primarily use the access for this facility from the N20 National Road. Coillte forest tracks will be used where possible and upgraded as necessary to serve internal access.

4.9.4 Potential Impacts

The greatest potential for traffic impact from the proposed development is during the construction phase which will give rise to additional HGV traffic on the road network.

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

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

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

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

The cumulative impact of construction traffic will also be considered in terms of other developments in the area.

4.10 Environmental Aspect: Air Quality and Climate

4.10.1 Aspects to be addressed

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

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

4.10.2 Assessment Methodology

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

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

The potential micro-climatic impacts of CGEP 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 CGEP become operational, will be quantified and **assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.**

In terms of carbon losses and savings, the Scottish Windfarm Carbon Assessment Tool. will be used to estimate carbon savings as a result of the proposed construction and operation of the wind farm.

4.10.3 Receiving Environment

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

The macro-climatic baseline is the future emission of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, which would be produced by fossil fuel power generation in the country, in the absence of the proposed CGEP.

4.10.4 Potential Impacts

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

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

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

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

The proposed CGEP is expected to have a positive impact in terms of the nett reduction in emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases as a result of the proposed wind farm. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the reduction in emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation when CGEP is operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of **Ireland's** commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

4.11 Environmental Aspect: (Biodiversity)

4.11.1 Aspects to be addressed

This chapter of the EIAR will address the terrestrial and freshwater aquatic habitats and species, including those of conservation concern within and in close proximity to the wind farm; including along and in close proximity to the on-site cable routes; on and in close proximity to the sub-station, tree felling and any required replanting. It will also address the potential impacts on Biodiversity 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 the zone of influence of the proposed development
- Other designated sites such as Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Refuges for Fauna or Flora (where applicable)
- Habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive
- Species listed in Annex II and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive
- Birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive
- The impact on any flight paths of bird and bat species
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts
- Protected flora under the Flora Protection Order (2015)
- Red data book species
- And biodiversity in general.

4.11.2 Assessment Methodology

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

Bird survey methods have been selected following a review of best practice guidelines, including guidance available from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), and following consultation with NPWS and other bodies such as BirdWatch Ireland. The ecological surveys commenced in 2016 and are ongoing at the site.

The works being conducted include the following elements:

- Ecological monitoring of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems according to current best practice, e.g. Irish Environmental Protection Agency (IRE), the Irish National Parks and Wildlife Service of Ireland (NPWS), the Irish National Roads Authority of Ireland (NRA), Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM), The Heritage Council of Ireland, Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements (Article 6, E.U. Habitats Directive)
- Desktop studies including ecological data review and analysis
- Ecological Constraints Studies
- Ecology Surveys, including but not limited to:
 - Birds e.g. Vantage Point surveys targeting Hen Harrier and other receptors, Hen Harrier winter roost surveys, wintering wildfowl distribution surveys, General breeding bird transect surveys etc.
 - Mammals e.g. Badger, Otter, other non-volant mammals;
 - Bat surveys
 - Habitat and Botanical surveys
 - Aquatic Ecology including macro-invertebrates, fisheries, freshwater pearl mussel (where applicable), etc.
 - Other taxa. e.g. Butterflies such as Marsh Fritillary
- Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)
- Statutory Compliance and Consultation, advice on conservation and legislation
- Biodiversity Action Plans and/or Species and Habitat Management Plans as applicable

For each mitigation measure the following will be provided:

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

4.11.3 Receiving Environment

The Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (side code: 002170) is located to the southeast of the development site. Other environmental designated sites include the Boggeragh Mountains NHA, Cork Harbour SPA, Ballyhoura Mountains SAC and Kilcolam Bog SPA.

4.11.4 Potential Impacts

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

The ecological evaluation of the site and its' flora and fauna 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, 2018). The impacts will be assessed under a number of parameters such as magnitude, extent, timing, frequency, duration and reversibility. The impact significance criteria detailed in the EPA guidelines (EPA, Draft 2017) will be used where applicable.

Potential impacts of the wind farm on flora and fauna include:

- Direct loss of habitat due to the footprint of the area;
- Secondary Damage to adjacent habitats during construction which could potentially be affected by construction activity;
- Impacts during construction on the ecology of water dependant habitats
- Impacts on water quality and thus secondary effects on Biodiversity both at a local level and regional level due to pollution run-off whether during or post construction;
- Impacts on aquatic species during construction or due to pollution events etc.;
- Effects on local wildlife, including loss of habitat, disturbance and displacement;
- The potential collision risk to birds and bats;
- 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, where applicable, **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, flora and fauna.

The potential for likely significant effects on European (Natura 2000) sites as a result of the proposed development will be appraised through the appropriate assessment process.

4.11.5 Appropriate Assessment

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

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

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

European sites, as defined in the 2000 Act, comprise both Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and 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 2000 Act. **Screening for AA in accordance with section 177U is the first stage of the AA process ("Stage One"), in which the possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site is considered. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a European site are thereby excluded, or "screened out", at this stage of the process.**

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 examine whether or not the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

The proposed development is located within the surface water catchment of the River Bride, a tributary of the River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford). The River Blackwater main channel and the River Bride are both designated within the River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code: 2170). This is the primary European Site located close to the proposed development. Further to the east, the Blackwater Callows SPA (site code: 004094) is located east of Fermoy town. All European Sites within 15km of the proposed development will undergo consideration as to the potential for likely significant effects thereon.

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

- Direct effects refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development. Direct impacts can arise as a result of a change in land use or management, such as the clear-felling of forestry, creation of access roads and hardstanding's etc.
- Indirect and secondary effects 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 (cross-factor) effect, 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.
- *Ex-situ* effects on supporting habitats or species for European Sites may occur and dependant on pathways may result in the likelihood of significant effects on European Sites.

During Stage 2 AA, the effect of the project on the integrity of the European site(s), as defined by its structure and function, and its conservation objectives is appraised. Potential impacts on species or habitats will be evaluated with respect to the scale, extent and nature of the impact, for example the area of habitat affected, changes in hydrodynamics, the percentage reduction in species density, potential changes in species distribution. The duration of the impact will be determined in terms of the duration of the works and also the amount of time required for the species and / or habitat to be replaced or to recover from the impacts. During Stage 2 of the AA process, mitigation measures can be developed to minimise effects on European Sites.

Mitigation measures will follow the mitigation hierarchy:

- 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 and how any mitigation failure will be addressed.

4.12 Environmental Aspect: Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology

4.12.1 Aspects to be addressed

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

4.12.2 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'**.

At this stage, it is envisaged that the Preliminary Site Investigation (Phase 1) will consist of geophysics at turbine locations in order to provide a preliminary assessment of rockhead levels at each site, peat probing along access road routes to identify whether roads are likely to be floated or founded and trial pits at borrow pit locations to confirm the depth of overburden at borrow pit locations and potentially log the upper weathered rock deposits.

It is proposed to carry out exploratory rotary boreholes at selected locations along the proposed grid connection cable route where horizontal directional drilling (HDD) techniques being considered as a method of traversing existing watercourses and the M8 motorway, which cross the existing public road route between the development site and Barrymore substation.

Geophysics will be undertaken at the turbine locations and trial pits will be carried out at the proposed borrow pit locations.

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.

4.12.3 Receiving Environment

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) 1:100,000 scale bedrock geology map shows that the wind farm site is underlain by the Ballytrasna Formation which is described as a purple mudstone and sandstone.

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

- Glacial till derived from Devonian sandstones,
- Blanket peat; and
- Alluvium (A). Undifferentiated alluvial deposits occur along river channels.

The majority of the site is underlain by Glacial Till.

There is a karstic feature noted north of the site at Killavullen caves and an active sand and gravel quarry (Lyrevarrig) approximately 1km from the site. No geological heritage areas were identified in the vicinity of the site.

The underlying bedrock is noted as a Locally Important Aquifer, with vulnerabilities noted from High to Extreme.

4.12.4 Potential Impacts & Mitigations

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

- The excavation and removal of soil and rock and interference with any existing site drainage is a potential direct permanent effect that, without mitigation, could alter the existing hydrogeological balance of the site;
- The construction of the turbines, hardstanding areas, access tracks, borrow pits and cable trenches has the potential to cause hydrogeological impacts by modifying the natural groundwater levels adjacent to the excavation. This in turn may deprive ditches and streams of their natural supply of water which may lead to reduced base flow and recharge to the bedrock aquifer;
- Areas which are underlain by peat deposits are susceptible to slope stability issues, including peat slides and bursts, when changes are made to topography, hydrogeology and hydrology of the site;
- The use of granular fill and other materials for the construction of the access tracks has the potential to have a permanent impact on the source quarries or borrow pits;
- Excavations have the potential to increase erosion and sediment release that could also have additional impacts on water quality due to sedimentation of water courses;
- Soil compaction may occur due to movement of construction and maintenance traffic;
- Removal of sub soils may result in the exposure of the underlying rock to sources of contamination and may increase the vulnerability of the aquifer, whether or not the rock is exposed;
- Chemical pollution may occur as a result of an accidental spillage or leakage of chemicals, runoff from vehicle washing facilities, unset concrete, storage of fuels or refuelling activities, etc. Chemical pollutants may enter the groundwater and have implications for ecology and any wells in the area, particularly those located down-gradient of the site.
- Sanitary waste arising from temporary construction compounds could lead to contamination of groundwater

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

4.13 Environmental Aspect: Water Quality and Hydrology

4.13.1 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 CGEP will also be addressed.

4.13.2 Assessment Methodology

The emerging design layout will consider the sensitivities of the environmentally designated areas in the proximity of the site. A preliminary site visit will be undertaken to establish the constraints relating to hydrology and noting any hydrological features. The desk study will involve setting out the principles for surface water management, attenuation and treatment for the site specific land use at the site. Once the design layout is fixed, a further site visit will be scheduled in to undertake a walkover of the site, to identify all the streams crossed by the proposed layout and examine how overland flow will be accommodated and to identify suitable locations for the treatment of discharges.

Cumulative impacts will be addressed to assess the hydrological impact of neighbouring sites. Taking account of the sensitivity of the receiving environment, the treatment of the surface water run-off will concentrate on Silt Protection Controls (SPCs). Measures will also be considered to avoid any increase in flooding downstream.

A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will be undertaken to assess the impact of the proposed development on downstream flooding. Liaison will be ongoing with the Geology department in-house to incorporate any relevant results emerging from the hydrogeological and geotechnical findings and in particular the peat stability assessment. This FRA will examine the requirements for the conveyance of flood flows at stream crossings. The FRA will include an assessment of flood history, hydrometric data (water levels and flows) for adjacent water body, surveyed site levels and rainfall data for extreme events. The FRA will take cognisance of climate change and extreme flood events as deemed appropriate. The capacity of downstream structures will be examined for the pre and post development scenarios. Siltation and pollution control will be examined along with attenuation, which will be incorporated into the proposed drainage system where required to mitigate any risk of an increase in flooding and to protect the downstream environmentally protected areas.

