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Chapter 02 Background **Ballynisky Wind Farm**

Ballynisky Green Energy Ltd.

December 2025

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Project No.	Doc. No.	Rev.	Date	Prepared By	Checked By	Approved By	Acceptance Code / Status
22569	6006	A	Sept. 2025	KC	LL	AOC	Final
22569	6006	B	Sept. 2025	KC	LL	AOC	Final

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2. Background

This **Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)** relates to a proposed wind energy development in Co. Limerick, named the Ballynisky Wind Farm, located approximately 9km north of Newcastle West and 6km west of Rathkeale (hereafter referred to as the 'site'). Planning consent is being sought by Ballynisky Green Energy Ltd. (the Applicant) from Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) (the competent planning authority).

The proposed development will consist of six (6) wind turbines and will have capacity to generate approximately 27MW of renewable electricity.

A full description of the proposed development and development lands of the project is provided in **Chapter 03 Description of the Proposed Development** of this EIAR.

MWP have been engaged by the Applicant to prepare an **EIAR** to accompany the planning application. The **EIAR** consists of a systematic analysis and assessment of the potential significant effects of the proposed development on the receiving environment. The intended purpose of the **EIAR** is to:

- Inform decision makers and the public of any possible environmental effects and impacts associated with the implementation of the proposal;
- Determine whether any identified impacts and associated effects could be significant; and
- Suggest mitigation measures for potential impacts where feasible.

This Chapter considers the planning and development policy and legislative context of the proposed development. It assesses how the proposed development accords with relevant EU, national, regional and local planning policies. The planning history of the site and surrounding area is also discussed.

2.1 Planning Policy Context

This section considers how the proposed development accords with relevant EU, national, regional, and local planning policies including any new and emerging policy and development objectives relating to climate change and renewable energy.

2.1.1 International Context - From Kyoto to Paris

The Paris Agreement evolved from the historic United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Kyoto where participants agreed to limit total greenhouse gas emissions to a defined percentage below their 1990 levels. The first commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol was over the five-year period 2008–2012. Ireland's commitment was to limit increases in greenhouse-gas emissions to 13 per cent above the 1990 levels. Ireland complied with the first commitment period (helped in part by the recession).

The Doha Amendment sought to extend that period beyond 2012 and has now been succeeded by the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030. Ireland however did not meet commitments in 2020.

The Paris Agreement is focused on strengthening the global response to Climate Change with a target to limit the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C and for nations to increase their ability to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change and foster climate resilience. The agreement does not specify targets but requires all parties to put forward a plan including Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve the goal set out.

The European Green Deal, approved in 2020, is a set of policy initiatives by the European Commission with the overarching aim of making the European Union (EU) climate neutral in 2050. It also increases the EU-wide GHG emissions target to at least 55% for 2030 in order to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius and align with the Paris Agreement.

The EU requires a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) of at least 40% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. The EU expects member states to outline their NDCs in national climate action plans. Ireland published a Climate Action Plan in 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024 and again in 2025 (further details in **Section 2.1.2.6**).

2.1.2 EU and National Policy, Legislation and Guidance

In recognition of fossil fuels as a finite resource, Ireland's dependence on importing fuels to meet our energy requirement and the cost of importing this energy, national policy encourages the development of local renewable energy. A host of relevant legislation and policy exists at an International and European level, which supports the development of renewable energy.

Irish renewable energy policy is framed in the context of these European and other international policy initiatives. The following is a broad review of selected legislation, policies and guidance which are relevant to wind energy developments:

- National Planning Framework: Project Ireland 2040;
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended by the Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Act 2021;
- Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines, DHPLG 2019;
- Climate Action Plan (2019-2025);
- Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland, DCCAE 2016;
- White Paper - Irelands Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030;
- National Energy and Climate Plans 2021-2030;
- Strategy for Renewable Energy 2012-2020, DCENR 2012;
- Best Practice Guidelines for the Wind Energy Industry, IWEA 2012;
- EU Directive 2018/2001/EU (Renewable Energy Directive); and
- Planning Guidelines for Wind Energy, DEHLG 2006.

2.1.2.1 National Planning Framework: Project Ireland 2040

The National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 was superseded by the National Planning Framework: Project Ireland 2040, supported by a 10-year National Development Plan. One of the National Strategic Outcomes is a Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society. A key objective of the Plan is to promote renewable energy use and generation at appropriate locations within the built and natural environment to meet national objectives towards achieving a low carbon economy by 2050.

2.1.2.2 EU Renewable Energy Directive 2018/2001/EU

The [Renewable Energy Directive](#) (2018/2001/EU) entered into force in December 2018, as part of the [Clean energy for all Europeans package](#), aimed at maintaining the EU's status as a global leader in renewables and, more broadly, helping it to meet its emissions reduction commitments under the Paris Agreement.

It established a new binding renewable energy target for the EU for 2030 of at least 32%, with a clause for a possible upwards revision by 2023. This target is a continuation of the 20% target for 2020. In order to help EU countries deliver on this target, the directive introduced new measures for various sectors of the economy, particularly on heating and cooling and transport, where progress has been slower (for example, an increased 14% target for the share of renewable fuels in transport by 2030).

It also included new provisions to allow citizens to play an active role in the development of renewables by enabling [renewable energy communities](#) and self-consumption of renewable energy and established better criteria to ensure bioenergy's sustainability.

Ireland's overall target was 16% of gross final energy consumption to come from renewable sources by 2020. At the end of 2018, this figure stood at 11%. The IWEA (now Wind Energy Ireland [WEI]) publication 'Building Onshore Wind 70 by 30 Implementation Plan' (September 2020), identified that Ireland would miss the 2020 target by 3 to 3.5%, which would likely to lead to fines from the EU.

