



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 5.1

Scoping Responses



Marie Geary

From: Sharon Casey <Sharon.Casey@CorkCoCo.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 15:50
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Cc: Thomas Watt; Greg Simpson; David Ryan
Subject: Ballinagree Proposed Windfarm Scoping

Thank you for your email. I have fed back on this previously. Please see attached.

Regards

Sharon

My comments per previous emails were as follows:

I have reviewed the proposal and have the following comments. These comments are made without prejudice and are based on a review of publicly available information. I do not have access to any site specific ecological data.

Key ecological sensitivities identified in respect of this proposal include

- *sites designated for nature conservation and their associated habitats and species;*
- *protected species; and*
- *habitats of high nature conservation value.*

Based on the mapping presented, it is clear that the site boundary overlaps with the boundary of the Boggeragh Mountains Natural Heritage Area and lies immediately adjacent to the Boggeraghs to Musheramore Mountains Special Protection Area. Indeed, it is noted that the boundary of the proposed windfarm extends into the 500m buffer to the SPA, which is indicated on the CDP Wind Energy Strategy to be an area not suitable for wind energy development. The development is also located within two sensitive catchments, being the catchment of the Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation and the catchment of the Sullane River.

Aerial imagery indicates that the site supports natural and semi-natural habitats.

*My first recommendation is **to amend the proposed boundaries of the development site to not encroach into the Boggeragh Mountains Natural Heritage Area or into the area which is indicated in the CDP Wind Energy Strategy to be not suitable for wind energy development***

Ecological Survey and Assessment

Without completing detailed AA screening, it is clear that this proposal is likely to trigger a requirement for AA, and it is therefore advised that the applicants would commence the necessary survey and assessment work to compile a Natura Impact Statement in respect of this project. It will also be necessary to prepare an EIAR in respect of a wind energy development of this scale. The AA report and biodiversity chapter of the EIAR should be prepared by competent experienced ecologists. Given the nature of the landscape it is likely that ornithological, freshwater and upland habitats expertise will be required to complete necessary surveys and compile the required reports.

Without direct knowledge of the site, key issues likely to be required to focus on will be

- *potential for the project to give rise to impacts on the population of Hen Harrier which is associated with the adjoining SPA, and possibly other avian species including Merlin, Golden Plover, Red Grouse, Snipe and possibly Curlew – and there may be others. It is advised that the ecologists working to prepare the planning application documents would contact expert organisations including the NPWS, the Irish Raptor Study Group and BirdWatch Ireland and to review all available literature to identify the target species which will need to be surveyed. Surveying protocols will need to be established, and these should be designed to accord with latest guidance from the NPWS and Scottish Natural Heritage. Applicants should note that a minimum of two full years of survey for key sensitive species will be required in such a sensitive location. The information gathered during the survey stage should be used to inform design to ensure that areas around known breeding sites and key foraging areas for sensitive bird species are avoided.*
- *Potential for the project to give rise to negative effects on freshwater habitats. To this end, there should be a focus at design stage on providing for an appropriately designed surface water management system which minimises risk of release of contaminants to surface waters and ensures that there is no increase in surface water run-off from the site. Avoidance of disturbance of peat based habitats will greatly assist with this.*
- *It is generally recommended that development on peat habitats is avoided. In particular, the site should be designed to avoid direct intervention within intact peat habitats and on other habitats of high natural value.*
- *The applicants ecologists should be in a position based on desk top studies and preliminary investigations to identify any other ecological issues which would require to be addressed.*

The Biodiversity chapter of the EIAR should be prepared to accord with CIEEM Guidelines and the NIS should be prepared taking account of National and EU Guidelines as well as recent case law. The applicants are free to contact me to discuss any of this,

Regards

Sharon

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm [<mailto:ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>]

Sent: 02 July 2020 14:47

To: Sharon Casey

Subject: Scoping Report

CAUTION FROM CORK COUNTY COUNCIL IT SECURITY: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sharon

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie  

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Marie Geary

From: euplanningregulation <euplanningregulation@housing.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday 6 July 2020 10:38
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping & Consultation Request

To whom it may concern,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence concerning your request for comments in relation to the consultation process of the proposed Ballinagree wind farm development in Co. Cork.

I wish to advise that under Section 30 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government, and by extension this Department, is specifically precluded from exercising any power or control in relation to any particular case with which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is or may be concerned.

Kind regards
Morgan

Morgan O Reilly
EU and International Planning Regulation, Planning Division

An Roinn Tithíochta, Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government

Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1. D01 W6X0
Custom House, Custom House Quay, Dublin D01 W6X0

T (+353) 1 8882710

www.tithiocht.gov.ie www.housing.gov.ie

Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphost seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvíorais chun víorais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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Your Ref: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Our Ref: **G Pre00114/2020**
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

31 August 2020

Ciara Finn
Core House,
Pouladuff Road,
Cork
Via email

Re: Renewable Energy Development at Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

A chara

On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

Nature Conservation

Thank you for your consultation of 1 July 2020 concerning Ballinagree proposed wind-farm, the site boundary for which is (a) near to Mullaghanish to Musheramore Special Protection Area (SPA) (site code 4162), to the west, and (b) partly within the catchment of the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) (2170). Conservation objectives for these sites are available at https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO002170.pdf, and https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/conservation_objectives/CO004162.pdf, respectively. The Department would like to thank you for including a scale bar on the map in the scoping report accompanying the consultation letter.

The above SPA has been designated to conserve the hen harrier. At the outset, it would be useful to establish if the similar and nearby Boggeragh wind-farm development has resulted in any loss or relocation of a hen harrier breeding site and/or hunting habitat. Prior to construction of the Boggeragh wind-farm, records show that a pair had regularly bred in the Mossy Beds area. This data would be particularly valuable in assessing the impact of the current wind-farm proposal.



There are historical records of breeding hen harriers in the area of the wind-farm (i.e. within 2km of a proposed turbine). A detailed description of the suitability of the habitat for hunting harriers at the following locations is recommended: T2, T12, and T16. The need for any compensatory habitat will require careful assessment.

The above cSAC has been designated to protect a number of species and habitats, some of the most important being salmon, lamprey species and otter in the Glen River, and these plus freshwater pearl mussel in the main channel of the Munster Blackwater River. The latter has particularly high water quality and habitat quality requirements. It needs to be established at the outset if the infrastructure for the wind farm can ensure avoidance of any geotechnical risks (soil slippage), siltation or increase in contribution to hydrographic peaks in the downstream river.

In addition, other protected species may occur within the wind-farm site, cable route, or in watercourses draining them, or on access routes to and from the site. These include, but are not limited to: merlin, peregrine falcon, bat species, otter and possibly Kerry slug. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring that best-practice methods and an experienced observer is used in relation to survey for merlin, a species listed in Annex I of the EU Birds Directive (Council Directive 2009/147/EC).

You are requested to send further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@chg.gov.ie (team monitored); if this is not possible, correspondence may alternatively be sent to:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Connor Rooney', followed by a horizontal line.

Connor Rooney
Development Applications Unit



Your Ref: P2114/Lett/EH/MG
Our Ref: G Pre00114/2020
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

19 April 2021

Mr Eamon Hutton
Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork

Via email: ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie

**Re: Proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm, consisting of up to 21 no wind turbines at
Design Iteration 2 Phase and associated works near Ballinagree, County Cork**

A chara

I refer to correspondence dated 23rd December 2020 received in connection with the above. Outlined below are Nature Conservation observations/recommendations co-ordinated by the Development Applications Unit.

Nature Conservation

Thank you for your further consultation letter of 23rd December 2020 concerning the revised design (2) of Ballinagree proposed wind farm, and explanation of the proposed development to regional staff of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department at an on-line meeting on 28th January 2021.

Further to the Department's response (of 31 August 2020) to your initial scoping consultation letter, the following points are raised by the NPWS, and should be read in addition to those in that letter. These points are raised without prejudice to any observation, recommendation, decision or action which may be made or taken by the Minister in relation to a planning application for the proposed development.

- In addition to European sites mentioned in the Department's letter of 31st August 2020, species of conservation importance potentially affected by the proposed development include hen harrier, freshwater pearl mussel, Leisler's bat, barn owl, curlew and marsh fritillary.
- In addition to the European sites mentioned in the Department's letter of 31st August 2020, the proposed development is also adjacent to the Boggeragh Mountains Natural Heritage Area (NHA) (Site Code 002447), designated under the Natural

Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt

Development Applications Unit

Oifigí an Rialtais

Government Offices

Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90

Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90



Heritage Area (Boggeragh Mountains NHA 002447) Order 2005 (S.I. No. 445 of 2005) for the habitat type upland blanket bog, with heath and golden plover also present (see site synopsis at <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/protected-sites/synopsis/SY002447.pdf>).

- It is also important, for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), to take into account the impact of carbon emissions from peat excavation as part of construction (see below).

Munster Blackwater Candidate Special Area of Conservation (cSAC) (Site Code 002170)

- The combination of clean water diversion, lined multicelled stone-constructed sediment ponds which can be cleaned by suction rather than excavated, an environmental management plan, alarmed autosamplers, and previous best-practice upland construction experience indicates that a sediment control system can control sediment release such that it will not have an adverse effect on the freshwater pearl mussel population downstream in the Blackwater River cSAC. However, on-site surveillance, downstream monitoring and regular reporting will be required to ensure that this system works in practice.

Hen harrier

- Statements that the areas surrounding the proposed locations of turbines T2, T12 and T16 represent low value hunting habitat due to heavy sheep grazing will need to be backed up by evidence, both observational (of use) and descriptive and photographic (of the site), as well as based on up-to-date scientific literature. If net habitat gain is being proposed (or where there is loss of habitat due to disturbance displacement¹), the option of reduction in sheep densities in certain areas to improve habitat (cf. Amar *et al.*, 2010²), if acceptable and feasible, should be examined.
- There is a requirement under Article 4(4) of the EU Birds Directive for Member States to strive to avoid deterioration of habitats of Annex I species (such as hen harrier and golden plover) outside protected areas, and the Department will draw this to the attention of An Bord Pleanála.

Boggeragh Mountains NHA (Site Code 002447)

- It is important that the existing road upgrade near T14, and new road to T21 (and any associated drainage or side-casting of spoil), is fully assessed with regard to hydrological or other effects on the NHA.
- The use by golden plover of these bogs, and the potential effects of any disturbance displacement on their use of the NHA, needs to be fully understood for the EIAR.

¹ Currently considered to apply to suitable habitat with a 250m radius of an operational turbine.

