

## **Appendix 1-1**

# **Preliminary Notification Letter and Document**



XXXXXXXX

4 December 2018

---

**Re: Consultation on Proposed Wind Farm Development at Slieve Bernagh, Co. Clare**

---

Dear Sir/Madam

Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP) has been commissioned by *Coillte Cuideachta Ghníomhaíochta Ainmnithe* (Coillte) to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and prepare a subsequent Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) relating to plans for the proposed development of a wind farm on lands at and near Slieve Bernagh in Co. Clare. Preliminary details of the proposed project are attached.

I am consulting with you on this proposal as it may be of interest or concern to you (or your organisation). While there will be the opportunity to make comments and/or a submission on the proposed development as part of the planning process, if there is any key issue which you consider should be addressed in the EIA/EIAR we would welcome your input at this early stage.

Should you require additional information or wish to further discuss the development proposal please contact me via email at [caitrona.fox@mwp.ie](mailto:caitrona.fox@mwp.ie) or by post at Malachy Walsh and Partners, Reen Point, Blennerville, Tralee, Co. Kerry.

Yours sincerely,

---

**Caitríona Fox**  
For and on behalf of Malachy Walsh and Partners



**DIRECTORS:** Peter O'Donnell BE, CEng, MICE FIEI | Jack O'Leary ME, CEng, FIEI, FConsEI | Peter Fay BScEng, DipEng, CEng, MIEI, MIStructE  
Paul Collins BE, CEng, MIEI, MIStructE | Declan Cremen BE, CEng, MIEI, MIStructE | John Lee BE, CEng, MIEI, HDipSHWW  
Mohammed Rafiq BSc, AHU, CEng, MIStructE (Director London)

**ASSOCIATE DIRECTORS:** Sean Doyle BE, CEng, MIEI | Brian Sayers BE, CEng, MSc, MIEI

Reg. Offices: Park House, Mahon Technology Park, Bessboro Road, Blackrock, Cork, Ireland.  
Reg. No.133445. Registered in Ireland. Registered Company: Malachy Walsh & Co. Ltd.



cpd ACCREDITED EMPLOYER



**Preliminary Project Details  
for  
Proposed Wind Farm Development  
at  
Slieve Bernagh, Co. Clare**

**Environmental Impact Assessment Consultation**

November 2018

# Table of contents

**1 INTRODUCTION.....1**

**2 PROJECT OVERVIEW .....1**

**2.1 Developer / Applicant Details..... 1**

**2.2 Location Details ..... 2**

**2.3 Project Components..... 2**

**2.4 Preliminary Layout..... 2**

**2.5 Site Access ..... 3**

**2.6 Grid Connection ..... 3**

**3 VIEWS /COMMENTS/FEEDBACK .....3**

## 1 INTRODUCTION

*Coillte Cuideachta Ghníomhaíochta Ainmnithe* (Coillte), is examining the feasibility of developing and operating a commercially viable wind farm project on lands at Slieve Bernagh, Co. Clare. Malachy Walsh and Partners has been commissioned by Coillte to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and prepare a planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed development.

It is envisaged that the project will exceed a 50MW capacity scale and therefore will be a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) for which an application for planning permission must be made directly to An Bord Pleanála. A pre-application stage consultation process with An Bord Pleanála will commence in the coming weeks. It is anticipated that further consultation will be undertaken with Clare County Council in conjunction with the SID pre-application phase process.

An environmental constraints study is underway and preliminary assessments have commenced to provide information on the environmental constraints, the receiving environment (baseline) and the potential sensitivities contained within the study area, so as to ensure a wind farm layout with least environmental impact is designed.

This document provides preliminary details on the proposed wind farm project and has been prepared for public consultation as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

## 2 PROJECT OVERVIEW

### 2.1 DEVELOPER / APPLICANT DETAILS

The developer and applicant for the project is Coillte. As custodian of Ireland's forests, Coillte manages the estate for forestry, recreation and biodiversity as well as for a range of uses such as renewable energy, infrastructure, community projects and commercial developments.

Coillte have developed a number of Wind Energy Projects and are deeply committed to ensuring that their projects comply with statutory environmental requirements and to supporting, and developing relationships with the communities living near their projects and developments.

## 2.2 LOCATION DETAILS

The area of the proposed Wind Farm being considered is located in East Co. Clare on the northern slopes of Slieve Bernagh, approximately 4 km northeast of the village of Broadford, 7km north-west of Killaloe and 2.5 km south of the village of Bodyke, at its closest point. Lough Derg lies approximately 4km to the east of the proposed development area (Figure 1). The proposed lands include lands under Coillte ownership along with additional private lands.

Sections of the lands within the study area have been designated as strategic for wind energy development in the Clare Wind Energy Strategy 2017 - 2023.

## 2.3 PROJECT COMPONENTS

It is anticipated that the project will include the following;

### Main project components:

- Wind Turbines, Foundations and Hardstand areas.
- On-site access roads.
- On-site interconnecting electrical cabling.
- Substation on the wind farm site.
- Meteorological Masts.
- Borrow Pits and spoil management areas.
- On-site tree felling.

### Off-site project components:

- Turbine component haulage route
- Replacement lands for felled forestry
- Grid connection; overhead line or underground cable, any requirements to upgrade substation offsite

## 2.4 PRELIMINARY LAYOUT

An indicative layout for a wind farm of up to 24 wind turbines is shown in Figure 2. This preliminary arrangement shows turbines located on elevated ground between 130 and 450 metres Ordnance Datum on the northern slopes of Slieve Bernagh.