As reported in the 2021 'Energy in Ireland' Report, published in December 2021 (SEAI, 2021), Ireland did not meet its EU 2020 overall renewable energy target. The overall share of renewable energy was 13.5%, compared to the target of 16%. Wind accounted for 59% of the contribution towards Ireland's renewable energy target in 2020.

The [REPowerEU Plan](#) is a response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. There is a double urgency to transform Europe's energy system: ending the EU's dependence on Russian fossil fuels, which are used as an economic and political weapon and cost European taxpayers nearly €100 billion per year and tackling the climate crisis. By acting as a Union, Europe can phase out its dependency on Russian fossil fuels faster. [85% of Europeans](#) believe that the EU should reduce its dependency on Russian gas and oil as soon as possible to support Ukraine. The measures in the REPowerEU Plan can respond to this ambition, through energy savings, diversification of energy supplies, and accelerated roll-out of renewable energy to replace fossil fuels in homes, industry and power generation.

2.1.2.3 National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2020

Each EU Member State was required to submit a National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) by December 2019 under the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Regulation (EU) 2018/1999. A draft updated NECP2021-2030 was submitted to the European Commission in July 2024. The NECP collates policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in several Member State Government plans into one cohesive document.

Ireland's NECP sets out its aims and objectives under 5 categories:

- Decarbonisation,
- Energy Efficiency,
- Energy Security,
- Internal Energy Market, and
- Research, Innovation and Competitiveness.

The NECP acts as a collation of existing policies and an analysis of how Ireland are performing relative to EU wide targets, such as the ambitions and objectives set out in the Climate Action Plan 2025. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in

subsequent Climate Action Plans. Due to the criteria set by the European Commission, the modelling of the NECP does not reflect one Climate Action Plan.

The modelling underpinning the updated NECP has been carried out by the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) based on two potential scenarios, With Existing Measures (WEM), and With Additional Measures (WAM) scenarios. WEM scenarios assesses measures committed to by government, and these measures must be in place by the end of the last inventory year. WAM scenarios assume the implementations of the WEM in addition to the government plans, including the Climate Action Plan 2025. The modelled figures represent a snapshot based on set criteria but this snapshot does not lock Ireland into a trajectory to miss our targets. Significant additional actions may be required to address the shortfall. Ireland's GHG emissions reduced by 6.8% in 2023 with reduction achieved in the majority of sectors, which is below the 1990 baseline.

Wind generation continues to provide the bulk of Ireland's renewable energy. The most recent figure obtained from SEAI (December 2024) indicates that Ireland had a total installed wind capacity of 4.74GW in 2023, up 4.5% on the previous year. In 2022, there was an additional 197MW of added wind capacity and 2023 saw an additional 203MW. Wind Energy Ireland confirmed that wind farms provided 35% of Ireland and Northern Ireland's electricity in 2023. Wind energy provided 32% of Ireland's electricity in 2024.

2.1.2.4 Energy Security in Ireland to 2030

In November 2023, the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications published the Energy Security in Ireland to 2030. It outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050. This report was published as part of an Energy Security Package, containing a range of supplementary analyses, consultations, and reviews, which have informed the recommendations and actions related to energy security.

Informed by the Government's energy security policy objectives - to ensure energy is affordable, sustainable, and secure - the review considered the risks to oil, natural gas, and electricity. The report sets out that Ireland's future energy will be secure by moving from an oil- and gas-based energy system to an electricity-led system, maximising our renewable energy potential, flexibility and being integrated into Europe's energy systems. Meeting our climate, renewable, and energy efficiency targets through actions and measures set out in the annually updated [Climate Action Plan](#) will deliver this secure energy future.

2.1.2.5 White Paper on Energy - Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030

The Government's White Paper on Energy 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030', published by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) in 2015, sets out a framework to guide energy policy and the actions that Government intends to take in the energy sector from 2015 up to 2030 (DCENR, 2015). The White Paper, and achievements since its introduction, underpins government policy to continue to support development of both onshore and offshore wind energy development in accordance with published planning guidelines and local development plan policy.

2.1.2.6 Climate Action Plan 2025

The current national Climate Action Plan (2025) sets out a detailed sectoral roadmap designed to deliver a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. The GHG reduction target will require significant reductions from all sectors including the renewable energy sector. By its very nature, the proposed development will contribute to achieving this target and move Ireland one step closer towards decarbonisation and ultimately a net zero GHG emissions society.

The proposed development is fully compatible with the provisions relating to renewable energy set out in the CAP, summarised as follows:

- The proposed development will contribute to the CAPs objectives to achieve a 51% reduction in Ireland's overall GHG emissions from 2021 to 2030, and to achieving net-zero emissions no later than 2050;
- The proposed development will contribute to the CAPs objectives to decarbonise the electricity sector by taking advantage of our significant renewable energy resources;
- The proposed development will contribute to the CAPs objectives to increase the share of electricity demand generated from renewable sources to 80%; and
- The proposed development will contribute to the objectives of the CAP to expand and reinforce the grid through the addition of a substation and associated gridlines.

The proposed development will lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by using a least cost technology recognised in the CAP 2025. The proposed development is expected to have a capacity of 27MW. This would provide approximately 70,956MWh of renewable electricity per year, enough to power approx. 16,894 no. Irish homes, based on average electricity use per home of 4,200 kWh annually (according to data from the Commission for Regulation of Utilities).

2.1.2.7 Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Act 2021

The Climate Action and Low Carbon (Amendment) Act 2021 amends the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 to give legislative underpinning to Ireland's 2050 zero net emissions target and the core objectives of the Climate Action Plan.

