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## Derrybrien Wind Farm Project

Gort Windfarms Ltd.

## Remedial Environmental Impact Assessment Report Chapter 1-Introduction

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## Appendices

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## **Appendix 1-1 Newsletter**

Gort Windfarms Limited



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# DERRYBRIEN WIND FARM NEWSLETTER 2020



## What is the purpose of this newsletter?

This newsletter is being issued to update the local community on the Derrybrien Wind Farm Project and the reasons why Gort Windfarms Limited, which is a subsidiary of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) and owner and operator of the wind farm, intends on making a Substitute Consent Application to An Bord Pleanála in August this year.

## What has led to this?

In 2008, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) delivered a judgment against the State concluding that Ireland had failed in its obligations to assess environmental effects in accordance with European Directives prior to the grant of the planning permissions for the Derrybrien wind farm. In 2019, there was a further CJEU judgment against the State for failure to comply with the 2008 judgment.

In order to facilitate compliance by the State with the CJEU judgments, Galway County Council has served a Notice under the Planning and Development Acts directing Gort Windfarms Limited to submit an application for Substitute Consent to An Bord Pleanála. The Substitute Consent Application will include environmental assessments in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Directives which will be submitted to assist An Bord Pleanála carrying out a full environmental assessment of the Derrybrien Wind Farm Project throughout the construction, operational and decommissioning stages. These assessments will also address all the works that were undertaken in response to the peat slide in 2003.

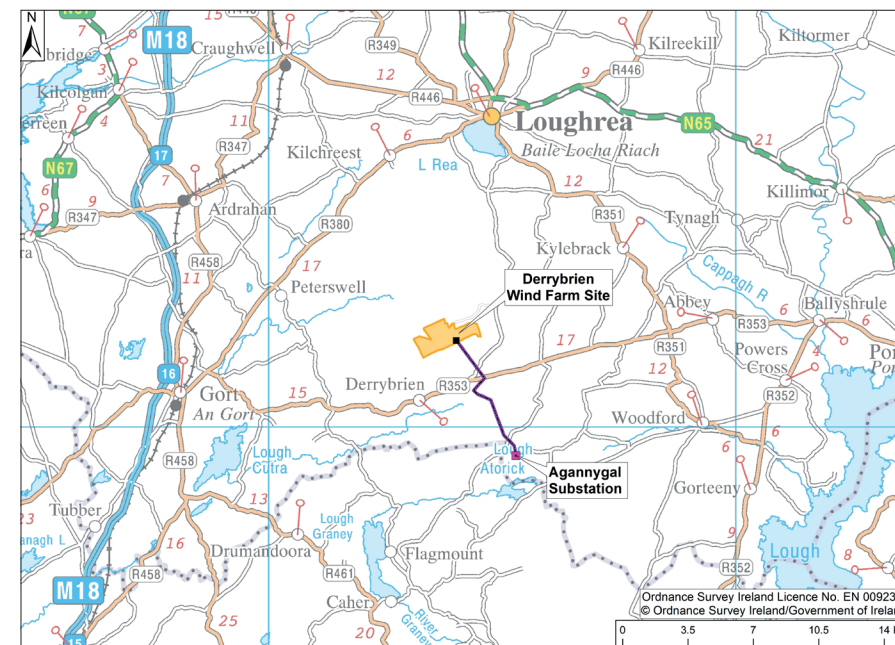
## What is the Derrybrien Wind Farm Project?

The Derrybrien Wind Farm Project includes the 70 operational turbines, all construction works, including the works that were undertaken in response to the peat slide, the overhead power line and Agannygal substation which connects the site to the national electricity transmission system.

## What is the history of the Derrybrien Wind Farm Project?

The planning permissions for Derrybrien wind farm were obtained between 1998 and 2001, Gort Windfarms Limited was acquired in 2003 and construction of the wind farm began in June 2003. However, works were stopped in October 2003 due to a peat slide. In response to that event, emergency works were undertaken to protect water courses, roads and property. The following year (2004), construction of the wind farm resumed once engineering studies had concluded that it was safe to do so. Construction of the Derrybrien Wind Farm Project was completed in 2006 and the wind farm has been generating renewable wind energy to power homes, businesses and farms across Ireland ever since. As such, it is an important part of Ireland's generation portfolio contribution to creating a low-carbon future for all.