The methodology will include the following:

- Study of existing surface water/drainage features in the vicinity;
- Delineation of catchment boundaries;
- Catchment mapping;
- Establish constraints;
- Study of the proposed layout of the development;
- Examine grid connection route options;
- Assessment of the turbine delivery route (TDR);
- Liaison with in-house Geotechnical department for details on soil conditions on the site;
- Study of planning documents for adjacent developments;
- History of flooding and status of drainage in the neighbourhood;
- Existing Water Quality assessment;
- Study of the sections of forestry, examining details of planting and existing forestry drainage systems;
- Forestry felling assessment relevant to hydrology and water quality;
- Preparation of the overall hydrological, water quality and drainage impact assessment:
 - a. Potential impacts of the proposed development on hydrology (hydrodynamics and flooding)
 - b. Potential cumulative hydrological impacts of the proposed development with any neighbouring wind farms
 - c. Potential drainage into sensitive catchments
 - d. Potential impacts of the proposed development on water quality
- Consult with interested bodies, Inland Fisheries Ireland and relevant Local Authorities;

- Study of development plans;
- Site drainage investigation will involve identification of drainage sub-catchments, studying the requirement(s) of cross-drainage works, if any, exploring the infiltration potential of the soils in the area, etc.;
- Outline of mitigation measures for flooding and pollution of receiving waters;
- Design of site appropriate erosion and sediment control measures, development of erosion and sediment control procedures for implementation on site;
- Preparation of Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DoEHLG and OPW, November 2009, including a cumulative assessment with adjacent developments and Surface Water Management Plan in accordance with Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GDSDS) and the CIRIA SuDS Manual (C753) including the design of stream crossings;
- Design of site specific surface water drainage system and drainage infrastructure – to control flow of surface water on site during construction, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs);
- **Preparation of Designer’s Risk Assessment – Drainage Element;**
- Contribution to the Appropriate Assessment;
- Outline of residual impacts.

The Hydrology element of the EIA and the FRA will inform the civil design of the site. A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) will be prepared as part of the Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP). A hydrological impact assessment and flood study will be incorporated into the SWMP, culminating in a Drainage/ Surface Water Management Plan for Erosion Control, Protection of Water Quality and mitigation of flood risk.

4.13.3 [Receiving Environment](#)

The site lies within the Hydrometric Area 18_Blackwater Munster and within the River Blackwater Catchment.

The Blackwater catchment includes the area drained by the River Blackwater and all streams entering tidal water between East Point and Knockaverry, Youghal, Co. Cork, draining a total area of 3,310km². The largest urban centre in the catchment is Mallow. The other main urban centres in this catchment are Fermoy, Mitchelstown, Youghal, Kanturk and Millstreet. The total population of the catchment is approximately 109,030 with a population density of 33 people per km².

Sub catchments associated with the proposed development areas include the following:

- Bride [Waterford]_SC_010
- Blackwater [Munster]_SC_080
- Blackwater [Munster]_SC_110

The majority of the site development area lies within the Bride [Waterford]_SC_010 sub catchment. Small portions of the western and north-western parts of the development area lie within the Blackwater [Munster]_SC_080 and Blackwater [Munster]_SC_110 respectively.

The following Water Framework Directive river sub basins are associated with the proposed development area:

- COOM_010
- CLYDA_030
- ROSS (KILLAVULLEN)_010
- BRIDE (BLACKWATER)_010
- BRIDE (BLACKWATER)_020

In addition to the above, the proposed grid connection route passes through the following river sub-basins:

- BLACKWATER (MUNSTER)_180
- BRIDE (BLACKWATER)_030

The main waterbodies within the study area are the Toor and Coom rivers along with their associated tributary streams which flow east into the River Bride which is a main tributary of the Blackwater. The River Bride flows south between the two main development study areas. The Bunnaglanna and North Lackendarragh Streams have their headwaters in the Knocknaskagh Hill area near the eastern boundary of the development study area.

According to the Water Framework Directive Website, <http://watermaps.wfdireland.ie>, the River Bride (IE_SW_18_1605), which is the major waterbody flowing through the western development area, is of good **overall status but classified as "at risk"**.

In terms of flood risk, PFRA/CFRAMS: 1% AEP Fluvial Flood Extent mapping shows potential for flooding within a very small percentage of the SW area of the development study area. The proposed grid connection route crosses a fluvial flood zone in three locations. Pluvial flood zones are identified by PFRA/CFRAMS in 4no. locations within the energy park development study area but these are small and relatively isolated. There are 2no. pluvial flood zones in close proximity to the proposed grid connection route.

4.13.4 Potential Impacts

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

Sediment has the potential to arise from:

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

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

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

The potential impacts on hydrology and drainage that may arise from the proposed development of the CGEP 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 CGEP, potential impacts on water quality will primarily arise from the use of lubricants, coolants and hydrocarbons in the operations of the turbine transformers as well as routine maintenance of all plant and equipment.

4.14 Environmental Aspect: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

4.14.1 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 CGEP 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.

4.14.2 Assessment Methodology

The content of the cultural heritage assessment will be based on current EPA guidelines and relevant national and international best practice guidelines. The assessment will identify the recorded and potential elements of the cultural heritage resource (including archaeology, built heritage, history and folklore) within a study area encompassing the proposed development areas, grid connection, borrow pits and site access routes.

A preliminary review of the recorded cultural heritage resource within the wider environs of the development area, including known archaeological sites and designated architectural heritage structure, was compiled at the outset of the design process by John Cronin and Associates (JCA). This identifies the nature, location and legal status of all recorded archaeological sites within the environs of the proposed development. There are no designated architectural heritage structures located within the close environs of the proposed development area. The archaeological consultants have continued to liaise with the project team as the development design has progressed and this included a review of grid connection options. The EIAR will expand on this preliminary review and will include a review of relevant publications, archaeological excavations in the region, cartographic sources, archival records, aerial and LiDAR imagery and other sources. A preliminary inspection of the proposed development area, including grid connection options, has been undertaken and further inspections will be carried out during the EIAR assessment.

4.14.3 Receiving Environment

There are no recorded archaeological sites located within the footprint of the proposed development while there are three recorded archaeological sites within distances of 100m-350m of proposed development areas. Surface traces of two of these sites (Barrow CO043-001---- and Fulacht Fiadh CO043-005----) have been removed by the modern forestry plantation but the potential exists for the survival of sub-surface archaeological features and/or artefacts at their locations. The third recorded monument (Ring Barrow CO043-004----) remains extant within an area of pasture adjacent to a forestry plantation. While no development works are proposed at the recorded locations of any of these sites, it is envisioned that their locations maintained within clearly signed exclusion areas for the duration of the construction phase.

There surrounding landscape contains a range of archaeological monuments and these will be reviewed and assessed in the EIAR. Island wedge tomb (National Monument 502) is approx. 2.3km to the west of the nearest proposed turbine location. The location of this monument will also be assessed during the Visual Impact Assessment carried out as part of the EIAR. A number of hilltop cairns and a recorded section of the Claidh Dubh routeway are located within forestry in lands to the north of the proposed development area. These sites will also be assessed as part of the EIAR.

There are no designated architectural heritage structures located within the close environs of the proposed development area. A review of historic maps indicates that prior to the creation of the extensive modern forestry plantations that now cover much of the development area, it comprised vacant upland heathland in recent centuries. The EIAR will include an assessment of any surviving vernacular structures and bridges within the environs of the proposed development, including the grid connection, as such structures are often of local cultural heritage interest and worthy of preservation by record or preservation in situ.

4.14.4 Potential Impacts

The predicted impacts of the proposed scheme on both the recorded and potential elements of the cultural heritage resource within proposed development areas will be identified and clearly defined based on EPA criteria. The assessment will also address cumulative impacts and potential inter-visibility and sensitivity analyses of cultural heritage sites within the surrounding landscape.

Appropriate mitigation measures to minimise impacts on the cultural heritage resource will be formulated following consultation with both the client and the relevant local and national authorities. These may involve (1) the preservation *in situ* of identified sites within protected buffer zones and (2) undertaking pre-development site investigations and/or the supervision of ground works during the construction phase. It is noted that the forested nature of much of the development area will form a constraint for pre-development site investigations. While details on any required mitigation measures will await assessment, it is envisioned that potential impacts will be subject to constant assessment as the design and consultation process progresses.

As statutory consultees the NMS (via the Development Applications Unit) and Cork County Council (CCC) will be consulted in relation to required mitigation measures as part of the formal EIA consultation process.

4.15 Environmental Aspect: Aviation and Telecommunications

4.15.1 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 EIA will include an assessment of any such potential impacts.

4.15.2 Assessment Methodology

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

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

The proposed assessment methodology will include:

- Consultation with Irish Aviation Authority, Commission for the Regulation of Utilities, emergency services
- Consultation with telecommunications operators to gather the necessary data
- Preparation of constraint mapping

- Analyses of the impact of the **turbines on telecommunications operators' point-to-point** microwave radio links and apply appropriate buffer distances around links and masts where required
- Discussions with telecommunications operators identifying potential clashes. Operators to provide feedback on initial assessment and to provide information on the importance of the links identified.
- Further specialist investigations will be carried out if the telecommunications operators identify potential impacts.
- Where necessary, mitigation measures to be agreed with operators including:
 - Turbine relocation
 - Telecommunications link relocation
 - Underground fibre optic cables to replace microwave link
 - Submission of final detailed layout to telecoms operators.
 - Agree any layout alterations following final detailed assessment by telecoms operators, or agree suitable mitigation measures if necessary.

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

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

4.15.3 Receiving Environment

In terms of the receiving environment, links will be identified within a suitable buffer distance of the turbines, following consultation with network providers.

4.15.4 Potential Impacts

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

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

The Irish Wind Energy Association 2012 guidelines, "Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry", indicate that wind turbines within 20 km of a radio navigation aid have the potential to cause electro-magnetic interference with these signals. It is possible that houses in the immediate vicinity of the turbines could require some remedial measures in relation to television reception. In practice, such measures are not difficult to implement, are relatively inexpensive and if necessary will be undertaken by the developer in conjunction with RTÉ.

4.16 Environmental Aspect: Landscape and Visual Impact

4.16.1 Aspects to be addressed

The Landscape chapter describes the landscape context of the proposed CGEP and assesses the likely landscape and visual impacts of the scheme on the receiving environment. Although closely linked, landscape and visual impacts are assessed separately. Landscape Impact Assessment (LIA) relates to changes in the physical landscape brought about by the proposed development, which may alter its character. Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) relates to assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people. Cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment is concerned with additional changes to the landscape or visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated or separate to it), or actions that occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future.

Aspects to be addressed in the report are:

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

Residential Amenity Assessment will be assessed with detailed findings in an Appendix as part of the Population and Human Health Chapter of the EIAR.

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.

4.16.2 [Assessment Methodology](#)

The Landscape and Visual Assessment of the CGEP will be undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment publication entitled '**Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment**' – Third Edition (2013). This is recognised as the principal best practice guidance for landscape and visual assessment of all forms of development in Ireland and the UK.

Regard will also be given to the overarching Environmental Impact Assessments guidelines and advice notes set out by the EPA:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines on the Information to be contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, Draft 2017)
- EPA Advice notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Assessment Reports (EPA, Draft 2015)

Other relevant LVIA and wind energy specific guidance that will be considered includes;

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006).
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape (version 3a – 2017)
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (2012).
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Visual representation of wind farms: Best Practice Guidelines (version 2.2 - 2017).

Production of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment involved baseline work in the form of desktop studies and fieldwork comprising professional evaluation by qualified and experienced Landscape Architects. This entailed the following:

Desktop Study

- Establishing an appropriate Study Area from which to study the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed CGEP – 20km in this instance, in accordance with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006;
- Review of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps, which indicates areas from which the development is potentially visible in relation to terrain within the Study Area;
- Review of relevant County Development Plans, particularly with regard to sensitive landscape and scenic view/route designations;
- Selection of potential Viewshed Reference Points (VRPs) from key visual receptors to be investigated during fieldwork for actual visibility and sensitivity;
- Consultation with the local community and the Local Authority in respect of sensitive VRP locations to be included in the assessment.