² Amar, A., Davies, J., Meek, E., Williams, J., Knight, A. and Redpath, S. (2010) Long-term impact of changes in sheep *Ovis aries* densities on the breeding output of the hen harrier *Circus cyaneus*. *Journal of Applied Ecology* **48**: 220-227.



EIAR: Monitoring

- A regular monitoring of water quality (sediment levels in particular), during construction and decommissioning stages, in the streams flowing from the wind farm which form part of the Munster Blackwater catchment is recommended, and the details of this outlined in the EIAR.
- The Department welcomes the level of data being collected on bat species, and recommends that operational stage fatality monitoring using trained dogs should be included in the schedule of commitments arising from the EIAR.

Biodiversity: EIA – Impact of peat extraction & CO₂ emissions

- It is now well established that climate change is likely to have a considerable impact on biodiversity and wildlife, due to droughts, floods, sea level rise, changes in seasonal weather, etc. The proposed development site includes areas of drained peatland (originally blanket bog with peat over 2m likely in places³), and the extent of peat excavation and drainage maintenance needs to be assessed. The impact of carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions during construction and over the life-time of the wind farm needs to be taken into account in the assessment of cumulative effects (see also page 58 and Appendix 4 of the draft wind energy guidelines (December 2019)).

The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority/ies, in their role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send any further communications to the Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@housing.gov.ie, or to the following address:

The Manager
Development Applications Unit (DAU)
Government Offices
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

Development Applications Unit

³ See site synopsis for adjacent Boggeragh Mountains NHA.

20th August 2020

Eamonn Hutton,
Fehily Timoney & Co.,
Core House,
Pouladuff Road,
Co. Cork.
T12 D773

Re: E.I.A.R. Scoping Request for the proposed Wind Farm Development at Ballinagree, Co. Cork.

Dear Mr Hutton,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling Licence from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Tel: 076-1064459, Web <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/>

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/tree-felling/FellingReforestationPolicy240517.pdf>. As this development is within a forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations, and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices for 2020 are published online at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-eia-publicconsultation-for-afforestation-forest-road-construction-and-felling-licences-2020/>
3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 28 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decisions for 2020 are published online at:
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-2020-register-of-decisions/>

It is important to note that when applying to a **Local Authority, or An Bord Pleanála**, for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
- b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
- c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,

1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;

and

2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects, direct or indirect, identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.

Yours sincerely,

Joe O'Donnell
Felling Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford

Marie Geary

From: Minister Bruton <Minister.Bruton@DCCAE.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 16:14
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Auto-Reply

Thank you for your e-mail to Minister Richard Bruton, T.D., the contents of which will be brought to the Minister's attention.

Go raibh maith agat as do ríomhphost chuig an Aire Richard Bruton, T.D., cuirfear a bhfuil ann in iúl don Aire.

Yours sincerely

Minister Bruton's Office

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PLEASE NOTE: Minister Richard Bruton is a Designated Public Official under the [Regulation of Lobbying Act 2015](#). You may need to assess whether any particular communication with him requires to be registered in accordance with the Act. If you are unsure of the requirements, more information is available at www.lobbying.ie

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

Marie Geary

From: Dept of Transport Tourism and Sport <info@dtas.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 16:21
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Automatic reply: Scoping Report

THIS IS AN AUTOMATIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT OF YOUR EMAIL. PLEASE *DO NOT REPLY TO THIS EMAIL AS REPLIES TO AUTO ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS WILL REMAIN UNANSWERED.*

Dear Customer,

Thank you for contacting The Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport Customer Services Unit.

We have received your message and the division or staff member that is dealing with your query will provide a full reply within 12 working days in the majority of cases.

In the meantime if you need an answer sooner, you can find answers to most queries on our website, www.dttas.gov.ie

Regards,

Customer Services
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport

Is seo uath-admháil go bhfuarthas do ríomhphoist. Ná freagraíonn leis an roimhphoist seo más é do thoil é mar fanfaidh freagraí leis na uath-admhálacha gan freagairt.

Chustaiméir, a chara,

Go raibh maith agat as teagmháil a dhéanamh leis an t-aonad um Sheirbhísí do Chustaiméirí sa Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt .

Tá do theachtaireacht faighte againn agus beidh an rannán nó don bhall foirne a bheidh ag déileáil le do cheist ag cur freagra iomlán ar fáil laistigh de 12 lá oibre i bhformhór na gcásanna.

Idir an dá linn más gá duit freagra a fháil níos túisce, is féidir leat freagraí den chuid is mó de na ceistanna a fháil ar ár suíomh gréasáin, www.dttas.gov.ie

Le meas,
Seirbhísí Custaiméirí
An Roinn Iompair, Turasóireachta agus Spóirt

Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo

do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

Tá ár Ráiteas Príobháideachta le fáil ar www.dttas.gov.ie

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Mr Eamon Hutton
Fehily Timoney Consultants
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork

16 July 2020

RE: Ballinagree Windfarm- Scoping Report Consultation

Dear Eamon

Thank you for your recent email in relation to the above-mentioned.

The site of the proposed development encompasses the head waters of the Blackwater and Laney Rivers, both significant salmonid fisheries. In this context IFI would ask that the following requirements should be taken into consideration.

There should be no drainage or other physical interference with the bed or bank of any watercourse without prior consultation with IFI.

Suspended solids and or hydrocarbon contaminated site run-off waters must be controlled

adequately so that no pollution of surface waters can occur. More specifically IFI feels the following issues should be addressed

- i. Identifying and zoning the project for environmental impact should a peat slip occur
- ii. Setting out contingency plan should a peat movement occur.
- iii. Setting out a plan for the control of silt in such a scenario, including measures to be put in place at the initial stages of construction.

In the event of any watercourse crossings being bridged or culverted the following general criteria should apply,

- (i) The free passage of fish must not be obstructed.

(ii) The original slope of the river bed should be maintained with no sudden drops on the downstream side. Design details on any proposed crossing should be incorporated at planning stage

(iii) Bridges are preferable to culverts.

(v) All instream works should be carried out only in the May-September period.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Mc Partland.
Environmental Officer.

From: [INFO](#)
To: [Ballinagree Wind Farm](#)
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm – Environmental Impact Assessment Consultation. TII Ref: TII20-109939
Date: Wednesday 22 July 2020 11:49:40

Dear Ms. Finn,

Thank you for your email of 2 July 2020 regarding consultation for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the Ballinagree Wind Farm. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants in respect to proposed developments. TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines: ‘Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.TII.ie.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII’s statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the National Roads Network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, *inter alia*, to the following:

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes, in the vicinity of the subject development site.
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the existing national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development.
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála, regarding road schemes in the areas concerned. The developer should in particular have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII’s Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the ‘Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes’, (National Roads Authority, 2006).
- The EIAR should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration

in National Road Schemes, (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)).

- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. The Authority's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the NRA/TII TTA Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- In relation to haul route identification, the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route, including where temporary modification to the road network may be required. Consultation with relevant PPP Companies and MMaRC Contractors may also be required. All structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer, to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed.
- Where the windfarm scheme includes grid connection proposals, the scheme promoter should note the locations of existing and future national road schemes and develop proposals, so as to safeguard the proposed road schemes. In the context of existing national roads, alternatives to the provision of cabling along the national road network, such as alternative routing or the laying of cabling in private lands adjoining the national road, should be considered in the interests of safeguarding the investment in and the potential for, future upgrade works to the national road network. The cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure, such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII. Any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network and/or motorway network, where applicable.

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practise.

I trust that the above comments are of assistance in your EIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Moore

Regulatory and Administration Executive



Transport Infrastructure Ireland
Parkgate Business Centre
Parkgate Street
Dublin D08 DK10

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Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag <http://www.tii.ie/about/>

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Marie Geary

From: Wexford Receptionist <REC_WEX@epa.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 14:36
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Re: Scoping Report

A Chara,

Your correspondence on July 3rd has been forwarded for attention.

Kind regards,

Ruth O'Connor

Duty Receptionist/Programme Officer

Environmental Protection Agency

P.O. Box 3000

Johnstown Castle Estate

Wexford

Y35 W821

Bosca Poist 3000, Eastát Chaisleán Bhaile Sheáin, Contae Loch Garman.

Tel: 00353 53 91 60600: Fax: 00353 53 91 60699: Email: info@epa.ie web: www.epa.ie

Lo Call: 1890 33 55 99

Environmental Protection Agency on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/EPAIreland>.

EPA Climate Change on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/EPAClimateNews>

EPA Research on Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/EPAResearchNews>

YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/epaireland>

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>

Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 15:05

To: Wexford Receptionist <REC_WEX@epa.ie>

Subject: Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn

For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

www.fehilytimoney.ie



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FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Date 10th July 2020

Distribution

14 JUL 2020

Mr. Eamon Hutton
Fehily Timoney & Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Co Cork

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Development: Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree. The proposed project includes lands contained within the following townlands: Annagannihy, Ballynagree East, Ballynagree West, Carrigagulla and Knocknagappul at town of Ballinagree. The proposed project includes lands contained within the following townlands: Annagannihy, Ballynagree East, Ballynagree West, Carrigagulla and Knocknagappul. Ref: P2114

Dear Eamon

I refer to the request for planning permission for the above development, details of which were received by the Irish Aviation Authority from the Council.

It is the observations of the Irish Aviation Authority Aerodromes Department that The applicant should be required to engage with Rathcoole Aerodrome and Kerry Airport to undertake a preliminary screening assessment to confirm that the proposed wind farm and the associated cranes that would be utilised during its construction would have no impact on flight operations at either Rathcoole Aerodrome or Kerry Airport.

In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to:

- (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development,
- (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location

Turbine No.	WGS-84 Co-ordinates	Ground elevation (Malin Head OD)	Blade tip elevation of turbine (Malin Head OD)	Height of turbine (height from ground level to blade tip)	Confirm if turbine has obstacle lighting.
T1	53.346125, -6.258288	75m	225m	150m	No

- (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection

Bord Stiúrthóirí/Board of Directors

Michael McGrail (Cathaoirleach/Chairperson),
Peter Kearney (Príomhtheidhmeannach/Chief Executive)
Cian Blackwell, Marie Bradley, Ernie Donnelly,
Gerry Lumsden, Joan McGrath, Eimer O'Rourke

Oifig Chláraithe:

Foirgneamh na hAmanna, 11-12 Sráid D'Olier
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449, Éire
Uimhir Chláraithe: 211082. Áit Chláraithe: Éire
Cuideachta Dlíteanais Theoranta

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Yours sincerely

PP: 

Deirdre Forrest
Corporate Affairs



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Irish Aviation Authority
The Times Building
11-12 D'Olier Street
Dublin 2, D02 T449,
Ireland

Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann
Foirgneamh na hAmanna
11-12 Sráid D'Olier
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 T449,
Éire

T: +353 1 671 8655
F: +353 1 679 2934
www.iaa.ie



Date 10th July 2020

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Distribution

Mr. Eamon Hutton
Fehily Timoney & Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Co Cork

14 JUL 2020

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Development: Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree. The proposed project includes lands contained within the following townlands: Annagannihy, Ballynagree East, Ballynagree West, Carrigagulla and Knocknagappul at town of Ballinagree. The proposed project includes lands contained within the following townlands: Annagannihy, Ballynagree East, Ballynagree West, Carrigagulla and Knocknagappul.
Ref: P2114

Dear Eamon

I refer to the request for planning permission for the above development, details of which were received by the Irish Aviation Authority from the Council.