The rationale behind the current turbine locations is as a result of a preliminary environmental constraints study. This layout is a first iteration. Further layout iterations will emerge as the studies and the Environmental Impact Assessment progress with the likelihood that number and final positions of the wind turbines will be refined through the assessment process in order to avoid or reduce impacts. Adjustments to turbine locations may occur due to social, environmental or engineering issues.

## **2.5 SITE ACCESS**

The site can be accessed from the north, from Ballydonaghan or Caherhurley. There is a good network of roads in existence within the site which will be utilised in the design of infrastructure. An assessment of the delivery route is underway to determine the best route for delivery of the turbine components.

## **2.6 GRID CONNECTION**

The feasibility will be investigated for connecting to the National Grid via Ardnacrusha or Ennis. Both an Overhead Line (OHL) and Underground Cable (UGC) are under consideration at this stage in the study.

## **3 VIEWS /COMMENTS/FEEDBACK**

It is recognised that consultation early and often is a critical component of the EIA process and we therefore value your input at this early stage with regard to any issues or concerns that you may have in relation to wind energy development in this area. Comments to the proposed wind farm development are invited from all interested parties and can be forwarded to:

Caitriona Fox  
Malachy Walsh and Partners,  
Reen Point,  
Blennerville,  
Tralee,  
Co Kerry

email: [caitriona.fox@mwp.ie](mailto:caitriona.fox@mwp.ie)



Figure 1 Study Area Location

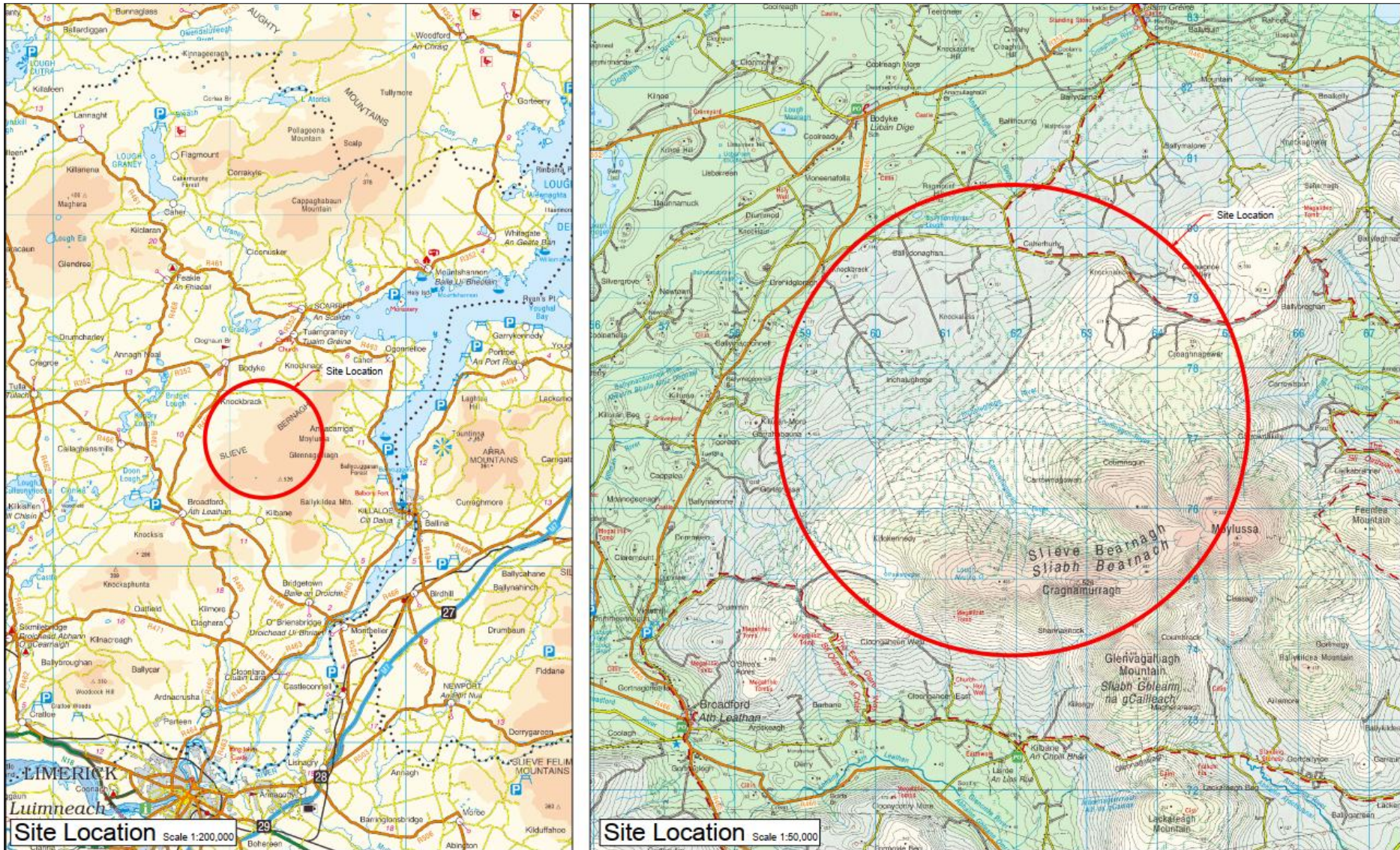




Figure 2 Preliminary Turbine Layout