Fieldwork

- Recording of a description of the landscape elements and characteristics within the Study Area.
- **Selection of a refined set of VRP's for assessment. This includes the capture of reference images and grid reference coordinates for each VRP location for the visualisation specialist to prepare photomontages.**

Appraisal

- Consideration of the receiving landscape with regard to overall landscape character as well as the salient features of the study area including landform, drainage, vegetation, land use and landscape designations.
- Consideration of the visual environment including receptor locations such as centres of population and houses; transport routes; public amenities and facilities and; designated and recognised views of scenic value.
- Consideration of design guidance and planning policies.
- Consideration of potentially significant effects and the mitigation measures that could be employed to reduce such effects.
- Estimation of the significance of residual landscape impacts.
- Estimation of the significance of residual visual impacts aided by photomontages prepared at all of the selected VRP locations.
- Estimation of cumulative landscape and visual effects in combination with other surrounding developments that are either existing or permitted.

4.16.3 Receiving Environment

The site of the proposed CGEP is contained in productive rural landscape of rolling farmland and forestry between the settlements of Mallow to the northwest and Cork City to the south. The site is contained on the southern slopes and foothills of the Nagles Mountains with the Blackwater River Valley contained on the northern side of this range. There are a number of small settlements within the study area as well as a dispersed rural population. The N20 national primary route runs between Cork and Mallow to the west of the site and the N73 national secondary road runs along the Blackwater Valley in an east-west direction.

4.16.4 Planning and Policy Context

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006)

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) provide guidance on wind farm siting and design criteria for a number of different landscapes types. The proposed CGEP is considered to principally contained within an **area that identifies with the 'Hilly and Flat Farmland' landscape type.**

Cork County Development Plan 2014-2020

A landscape character assessment is incorporated within the Cork County Development Plan and divides the county into 16 No. Landscape Character Types (LCTs). The site in question is situated between two Landscape Character Types; LCT 10b – **'Fissured Fertile Middleground'** and LCT 13b – **'Valleyed Marginal Middleground'** (Figure 1.4-1.6 refers). LCT 10b – Fissured Fertile Middleground is recognised as having; Medium landscape sensitivity; Low Landscape Value; and County Landscape Importance while LCT 13b is recognised as having; Medium landscape sensitivity; Medium Landscape Value; and Local Landscape Importance. It should also be **noted that LCT 5 'Fertile Plain with Moorland' borders LCT 13b immediately to the north and is identified as having a 'Very High' landscape value, a 'Very High' landscape sensitivity, and a 'County' landscape importance.**

In terms of Wind Energy development, the site is contained in an area that is **'Open to Consideration'**, whereas, immediately to the north of the Nagles ridgeline within the Blackwater Valley context, wind energy is **'Normally Discouraged'**.

In terms of scenic designations, Scenic Routes are indicated in the Cork County Development Plan 2014 online map browser. Designated Scenic Routes that occurs within the study area include:

- S2: Local Roads adjoining Kilworth Mountains Views of the Araglin River Valley, distant views of the Galtee, Kilworth, Knockmealdown Mountain Ranges & Cairn Hill.
- S3: N8 National Primary Route between Moorepark and Mitchelstown. Views of the Galtee, Nagle, Kilworth & Knockmealdown Mountain Ranges.
- S4: R667 Regional Road, section of local road & R666 Regional Road between Kilworth & Fermoy. Views of the Blackwater, Funchion & Argalin River Valleys
- S5: R666, Regional Road from Coolalisheen Bridge to Ballyalacken. Views of the Blackwater River Valley.
- S6: Local Road to Coolbaun. Views of pastoral landscape & the Bride River Valley.
- S7: N72 National Secondary Route between Bellvue Cross and Kilbarry overlooking Blackwater valley. Views of the Blackwater River Valley & distant Mountain Views
- S8: Local Road between Glenabo Bridge & Ballynahina. Distant views of the Blackwater and Bride River Valleys & local views of wooded valley.
- S9: N72 National Secondary Route between Cregg Castle, Castlehyde & Fermoy. Views of the settlement of Fermoy, the Blackwater Valley, the eastern slopes of the Nagle Mountains & demesne walls, characteristic of the area.
- S10: N72, National Secondary Route from Renny Lower through village of Ballyhooly. Views of the Blackwater Valley & the northern slopes of the Nagle Mountains.
- S11: Local Road at Carrigacunna through Nagle Mountains to Ross River Valley to Fiddane Bridge. Views of the Nagle Mountains.

- S12: Local Road between Knuttery and Bottlehill. Views of rolling landscape.
- S13: Local Road from Craig Cross Roads to County Boundary. Views of the Ballyhoura Mountains & the Awbeg Valley.
- S14: N72 National Secondary Route between Mallow and Roskeen Bridge. Views of the Blackwater valley.
- S19: R579 Regional Road from Glenaknockane towards Donoughmore. Views of Boggeragh Mountains & rural uplands.
- S37: Local Road & R618 Regional Road between Leemount and Macroom via Coachford. Views of the Lee Valley & reservoir, rural landscape & the Sullane River.
- S39: Local Road & R617 Regional Road between Clogheen, Tower and Blarney and the road to Blarney Lake. Views of the settlements of Ballincollig, Tower & Blarney, Blarney Castle & the Lee Valley.
- S40: Section of Local Road between Blarney and Grenagh. Views of wooded banks of the River Martin & Putland Bridge.
- S41: R639 Regional Road & Local Road from Dunkettle to Glanmire and eastwards to Caherlag and Glounthane. Views of the Estuary & Harbour, wooded landscape, open countryside & hillsides.
- S42: Local Road at Forest-town, N.W. Carrigtwohill and Westwards to Caherlag. Views of the Harbour, open countryside & tree lined hillsides.
- S43: R626 Regional Road between Lisgould and Carrigogna. Views of wooded landscape & intermittent views of open countryside.
- S44: Local Road between Monaleen Bridge, Ardlass & Gurteen Cross Roads. Views of hills & rural landscape.

All of these designated scenic routes were investigated during the desk study stage (using ZTV maps) and those not precluded due to terrain screening were further investigated for actual visibility during fieldwork. Each of the remaining relevant scenic views will be represented by viewpoint/s for the purpose of the visual impact assessment.

4.16.5 Completed Baseline Work

In terms of 'mitigation by avoidance' design work completed to date, Macro Works has prepared Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps, which indicate from where in the surrounding landscape turbines may be visible. 'Reverse ZTV maps', which highlight turbines that may be potentially visibility from important key receptors have also been prepared from scenic designations within the Blackwater Valley and from the top of Blarney Castle. These maps along with preliminary 'wireframe' photomontages from many of the same key receptors have influenced the design iterations to date. The ZTV maps also informed the preliminary selection of viewpoint to inform the LVIA from throughout the study area.

Fieldwork has been undertaken and photography has been captured at a broad selection of potential viewpoints. The final assessment set of viewpoints is likely to be a slightly refined subset of this and subject to any scoping comments from the Planning Authority.

4.16.6 Potential Impacts

The proposed wind turbines will be large moving 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 also has the potential for significant physical impact on the landscape within the site.

The significance of both landscape impacts and visual impacts is assessed on the basis of weighing visual/landscape receptor sensitivity (i.e. value and vulnerability) against landscape / visual impact magnitude (i.e. scale and nature of change). Consequently, the greatest potential for significant impacts to occur is in respect of highly sensitive receptors, especially where such receptors are in close enough proximity to the proposed development that they may experience a high magnitude of change.

In this instance the key sensitive receptors are considered to be the high sensitivity landscape of the Blackwater Valley and viewers contained within its designated scenic setting. Blarney Castle is also an internationally renowned and heavily visited tourist/heritage asset, albeit a considerable distance from the site. Contrastingly, local residents are relatively sensitive receptors that are in close enough proximity to the proposed CGEP that the magnitude of visual change could result in significant visual impacts. There are also two scenic route designations in close proximity to the site that are of relatively high sensitivity and from which viewers could experience a high magnitude of visual change resulting in significant impacts.

Aside from the potentially significant impacts outlined above, there is a considerable number visual receptors within the wider context of the study area (roads, residents, settlements, heritage and amenity areas) where non-significant visual impacts will occur.

5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, INDIRECT IMPACTS AND INTERACTION OF EFFECTS

5.1 Aspects to be Addressed

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

The cumulative effects from the construction of the wind turbines, cabling and haul route alterations will also be assessed. Cumulative assessment will be assessed under each individual chapter heading.

5.2 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. Cumulative impacts will also be assessed in accordance with the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) guidance on Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Development (March, 2012). Other key guideline documents used for carrying out the cumulative impact assessment include the following:

- Draft Advice Notes on Preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015);
- Draft Guidance on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2017);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EC, 2017);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018).

As part of scoping the studies required to assess the impacts of the proposed CGEP 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.

5.2.1 Receiving Environment

Cumulative impacts will be assessed for other projects which are either existing, permitted or pending planning permission, or for which there is information in the public domain, at a sufficient level of detail to allow assessment.

5.2.2 Potential Impacts

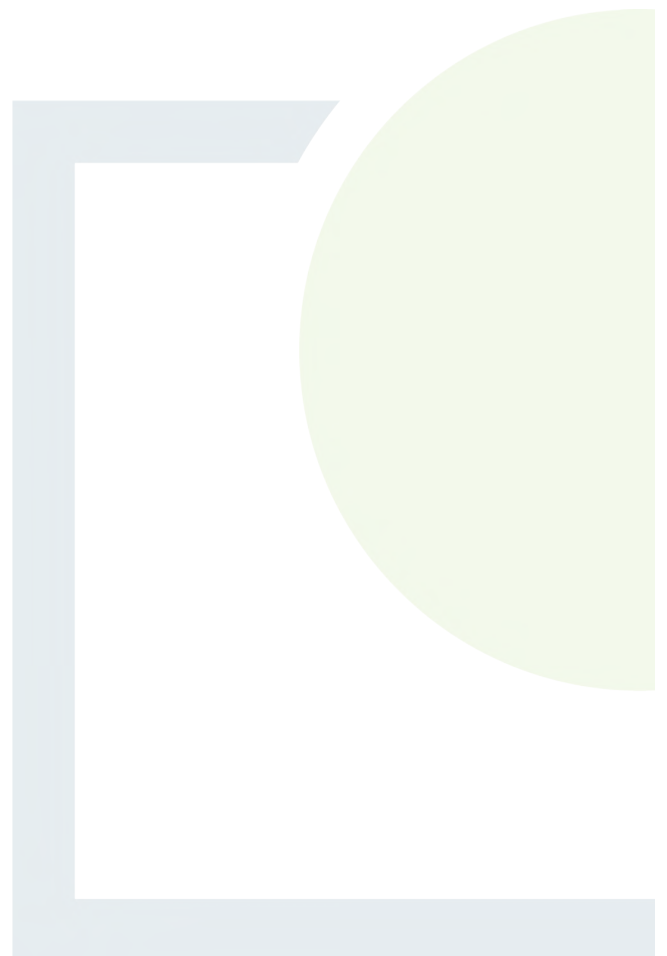
If other projects of a similar scale and type are under construction at the same time as proposed CGEP, there would be a cumulative increased demand for construction materials and skills, and there would be potential for increased construction traffic, dust and noise. The proposed CGEP has the potential to reduce **Ireland's** reliance on fossil fuel power generation and assist in it meeting its EU targets for renewable energy generation. Once operational, the cumulative effects with other wind farms and solar farms in area will be a positive one due to the replacement of fossil fuel energy production with clean, green energy.