## Location of Derrybrien Wind Farm



## Where can I find out more?

The public can view all documents related to this Substitute Consent Application once the application is made in the offices of An Bord Pleanála, Galway County Council and on our dedicated project website [www.derrybrienwindfarm.ie](http://www.derrybrienwindfarm.ie). Submissions can then be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála and will be considered by An Bord Pleanála as part of the assessment process before reaching its determination on the application.

## Who can I contact?

If you would like further information on this newsletter or have any other queries on the Substitute Consent Application you can contact David Linnane, the Derrybrien wind farm community liaison officer. David can attend to and follow up on your queries and can be contacted at [david.linnane@esb.ie](mailto:david.linnane@esb.ie) or by phone at 086 2558111.





**CONTACT US :**

Email: [david.linnane@esb.ie](mailto:david.linnane@esb.ie)

Website: [www.derrybrienwindfarm.ie](http://www.derrybrienwindfarm.ie)



## **Appendix 1-2 Information Sheet issued to statutory and non statutory consultees**

**29<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

**Re. Update in relation to the submission of an application for Substitute Consent in relation to the Derrybrien Wind Farm Project, Co. Galway to be accompanied by environmental assessments in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Directives**

**A Chara,**

The Derrybrien Wind Farm Project located in County Galway, comprises an operational wind farm (70 turbines and typical ancillary development including an on-site substation, meteorological masts, access roads etc), an overhead power line, a substation (Agannygal substation) which connects the wind farm to the national electricity transmission system, and all associated historic construction works, including emergency works undertaken in response to a peat slide event that occurred during construction.

The Wind Farm is owned and operated by Gort Windfarms Limited, which is a subsidiary of the Electricity Supply Board (ESB). The planning permissions for Derrybrien Wind Farm were obtained by a third party between 1998 and 2001. Gort Windfarms Limited subsequently acquired the site in 2003 and construction of the wind farm began in June 2003. However, works were stopped in October 2003 due to a peat slide. In response to that event, emergency works were undertaken to protect water courses, roads and property. The following year, construction of the wind farm resumed once engineering studies had concluded that it was safe to do so. Construction of the Derrybrien Wind Farm Project was completed in 2006 and the wind farm has been generating renewable wind energy to power homes, businesses and farms across Ireland ever since. As such, it is an important part of Ireland's generation portfolio contribution to creating a low-carbon future for all.

Pursuant to a Notice issued under S.177B of the Planning and Development Act (as amended), in the coming months Gort Windfarms Limited is making a Substitute Consent application to An Bord Pleanála in relation to Derrybrien Wind Farm. That Notice was issued following a 2008 Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgment against the Irish State concluding that Ireland had failed in its obligations to assess environmental effects in accordance with European Directives prior to the grant of the planning permissions for the Derrybrien Wind Farm. This was confirmed in a 2019 CJEU judgment against the State.

The application will include environmental assessments completed in compliance with the Environmental Impact Assessment and Habitats Directives. These will assist An Bord Pleanála in carrying out a full environmental assessment of the Derrybrien Wind Farm Project throughout the construction, operational and decommissioning stages. These assessments will also address all the works that were undertaken in response to the peat slide.

The application documents will also be available to view in the offices of An Bord Pleanála, Galway County Council and on our dedicated project website [www.derrybrienwindfarm.ie](http://www.derrybrienwindfarm.ie). An Bord Pleanála will also circulate documents to statutory consultees. Notification of the



application being made will be publicised through statutory newspaper ads and site notices. Submissions on the application can then be made in writing to An Bord Pleanála and will be considered by An Bord Pleanála as part of the assessment process before reaching its determination on the application.

Should you have any queries in relation to the pending application for Substitute Consent please contact Clodagh Moran in ESB.

## **Appendix 1-3 Figures at A3, A2, A1 and A0**

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Figures are contained in Vol 2 Section 3 Figures