The key features of the Act are:

- Putting into law the Irish Governments commitment for net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;
- Requires Government to propose carbon budgets, with the first three to be prepared every 5 years from 2021, including a provision for setting sectoral targets;
- Prepare an annually revised Climate Action Plan; and
- Provide for a strengthened role for the Climate Change Advisory Council.

2.1.2.8 Planning Guidelines for Wind Energy Development 2006

In 2006, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) published Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities under Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, requiring planning authorities and An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) to have regard to them (DEHLG, 2006). These Guidelines offer advice to planning authorities on planning for wind energy through the development plan process and in determining applications for planning permission. They also provide clarity to prospective developers and local communities. The Guidelines are also intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments.

2.1.2.9 Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines

In December 2019, the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DHPLG) published proposed revised guidelines for wind energy developments addressing a number of key aspects including noise, visual amenity setback, shadow flicker, community consultation, community dividend and grid connections (DHPLG, 2019). The publication of the draft guidelines followed a lengthy review process including the issue of draft revisions in December 2013 and a Preferred Draft Approach document in December 2019 which was put out to

public consultation. The Draft revised guidelines are currently considering the subsequent large volume of submissions. The revised Guidelines have yet to be finalised and formally adopted and there is no date for publication.

This **EIAR** has been completed with regard to the current 2006 Guidelines as is best practice, while taking into account the draft 2019 guidelines.

2.1.2.10 Best Practice Guidelines for the Wind Energy Industry (IWEA 2012)

The Best Practice Guidelines for the Wind Energy Industry were published in April 2012 as a best practice guide for wind energy developments, replacing the 2008 and 1994 publications of the same title (IWEA, 2012). In the 2012 publication, there is a much greater emphasis on the environmental and community aspects of development, reflecting increased awareness and the need for a higher level of scoping and wider consultation. It is intended as a 'reference document' to complement the 2006 DEHLG Guidelines and its main purpose is to encourage 'responsible and sensitive wind farm development' that takes into consideration the concerns of local communities, planners and other interested parties (IWEA, 2012). The emphasis is on responsible and sustainable design and environmental practices, external stakeholder relations and good community engagement practices. Issues addressed include:

- Feasibility Study Guidelines;
- Planning and Environmental Legislation;
- Environmental Impact Assessment;
- Wind Farm layout;
- Health and Safety/Construction and Operation; and
- Community Engagement.

2.1.2.11 Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland (DoCCAIE 2016)

This Code of Practice was published by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment in December 2016. It addresses issues concerning engagement with the local community and community benefit.

It is intended to ensure that wind energy development in Ireland is undertaken in accordance with the best industry practices, and with the full engagement of communities around the country.

2.1.2.12 Compliance with EU and National Policy

- The development of a wind energy project at the proposed development site will contribute to achieving our national renewable energy targets and meeting the objectives of the various policies and strategies currently in place, as outlined above; and
- The 2006 Planning Guidelines and the 2012 IWEA Guidelines were consulted in considering the location of the proposed wind farm, its design and layout and also in assessing and, where applicable, mitigating its impact on the environment and the community in which it is located, with particular attention focused on the chapters of the **EIAR** that assess the specific impacts of wind farm development (i.e. noise, shadow flicker, biodiversity, land, soils, hydrology, landscape and visual, traffic and cultural heritage). Consideration was also given to the draft 2019 guidelines for wind energy development.

2.1.3 Regional Policy and Guidance

2.1.3.1 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region

The most relevant Regional Policy for Co. Limerick, which is part of the Southern Regional Assembly, is set out in the 'Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region' (adopted in January 2020). The Southern Regional Assembly is responsible for the preparation and implementation of a RSES for the Southern Region. The RSES for the Southern Region came into effect on 31st January 2020. The RSES is a long-term, strategic development framework providing for the future physical, economic and social development of the Southern Region. It aims to achieve balanced regional development and full implementation of Project Ireland 2040 – the National Planning Framework. Furthermore, the Southern Regional Assembly supports the implementation of the Irish Government's Climate Action Plan. The RSES states that "wind energy is currently the largest contributor of renewable energy and it has the potential to achieve between 11-16GW of onshore wind and 30GW of offshore wind by 2050 (SEAI, 2016). The sector can make a significant contribution to meeting national energy demands while attaining our energy and emissions targets for 2020 and beyond."

The RSES recognises and supports the many opportunities for onshore wind as a major source of renewable energy. Opportunities for both commercial and community wind energy projects should be harnessed, having regard to the requirements of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG) Guidelines on Wind Energy. The RSES sets out the following Policy Objectives (RPO's) on renewable energy (Southern Regional Assembly, 2020):

- **RPO 95 Sustainable Renewable Energy Generation**

"It is an objective to support implementation of the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP), and the Offshore Renewable Energy Plan and the implementation of mitigation measures outlined in their respective SEA and AA and leverage the Region as a leader and innovator in sustainable renewable energy generation".

- **RPO 96 Integrating Renewable Energy Sources**

"It is an objective to support the sustainable development, maintenance and upgrading of electricity and gas network grid infrastructure to integrate renewable energy sources and ensure our national and regional energy system remains safe, secure and ready to meet increased demand as the regional economy grows".

- **RPO 97 Power Stations and Renewable Energy**

"It is an objective to support the sustainable technology upgrading and conversion of power stations in the Region to increase capacity for use of energy efficient and renewable energy sources".

- **RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy**

"It is an objective to support the development of a Regional Renewable Energy Strategy with relevant stakeholders".

- **RPO 99 Renewable Wind Energy**

"It is an objective to support the sustainable development of renewable wind energy (on shore and off shore) at appropriate locations and related grid infrastructure in the Region in compliance with national Wind Energy Guidelines".