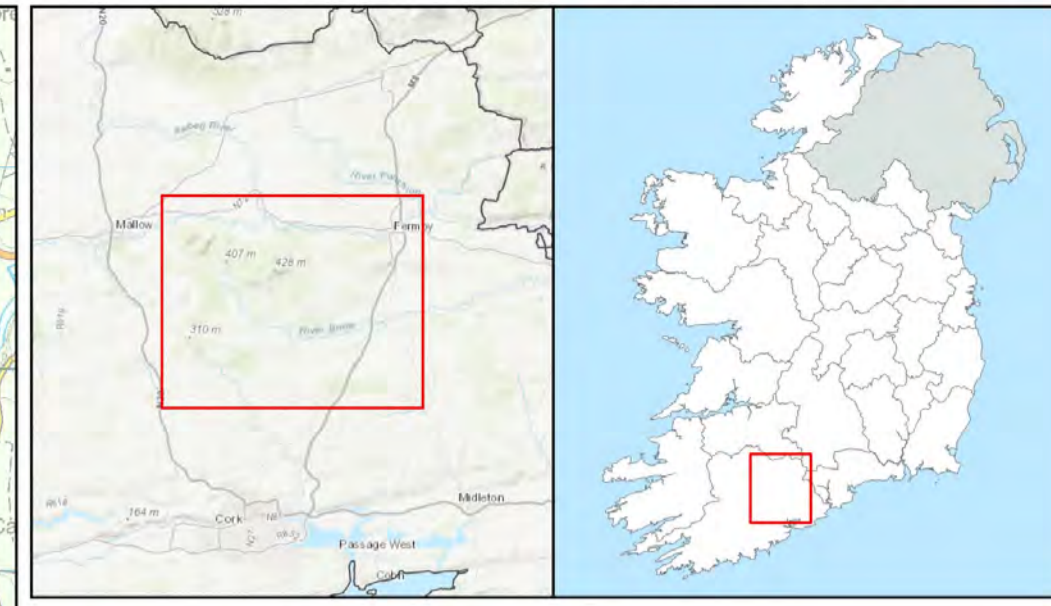
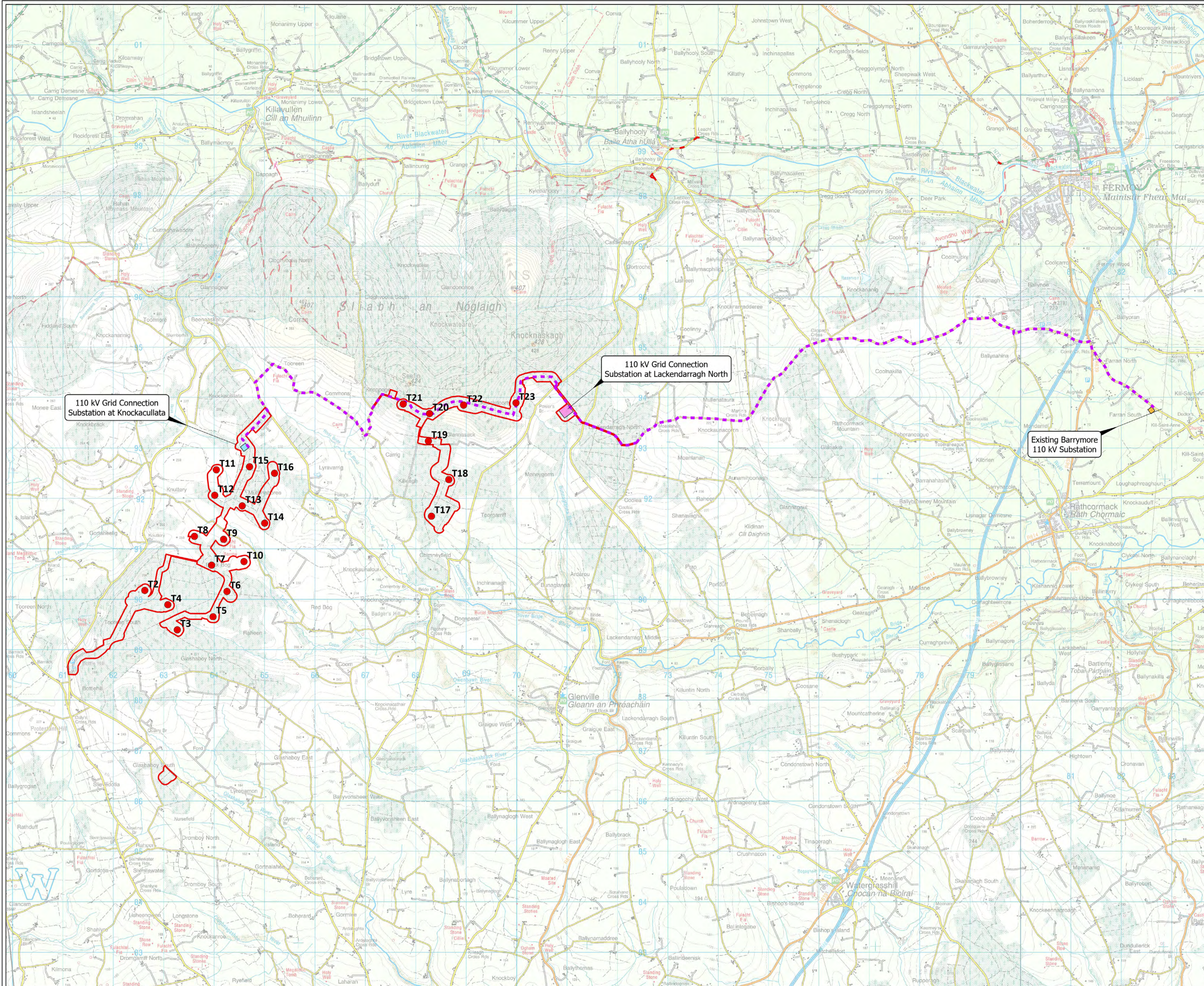


DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 2

Permitted CGEP Development
and Associated Grid
Connection Assessed in the
2020 EIAR





- Turbine Layout
- Underground Cable Route
- Development Boundary
- Existing Barrimore 110kV Substation
- 110kV Grid Connection Substation at Knockacullata
- 110kV Grid Connection Substation at Lackendarragh North

110 kV Grid Connection Substation at Knockacullata

110 kV Grid Connection Substation at Lackendarragh North

Existing Barrimore 110 kV Substation

| | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| TITLE: | Grid Connection Route | |
| PROJECT: | Coom Green Energy Park, Co. Cork | |
| FIGURE NO: | - | |
| CLIENT: | Coom Green Energy Park Ltd. | |
| SCALE: | 1:37,500 | REVISION: 0 |
| DATE: | 10/02/2025 | PAGE SIZE: A1 |

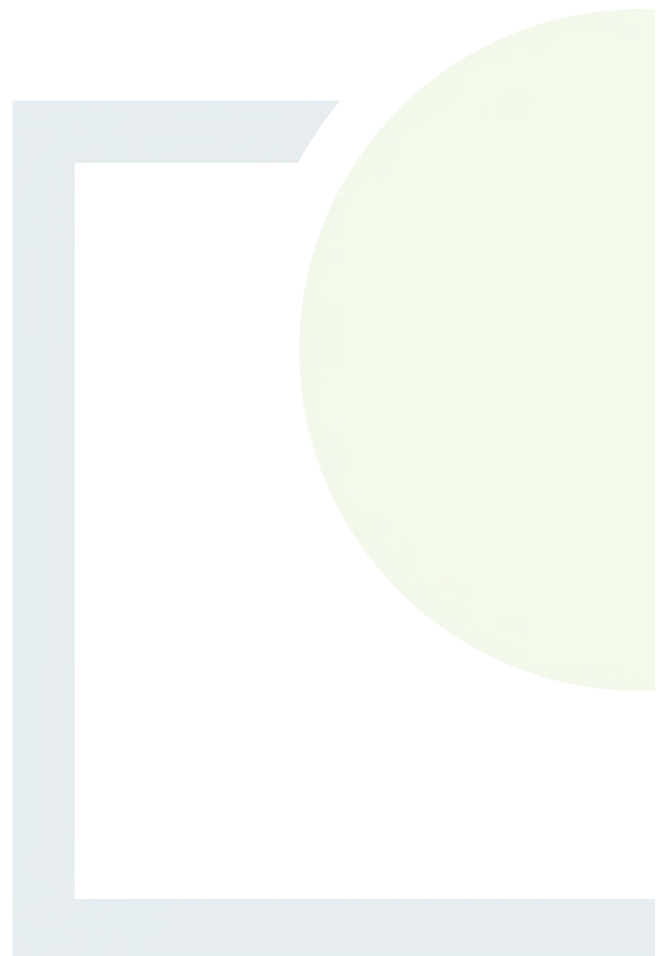




DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

APPENDIX 3

Underground Interconnector
Cable Route Options Under
Consideration



NOTES:

- This drawing is to be read in conjunction with relevant drawings, specifications and reports.
- Dimensions are in meters, unless noted otherwise.
- Drawings are not to be scaled. Use figured dimensions only
- Contractor is to complete a full cable scan of the area to identify the location of the any underground services prior to the commencement of works on-site.
- Co-Ordinates to ITM Grid.

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PROJECT

Coom Green Energy Park 33kV Interconnection

CLIENT

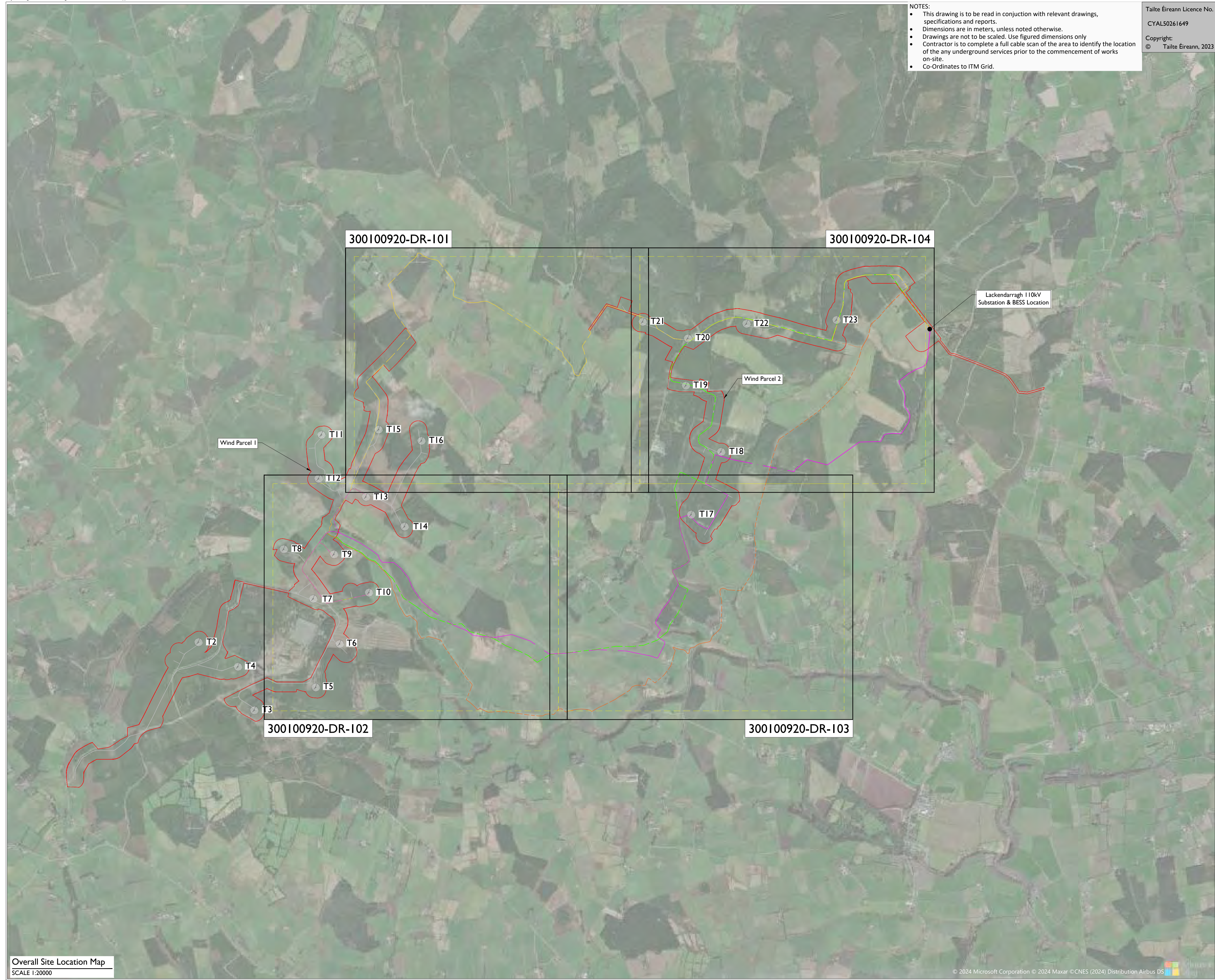
CONSULTANTS

NOTES: -

- All proposed routes shown are indicative only at this stage and are subject to further assessment.
- Additional watercourses and services may be encountered.

