

KILCUMBER BRIDGE 110KV SUBSTATION , CO. OFFALY.

1. SCHEDULE OF PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION FOR KILCUMBER BRIDGE 110KV SUBSTATION

Pre-Application Consultation Meeting with An Bord Pleanála

A pre-application meeting was held with An Bord Pleanála on the 25th February 2020. The objective of the meeting was to outline the proposal and to discuss any concerns or comments that An Bord Pleanála may have in relation to the proposal. Confirmation that the project was a strategic infrastructure development was a part of the pre application process.

Consultation with Eirgrid as operators of the Irish electricity grid.

Cloncant Renewable Energy Ltd. had three meetings with EirGrid in 2020 where the Cushaling Wind Farm and its grid connection including Kilcumber Bridge 110kV substation or policy items effecting these items, were discussed:

- 22nd April
- 17th June
- 16th Sept

These meetings were in an effort to ensure that the needs of the grid operator were addressed.

Consultation with statutory and non statutory bodies with a possible interest.

Letters and project descriptions were sent out to a list of statutory and non statutory bodies that may have had an interest in the proposed development. A full list of the bodies and the project description is included in the EIAR for the project. The responses were taken on board and are also included in the EIAR.

Information drop to adjacent residential houses

In March of 2021 an information letter with a map regarding the proposed development was sent to all houses within 1km of the proposed substation.

Additional consultation with Offaly County Council

Offaly County Council were included in the non statutory bodies for a request for comments in relation to the project. An online meeting was held with Offaly Co. Co. on the 1st March 2021, in order to get the full information regarding Offaly County Council's thoughts on the proposed development.

Project website

Post EIAR an important aspect of the community engagement strategy is the setting up of the Project Website (www.Kilcumberbridgesubstationsid.ie). This is due to go live once the planning application has gone in and will inform the community on all aspects of the proposed development as well as contain the full EIAR in a downloadable version.

2. CONSULTATION OF THE CUSHALING WIND FARM PREVIOUS TO THE PRE-APPLICATION PROCESS WITH AN BORD PLEANALA

The Kilcumber Bridge 110kV substation was part of the EIAR for the Cushaling Wind farm project. There are some differences in the layout plan of the Kilcumber Bridge 110kV substation in the Cushaling Wind Farm plan that underwent consultation and the current proposed development. These are a movement of the substation southwest by about 20 meters, the introduction of the overhead line as the grid connection and a change in route of the grid connection. The Cushaling Wind Farm underwent the following consultations;

Pre-Planning Meeting with Offaly County Council

A pre-planning meeting was held with Offaly County Council Planning Department on the 29th May 2019. The objective of the meeting was to outline the proposal and to discuss any concerns or comments that OCC may have in relation to the proposal and any planning and development policy particularly relating to renewable energy strategy. Follow-up discussions were also held with the Roads Department regarding road access to the site.

The Applicant also had a pre-planning consultation meeting with the Edenderry Roads Engineer for Offaly County Council on 26th August 2019. During this meeting, the project was outlined by the Applicant and Offaly County Council advised of their expectations with regards to the use of public roads approaching and within the wind farm, ducting through public roads, public road upgrade works and reinstatement finishes etc.

Pre-Planning Meeting with Kildare County Council

A pre-planning meeting was held with Kildare County Council Planning Department on the 9th July 2019. The objective of the meeting was to outline the proposal and to discuss any concerns or comments that KCC may have had in relation to the proposal and any planning and development policy particularly relating to renewable energy strategy.

Consultation with Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultees

The Applicant undertook consultation with a range of statutory and non-statutory bodies identified as relevant to the project and location. Community groups relevant to the area were also identified and included.

Public Consultation with the Local Community

Cloncant Renewable Energy Ltd. commenced the public consultation for the proposed Cushaling Wind Farm in June 2019 at an early stage in the development process. A Community Liaison Strategy (CLS) was established and set into motion with a nominated Community Liaison Officer (CLO). Since this time, the CLO has been the main point of contact with the local community. The CLS is based on the 'Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement' (December 2016).

An important aspect of the community engagement strategy was the distribution of project information and the gathering of feedback. A Project Website was also set up (www.cushalingwindfarm.ie). The CLO called to all houses within 2.2km of the design layout to provide the following information:

- A Project Booklet (June 2019);
- A subsequent Project Newsletter (October 2019);
- Details on the Project website (June 2019);
- Contact details for contacting the CLO at any time.

With regard to all consultation undertaken, all feedback received was carefully considered by the project design team in designing the layout and siting of wind farm infrastructure. Following this, the proposal was finalised and submitted as planning applications to Offaly and Kildare County Councils in November 2019.