The proposed development complies with the regional spatial and economic strategy as follows:

- The development of a wind energy development at the subject location in Co. Limerick will broadly contribute to meeting the aforementioned policy objectives on renewable energy for the Southern Region; and
- The proposed Regional Renewable Energy Strategy will set targets for the Renewable Energy Sector as they evolve. The proposed development, should it proceed, would likely make a significant contribution to any future specific targets for the region.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) requires County Development Plans (CDP) and variations to be consistent with the RSES and relevant national policy, with draft development plans or proposed variations to development plans to be referred by the relevant local authority to the Regional Assembly. The Planning and Development Act 2024 was signed into law in October 2024, and will commence on a phased basis, eventually replace the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The current development plan for Limerick City and County is the 2022-2028 Plan (refer to **Section 2.1.4** for more detail).

2.1.4 Local Policy - Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028

The Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, in accordance with the provisions of Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), was unanimously approved by all councilors and adopted on the 17th June 2022, and came into effect on 29th July 2022.

Chapter 9 'Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy' of the plan contains the following policies and objectives relating to renewable energy:

- **Policy CAF P1: Climate Action Policy:**

"It is a policy of the Council to implement international and national objectives, to support Limerick's transition to a low carbon economy and support the climate action policies included in the Plan".

- **Objective CAF O1 Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance:**

"It is an objective of the Council to support the National Adaptation Framework 2018 and the National Climate Change Strategy, including the transition to a low carbon future, taking account of flood risk, the promotion of sustainable transport, soil conservation, the importance of green infrastructure, improved air quality, the use of renewable resources and the re-use of existing resources.

Support the implementation of the Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019-2024) while cognisance shall be had of any revised or forthcoming adaptation, mitigation or climate action strategies or plans at local, regional and national level in the formulation of any plans or policies.

- **Objective CAF O3 Sustainable Development:**

It is an objective of the Council to support sustainable travel, energy efficient projects, provision of green spaces and open space and sustainable residential development projects, as a means of addressing climate change.

- **Objective CAF O3 Renewable Energy Objective:**

It is an objective of the Council to promote and support development of renewable energy sources, which will achieve low carbon outputs including on-land and offshore renewable energy production, which support tidal turbine, PV, community energy companies and battery technology, subject to adequate environmental and ecological protection.

- **Policy CAF P2: Transition to a Low Carbon Economy**

“It is a policy of the Council to support the transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency and will future proof policies and objectives to deliver on this approach, in so far as possible.”

Section 9.4 of Chapter 9 ‘Renewable Energy’ of the Plan contains the following policy and objective relating to renewable energy projects as follows:

- **Policy CAF P6: Renewable Energy**

“It is a policy of the Council to support renewable energy commitments outlined in national and regional policy, by facilitating the development and exploitation of a range of renewable energy sources at suitable locations throughout Limerick, where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment landscape, biodiversity, water quality or local amenities, to ensure the long-term sustainable growth of Limerick”.

Section 9.4.4 of the Renewable Energy Section of the Plan contains the following policies and objectives relating to wind energy projects:

- **Objective CAF O28 Assessment of Renewable Energy Projects:**

“It is an objective of the Council to encourage the development of wind energy, in accordance with Government policy and having regard to the principles and planning guidance set out in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government publications relating to Wind Energy Development and the DCCA Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland and any other relevant guidance, which may be issued in relation to sustainable energy provisions during the course of the Plan”.

- **Objective CAF O29 Wind Energy Development and Environmental Considerations:**

“It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the development of wind energy in an environmentally sustainable manner, ensuring proposals are consistent with the landscape character objectives of the Draft Plan, the protection of the natural and built environment and the visual and residential amenities of the area”.

- **Objective CAF O30 Location of Wind Energy Developments:**

“It is an objective of the Council to promote the location of wind farms and wind energy infrastructure in the ‘preferred areas’ as outlined on Map 9.1 of the Plan (Figure 2-1), to prohibit such infrastructure in areas identified as ‘not open for consideration’ and to consider, subject to appropriate assessment, the location of wind generating infrastructure in areas ‘open for consideration’”.