LEGEND: -

- Interconnector Route Option 1 - 13.76km
- Interconnector Route Option 2 - 13.29km
- Interconnector Route Option 3 - 13.10km
- Interconnector Route Option 4 - 14.47km
- Consented Wind Farm Planning Boundary
- Consented Internal Wind Farm Access Roads
- Consented Internal Wind Farm Turbine Locations



Overall Site Location Map
SCALE 1:20000

ISSUE/REVISION

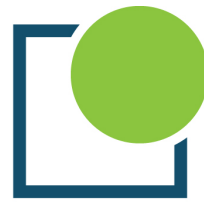
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| N2 | 23.07.24 | Revised Route Connection Points |
| N1 | 28.06.24 | Issued for Information |
| I/R | DATE | DESCRIPTION |

PROJECT NUMBER
300-100920

SHEET TITLE
Overall Site Location Map

SHEET NUMBER
300100920-DR-100

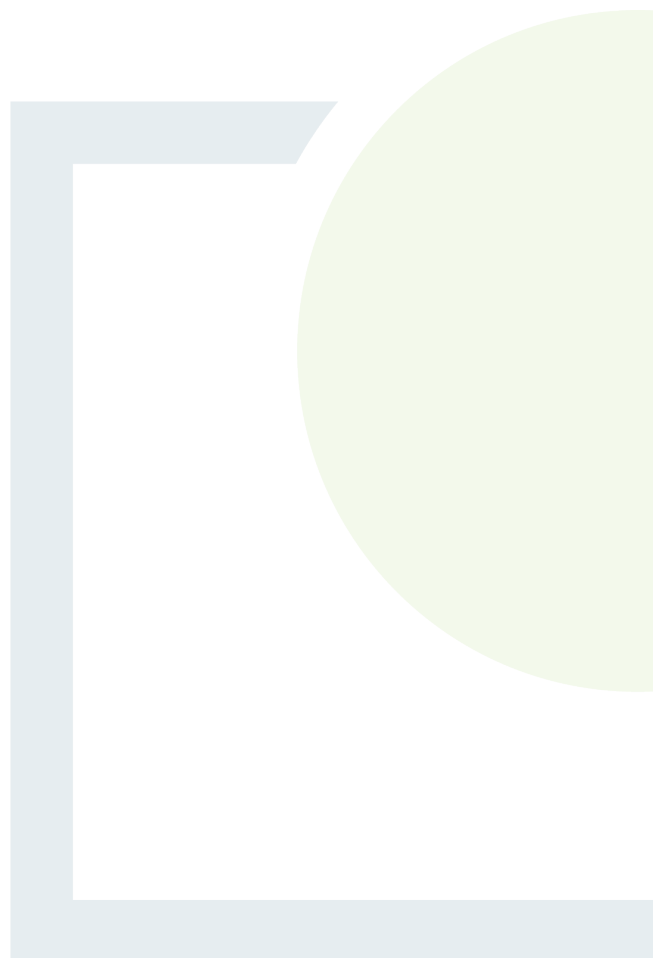


**FEHILY
TIMONEY**

**DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

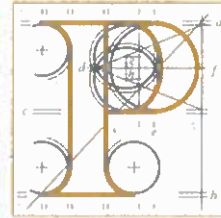
APPENDIX 5.3

An Coimisiún Pleanála
Correspondence



Our Case Number: ACP-322876-25

Your Reference: Coom Green Energy Park Limited



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

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

Distribution **TD1JK**

23 SEP 2025

Job No: **P24-308**

Correspondence No: **1**

Comment:

Date: 19 September 2025

Re: Proposed development of a 110kV export grid connection cable route from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation within the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour, Knocknacaheragh, Chimneyfield, Killeagh, Glannasack, County Cork.

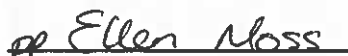
Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Coimisiún 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 28th August 2025.

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

VC07

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Glao Áitiúil LoCall 1800 275 175
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Láithreán Gréasáin Website www.pleanala.ie
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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ACP-322876-25

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|---------|
| Case Reference / Description | Proposed development of a 110kV export grid connection cable route from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation within the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour, Knocknacaheragh, Chimneyfield, Killeagh, Glannasack, County Cork. | | |
| Case Type | Pre-application consultation | | |
| 1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting | 1 st Meeting | | |
| Date | 28 th August 2025 | Start Time | 11:00am |
| Location | MS Teams | End Time | 12:25pm |

Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála

Stephen Kay (Assistant Planning Director) Chair

Jimmy Green (Senior Planning Inspector)

Ellen Moss (Executive Officer)

Representing the Prospective Applicant

Trevor Byrne (Fehily Timoney)

Aoife Hurd (Fehily Timoney)

Anthony Ryan (Fehily Timoney)

Patrick McMorrough (Orsted)

David Heelan (Future Energy Ireland)

Introduction

The Commission referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 24th June 2025, requesting pre-application consultations under section 182E 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 Commission; 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 Commission. The Commission's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Commission 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 Commission once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- It is not permitted to record this meeting in any way. The only record of this meeting will be the record you will receive from the Board following the meeting.
- The Commission 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 Commission and public consultations may also be directed by the Commission.
- The Commission may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.

- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Commission 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 began their presentation by briefly discussing the meeting agenda and providing a background on the applicant and the project.

The prospective applicant provided information on the previously consented windfarm development (ABP-308885-20), under which the following was permitted:

- 7 no. wind turbines and a 110kV substation (Lackendarragh North substation) in the eastern cluster;
- 15 no. wind turbines and a 110kV substation (Knockacullata substation) in the western cluster.

The previous application included the assessment of what was indicated in the submitted documentation as comprising a 110kV underground cable connection between the two permitted on-site substations, as well as a 110kV connection between the Lackendarragh North substation to the national grid at the existing Barrymore 110kV substation within its EIAR, however, neither of these routes were included within the red-line application boundary nor were they consented under the previous application.

The prospective applicant provided a timeline of public consultations from March 2018 to this consultation meeting. Consultations have been undertaken with Cork County Council, TII and Eirgrid. EIAR scoping was completed in 2020 and updated for the proposed grid connection in 2025. A preplanning meeting was held in June 2025 with Cork County Council.



The prospective applicant clarified that the subject proposed development under Section 182A of the Act constitutes the provision of an underground 110kV grid connection cable from the Lackendarragh North substation (previously permitted under ABP-308885-20) to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation. This 110kV underground cable had been subject to assessment within the previous EIAR but was not included within the red-line planning application of the SID development. Minor alterations to the permitted Lackendarragh North substation are also being proposed and these are also intended to be included within any future S182A application.

The prospective applicant's presentation went on to clarify that it was their intention to lodge a future separate planning application to Cork County Council in relation to the 33kV cable route connection from the previously consented western cluster of turbines to the Lackendarragh North substation. The 33kV underground cable connections are being proposed in lieu of the previously permitted 110kV substation at Knockacullata and its underground 110kV connection to the permitted Lackendarragh substation. The 33kV underground cabling is being proposed along a different route to the originally proposed 110kV connection.

The Prospective Applicant noted that an updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is being prepared in support of the future S182A application which will include sections on Ecology, Noise & Vibration, Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology, Hydrology & Water Quality, Traffic & Transport, Archaeology & Cultural Heritage and Material Assets, as well as Telecoms & Aviation. An overview was provided on the initial surveys that have been carried out. It is also intended that the future application will include a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The Prospective Applicant also provided information on the relevant legislation and planning policy context with reference to Sections 182A and 37A of the Planning and

Development Act 2000, (as amended) Chapter 13 of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 was referenced.

The Prospective Applicant also noted the provisions of the recent transposition of the RED III Directive and requested any feedback that the Commission may have in this regard.

The prospective applicant concluded by providing proposed timelines and next steps for the proposed development, with the application submission targeted for 2025, while noting that consultations with Eirgrid and other key stakeholders and additional EIAR studies and surveys are ongoing.

Discussion:

The Commission's representatives began the discussion by welcoming the presentations clarification as to the extent and nature of the proposed S182A works and that the 33kV electrical connection between the two permitted clusters of turbines would be subject to a separate planning application to Cork County Council. It was noted that the proposed consenting approach to the 33kV connection was not clear in the prospective applicant's initial cover letter and report.

The Commission's Representative's noted that the criteria for consideration under section 37A as set out in their presentation were not relevant in relation to S182A approvals and that the Commission's consideration will be focused on the relevant definitions in Section 182A of the Act.

The Commission's representatives queried how any proposed changes to the permitted western cluster of wind turbines and its previously permitted 110kV Knockacullata substation (which is now proposed to be omitted) would be dealt with as part of any future applications. The Commission's representatives acknowledged that amendments to the western cluster did not constitute 182A development and were accordingly outside the scope of the current pre-application discussions, however, they asked the prospective applicant to give careful consideration and seek

appropriate advice as to whether a future application to Cork County Council could alter a previously permitted Strategic Infrastructure Development and/or whether such changes would require an amendment under the provisions of Section 146B of the Act.

In response to a query from the Boards representatives seeking clarification as to how the power from the 15 consented western cluster turbines could be channeled to the permitted Lackendarragh substation via 33kV cabling, when previously a 110kV connection was required, the Prospective Applicant clarified that 3 no. 33kV cables were now proposed within the new (more southerly) corridor. The prospective applicant advised that power will be stepped down by equipment within the turbines and clarified that three 33kV cables would be leaving the site (along the same route). The prospective applicant clarified that the cabling within the turbine clusters would not be changed, and this would be assessed in the EIAR. In response to queries the prospective applicant acknowledged that there would be a standard separation requirement between the three 33kV cables even though they would follow the same broad route.

The Commission's representatives queried whether the red line boundary presented for the amendments to the Lackendarragh substation remained within the extent of the previous SID wind farm application boundary at that location; the prospective applicant advised that the same red line is proposed. The alterations to the permitted substation will not change the boundary line at the permitted substation (albeit that the 110kV cable route will be additional to the previous boundary). The substation boundary will not alter as Eirgrid require a future expansion space, which was accounted for in the previous application which provides sufficient space for the substation amendments now proposed.

The Commission's representatives queried whether a road above the cables would be required over the 110kV cable, noting that there was no road (only a pathway) on the cable route southeast of the Lackendarragh substation. The prospective

applicant advised that the updated design takes into account the current Eirgrid requirements. The Commission's representatives advised that any future application for S182A development should include all associated works and provide for any related requirements such as construction compounds, HDD launch/receptor pits and junction boxes/joint bays.

The Commission's representatives queried consultations with TII; the prospective applicant noted they had previously met with TII, and consultations are ongoing, with the intention of using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to facilitate the 110kV cable crossing the M8.