It is the observations of the Irish Aviation Authority **Engineering** Department that as the proposed development may obstruct ILS Flight Calibration Profiles flown when commissioning and calibrating Cork ILS 16, we require the planning applicant to have an assessment completed by our flight calibration provider FCSL.

This assessment should seek to ensure that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on FCSL's ability to complete flight calibration checks at Cork Airport, including commissioning flight calibration checks, in all weathers.

Contact details for FCSL are attached.

Copies of FCSL's assessment report should be emailed to the following IAA Engineers upon completion ;

Fergal.Doyle@iaa.ie

TCDCKR@iaa.ie

Brendan.O'Connor@iaa.ie

Yours sincerely

Deirdre Forrest
Corporate Affairs

Bord Stiúirtheoirí/Board of Directors

Michael McGrail (Cathaoirleach/Chairperson),
Peter Keamey (Príomhfhéidhmeannach/Chief Executive)
Cian Blackwell, Marie Bradley, Ernie Donnelly,
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Flight Calibration Services Ltd.

Calibration House
17-19 Cecil Pashley Way, Shoreham Airport
Shoreham BN43 5FF

Telephone: +44 (0)1243 538245 **Fax:** +44 (0)20 8391 3391 | <http://www.flight-cal.com>

Operations

Nick Whitehouse - Flight Inspection Manager
+44 (0)1243 538 245

operations@flight-cal.com

Sales / Enquiries

David Bartlett
+44 (0)20 8391 6880
david@flight-cal.com



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Marie Geary

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 22 July 2020 13:37
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: FW: Ballinagree Wind Farm

From: Ita Daly <ita_daly@hsa.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 22 July 2020 12:33
To: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm

Dear Eamon,

Thank you for your email.

The Health and Safety Authority (the Authority), acting as the Central Competent Authority under the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 209 of 2015) gives technical advice to the Planning Authority when requested, under regulation 24(2) in relation to:

- (a) the siting and development of new establishments;
- (b) modifications to establishments of the type described in Regulation 12(1);
- (c) new developments including transport routes, locations of public use and residential areas in the vicinity of establishments, where the siting, modifications or developments may be the source of, or increase the risk or consequences of, a major accident.

Since the proposal referenced in your email below appears to be outside the scope of the Regulations, the Authority has no observations to forward.

If you have any queries please contact the undersigned.

Yours sincerely,

Ita Daly
Inspector, COMAH Chemical Production and Storage.

#

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 14 July 2020 09:46
To: WCU <wcu@hsa.ie>
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie



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Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
T12 D773
Ireland

Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WA07
Éire

Irish Water
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 01 89 25000
T: +353 01 89 25001
www.water.ie

3 July 2020

Re: EIAR Scoping Request – Proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping & Consultation

Dear Mr Hutton,

Irish Water (IW) acknowledges receipt of your request in respect of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) scoping for the Proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree and includes lands contained within the following townlands: Annagannihy, Ballynagree East, Ballynagree West, Carrigagulla and Knocknagappul.

Please see attached our suggested scope in relation to Water Services. On receipt of the planning referral, Irish Water will review the EIAR as part of the planning process.

Queries relating to the terms and observations above should be directed to planning@water.ie

Yours sincerely,

Signed on behalf of Irish Water:

Maria O'Dwyer
Connections and Development Services

Response to EIAR Scoping Report Requests

IW currently does not have the capacity to advise on scoping of individual projects. However, in general we would like the following aspects of Water Services to be considered in the scope of an EIAR where relevant;

- a) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development if required). This is confirmed by IW in the form of a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF). If a development will require a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system the developer is advised to submit a Pre Connection Enquiry (PCE) enquiry to IW to determine the feasibility of connection to the Irish Water network. All pre-connection enquiry forms are available from <https://www.water.ie/connections/get-connected/>
- b) Any up-grading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the development.
- c) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an IW collection network
- d) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks & potential measures to minimise/stop surface waters from combined sewers
- e) Any physical impact on IW assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets.
- f) If you are considering a development proposal, it is best practice to contact us in advance of designing your proposal to determine the location of public water services assets. Details, where known, can be obtained by emailing an Ordinance Survey map identifying the proposed location of your intended development to datarequests@water.ie. Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within your lands are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site.
- g) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to IW discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion /circulation characterises
- h) Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source) or the potential of the development to influence/ present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by IW for public supply.
- i) Where a development proposes to connect to an IW network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges waste water to a “protected”/sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site/conservation objectives of the site would be compromised.
- j) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above

This is not an exhaustive list.

Please note

- The Confirmation of Feasibility from IW, to the applicant, should be issued prior to applying for planning permission.

Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WA07
Éire

Irish Water
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 01 89 25000
T: +353 01 89 25001
www.water.ie

- Irish Water will not accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks
- Where an Irish Water asset is altered or diverted, a Diversion Agreement is required. To commence this process, the applicant is requested to submit a Diversion enquiry once a preferred route has been selected. Details on this process can be found at <https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/diversions/>. Any design proposal to divert an Irish Water asset must be completed in accordance with IW Standard Details and Codes of Practice which are available on the Irish Water website.
- All necessary measures to protect and maintain access to Irish Water infrastructure and water sources shall be undertaken and incorporated into any proposals for road design. Irish Water request continued engagement through the route selection, design and construction stages in order to ensure public water services and sources are protected and access is maintained

Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WA07
Éire

Irish Water
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 01 89 25000
T: +353 01 89 25001
www.water.ie

Marie Geary

From: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 8 July 2020 10:06
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: RE: Scoping Report

Hi Ciara

On behalf of ABP I acknowledge receipt of your email.

The contents of which are noted.

Shaun

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm [<mailto:ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>]
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 14:07
To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject: Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie



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From: [PropertyManagementPlanning](#)
To: [Ballinagree Wind Farm](#)
Subject: FW: Scoping Report
Date: Wednesday 8 July 2020 15:37:50
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[P2114 Ltr Scoping Cover Letter Minister for Defence.pdf](#)
[P2114 Scoping Report.pdf](#)

Hello Eamon

I wish to acknowledge receipt of documents below and attached. I have forwarded to relevant officers will reply in due course with observations.

*Kind Regards,
Raymond*

Raymond Myles
Property Management Branch

An Roinn Cosanta
Department of Defence

Bóthar an Staisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93.

T +353 (0)45 492036

raymond.myles@defence.ie

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>
Sent: 02 July 2020 16:15
To: Info <info@defence.ie>
Subject: Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the

proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn

For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

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Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
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To view our Customer Charter, please click on
www.defence.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2018-06/customer-charter-2017.pdf

Marie Geary

From: CRU Licensing <licensing@cru.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 11:06
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm; Info CRU
Subject: RE: Scoping Report

Dear Ms. Finn,

The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) acknowledges receipt of your email below.

Kind regards,

Licensing Team



Licensing Team

p: +353 1 4685990

a: The Grain House, The Exchange, Belgard Square North, Tallaght,
Dublin 24, D24 PXW0

w: www.cru.ie e: licensing@cru.ie

The CRU Privacy Notice sets out how we protect the privacy rights of individuals and can be found [here](#)

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>
Sent: 02 July 2020 14:57
To: Info CRU <info@cru.ie>
Subject: Scoping Report

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Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie



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Marie Geary

From: Diane Power <Diane.Power@corkrdo.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 10:37
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: RE: Scoping Report

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your submission via national.roads@corkrdo.ie.

I confirm that this matter is receiving attention and our office will revert to you as soon as possible.

Is mise le meas,

Diane Power,
Clerical Officer,
Cork County Council National Roads Office, Richmond, Glanmire, County Cork
T45 WA44

Email: dpower@corkrdo.ie
Tel: Office – 00 353 21 4821046
Tel: Direct Dial – 00 353 21 4858171

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 10:30
To: National.roads <National.roads@corkrdo.ie>
Subject: FW: Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

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Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton

Project Planner

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Marie Geary

From: Info Opw <info@opw.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 16:36
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Automatic reply: Scoping Report

Thank you for your email to the Office of Public Works.
Your query has been forwarded to the relevant section within the OPW for direct reply.
If you do not receive a response within 20 working days, please email this address again for further assistance.

All Media queries should be emailed to opwcsc@opw.ie

This is an automated response. Please do not respond to this email.

Go raibh maith agat as an ríomhphost uait chuig Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí.
Seoladh do cheist chuig an rannóg chuí taobh istigh den OPW a thabharfaidh freagra díreach duit.
Sa chás nach bhgaigheann tú freagra taobh istigh de 20 lá oibre, seol ríomhphost chuig an seoladh seo arís le do thoil, chun cúnamh breise a fháil.

Ba chóir ceisteanna meáin a sheoladh trí ríomhphost chuig opwcsc@opw.ie

Is freagra uathoibrithe é seo. Ná seol freagra ar an ríomhphost seo le do thoil.

Email Disclaimer: <https://www.opw.ie/en/disclaimer/>



Eamon Hutton
Fehily Timoney
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
T12 D773

15 July 2020

Re: proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm EIAR – Scoping and consultation request
Your Ref: P2114/Lett/EH/CF
Our Ref: 20/141

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and has datasets on Bedrock Geology, Quaternary Geology, Geological Heritage Sites, Mineral deposits, Groundwater Resources and the Irish Seabed. These comprise maps, reports and extensive databases that include mineral occurrences, bedrock/mineral exploration groundwater/site investigation boreholes, karst features, wells and springs. Please see our [website](#) for data availability and we recommend using these various data sets, when undergoing the EIAR, planning and scoping processes. Geological Survey Ireland should be referenced to as such and should any data or geological maps be used, they should be attributed correctly to Geological Survey Ireland.