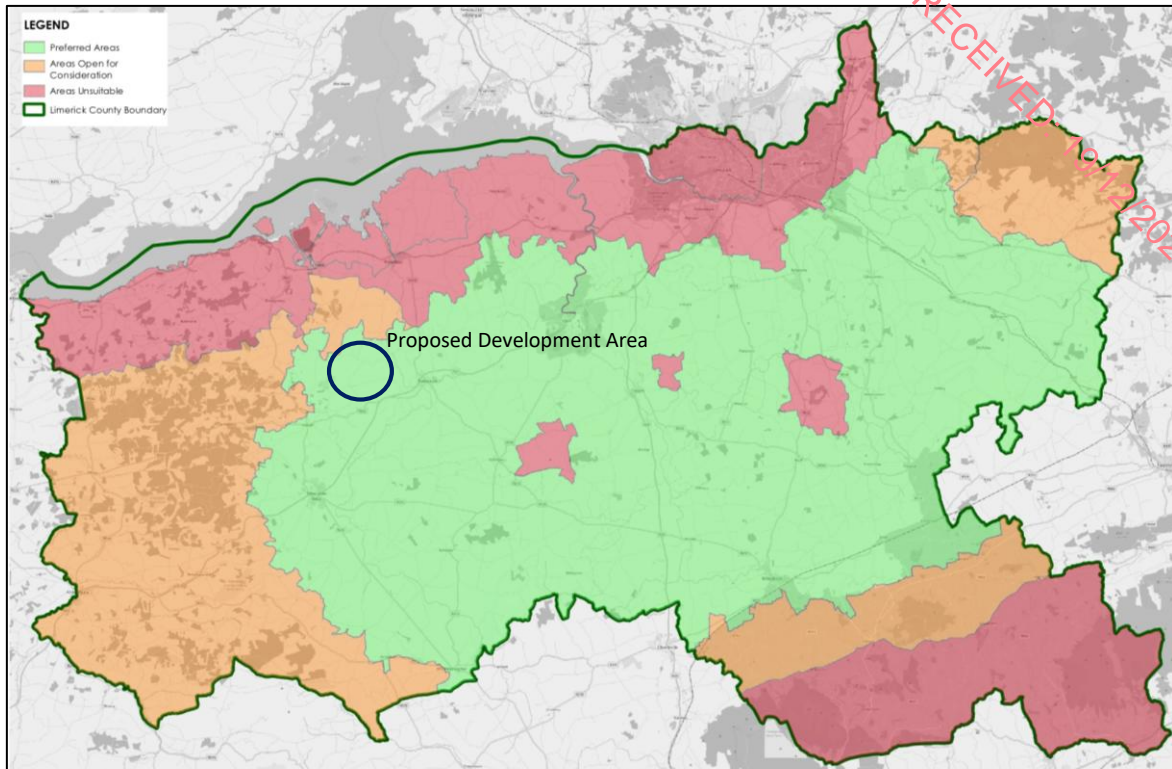


Figure 2-1: Preferred Wind Energy Locations (Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028)

Assessment of Compliance

It is considered that the proposed development will meet many of the policy objectives outlined above for renewable energy developments.

With an output of 27MW, the proposed wind farm will directly assist in achieving national targets for energy from renewable energy, from renewable resources and reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy production. This development will assist in achieving the 65% increase in wind MW capacity by 2030 as detailed in the Limerick City and County Council DP.

As shown on **Figure 2-1**, the proposed development site is located within a “Preferred Area” for wind energy development. As noted in the CDP and **Chapter 12 Landscape and Visual Assessment**, the proposed development is located in LCA01 Agricultural Lowlands. A specific objective of this landscape is to encourage the regular arrangement of turbines with equal spacing in proposed wind farm developments, which take field boundaries into account. This has been considered for the proposed development.

2.2 Planning History

The proposed development site extends across lands used for agricultural activities. The proposed development was originally submitted to LCCC in October 2025. This was deemed incomplete by the LCCC. A pre-planning meeting (third in the history of the project) was held with LCCC on the 18th of December 2025, where details relating to the deeming incomplete of the previous application (LCCC- 2561003) for a wind farm development on

the site were discussed. The planning history of the proposed development site and surrounding area is outlined in the following sections.

2.2.1 Proposed Development Site

According to the Limerick City and County Council EPlan planning register, there are three previous planning applications which traverse the proposed site. Details of this application are outlined in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-1: Planning History

File Number	Decision Date	Decision	Applicant Name	Development Address	Development Description
LCCC-043415	05/04/2005	Granted Conditional	David & Richard McDonnell	Carrons & Dunmoylan, Shanagolden	Construction of 2 wind turbines, control building, meteorological mast, site tracks and associated site works.
LCCC-09418	11/12/2009	Granted Conditional	ESB	Kilcolman	the construction of a 38KV overhead electric line from Rathkeale 110KV station in the townland of Ardgoulbeg to Ballyegny and Carrons
201082	14/12/2020	Granted Conditional	Nigel Sheehy	Carrons Kilcolman Ardagh, Co. Limerick	six (6) wind turbines with a tip height of 158m, a rotor diameter of 136m and all associated foundations and hardstanding areas. A 38kV on-site substation compound containing a substation building, associated electrical equipment and transformers with separate client side and ESB entrances. Grid Connection Option A: 2.54km-long 38kV underground cable connection from the on-site substation to the existing Carrons substation to the west of the site. Grid Connection Option B: Loop into the existing 38kV onsite overhead line via the proposed 38kV substation and all associated site works

2.2.2 Surrounding Area

One planning application has been submitted for a residential dwelling within the study area boundary which comprises townlands of Ballynisky, Graigoor, Ballyegny More, Kilbradran, Ballysteen, Dunmoylan, Carrons and Lisbane, to the west of Coolcappa, Co. Limerick. Refer to **Table 2-2**. This development has not yet proceeded to construction, and it is located approximately 750m northwest of T1 outside of the required dwelling setback distance of 4 times the turbine tip height (158m) as per the Draft 2019 Guidelines. This dwelling has been taken

into account in all the relevant studies included in this **EIAR**. In addition, an application for outline planning permission for a dwelling was submitted in the townland of Lissatotan (File number 256). This application was withdrawn and is therefore not included in the relevant studies included in this **EIAR**.

Details of other relevant planning applications submitted within the past five years (excluding refused applications) within 5km of the proposed development site are also detailed in **Table 2-1**.