The Commission's representatives noted that any future application should provide sufficient detail to allow the Commission and any third parties to give full consideration of the proposals. In this regard of primary concern in any future application would be traffic and access impacts for affected property owners and residents along the cable route, as well as ecological concerns. The prospective applicant advised that a detailed construction methodology would be submitted in relation to the works, and that consultation with the roads department of Cork County Council is ongoing in relation to both the 110kV and 33kV cable routes.

In response to queries from the Commission's representatives the prospective applicant confirmed that at this stage they did not envisage any requirement to seek an opinion from the Commission in relation to route options or design flexibility for the proposed 110kV infrastructure.

A general discussion on RED III and scoping was held, having regard to the recent transposition of the Directive and the relevant regulations.

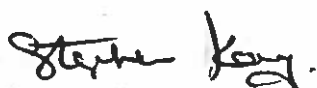
The Commission's representatives advised the prospective applicant to keep this consultation request open while they complete any ongoing surveys and complete their EIAR, in order to facilitate any further discussions or considerations that may be required in relation to the proposed development and/or consider any potential amendments which may arise in the legislative context of the proposal given the recent RED III transposition and the potential for commencement of any relevant parts of the Planning and Development Act, 2024.

The Commission's representatives gave their preliminary opinion that the proposed 110kV development (i.e. amendments to the permitted Lackendarragh North Substation and the provision of 110kV underground cabling between it and the existing Barrymore substation) falls within the scope of strategic infrastructure under Section 182A but reminded the prospective applicant that the final decision lies with the Commissioners.

Conclusion:

The Commission's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant either to request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The Commission'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 12:25.

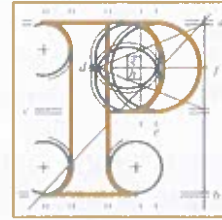


Stephen Kay

Assistant Director of Planning

Our Case Number: ACP-322876-25

Your Reference: Coom Green Energy Park Limited



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

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

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution **TB / JH**

19 FEB 2026

Job No: **P24-308**

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Date: 18 February 2026

Re: Proposed development of a 110kV export grid connection cable route from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation within the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour, Knocknacaheragh, Chimneyfield, Killeagh, Glannasack, County Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Commission hereby serves notice that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Commission has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Any application for approval for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála under section 182A(1) 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.

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

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Department of Climate Energy and the Environment.
- Cork County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Commission for the Regulation of Utilities
- Uisce Éireann
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- ESB
- Eirgrid
- Health Service Executive.
- An Taisce
- Heritage Council
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland

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Láithreán Gréasáin Website www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost Email communications@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1
D01 V902 D01 V902

- Health and Safety Authority

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 contains information in relation 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.

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.

| | | |
|--------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| Tel | 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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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,



Niamh Hickey
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737145

VC11

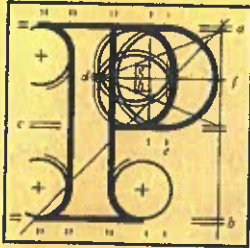
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Dublin 1
D01 V902



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Direction
CD-021917-26
ACP-322876-25

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 12/02/2026.

The Commission decided to issue a determination that the proposed development of a 110kV export grid connection cable route from the permitted Lackendarragh 110kV substation to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation and amendments to the permitted Lackendarragh 110kV substation does fall within the scope of Section 182A of the 2000 Act, as amended, and that a planning application should be made directly to the Commission, in the first instance, for the following reasons and considerations.

In addition, the Commission concurred with the inspector that due to the ambiguity in the initial submission from the prospective applicant as to the extent and nature of the subject works, and inaccurate listing of relevant townlands by both the Commission and prospective applicant, it is important to ensure that the list of townland names is altered in the Commission's correspondence and development description to that as referenced in the inspector's report. Furthermore, to avoid confusion or any ambiguity it is advised not to reference the prospective applicant's initial submission to identify the relevant Section 182A works due to some ambiguity within that initial submission. Accordingly, it is recommended that the presentation documentation submitted at both meetings and map included in the close-out letter should be the only plans and particulars referenced.

Planning

Commissioner:

Eamonn James Kelly

Eamonn James Kelly

Date: 12/02/2026

DRAFT WORDING FOR ORDER

Reasons and Considerations

The proposed development of an underground 110kV grid connection cable from the permitted 110kV substation at Lackendarragh to the existing 110kV Barrymore substation as well as amendments/modifications to the 110kV Lackendarragh substation and all associated works on lands at Ballynahina, Coolmucky, Farran South, Farran North, Corrin, Glanakip, Lackendarragh North, Knockaunacorrin, Moanlahan, Mullenataura, Knockanig, Coolnakilla, Kill-Saint-Anne North and Rathcormack-Mountain, Co. Cork, as set out in the particulars presented to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 28th day of August 2025, and 14th day of November 2025, and location map received on the 9th of January 2026 falls within the scope of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and that a planning application should therefore be made directly to the Commission.

A list of prescribed bodies is set out in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: Prescribed Bodies

The following is a list of prescribed bodies considered relevant by the Commission:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Department of Climate Energy and the Environment.
- Cork County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Commission for the Regulation of Utilities
- Uisce Éireann
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- ESB
- Eirgrid
- Health Service Executive.
- An Taisce
- Heritage Council
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- Health and Safety Authority
-

Further notifications should also be made, where deemed appropriate.



Our Case Number: ACP-323045-25

Your Reference: Ørsted Onshore Ireland Midco Limited (Ørsted)



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Fehily Timoney & Company Consultants
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Ballyphehane
Co. Cork
T12D773

Date: 16 July 2025

Re: Proposed Development of a 110kV Substation and Grid Connection
within the townlands of Dysart, Coolnacarrick, Greatheath, Cremorgan, Money Upper and others Co. Laois

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Coimisiún Pleanála has received your request to enter into pre-application consultations under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, in respect of the above mentioned proposed development. Please accept this letter as a receipt for the fee of €4,500 that you have paid.


Please be advised that the amendments introduced by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 provide for the Commission to recover its costs in conducting pre-application consultations. These costs together with costs incurred by the Commission in determining any application made to it will be included in the Commission's decision. The Commission will offset any application fees paid by the applicant against its costs.

Further advice or details in relation to the above will be provided by the Commission at pre-application consultation meetings (if held).

The Commission will revert to you in due course in respect of the request.

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,



Sinead White
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737202

VC01

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|--|
| Tell | Tel | (01) 858 8100 |
| Glaó Áitiúil | LoCall | 1800 275 175 |
| Facs | Fax | (01) 872 2684 |
| Láithreán Gréasáin | Website | www.pleanala.ie |
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DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Our Ref: P24-308-FT-XX-XX-LT-PL-0002

22 October 2025

Re: Request for a Pre-Application Consultation under Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the purpose of a planning application under section 182A of the Act, in respect of proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) Grid Connection, within the townlands of Ballynahina, Coolmucky, Farran South, Farran North, Corrin, Glanakip, Chimneyfield, Toorgarriff, Killeagh, Moneygorm, Inchinanagh, Knoppoge, Carrig, Tooreen, Lackendarragh North, Knockacullata, Knockaunacorrin, Moanlahan, Knockdoorty, Mullenataura, Commons, Glannasack, Knockananig, Coolnakilla, Kill-Saint-Anne North, and Rathcormack-Mountain, County Cork. The townlands that intersect the interconnector cable route are Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour, Knocknacaheragh, Chimneyfield, Killeagh, Glannasack, County Cork.

ACP Case Number: ACP-322876-25

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to receipt of An Coimisiún Pleanálas record of the 1st consultation meeting held on the 28th of August 2025 (ACP Case Number: ACP-322876-25), we would like to request a 2nd consultation meeting with An Coimisiún Pleanála. Our Client, Coom Green Energy Park Limited are keen to progress this wind farm planning application towards lodgement, accordingly prompt facilitation of a consultation meeting would be much appreciated.

As part of this consultation meeting, the Applicant (Coom Green Energy Park Limited) wish to set out the final design and the proposed consenting approach to the Commission. If you should require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Byrne

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

Encl Previous Meeting Minutes

Cork: Core House,
Pouladuff Road,
Cork, T12 D773,
Ireland

T: +353 21 496 4133
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www.fehilytimoney.ie

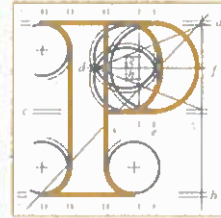
Directors: Sinéad Timoney | Bernadette Guinan | Jim Hughes | Ray O'Dwyer
Company Secretary: Dave O'Regan

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd, Number 180497
Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, Ireland.
VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D



Our Case Number: ACP-322876-25

Your Reference: Coom Green Energy Park Limited



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

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

Distribution **TD1JK**

23 SEP 2025

Job No: **P24-308**

Correspondence No: **1**

Comment:

Date: 19 September 2025

Re: Proposed development of a 110kV export grid connection cable route from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation within the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour, Knocknacaheragh, Chimneyfield, Killeagh, Glannasack, County Cork.

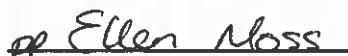
Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Coimisiún 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 28th August 2025.

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

VC07

Teil
Glao Áitiúil
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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ACP-322876-25

| | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|---------|
| Case Reference / Description | Proposed development of a 110kV export grid connection cable route from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation within the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour, Knocknacaheragh, Chimneyfield, Killeagh, Glannasack, County Cork. | | |
| Case Type | Pre-application consultation | | |
| 1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th Meeting | 1 st Meeting | | |
| Date | 28 th August 2025 | Start Time | 11:00am |
| Location | MS Teams | End Time | 12:25pm |

Representing An Coimisiún Pleanála

Stephen Kay (Assistant Planning Director) Chair

Jimmy Green (Senior Planning Inspector)

Ellen Moss (Executive Officer)

Representing the Prospective Applicant

Trevor Byrne (Fehily Timoney)

Aoife Hurd (Fehily Timoney)

Anthony Ryan (Fehily Timoney)

Patrick McMorrough (Orsted)

David Heelan (Future Energy Ireland)

Introduction

The Commission referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 24th June 2025, requesting pre-application consultations under section 182E 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 Commission; 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 Commission. The Commission's representatives mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Commission 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 Commission once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- It is not permitted to record this meeting in any way. The only record of this meeting will be the record you will receive from the Board following the meeting.
- The Commission 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 Commission and public consultations may also be directed by the Commission.
- The Commission may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.

- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Commission 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 began their presentation by briefly discussing the meeting agenda and providing a background on the applicant and the project.

The prospective applicant provided information on the previously consented windfarm development (ABP-308885-20), under which the following was permitted:

- 7 no. wind turbines and a 110kV substation (Lackendarragh North substation) in the eastern cluster;
- 15 no. wind turbines and a 110kV substation (Knockacullata substation) in the western cluster.

The previous application included the assessment of what was indicated in the submitted documentation as comprising a 110kV underground cable connection between the two permitted on-site substations, as well as a 110kV connection between the Lackendarragh North substation to the national grid at the existing Barrymore 110kV substation within its EIAR, however, neither of these routes were included within the red-line application boundary nor were they consented under the previous application.

The prospective applicant provided a timeline of public consultations from March 2018 to this consultation meeting. Consultations have been undertaken with Cork County Council, TII and Eirgrid. EIAR scoping was completed in 2020 and updated for the proposed grid connection in 2025. A preplanning meeting was held in June 2025 with Cork County Council.



The prospective applicant clarified that the subject proposed development under Section 182A of the Act constitutes the provision of an underground 110kV grid connection cable from the Lackendarragh North substation (previously permitted under ABP-308885-20) to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation. This 110kV underground cable had been subject to assessment within the previous EIAR but was not included within the red-line planning application of the SID development. Minor alterations to the permitted Lackendarragh North substation are also being proposed and these are also intended to be included within any future S182A application.