Dear Eamon,

With reference to your email received on the 02 July 2020, concerning the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm EIAR – Scoping and consultation request, Geological Survey Ireland (a division of Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment) would like to make the following comments.

Geoheritage

Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs) to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Irish Geoheritage Programme (IGH) of GSI, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGS), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan are now included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#). Although the audit for Co. Cork has not yet been completed, **there is an unaudited CGS in the vicinity of the wind farm: Boggeragh Mountains (GR 143000, 87000), under IGH Theme 14: IGH14 Fluvial/Lacustrine Geomorphology**. Unaudited sites are sites that have been identified by a panel of experts as significant in terms of their geological importance and interest but which have not yet been assessed as an individual site through a county audit.

With the current plan, there are no envisaged impacts on the integrity of current CGSs by the proposed development. However, if the proposed development plan is altered, please contact Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie) for further information and possible mitigation measures if applicable.



Groundwater

Groundwater is important as a source of drinking water, and it supports river flows, lake levels and ecosystems. It contains natural substances dissolved from the soils and rocks that it flows through, and can also be contaminated by human actions on the land surface. As a clean, but vulnerable, resource, groundwater needs to be understood, managed and protected. Through our [Groundwater Programme](#), Geological Survey Ireland provides advice and maps to members of the public, consultancies and public bodies about groundwater quality, quantity and distribution. Geological Survey Ireland monitors groundwater nationwide by characterising aquifers, investigating karst landscapes and landforms and by helping to protect public and group scheme water supplies. With regard to Flood Risk Management, there is a need to identify areas for integrated constructed wetlands. We recommend using the GSI's National Aquifer and Recharge maps on our [Map viewer](#) to this end. **The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface' in your EIAR.**

Geohazards

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides are the most prevalent of these hazards. **Landslides are common in areas of peat, such as areas which are found close to the proposed wind farm. Landslide susceptibility in the area of the proposed wind farm is variable and is classed from Moderately Low / Moderately High to High. Geological Survey Ireland has information available on past landslides on our [Map Viewer](#).**

Geological Survey Ireland also engages in national projects such as Groundwater Flooding (GWFlood). We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data (available on the [geohazard pages](#) of our website) when doing so.

Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)

Geological Survey Ireland is of the view that the sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans from a national to regional to local level to ensure that the materials required for our society are available when required. Geological Survey Ireland highlights the consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process. Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our [Minerals section](#) of the website. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our [Map Viewer](#).

Geotechnical Database Resources

Geological Survey Ireland continues to populate and develop our national geotechnical database and viewer with site investigation data submitted voluntarily by industry. The current database holding is over 7500 reports with 134,000 boreholes; 31,000 of which are digitised which can be accessed through downloads from our [Geotechnical Map Viewer](#). We would strongly recommend that this database be consulted as part of any baseline geological assessment of the proposed development as it can provide invaluable baseline data for the region or vicinity of the proposed development area. This information may be beneficial and cost saving for any site specific investigations that may be designed as part of the development.

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. Should any significant bedrock cuttings be created, we would ask that they will be designed to remain visible as rock exposure rather than covered with soil and vegetated, in accordance with safety guidelines and engineering constraints.



In areas where natural exposures are few, or deeply weathered, this measure would permit on-going improvement of geological knowledge of the subsurface and could be included as additional sites of the geoheritage dataset, if appropriate. Alternatively, we ask that a digital photographic record of significant new excavations could be provided. Potential visits from Geological Survey Ireland to personally document exposures could also be arranged.

The data would be added to GSI's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to Beatriz Mozo, Land Mapping Unit, at Beatriz.Mozo@gsi.ie, 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me (Trish.Smullen@dcae.gov.ie), or my colleague Clare Glanville (Clare.Glanville@dcae.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen
Geoheritage Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

Marie Geary

From: Dawn Quin <admin@batconservationireland.org>
Sent: Monday 13 July 2020 16:12
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Re: Scoping Report

Dear Ciara,

Thank you for your e-mail.

As we are a small organisation, with limited resources, we do not have the capacity to get involved in planning issues.

Best wishes

Dawn Quinn
Administrative Manager
Bat Conservation Ireland

admin@batconservationireland.org
www.batconservationireland.org



----- On Thu, 02 Jul 2020 14:20:14 +0100 **Ballinagree Wind Farm** <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie> wrote -----

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton

Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

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BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION IRELAND

Pagestown,
Maynooth,
Co. Kildare.
Phone 01 628 9901
conservation.butterfly@gmail.com

July 29th 2020

Your Ref: P2114/Lett/EH/CF

Eamon Hutton,
Fehily Timoney & Company,
Core House,
Pouladuff Road,
County Cork, T12 D773

Re: Proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report –
Scoping & Consultation Request

Dear Mr Hutton,

We write with reference to the matter stated above.

The site of the proposed wind farm is near Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA. This site holds Merlin and Hen Harrier both listed on Annex I of the Habitats' Directive. The site of the proposed wind farm is near Boggeragh Mountains NHA. This area holds Golden Plover, a Red Data Book species. This area also holds Devil's-bit Scabious, the foodplant of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, listed on Annex II of the Habitats' Directive. The unplanted areas of upland blanket bog may also contain Large Heath butterfly, listed as Vulnerable on the Ireland Red List No.4: Butterflies (https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/RL_2010_Butterflies.pdf).

The Large Heath is also rated Vulnerable on the European Red List of butterflies (https://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/conservation/species/redlist/downloads/European_butterflies.pdf).

The species stated above may also occur on the site of the proposed wind farm in which case the potential for negative impacts may be unacceptably high. The status of these species on the designated sites may also be negatively impacted by a windfarm on the Ballinagree site.

We note, from your documentation, the following potential impacts of the wind farm on biodiversity:

Direct loss of habitat due to the footprint of the area;
Damage to adjacent habitats during construction which could potentially be affected by construction activity;

Impacts during construction on the hydrology of water dependent habitats
Impacts on water quality 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.;
Disturbance to local wildlife, including loss of habitat, disturbance and displacement;
The potential collision risk to birds and bats;
Damage to or habitat loss of important wildlife corridors or stepping stones during construction.
Fragmentation of same at a larger more regional level as a result of habitat loss;
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, 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, Biodiversity.

The potential loss of breeding habitat for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly should be added to this list.

The population trend of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly in Ireland 2008-2019 is rated as 'Unknown' (Judge and Lysaght 2020). This rating is linked to the small number of monitored sites. The uncertainty of its abundance level underlines the need to avoid damage to any breeding or potential breeding site.

Given the extensive list of potential impacts on biodiversity, the potential loss of habitat for the Marsh Fritillary butterfly and the potential disruption of dispersal routes required for its metapopulation, Butterfly Conservation Ireland does not support the proposed development.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Jesmond Harding,
Secretary,
Butterfly Conservation Ireland.

Directors: Michael Jacob (Chairman) Jesmond Harding, Joseph Harding, Kieran Buckley.
--

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Marie Geary

From: info@birdwatchireland.ie
Sent: Wednesday 19 August 2020 11:52
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report

Hi Eamon ,

Thank you for your email .Your previous email was forwarded to our Policy officer and I have also forwarded this one along .Thank you .

Regards,
Michelle Kavanagh,
Membership Department.
BirdWatch Ireland

Unit 20 Block D | Bullford Business Campus | Kilcoole | Greystones | A63 RW83 | Co.Wicklow | Ireland

Tel: +353 (0)1 281 9878 email: mkavanagh@birdwatchireland.ie

Website: www.birdwatchireland.ie

‘Please note that due to current Covid-19 restrictions most BirdWatch Ireland Staff will be working from their homes .Please be assured that your email will be answered as soon as possible.’

BirdWatch Ireland - protecting wild birds and their habitats

BirdWatch Ireland - protecting birds and biodiversity

Cairde Éanlaith Éireann - ag caomhnú éin agus bithéagsúlacht

To join as a member, make a donation, volunteer or shop online visit www.birdwatchireland.ie or call us on +353 (0)1 281 9878

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 19 August 2020 11:41
To: info@birdwatchireland.ie
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to follow up on an email issued to you last month regarding the Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report. We would like to confirm receipt of the report and invite any comments which you may have.

Kind regards,



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie



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Marie Geary

From: John Horgan <John.Horgan@teagasc.ie>
Sent: Thursday 20 August 2020 15:06
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Cc: Cyril McCarthy; Tom Cooney
Subject: as above correspondence / scoping report

I acknowledge receipt of Correspondence and Scoping Report.
I have no observations to make in this Regard,

Regards

John Horgan.
Regional Manager,
Teagasc Cork East Region,
Knockgriffin,
Midleton, Co. Cork.
087-1776130 / 021-4631898



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Tabhair aire:

Tá an r-phost seo faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún. Mura tusa an duine a bhí beartaithe leis an teachtaireacht seo a fháil, scríos é le do thoil agus cuir an seoltóir ar an eolas. Is leis an údar amháin aon dearcaí nó tuairimí a léirítear. Scanadh an r-phost seo le Teagasc agus deimhníodh go raibh sé saor ó víoras leis an bpatrúnchomhad atá in úsáid faoi láthair. Ní féidir a ráthú leis seo áfach nach bhfuil ábhar mailíseach ann.

Marie Geary

From: Networksinfo <Networksinfo@gasnetworks.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 15:16
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Thank you for contacting Gas Networks Ireland



Thank you for contacting Gas Networks Ireland.

We will respond to your email within one working day.

Our Customer Care Opening Hours are Monday-Friday 8am-8pm and Saturday 9am-5.30pm.

If you smell gas, contact our 24 hour emergency service 1850 20 50 50 immediately.

See our website gasnetworks.ie for more information.

Find us on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#)

Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimisce the agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghnímh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmisce the na faisnéise seo. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire.

Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdraithe. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtairreachtaí chuig nó ó Líonraí Gáis Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Líonraí Gáis Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Líonraí Gáis Éireann cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, atá corpraithe in Éirinn leis an uimhir chláráithe 555744 agus a tá hoifig chláráithe ag Bóthar na nOibreacha Gáis, Corcaigh, T12 RX96.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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and having its registered office at Gasworks Road, Cork, T12 RX96.

Thank you for your attention.

Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimiscthe agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghnímh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirmiscthe na faisnéise seo. Níl Líonraí Gáis Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire.

Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdairithe. Ní ghlacann Líonraí Gáis Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtairichtaí chuig nó ó Líonraí Gáis Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Líonraí Gáis Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Líonraí Gáis Éireann cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, atá corpraithe in Éirinn leis an uimhir chláráithe 555744 agus a tá hoifig chláráithe ag Bóthar na nOibreacha Gáis, Corcaigh, T12 RX96.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.