Table 2-2: Planning Applications – Site & Surroundings

File Number	Decision Date	Decision	Applicant Name	Development Address	Development Description
2460320 / ABP Ref 321242	27/03/2025	Granted	Harmony Solar Rathkeale Ltd	Townland of Ardgoulbeg near Rathkeale Co. Limerick Ireland	10-year permission for solar farm and associated development works
2460064	17/05/2024	Conditional	Adrian Dore	Ballysteen, Shanagolden, Co. Limerick	construction of a new dwelling house, adjoining domestic garage, domestic wastewater treatment system, entrance & associated site works
23503	07/12/2023	Granted	John McCarthy	Graigoor Shanagolden Co. Limerick	Planning ref. 22/388 for a dwelling house, wastewater treatment system, percolation area, site entrance and all associated site works
201082	14/12/2020	Granted Conditional	Nigel Sheehy	Carrons Kilcolman Ardagh, Co. Limerick	Relocation of the existing site entrance and all associated site works
201135	19/03/2021	Granted Conditional	David & Rosanne McDonnell	The Old Presbytery, Carrons, Kilcolman, Ardagh, Co. Limerick	Demolition of existing porch and conservatory, modification to existing roof to accommodate changes, construction of 2 no. mixed single/two storey extensions to existing dwelling house and associated site works and services
20921	05/11/2020	Granted Conditional	Noel O'Brien & Evelyn Scanlon	Kilcolman, Ardagh, Co. Limerick.	Construction of a single storey extension to the side of existing house, modifications to existing house to include erection of a new porch and insertion of additional window, the installation of a wastewater polishing filter, adjustment to roadside boundary and all ancillary site works
21166	20/05/2021	Granted Conditional	David McDonnell	Carrons, Kilcolman, Ardagh & Dunmoylan,	Construction of a poultry house, soiled water storage tank, rainwater harvesting tank, upgrade existing agricultural entrance and

File Number	Decision Date	Decision	Applicant Name	Development Address	Development Description
				Shanagolden, Co. Limerick	carry out all associated ancillary site works
21478	02/06/2021	Granted Conditional	Donal Donovan	Grouse Lodge Kilcolman Ardagh, Co. Limerick	The construction of machinery shed and all associated site works
20718	01/04/2021	Granted Conditional	Irish Forestry Unit Trust	Boughilbo, Ardagh, Co. Limerick	Construction of 2 no. new entrances and access road to existing forestry plantations on the site of existing entrances
208004	11/12/2020	Granted Conditional	PART 8	Ardagh Station House, Kilreash, Ardagh & Barnagh Station House, Ballymurragh East, Co. Limerick	Refurbishment of Ardagh Station House (which is a protected structure) and goods shed & change of use to commercial, community & tourism use
20866	30/04/2021	Granted Conditional	Allken Farms Ltd.	Ballynacally & Coolacokery, Ardagh, Co. Limerick	Construction of a livestock underpass, effluent holding tank and all associated siteworks
221055	18/11/2022	Granted Conditional	On Tower Ireland Limited	Knockbweeheen, Ardagh, Co. Limerick	The removal of an existing telecommunications support structure and the replacement of this structure
2360864	28/02/2024	Granted Conditional	Ashfort Green Ltd.	Dunmoylan, Shanagolden, Co. Limerick, V94 PT4C	Pump house and filtration shed and elevational changes to existing house
221095	17/02/2025	Granted Conditional	Dermot O'Connor	Lisbane, Shanagolden, Co. Limerick	The construction of a new slatted livestock house adjacent to existing slatted livestock house. Proposed livestock house to incorporate easy feed, flow channel & underground slatted slurry tank with external agitation points & ancillary concrete. The above development to be carried out with all associated ancillary site works

2.2.3 Renewable Energy Developments in the Wider Area

2.2.3.1 Wind Energy Developments within 20km

The bulk of the renewable energy production in Limerick comes from wind, with 15 wind farms in operation, mostly in the west of the County (Limerick CDP, 2022-2028) (refer to **Table 2-4** and **Figure 2-2**). Those located

within 20km of the proposed development are shown in bold. The proposed development area is located 4.5km east of the Grouse Lodge Wind Farm and 2.5km east of Carrons Wind Farm.

Details of the planning applications and associated infrastructure relating to these wind farms is detailed in **Table 2-3**.

Table 2-3: Details of Operational Wind Energy Developments in Co. Limerick (Limerick DP 2022-2028)

Wind Farm	Year Connected to Grid	Output (MW)
Mauricetown	2019	13.8
Gortnacloghy	2018	4.4
Vistakon, Castletroy	2017	2
Ballagh	2016	2.3
Carracummer	2015	1
Athea	2014	34.35
Dromdeveen	2011	27.5
Grouselodge	2011	15
Rathcahill	2011	12.5
Slievreagh	2011	2.5
Carrons	2010	4.6
Kilmeedy	2016	4.7
Dromada	2009	28.5
Knockastanna	2009	7.5
Knockawarriga	2008	22.5
Tournafulla	2007	27
Total Output		210.15MW