The prospective applicant's presentation went on to clarify that it was their intention to lodge a future separate planning application to Cork County Council in relation to the 33kV cable route connection from the previously consented western cluster of turbines to the Lackendarragh North substation. The 33kV underground cable connections are being proposed in lieu of the previously permitted 110kV substation at Knockacullata and its underground 110kV connection to the permitted Lackendarragh substation. The 33kV underground cabling is being proposed along a different route to the originally proposed 110kV connection.

The Prospective Applicant noted that an updated Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is being prepared in support of the future S182A application which will include sections on Ecology, Noise & Vibration, Soils, Geology & Hydrogeology, Hydrology & Water Quality, Traffic & Transport, Archaeology & Cultural Heritage and Material Assets, as well as Telecoms & Aviation. An overview was provided on the initial surveys that have been carried out. It is also intended that the future application will include a Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

The Prospective Applicant also provided information on the relevant legislation and planning policy context with reference to Sections 182A and 37A of the Planning and

Development Act 2000, (as amended) Chapter 13 of the Cork County Development Plan 2022-2028 was referenced.

The Prospective Applicant also noted the provisions of the recent transposition of the RED III Directive and requested any feedback that the Commission may have in this regard.

The prospective applicant concluded by providing proposed timelines and next steps for the proposed development, with the application submission targeted for 2025, while noting that consultations with Eirgrid and other key stakeholders and additional EIAR studies and surveys are ongoing.

Discussion:

The Commission's representatives began the discussion by welcoming the presentations clarification as to the extent and nature of the proposed S182A works and that the 33kV electrical connection between the two permitted clusters of turbines would be subject to a separate planning application to Cork County Council. It was noted that the proposed consenting approach to the 33kV connection was not clear in the prospective applicant's initial cover letter and report.

The Commission's Representative's noted that the criteria for consideration under section 37A as set out in their presentation were not relevant in relation to S182A approvals and that the Commission's consideration will be focused on the relevant definitions in Section 182A of the Act.

The Commission's representatives queried how any proposed changes to the permitted western cluster of wind turbines and its previously permitted 110kV Knockacullata substation (which is now proposed to be omitted) would be dealt with as part of any future applications. The Commission's representatives acknowledged that amendments to the western cluster did not constitute 182A development and were accordingly outside the scope of the current pre-application discussions, however, they asked the prospective applicant to give careful consideration and seek

appropriate advice as to whether a future application to Cork County Council could alter a previously permitted Strategic Infrastructure Development and/or whether such changes would require an amendment under the provisions of Section 146B of the Act.

In response to a query from the Boards representatives seeking clarification as to how the power from the 15 consented western cluster turbines could be channeled to the permitted Lackendarragh substation via 33kV cabling, when previously a 110kV connection was required, the Prospective Applicant clarified that 3 no. 33kV cables were now proposed within the new (more southerly) corridor. The prospective applicant advised that power will be stepped down by equipment within the turbines and clarified that three 33kV cables would be leaving the site (along the same route). The prospective applicant clarified that the cabling within the turbine clusters would not be changed, and this would be assessed in the EIAR. In response to queries the prospective applicant acknowledged that there would be a standard separation requirement between the three 33kV cables even though they would follow the same broad route.

The Commission's representatives queried whether the red line boundary presented for the amendments to the Lackendarragh substation remained within the extent of the previous SID wind farm application boundary at that location; the prospective applicant advised that the same red line is proposed. The alterations to the permitted substation will not change the boundary line at the permitted substation (albeit that the 110kV cable route will be additional to the previous boundary). The substation boundary will not alter as Eirgrid require a future expansion space, which was accounted for in the previous application which provides sufficient space for the substation amendments now proposed.

The Commission's representatives queried whether a road above the cables would be required over the 110kV cable, noting that there was no road (only a pathway) on the cable route southeast of the Lackendarragh substation. The prospective

applicant advised that the updated design takes into account the current Eirgrid requirements. The Commission's representatives advised that any future application for S182A development should include all associated works and provide for any related requirements such as construction compounds, HDD launch/receptor pits and junction boxes/joint bays.

The Commission's representatives queried consultations with TII; the prospective applicant noted they had previously met with TII, and consultations are ongoing, with the intention of using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to facilitate the 110kV cable crossing the M8.

The Commission's representatives noted that any future application should provide sufficient detail to allow the Commission and any third parties to give full consideration of the proposals. In this regard of primary concern in any future application would be traffic and access impacts for affected property owners and residents along the cable route, as well as ecological concerns. The prospective applicant advised that a detailed construction methodology would be submitted in relation to the works, and that consultation with the roads department of Cork County Council is ongoing in relation to both the 110kV and 33kV cable routes.

In response to queries from the Commission's representatives the prospective applicant confirmed that at this stage they did not envisage any requirement to seek an opinion from the Commission in relation to route options or design flexibility for the proposed 110kV infrastructure.

A general discussion on RED III and scoping was held, having regard to the recent transposition of the Directive and the relevant regulations.

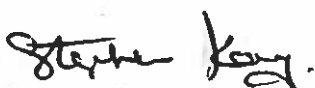
The Commission's representatives advised the prospective applicant to keep this consultation request open while they complete any ongoing surveys and complete their EIAR, in order to facilitate any further discussions or considerations that may be required in relation to the proposed development and/or consider any potential amendments which may arise in the legislative context of the proposal given the recent RED III transposition and the potential for commencement of any relevant parts of the Planning and Development Act, 2024.

The Commission's representatives gave their preliminary opinion that the proposed 110kV development (i.e. amendments to the permitted Lackendarragh North Substation and the provision of 110kV underground cabling between it and the existing Barrymore substation) falls within the scope of strategic infrastructure under Section 182A but reminded the prospective applicant that the final decision lies with the Commissioners.

Conclusion:

The Commission's representatives advised that the onus is on the prospective applicant either to request a further meeting or formal closure of the instant pre-application consultation process. The Commission'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 12:25.



Stephen Kay

Assistant Director of Planning



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The Secretary
An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Our Ref: P24-308-FT-XX-XX-LT-PM-0005

25 March 2026

Re: Pre-Application Consultation under Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the purpose of a planning application under section 182A of the Act in respect of proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) Grid Connection, within the townlands of Ballynahina, Coolmucky, Farran South, Farran North, Corrin, Glanakip, Chimneyfield, Toorgarriff, Killeagh, Moneygorm, Inchinanagh, Knoppoge, Carrig, Tooreen, Lackendarragh North, Knockacullata, Knockaunacorrin, Moanlahan, Knockdoorty, Mullenataura, Commons, Glannasack, Knockananig, Coolnakilla, Kill-Saint-Anne North, and Rathcormack-Mountain, County Cork.

ACP Case Number: ACP-322876-25

Dear Sir/Madam,

Further to receipt of An Coimisiún Pleanálas record of the 2nd consultation meeting held on the 14th of November 2025 (ACP Case Number: ACP-322876-25), and subsequent letter confirming close out of the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development issued on the 18th of February 2026, the prospective Applicant wishes to provide clarification on one point contained within ACP's direction appended to the letter dated 18th of February 2026 (CD-021917-26). The direction includes reference to '*amendments to the permitted Lackendarragh 110 kV substation*'.

The proposed consenting approach was set out in the presentation given by the prospective Applicant (Coom Green Energy Park Limited) in the second pre-application consultation meeting on the 14th of November 2025 which clarified that following receipt of a legal opinion, the prospective Applicant intends to lodge an application to ACP under Section 182 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) **for a new permanent onsite 110 kV electrical substation and associated compound to meet current transmission network specifications 110 kV substation at Lackendarragh North.**

It is not intended to seek amendments to the consent associated with the permitted 110 kV substation at Lackendarragh North as may potentially be interpreted in the direction. We make this submission to avoid the potential for misinterpretation of An Coimisiún Pleanála's (ACP's) record.

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www.fehilytimoney.ie

Directors: Sinéad Timoney | Bernadette Guinan | Jim Hughes | Ray O'Dwyer
Company Secretary: Dave O'Regan

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd, Number 180497
Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, Ireland.
VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





If you should require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trevor Byrne", is written over a horizontal line.

Trevor Byrne

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

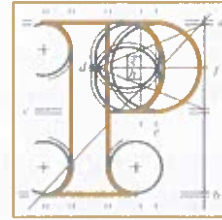
Encl.



Appendix 1 - Copy of ACP Letter dated 18th of February 2026

Our Case Number: ACP-322876-25

Your Reference: Coom Green Energy Park Limited



An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

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

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution **TB / JH**

19 FEB 2026

Job No: **P24-308**

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Date: 18 February 2026

Re: Proposed development of a 110kV export grid connection cable route from the permitted onsite substation at Lackendarragh to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation within the townlands of Coom (Hudson), Mullenaboree, Knockaunalour, Knocknacaheragh, Chimneyfield, Killeagh, Glannasack, County Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Commission hereby serves notice that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Accordingly, the Commission has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Any application for approval for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála under section 182A(1) 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.

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

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Department of Climate Energy and the Environment.
- Cork County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Commission for the Regulation of Utilities
- Uisce Éireann
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- ESB
- Eirgrid
- Health Service Executive.
- An Taisce
- Heritage Council
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street
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D01 V902 D01 V902

- Health and Safety Authority

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 contains information in relation 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.

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.

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|--------------------|---------|--|
| Tel | Tel | (01) 858 8100 |
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| Facs | Fax | (01) 872 2684 |
| Láithreán Gréasáin | Website | www.pleanala.ie |
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| Baile Átha Cliath 1 | Dublin 1 |
| D01 V902 | D01 V902 |

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,



Niamh Hickey
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737145

VC11

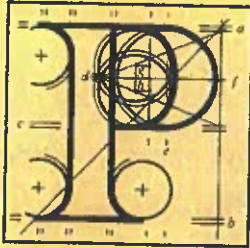
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An
Coimisiún
Pleanála

Direction
CD-021917-26
ACP-322876-25

The submissions on this file and the Inspector's report were considered at a meeting held on 12/02/2026.

The Commission decided to issue a determination that the proposed development of a 110kV export grid connection cable route from the permitted Lackendarragh 110kV substation to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation and amendments to the permitted Lackendarragh 110kV substation does fall within the scope of Section 182A of the 2000 Act, as amended, and that a planning application should be made directly to the Commission, in the first instance, for the following reasons and considerations.

In addition, the Commission concurred with the inspector that due to the ambiguity in the initial submission from the prospective applicant as to the extent and nature of the subject works, and inaccurate listing of relevant townlands by both the Commission and prospective applicant, it is important to ensure that the list of townland names is altered in the Commission's correspondence and development description to that as referenced in the inspector's report. Furthermore, to avoid confusion or any ambiguity it is advised not to reference the prospective applicant's initial submission to identify the relevant Section 182A works due to some ambiguity within that initial submission. Accordingly, it is recommended that the presentation documentation submitted at both meetings and map included in the close-out letter should be the only plans and particulars referenced.

Planning

Commissioner:

Eamonn James Kelly

Eamonn James Kelly

Date: 12/02/2026

DRAFT WORDING FOR ORDER

Reasons and Considerations

The proposed development of an underground 110kV grid connection cable from the permitted 110kV substation at Lackendarragh to the existing 110kV Barrymore substation as well as amendments/modifications to the 110kV Lackendarragh substation and all associated works on lands at Ballynahina, Coolmucky, Farran South, Farran North, Corrin, Glanakip, Lackendarragh North, Knockaunacorrin, Moanlahan, Mullenataura, Knockanig, Coolnakilla, Kill-Saint-Anne North and Rathcormack-Mountain, Co. Cork, as set out in the particulars presented to An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 28th day of August 2025, and 14th day of November 2025, and location map received on the 9th of January 2026 falls within the scope of Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and that a planning application should therefore be made directly to the Commission.