Marie Geary

From: Sinead Duffy <sinead.duffy@met.ie>
Sent: Monday 27 July 2020 10:56
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Cc: Met Eireann; Tony O'Leary
Subject: RE: Request for comments on planned Wind Farm Development

Good morning Ciara,

Many thanks for your email.

Met Éireann have no comments on the proposed renewable energy development at this time.

We have commenced planning an expanded meteorological radar network and may have comments on the proposed development at a later point.

Kind regards,
Sinéad Duffy

Sinéad Duffy
Meteorologist, Observations Division
Met Éireann, Glasnevin Hill, Dublin 9, D09 Y921, Ireland
tel +353 (0)1 8065 574 mob +353 (0) 86 6061712

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm [<mailto:ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>]
Sent: 02 July 2020 15:59
To: Met Eireann <met.eireann@met.ie>
Subject: Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton

Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

www.fehilytimoney.ie



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Ta an riomhphost seo, agus aon chomhad ata nasctha leis, faoi run agus is don te a seoladh chuige amhain e. Ma tharla go bhfuair tu an riomhphost seo tri dhearmad cuir in iul don te a sheol e led' thoil.

Ta an teachtaireacht riomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearrai frithvireas.

Marie Geary

From: Info@Eirgrid.com
Sent: Monday 6 July 2020 10:08
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: RE: Scoping Report

Dear all,

Thank you for bringing this to our attention. If you would like we could set up a customer clinic for you? This is an opportunity to meet in the pre-application phase if a customer has questions they would like to pose of EirGrid subject matter experts. Please let me know if this would be of interest to you. Our next availability would be on 12 August.

Kind regards

Jeroen Vandommele
Senior Customer Relations Specialist

Mobile: +353 (0) 85 870 9717
Reception: +353 (0)1 667 1700



www.EirGrid.com

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm [<mailto:ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>]
Sent: 02 July 2020 15:04
To: Info - EirGrid
Subject: Scoping Report

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click on any links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content to be safe.

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie  

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EirGrid plc - Transmission System Operator, Ireland.
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.

Oibrítheoir Eangach Leictreachais na hÉireann.
160 Bóthar Shíol Bhroin, Droichead na Dothra, Baile Átha Cliath 4, D04 FW28.

Registered Office
The Oval, 160 Shelbourne Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 FW28.
Registered in Ireland No. 338522 V.A.T. No. IE 6358522H
TELEPHONE + 353 (0)1 677 1700
EMAIL info@eirgrid.com
FAX + 353 (0)1 661 5375
WEB www.eirgrid.com

Directors:
Brendan Tuohy CHAIR, Mark Foley CHIEF EXECUTIVE
Dr Theresa Donaldson, Shane Brennan, Tom Coughlan, Lynne Crowther, Michael Hand, Eileen Maher, Liam O'Halloran,
John Trethowan, Martin Corrigan (Company Secretary)

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Séanadh:

Tá faisnéis (agus/nó ceangaltáin) a d'fhéadfadh a bheith faoi phribhléid nó faoi rún sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo. Tá an t-ábhar uile beartaithe a bheith d'úsáid an duine aonair nó an aonáin chuig a ndírítear é amháin. Sa chás nach tú an faighteoir beartaithe, bíodh fios agat go bhfuil cosc ar aon nochtadh, cóipeáil, dáileadh nó úsáid d'ábhair na teachtaireachta seo. Is iad tuairimí nó barúlacha an údair amháin na tuairimí nó na barúlacha a léirítear sa teachtaireacht seo, agus b'fhéidir nach ionann iad agus tuairimí nó barúlacha EirGrid. Má shíleann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, cuir é seo in iúl don seoltóir láithreach le do thoil. Cé go scanann EirGrid ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin, ní thugann siad ráthaíocht go mbíonn ceachtar acu saor ó víreas ná ní ghlacann siad aon dliteanas as aon damáiste a dhéantar de thoradh víreas.

Marie Geary

From: esbnetworks@esb.ie
Sent: Friday 10 July 2020 16:54
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Re: Scoping Report [#553668]



Good Afternoon Ciara,

Thank you for your email and attachments.

I have forwarded same for the attention of the local ESB Networks office in Bandon.

Please contact me again if I can be of further assistance.

Kind regards,

ESB Networks Customer Care | T: 1850372757 | +353 21 2386555 | F: +353 21 4844261 | www.esbnetworks.ie

WARNING: ESB Networks will not be liable for acting on any instructions issued via your e-mail address where it transpires that such instructions were not sent by you.

--Original Message--

From: ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie
Date: 02/07/2020 03:08 PM
To: esbnetworks@esb.ie
Subject: Scoping Report

CAUTION: This email is from an external sender. If you are unsure about any links or attachments, please forward it to ESB Cybersecurity Operations at spammonitor@esb.ie

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn

For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133

www.fehilytimoney.ie



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An timpeallacht? - Smaoinigh air sula bpriontáileann tú an r-phost seo.
Please consider the Environment before printing this email.

* * * * *

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon chomhad a ghabhann leis rúnda agus ceaptha le haghaidh úsáide an té nó an aonáin ar seoladh chuige iad agus na húsáide sin amháin.

Is tuairimí nó dearcthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearcthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó

deartháí ESB.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir.

Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

<https://esbnetworks.ie/contact-us>

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<https://esbnetworks.ie/contact-us>

Marie Geary

From: Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland <info@seai.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 16:49
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Scoping Report - CAS-174747-Z2T5M7 CRM:00010112947

Thank you for contacting SEAI.

The details of your email will be reviewed by a member of our Customer Service Team.

We aim to respond to all emails, where possible within 1 working day.

In the meantime, if your query is urgent please contact 01 808 2100.

Kind regards

SEAI Helpdesk



**** Please note, SEAI Dublin Office has relocated to 3 Park Place, Upper Hatch Street, Dublin 2****



The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) works with the public, businesses, government and communities to achieve a cleaner energy future.

SEAI is funded by the Government of Ireland through the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Marie Geary

From: noreplyntacrm ntacrm <noreplyntacrm@nationaltransport.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 16:35
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Your enquiry has been received. Case reference #: CAS-93623-L2D4F1 NTA:00000080000123422

CASE REFERENCE #: CAS-93623-L2D4F1

DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE:

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for contacting the National Transport Authority. Your enquiry has been received and will be dealt with as soon as possible. We aim to respond to all enquiries within 15 working days. A copy of your enquiry is displayed below.

Kind regards,
National Transport Authority

A Dhuine Uaisle,

Go raibh maith agat as ucht do theagmháil leis Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair. Fuarthas d'fhiosrúchán agus déileálfar leis chomh luath agus is féidir. Tá sé mar aidhm againn gach fiosrúchán a fhreagairt laistigh de 15 lá oibre. Taispeántar cóip d'fhiosrúchán thíos.

Le dea-ghuí,
An t-Údarás Náisiúnta Iompair

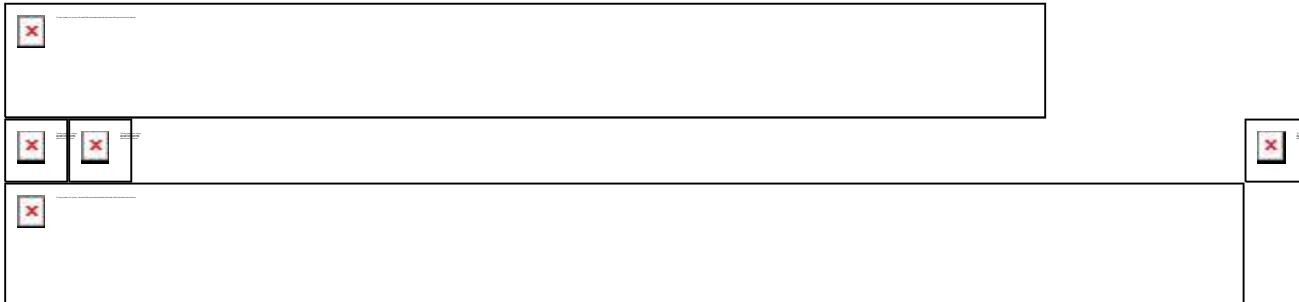
Description: **Dear Sir/Madam Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree. Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020. If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address. Kind Regards Ciara Finn For and on behalf of Eamon Hutton Project Planner Fehily Timoney and Company Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773 t: 353 21 496 4133 www.fehilytimoney.ie This**

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Subject: **Scoping Report**

Contact Name: ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie

Email Address: ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie



Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún agus b'fhéidir go mbeadh ábhar rúnda nó pribhléideach ann. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Tá cosc ar rochtain don teachtaireacht leictreonach seo do aon duine eile. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo agus b'fhéidir d'fhéadfadh bheith mídhleathach.

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Marie Geary

From: Cork Feedback MB <Cork.Feedback@corkairport.com>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 14:37
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Automatic reply: Scoping Report

Táimid buíoch díot as an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist a sheol tú chugainn.

Déanfar do theachttaireacht a athbhreithniú a luaithe agus is féidir agus cuirfear ar aghaidh é chuig an Roinn ábhartha lena fhreagairt.

Má bhaineann do cheist leis an Aerlíne atá ainmnithe agat, le Gníomhaire Láimhseála, le Cuideachta Fruilithe Carranna nó le Seirbhísí Stáit (Lucht Custaim, Inimirce, nó an Roinn Talmhaíochta) déan teagmháil leo go díreach le do thoil.

Le dea-mhéin

Caidreamh Custaiméirí Aerfort Chorcaí

Thank you for your email.

Your email will be reviewed as soon as possible and forwarded to the relevant Department for a response.

If your query relates to your nominated Airline, Handling Agent, Car Hire Company or State Services (Customs, Immigration, Department of Agriculture), please contact them directly.

Regards,

Cork Airport Customer Relations

T: 00353 21 4329622

Marie Geary

From: Bernadette Connolly <bernadette@cef.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 19 August 2020 12:22
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report (for the attention of Ted Cooke)

Hi Eamon,
Thank you for your correspondence and apologies as it had slipped me by with a rather overloaded inbox in the midst of leave etc.

I will take a look at it today. Can I get back to you by the end of this week.

Best regards,

Bernie

Bernie Connolly
Development Coordinator
Tel.: 083 1468064

Cork
Environmental
Forum
www.cef.ie



Workdays - Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>
Sent: 19 August 2020 11:54
To: bernadette@cef.ie
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report (for the attention of Ted Cooke)

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to follow up on an email issued to you last month regarding the Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report. We would like to confirm receipt of the report and invite any comments which you may have.