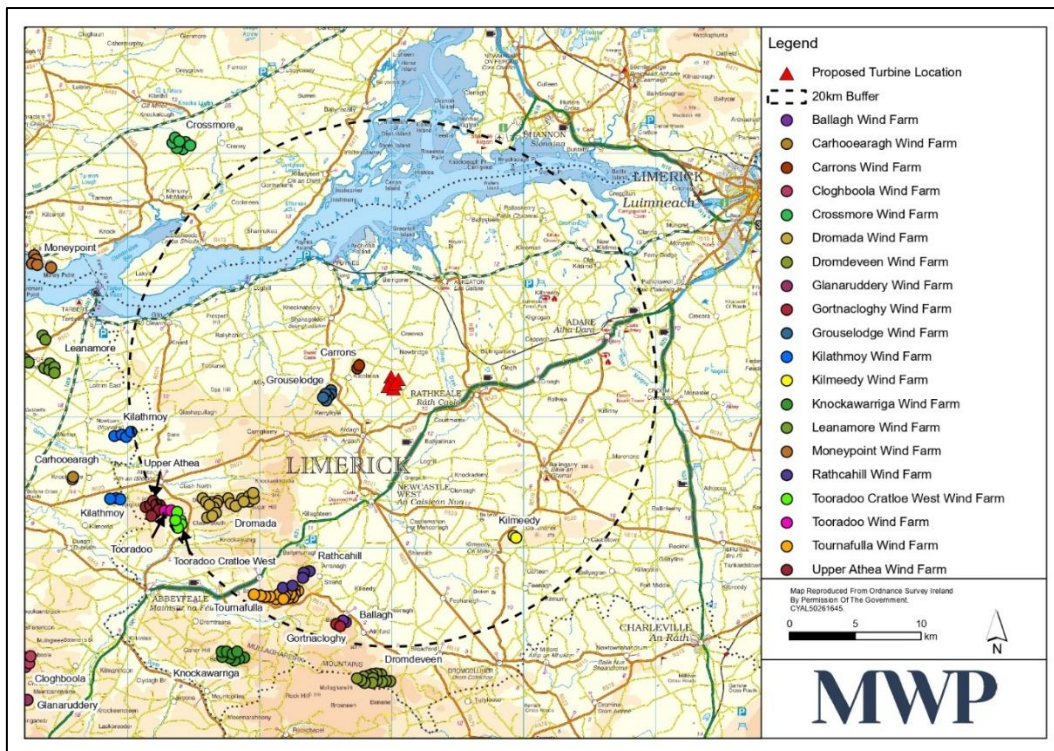


Figure 2-2: Locations of Operational Wind Energy Developments in Co. Limerick

Table 2-4: Wind Energy Related Planning Applications in Co. Limerick

File Number	Decision Date	Decision	Applicant Name	Development Address	Development Description	Relevant wind farm listed in Table 2-2
00944	30/08/2001	Granted	National Windpower Ltd.,	Gortnagross & Athea Upper Athea	Construction of wind farm (8 No. wind turbines, sub-station and meter room with grid line)	Athea
01406	09/08/2001	Granted	Airtricity Developments Ltd.	Templeglantine East, Glenmore West and Killaculleen	Construction of a wind farm consisting of 17 turbines	Tournafulla
012486	18/01/2002	Granted	Gerard Sexton	Rathcahill West & Killaculleen Templeglantine	Construction of a wind farm consisting of 3 wind turbines	Rathcahill
021540	08/11/2002	Granted	Electricity Supply Board	Templeglantine East Templeglentan	Erection of a 38KV overhead electric line in the townland of Tulligoline North, over or in the vicinity of the following townlands of Tulligoline North, Meenylene South, Templeglantan East, Templeglantan West to a proposed Wind Farm	Rathcahill
021871	06/03/2003	Granted	John McCarthy	Dromdeeven, Ballagh	Construction of wind farm comprising wind turbines and switchyard	Dromdeeven
021937	26/02/2003	Granted	SWS Group	Caherlevoy Ballycommane & Glengort South	Construction of a windfarm consisting of 9 wind turbines (hub height 67m, blade diameter 80m), an electrical substation with control building, one 50m high meteorological mast and construction and extension of existing internal site tracks and associated works.	Knockawarriga
03307	04/11/2003	Granted	Golden Vale Co-Op Mart Ltd.	Upper Athea Athea	Construction of wind farm consisting of 2 no. wind turbines	Tooradoo
03357	27/06/2003	Granted	National Windpower Ltd.	Tooradoo & Cratloe West	Construction of 7 no. wind turbines, access track, metre room substation, associated site works with gridline.	Tooradoo & Cratloe West
041289	29/06/2004	Granted	SWS Energy	Caherlevoy Ballycommane & Glengort South	Increase of the turbine hub height from 67m to 80m and an increase of the blade tip height from 107m to 120m in	Knockawarriga

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File Number	Decision Date	Decision	Applicant Name	Development Address	Development Description	Relevant wind farm listed in Table 2-2
					the existing planning permission for a wind farm ref. 02/1937	
043021	13/12/2004	Granted	John Curtin	Ballagh, Ashford	Construction of wind farm consisting of 2 no. wind turbines	Ballagh
043415	05/04/2005	Granted	David & Richard McDonnell	Carrons & Dunmoylan Shanagolden	Construction of 2 wind turbines, control building, meteorological mast, site tracks and associated site works.	Carrons
043505	10/02/2005	Granted	Glenivers Wind Farm	Glenduff Ballagh	Construction of wind farm consisting of 1 no. wind turbine,	Glenivers
04475	02/06/2004	Granted	John Forde	Glenduff Ballagh	Construction of wind farm consisting of 2 no. wind turbines	Glenduff
04476	02/04/2004	Granted	John Curtin	Ballagh Ashford	Construction of a wind farm consisting of 3 no. wind turbines	Ballagh
06128	01/05/2007	Granted	Gaelectric Developments Ltd.	Ballagh	Construction of a wind farm consisting of three wind turbines	Ballagh
081514	21/01/2009	Granted	March Winds Ltd.	Athea Upper Athea Abbeyfeale	Construction of a substation at Athea Wind Farm	Athea
081957	13/10/2008	Granted	Dromada Windfarm (ROI) Ltd.	Keale (ED Rathronan) Abbeyfeale	The excavation of an existing borrow pit of approximately 0.96 ha in plan area, including the construction of a settlement pond and subsequent remediation works, to provide granular material for the Dromada Wind Farm construction works (planning reg. 03/1343, 03/1330 and 07/2473)	Dromada
081958	13/10/2008	Granted	March Winds Ltd.	Knocknasna Abbeyfeale	Excavation of an existing borrowing pit	Athea