A list of prescribed bodies is set out in Appendix 1.

Appendix 1: Prescribed Bodies

The following is a list of prescribed bodies considered relevant by the Commission:

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.
- Department of Climate Energy and the Environment.
- Cork County Council
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Commission for the Regulation of Utilities
- Uisce Éireann
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- ESB
- Eirgrid
- Health Service Executive.
- An Taisce
- Heritage Council
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- Health and Safety Authority
-

Further notifications should also be made, where deemed appropriate.



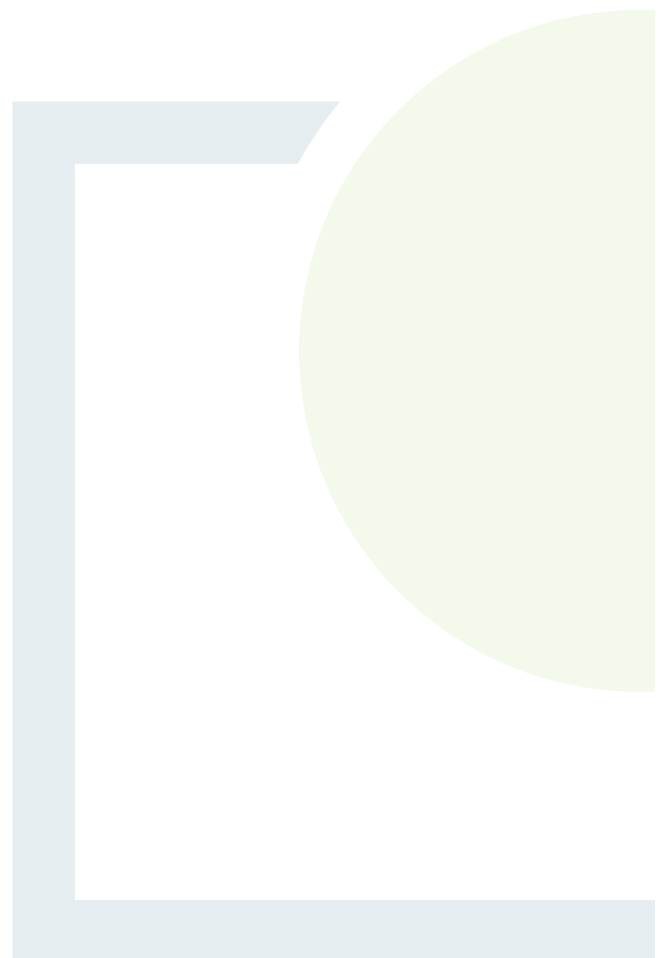


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APPENDIX 5.4

Community Letter



Dear Resident,

We hope this letter finds you well.

We are writing to you to provide an update on the Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) project, which was granted planning permission in November 2023 (case number: ABP-308885-20). Since the grant of planning, our team in Cork has been progressing this renewable development to prepare it for construction.

As a next step, to facilitate the connection of CGEP to the national grid, we now require planning permission for:

- A new 110kV substation using the latest design specifications required by Eirgrid. This will be in the same location in Lackendarragh North as the substation previously consented under the CGEP planning permission and of a comparable size. This substation, once built, will form part of the national grid, helping to strengthen and expand Ireland's electricity network.
- Approximately 13.9km of underground 110kV grid connection cable from the proposed Lackendarragh North substation to the existing Barrymore substation. This will follow the same route as previously indicated in the CGEP environmental impact assessment report (EIAR), along a mix of forest tracks and public roads, crossing under the M8 motorway before connecting to the existing 110kV substation. This cable, once built, will form part of the national grid, helping to strengthen and expand Ireland's electricity network.
- Approximately 15.8km of underground 33kV interconnector cabling to connect the western section of the CGEP development to the proposed Lackendarragh North 110kV substation. This will follow a new route to what was originally indicated in the CGEP environmental impact assessment, crossing predominantly through private lands, with only a short section within the public road, which helps to limit temporary construction stage impacts.

Both the 110kV substation and 110kV grid connection cable will be submitted as a single planning application to An Coimisiún Pleanála in the coming weeks as a Strategic Infrastructure Development.

The 33kV interconnector cables will be submitted as a second planning application, also in the coming weeks, directly to Cork County Council. All of this proposed infrastructure will be collectively assessed in a new EIAR, which will also cumulatively assess the consented CGEP project, as well as any other surrounding plans or projects that could be deemed to have a cumulative impact. The design has taken all local and regional constraints into account and has been optimised to limit any impacts where possible.

The attached map is intended to give you an overview of the proposed infrastructure, as well as what is already consented under the CGEP planning permission. You will see that the proposed cable routes form narrow development corridors and you are receiving this update as one of the houses located along the route.

Should you have any specific queries about the project proposals, we encourage you to reach out to one of our community liaison officers, at the below details.

Best Regards,

The Coom Green Energy Park Project Team

Aidan Stakelum
Community Liaison
astak@orsted.com
086 1037437

Edward Cummins
Community Liaison
ewrcu@orsted.com
086 1030464

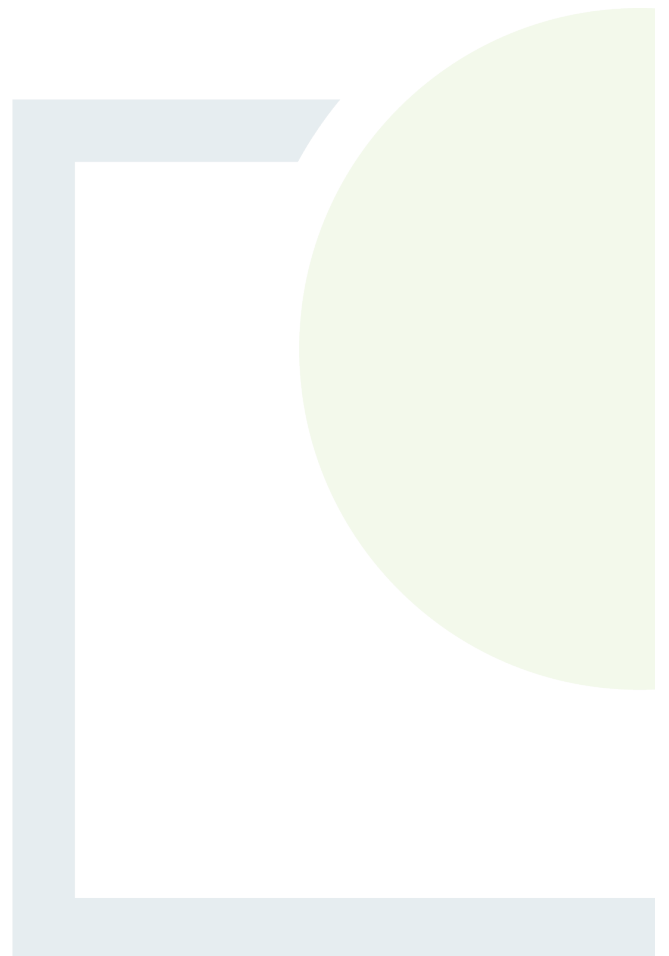


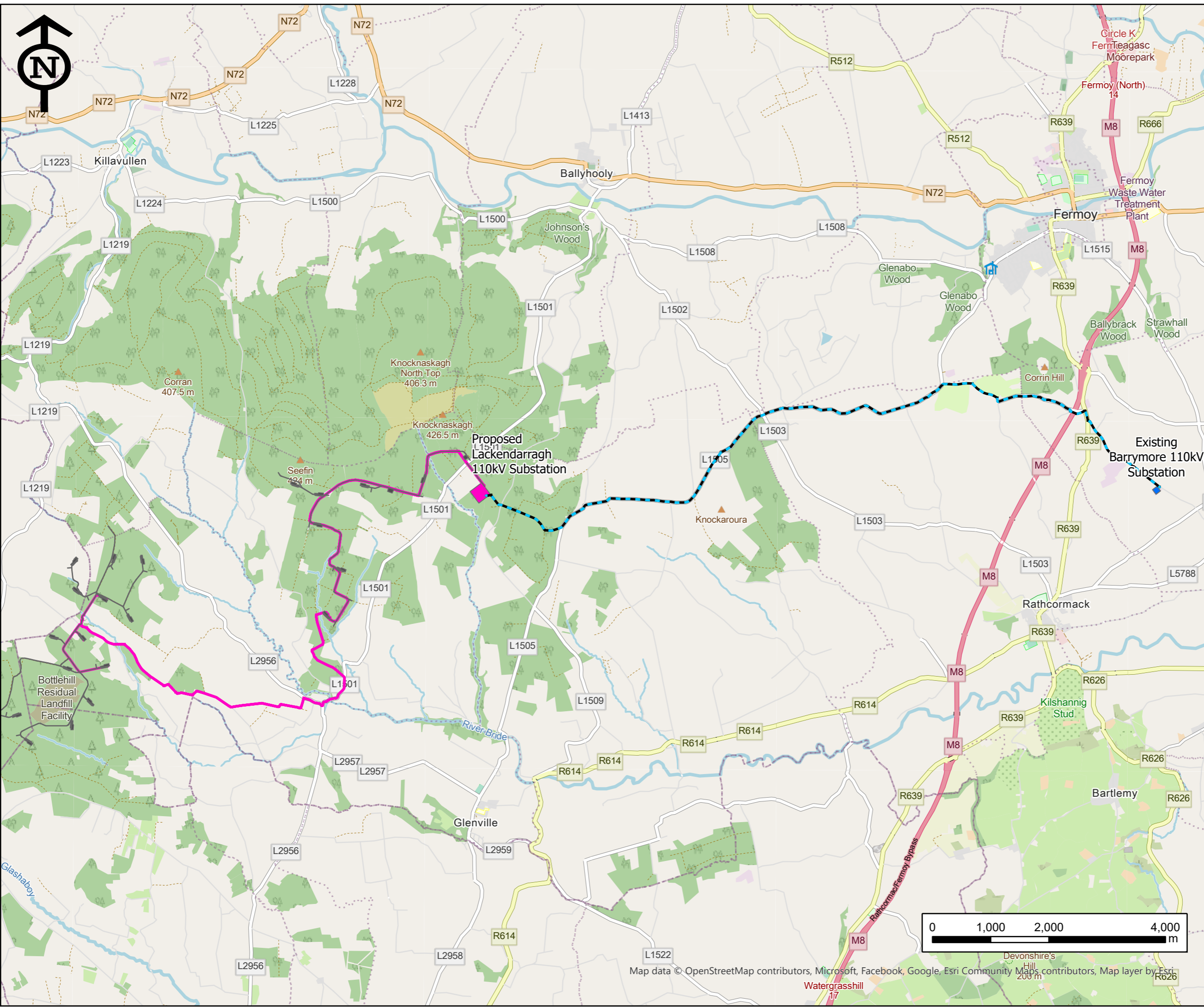
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APPENDIX 5.5

Community Map





*Map produced by Coom Green Energy Park Limited

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- Proposed 33kV Interconnector Cables
- Grid Connection Route
- Consented CGEP Infrastructure
- Existing Barrymore 110kV Substation
- Proposed Lackendarragh 110kV Substation

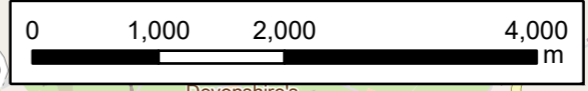


Map Title:
CGEP 33kV Interconnector Cables, 110kV Substation & 110kV Grid Connection Cable

Map Scales:
1:60,000 @ A3

Drawn By: PMCM
 Checked By: PMCM
 Date: 28/01/26

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