Kind regards,

Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton

Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

www.fehilytimoney.ie



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Marie Geary

From: Macrooom <macroomenv@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday 21 August 2020 14:50
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Macrooom District Environmental Group and Ballinagree wind farm scoping

To whom it may concern:

Your firm sent an email to Cork Environmental Forum including a cover letter and scoping report for the proposed wind farm.

The cover letter listed Ted Cooke of Macrooom District Environmental Group as an addressee. Bernadette Connolly of the Forum informed me of this.

Macrooom District Environmental Group (MDEG) is not reachable by writing to Cork Environmental Forum. We are a separate and unconnected entity.

Please record that MDEG has not engaged with the scoping of the proposed project.

Kind regards

Donal O' Leary
Macrooom District Environmental Group



Virus-free. www.avg.com

Marie Geary

From: nationalmonuments <nationalmonuments@chg.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 20 August 2020 08:57
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Cc: Manager DAU
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report

Dear Eamon,

Yes, received with thanks. I forwarded your consultation to the Development Application Unit of the Department (copied) who handle such requests.

Regards,

Dave Farrell
National Monuments Service

An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreacht agus Gaeltachta
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
Teach an Chustaim, Baile Átha Cliath 1 D01 W6XO
Custom House, Dublin 1 D01 W6XO

www.gov.ie

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm [mailto:ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie]
Sent: Wednesday 19 August 2020 11:55
To: nationalmonuments
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to follow up on an email issued to you last month regarding the Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report. We would like to confirm receipt of the report and invite any comments which you may have.

Kind regards,

Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton

Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

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Marie Geary

From: Michael Creed <Michael.Creed@oireachtas.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 09:49
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: RE: Scoping Report

Ciara,

Thank you for your e-mail.

I will bring same to Michael's attention.

Kind regards.

Catherine

Catherine O'Connell
Michael Creed TD
Constituency Office Macroom, Co. Cork
Ph: 026 – 41835

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 16:00
To: Michael Creed <Michael.Creed@oireachtas.ie>
Subject: Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton

Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

www.fehilytimoney.ie



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Beartas ríomhphoist an Oireachtais agus séanadh.

<http://www.oireachtas.ie/parliament/ga/eolas/beartasriomhphoistanoireachtaisagusseanadh/>

Marie Geary

From: John Mulhern <John.Mulhern@kerryairport.ie>
Sent: Monday 20 July 2020 12:33
To: Eamon Hutton
Cc: Howard Jones
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm - Scoping Request

Dear Eamon,

Thank you for your email.

We have reviewed your email and we do not intend to make any submissions on this proposal.

Kind regards,



John Mulhern
Chief Executive Officer



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Registered in Ireland under Registration Number: 26871

Registered Office: Farranfore, Killarney, Co. Kerry, Ireland

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 15 July 2020 10:50
To: Kerry Airport <info@kerryairport.ie>
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm - Scoping Request

Dear Sir/Madam,

By request of the Irish Aviation Authority I have been asked to contact Kerry Airport with regard the proposed wind farm development in County Cork as detailed below. The IAA have indicated that a preliminary screening assessment should be carried out to confirm that the proposed wind farm and the associated cranes that would be utilised during its construction would have no impact on flight operations at Kerry Airport. I ask that you please refer this email and the attached scoping report to the operators of the Airport. We invite you to comment on the proposed development. Note that the requested date for responses is indicative only and we are open to responses thereafter. Should potential impact on flight operations be identified, we will engage in further consultation.

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

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Marie Geary

From: donna.oregan@icrr.ie
Sent: Wednesday 15 July 2020 19:05
To: Eamon Hutton
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm - Scoping Request

Hi Eamon,

Thanks for this. I've forwarded this to Denis and I've sent him your email address also.

ICRR will read and give feedback if we have any.

Best,

Donna O'Regan
Project Manager



Irish Community Rapid Response (ICRR), Rathcool Aerodrome, Rathcool, Mallow Co. Cork
t: +353 (0)86 4182144 | e: donna.oregan@icrr.ie | w: www.icrr.ie | Registered in Ireland CHY 18454

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From: Eamon Hutton
Sent: 15 July 2020 13:58
To: donna.oregan@icrr.ie
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm - Scoping Request

Hi Donna,

Thank you for calling me back earlier. Could I ask you to please forward this email and attachments on to the operators of the Rathcoole Aerodrome. We would also be interested in feedback from the ICRR and whether or not the proposed wind farm would impact on ICRR operations.

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton

Dear Sir/Madam,

By request of the Irish Aviation Authority I have been asked to contact the Rathcoole Aerodrome with regard to the proposed wind farm development in County Cork as detailed below. The IAA have indicated that a preliminary screening assessment should be carried out to confirm that the proposed wind farm and the associated cranes that would be utilised during its construction would have no impact on flight operations at the Rathcoole Aerodrome. I ask that you please refer this email and the attached scoping report to the operators of the Aerodrome. We invite you to comment on the proposed development. Note that the requested date for responses is indicative only and we are open to responses thereafter. Should potential impact on flight operations be identified, we will engage in further consultation.

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

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Marie Geary

From: Lyndsey Crowley <lyndsey@novatelecom.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 29 September 2020 12:53
To: Eamon Hutton
Subject: Re: FW: Nova broadband response - Ballinagree windfarm

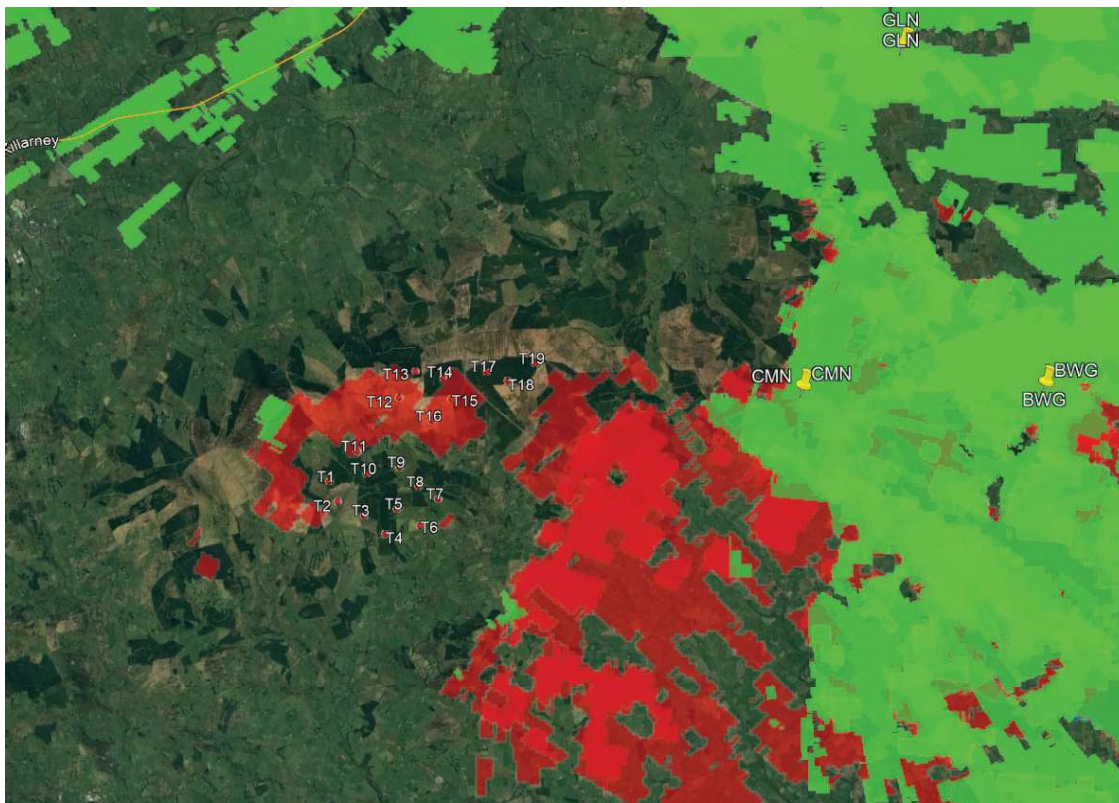
Hi Eamon,

Apologies for the delay.

I have taken a further look and have attached a snippet of coverage over that direction.

We have 3 base stations close: CMN, BWG and GLN.

These cover a spread of 360 degrees @ 30km.



Looking at the positioning of turbines as long as they are pointing in the direction of these sites there shouldn't be any problems here.

Please let me know if you require any further information or if you need a KMZ file.

Thanks,
Lyndsey



Lyndsey Crowley - Network Development Manager
lyndsey@novatelecom.ie

Nova Telecom Office: 021 237 3469
<http://novatelecom.ie>

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On Fri, 28 Aug 2020 at 11:29, Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie> wrote:

Apologies. The KMZ file is attached here.

Eamon

From: Eamon Hutton
Sent: Friday 28 August 2020 11:28
To: Lyndsey Crowley <lyndsey@novatelecom.ie>
Subject: RE: Nova broadband response - Ballinagree windfarm

Lyndsey,

Many thanks for your correspondence. I have attached a list of coordinates of the proposed turbines and a KMZ file of same. Could you please identify any nodes which may be impacted by the proposal and we can consider appropriate mitigation/redesign. We would appreciate if you could provide coordinates of any potentially impacted node. If you require any further information please feel free to contact me.

Coordinates of turbines: (ITM)

ID	POINT_X	POINT_Y
T1	534516	584018
T2	534726	583509
T3	535368	583157

T4	535887	582716
T5	536183	583312
T6	536752	582906
T7	537203	583542
T8	536719	583861
T9	536256	584346
T10	535446	584203
T11	535222	584749
T12	536270	586072
T13	536679	586708
T14	537355	586557
T15	537560	586024
T16	537070	585474
T17	538431	586680
T18	538953	586453
T19	539629	586861

Kind regards,

Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie



From: Lyndsey Crowley <lyndsey@novatelecom.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 19 August 2020 12:29

To: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>

Subject: Nova broadband response - Ballinagree windfarm

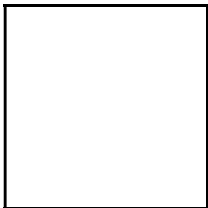
Hello,

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed turbine development at Ballinagree

We have had a cursory look and do feel that there will be some impact to our publically available telecommunications services.

There are a number of base stations nearby, operating fixed wireless broadband and telephony services for both residential and business customers.