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File Number	Decision Date	Decision	Applicant Name	Development Address	Development Description	Relevant wind farm listed in Table 2-2
087004	08/04/2008	Granted	Extension of Permission	Dromdeeveen Ballagh Co Limerick	PP 02/1871 - Wind Farm	Dromdeeveen
10489	22/09/2010	Granted	March Winds Ltd.	Cratloe West Athea	Amendments to previously approved planning reference 03/357,	Tooradoo & Cratloe West
10566	28/07/2010	Granted	ESB Wind Development	Grouselodge Kilcolman	Alterations to Grouselodge Wind Farm	Grouselodge
107005	11/02/2010	Granted	John McCarthy	Dromdeeveen Ballagh	PP02/1871 - Wind Farm	Dromdeeveen
107012	11/03/2010	Granted	Glenivers Wind Farm	Glenduff Ballagh	04/3505 - Wind Farm (1no turbine, internal site trackways and assoc works)	Glenivers
10778	27/09/2010	Granted	ESB Wind Development	Grouselodge Kilcolman	Alterations to Grouselodge Wind Farm	Grouselodge
PL13.238964	23/09/2011	Granted	Kilmeedy Wind Farm Limited	Ballinruane and Ballyhahil, Kilmeedy, Co. Limerick.	PL13.238964 – Wind Farm	Kilmeedy
111033	20/02/2012	Granted	Reirk Energy Limited	Dromdeeveen Ballagh	Four number telecommunications antennae fitted to the electrical substation building	Dromdeeveen
117115	14/11/2011	Granted	John Curtin	Ballagh, Ashford	10/7003 (04/3021-construction of wind farm consisting of 2 no. wind turbines	Ballagh
11952	25/01/2012	Granted	Reirk Energy Limited	Dromdeeveen & Glenduff Ballagh	Re-location of one guyed lattice type meteorological mast already permitted	Dromdeeveen
127080	11/07/2012	Granted	Glenivers Wind Farm	Glenduff Ballagh	04/3505 - construction of wind farm consisting of 1 no. wind turbine	Glenivers

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File Number	Decision Date	Decision	Applicant Name	Development Address	Development Description	Relevant wind farm listed in Table 2-2
127135	10/12/2012	Granted	Gaelectric Developments Ltd	Ballagh	06/128-construction of a wind farm consisting of three wind turbines	Ballagh
13744	17/02/2014	Granted	March Winds Ltd.	Tooradoo Cratloe West	Erection of permanent signage for the Athea wind farm	Athea
14851	08/09/2014	Granted	Reirk Energy Limited	Dromdeeven Ballagh	Erection of 2 No. permanent health and safety signs at the entrances to Dromdeeven Wind Farm	Dromdeeven
16205	27/04/2016	Granted	Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited	Dromtrasna South	A three-year extension to the permitted planning	Knockawarriga
171228	25/05/2018	Granted	March Wind Ltd	Athea Upper, Athea	10 year planning permission for the laying of 4.4 km of underground electrical cables	Athea
18934	15/02/2019	Granted	Winter Winds Ltd	Athea Lower & Athea Upper, Athea	10 year planning permission for the laying of 4.85km of underground electrical cables	Athea
211702	10/02/2022	Granted	Winter Winds Limited	Kilathmoy Wind Farm, Athea Upper, Athea,	Extension of the existing battery energy storage system (BESS) at Kilathmoy Wind Farm substation....	Kilathmoy

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2.2.3.2 Solar Energy Developments within 20km

The Limerick City and County Council online planning databases and the An Coimisiún Pleanála website were consulted to identify solar energy developments within 20km of the proposed development. Refer to **Table 2-5**.

Harmony Solar Rathkeale Ltd. have received a 10 year planning permission for the development of a solar farm on a site of 63.4Ha located approximately 3.5km northeast of the proposed development.

Table 2-5: Solar Energy Developments within 20km

Planning Reference and Location	Status	Potential Output (MW)
16/619 – Newcastle West	Granted	11.5
17/807 – Foynes	Withdrawn	-
17/1174 – Foynes	Granted	10.34
17/1220 – Foynes	Granted	23.0
18/85 – Patrickswell	Withdrawn	-
19/18 – Shanagolden	Granted	21.35
22/1258 - Mullagh	Granted	5.65
2460320 / ABP Ref 321242 - Rathkeale	Granted	-

2.2.3.3 Battery Energy Storage Developments within 20km

The Limerick City and Council online planning databases and the An Coimisiún Pleanála website were consulted to identify battery energy storage developments within 20km of the proposed development. One battery storage application has been received in Limerick and it is associated with the Kilathmoy wind farm (Limerick DP, 2022-2028) (Planning Ref. No. 211702).

2.3 Conclusion

A host of legislation and policy exists at International, European, National and local level, which supports the development of renewable energy, and there are binding agreements for Ireland to increase the use of renewable energy. This chapter seeks to highlight the relevant legislation and policies in the context of the Ballynisky Wind Farm.

The proposed development site is located within a ‘Preferred Area’ for wind energy development designated in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. This means that it is considered by Limerick City and County Council to be in an area of local, regional and national importance that has the potential to accommodate wind energy development. As per the Limerick Development Plan, the target for wind energy is 386.45MW by 2030 and currently this figure stands at 234.35MW, which means a 65% increase is required between 2022 and 2030. The proposed development would contribute to these policy objectives and MW target.

The environmental studies and assessments completed demonstrate the proposed development will not create an unacceptable impact on the environment and residential amenity. The site is in a rural, sparsely populated area and an area where the local landscape is one of considerable robustness. The proposed development therefore complies with the current Wind Energy Guidelines and the Limerick Development Plan and would not create an unacceptable impact on the environment and residential locations.

It is concluded that the proposed development is therefore in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and will contribute towards achieving National and EU targets for renewable energy production and CO₂ emissions reduction, and in particular the objectives of the Climate Action Plan.

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2.4 References

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