Lyndsey



Lyndsey Crowley - Network Development Manager

lyndsey@novatelecom.ie

Nova Telecom Office: 021 237 3469

<http://novatelecom.ie>

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Marie Geary

From: Walters Account <skylinkevans@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 18:26
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Cc: walter evans
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm

Hi Ciara,

Thanks for sending details of this wind farm on which I have no comments to make.

Please also note my new email address is: skylinkevans@gmail , and you might change this on your systems.

Kind regards,

Walter Evans

Dear Sir/Madam

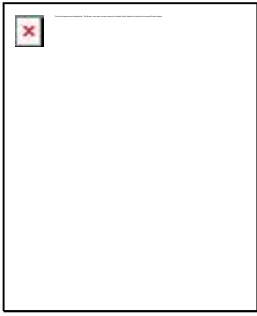
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If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton

Project Planner

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Marie Geary

From: Ronnie O'Neill <Ronnie.ONeill@imaginegroup.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 9 September 2020 12:41
To: Eamon Hutton
Cc: Lorna Brennan
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Eamon ,

There should be no issues for Imagine with this development .

Thanks ,
Ronnie .

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 2 September 2020 16:26
To: Ronnie O'Neill <Ronnie.ONeill@imaginegroup.ie>
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Greetings,

Coillte and Brookfield Renewables intend to apply for planning consent for a Wind Farm development near Ballinagree in north west County Cork. The Commission for Communications Regulation have recommended that we contact you in relation to potential interferences to telecommunications service as a result of the proposed wind farm. The proposed project is located north of the town of Ballinagree and south west of the Boggeragh Mountains. I have attached a KMZ file which includes all the proposed turbine locations (this can be opened in the google earth app) and I have attached a list of the ITM coordinates of the turbines below.

Please consider the location of this project with respect to your company's infrastructure. If there are any potential issues arising or any further information I can provide you with regarding the proposed project please do not hesitate to contact me by email or telephone.

Coordinates (ITM)

ID	POINT_X	POINT_Y
T1	534516	584018
T2	534726	583509
T3	535368	583157
T4	535887	582716
T5	536183	583312
T6	536752	582906
T7	537203	583542
T8	536719	583861
T9	536256	584346
T10	535446	584203
T11	535222	584749
T12	536270	586072

T13	536679	586708
T14	537355	586557
T15	537560	586024
T16	537070	585474
T17	538431	586680
T18	538953	586453
T19	539629	586861

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

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Marie Geary

From: Munster Broadband Support <support@munsterbroadband.ie>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 16:26
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: #110427 New Support Ticket Created

--REPLY above this line to respond--



A Message From Support

Hello ,

Service Ticket # **110427**, has been created for you.

To update this service ticket please reply directly to this email.

Description: Scoping Report

Service Detail:

Thu 02/07/2020/4:25 pm UTC+01/ ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

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Please quote the Service Request Number shown above when contacting us for updates

We want to hear how we are doing!



Excellent



Good



OK



Not Good

Click or tap the rating which best represents your experience.

Visit our Website

Contact Us

Hours: Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5.00pm (GMT)

Phone: +353 766156666

Marie Geary

From: L1-External <support@digiweb.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 19 August 2020 12:03
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: [Digiweb #2405399] AutoReply: Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report

Dear Customer,

Thank you for contacting the Digiweb Broadband and Phone Service Technical Support desk.

Our aim is to respond to all emails within 24 hours but no later than 72 hours.

We value your custom and a Technical Support Agent will be in contact at first opportunity.

Have you checked out our Digiweb Support Site at

http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=17268&d=6la9378vYjVRujk_YxFIKWejyFiYsde53Mhfet5XhQ&s=159&u=http%3a%2f%2fsupport%2edigiweb%2eie%3f

You may be able to find an answer to your query here.

For all future correspondence about your reported issue, please ensure to include the following string at the beginning of the subject line in your email:

[Digiweb #2405399]

Alternatively, you may also reply to this message and it will update your ticket with your response.

Kind Regards,

Digiweb Technical Support Team

T: 1890 940 405 F: +353 42 9396410 E: support@digiweb.ie

A: IDA Business & Technology Park, Dundalk, Ireland W:

http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=17268&d=6la9378vYjVRujk_YxFIKWejyFiYsde53M8AJ98Khg&s=159&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2edigiweb%2eie

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Have you register for our online portal at

http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=17268&d=6la9378vYjVRujk_YxFIKWejyFiYsde53MIYdtlLig&s=159&u=http%3a%2f%2fmy%2edigiweb%2eie%2f%2f

By registering with your email address and following a few quick steps you can access all your account information. You can check your balance and previous invoices, update your contact details and make secure payments at a time that suits you.

Dear Sir/Madam,

We would like to follow up on an email issued to you last month regarding the Ballinagree Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report. We would like to confirm receipt of the report and invite any comments which you may have.

Kind regards,

Eamon Hutton

[cid:image001.png@01D53D55.31084E00]

Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133

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Marie Geary

From: Fergus Hickey <fergus.hickey@ripplecom.net>
Sent: Thursday 20 August 2020 13:55
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: RE Ballinagree

Hi
It looks like this will affect one of our main links into Cork city, below are the GPS of both locations and approximate heights, and frequency etc

Seefin
GPS = 52.0027352 -8.934257
Height = 6 Metres
Frequency = 17GHz

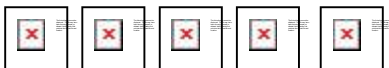
CIX Cork
GPS = 51.903583 -8.51255
Height = 10 Metres
Frequency = 17GHz

Thank you

Best Regards

Fergus Hickey | Operations Coordinator

M: 087 2340041
E: fergus.hickey@ripplecom.net | W: ripplecom.net
Houston Hall, Raheen Business Park, Limerick, V94 PKF1



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Marie Geary

From: Magnet Networks <emailtocase@magnetnetworks.com>
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 16:20
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: Thank you for your mail to Magnet Business Technical Support



Thank you for your email to Magnet Business Technical Support. Your case reference number is **00967024**. We will be in contact with you within 24 hours.

If your issue is urgent please contact a member of our Customer Services Team directly on 1800 789 789. Our offices are open from 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm Weekends and Bank Holidays.

This is an automatic response, please note replies to this address are not monitored.

To log a new support case please email support@[magnetnetworks.com](mailto:support@magnetnetworks.com) or for account queries please email collections@magnetnetworks.com

Magnet Networks Limited
IDA Business and
Technology Park,
Clonshaugh,
Dublin 17,
Ireland

Tel: 01 681 0000
Fax: 01 681 0005
Email:
info@magnetnetworks.com

Web:
www.magnetnetworks.com

Directors:

Kenneth Dean Peterson
Jnr (USA)

Dave Brewer

Mark Kellett

Registered Office:
IDA Business and
Technology Park,
Clonshaugh,
Dublin 17,
Company Registration No.
391141

Marie Geary

From: gis.ireland@bt.com
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 09:15
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: RE: Scoping Report

Hi Ciara,

Please acknowledge receipt of email.
We have no comment to make.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Foley

GIS Technology Specialist, Infrastructure Planning |

Mobile: +353 86 033 0760 |

Email: kevin.4.foley@bt.com | Web: www.btireland.com

BT Ireland, Block C Ground Floor, Dundrum Business Park, Dublin 14, Ireland.

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm [<mailto:ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>]
Sent: 02 July 2020 14:29
To: GIS Ireland G <gis.ireland@bt.com>
Subject: Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn

For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie  

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Marie Geary

From: Mark Nolan <Mark.Nolan@virginmedia.ie>
Sent: Thursday 3 September 2020 07:35
To: Eamon Hutton
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Eamon,

Thank you for making us aware of this development. This will have no impact on our network.

Rgds

Mark

Mark Nolan | B2B Wireless Networks Manager
Virgin Media | Limerick, Roxboro Rd, Limerick
D: + 353 1 245 8480 | M: + 353 862315007
Mark.Nolan@virginmedia.ie | www.virginmedia.ie

From: Eamon Hutton [mailto:eamon.hutton@ftco.ie]
Sent: 02 September 2020 16:20
To: Mark Nolan <Mark.Nolan@virginmedia.ie>
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Greetings,

Coillte and Brookfield Renewables intend to apply for planning consent for a Wind Farm development near Ballinagree in north west County Cork. The Commission for Communications Regulation have recommended that we contact you in relation to potential interferences to telecommunications service as a result of the proposed wind farm. The proposed project is located north of the town of Ballinagree and south west of the Boggeragh Mountains. I have attached a KMZ file which includes all the proposed turbine locations (this can be opened in the google earth app) and I have attached a list of the ITM coordinates of the turbines below.

Please consider the location of this project with respect to your company's infrastructure. If there are any potential issues arising or any further information I can provide you with regarding the proposed project please do not hesitate to contact me by email or telephone.

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T12	536270	586072
T13	536679	586708
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T15	537560	586024
T16	537070	585474
T17	538431	586680
T18	538953	586453
T19	539629	586861

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 9539
www.fehilytimoney.ie



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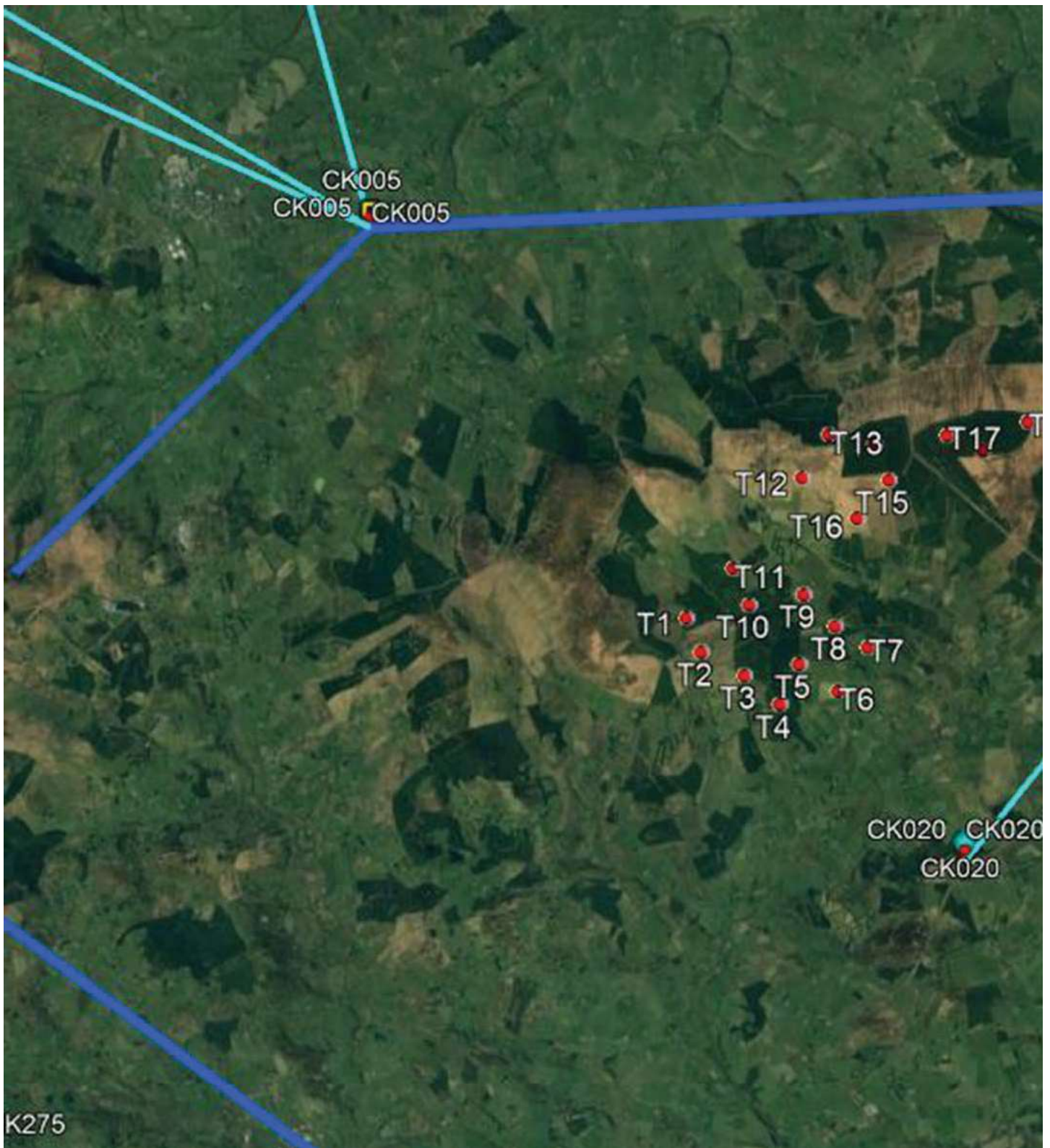
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Marie Geary

From: Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Sent: Monday 7 September 2020 12:52
To: Eamon Hutton
Cc: Cassidy, Emma, Vodafone Ireland; Neill o', Shane, Vodafone Ireland; Murphy, Daragh, Vodafone Ireland; Dennehy, Darragh, Vantage Towers Ireland; McHugh, Brian, Vantage Towers Ireland; Lyons, Sean, Vodafone Ireland (External)
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Eamon,

There doesn't appear to be any interference with existing Vodafone transmission in this area. If you have any further queries, or there is a change to the layout of this development, please let me know.



Thanks



Gavin Byrne

TX Planning & Design Engineer
Converged Transmission

+353876448159

gavin.byrne@vodafone.com

Vodafone Ireland Limited, Registered Office:
MountainView, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Registered in
Ireland: No. 326967

vodafone.ie

The future is exciting.
Ready?

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 2 September 2020 16:22
To: Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

CYBER SECURITY WARNING: This email is from an external source - be careful of attachments and links. Please follow the Cyber Code and report suspicious emails.

Greetings,

Coillte and Brookfield Renewables intend to apply for planning consent for a Wind Farm development near Ballinagree in north west County Cork. The Commission for Communications Regulation have recommended that we contact you in relation to potential interferences to telecommunications service as a result of the proposed wind farm. The proposed project is located north of the town of Ballinagree and south west of the Boggeragh Mountains. I have attached a KMZ file which includes all the proposed turbine locations (this can be opened in the google earth app) and I have attached a list of the ITM coordinates of the turbines below.

Please consider the location of this project with respect to your company's infrastructure. If there are any potential issues arising or any further information I can provide you with regarding the proposed project please do not hesitate to contact me by email or telephone.

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T12	536270	586072
T13	536679	586708
T14	537355	586557

T15	537560	586024
T16	537070	585474
T17	538431	586680
T18	538953	586453
T19	539629	586861

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton

Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 9539

www.fehilytimoney.ie



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Marie Geary

From: Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>
Sent: Thursday 3 September 2020 14:21
To: Eamon Hutton
Cc: DL Estates ROI
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Eamon,

Thank you for sending the requested details. I have reviewed the turbine layout for the proposed windfarm and 3Ireland currently have no microwave links that will be affected.

Best regards,

Alister



Alister Cole
Transmission Engineer

Mobile: 086 6024556
Email: Alister.Cole1@three.ie

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: 03 September 2020 11:43
To: Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Alister,

Thanks for getting back to me. I have attached an excel file detailing the coordinates of the turbines. The maximum tip height will be up to 185m and the rotor diameter is expected to be up to 155m.

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton

From: Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>
Sent: Thursday 3 September 2020 09:39
To: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Eamon,

Please could you supply the turbine location coordinates in Irish Grid?, also would you have the turbine structure height.

Thanks and regards,

Alister



Alister Cole
Transmission Engineer

Mobile: 086 6024556
Email: Alister.Cole1@three.ie

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: 02 September 2020 16:22
To: Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Greetings,

Coillte and Brookfield Renewables intend to apply for planning consent for a Wind Farm development near Ballinagree in north west County Cork. The Commission for Communications Regulation have recommended that we contact you in relation to potential interferences to telecommunications service as a result of the proposed wind farm. The proposed project is located north of the town of Ballinagree and south west of the Boggeragh Mountains. I have attached a KMZ file which includes all the proposed turbine locations (this can be opened in the google earth app) and I have attached a list of the ITM coordinates of the turbines below.

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T16	537070	585474
T17	538431	586680
T18	538953	586453
T19	539629	586861

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton

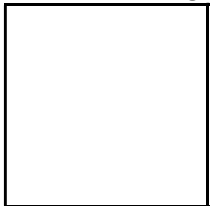


Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

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Three Ireland

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Marie Geary

From: John Reilly <john.reilly1@esb.ie>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 12:30
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Cc: Niall Fitzpatrick; Noreen Delaney
Subject: Re Ballinagree Wind Farm
Attachments: Ballynagree_NW_Cork.BMP; ATT00001.txt; ATT00002.htm

Hello,

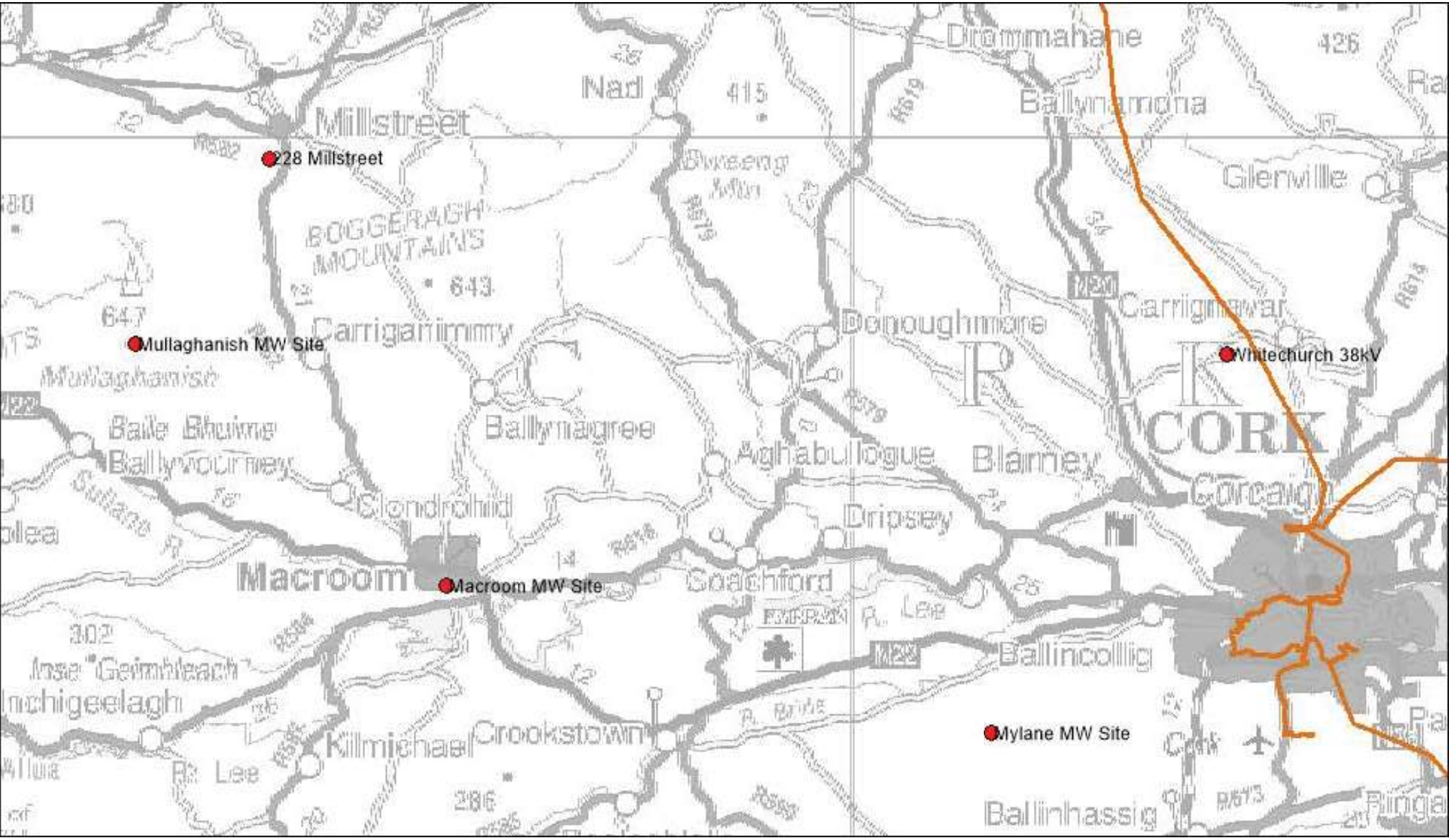
We have reviewed and checked your proposal for a wind farm in the Ballynagree area (NW Cork) to assess if there is any impact on ESBT Tower and Fibre infrastructure.

We don't have any infrastructure of either type in the area. I have attached a snapshot showing towers and fibre in the NW Cork area to show this.

Best regards
John

John Reilly | Infrastructure Manager | ESB Telecoms Ltd | T: +353 1 702 6819 / +353 87 966 9398 |
john.reilly1@esb.ie |

Website www.esbtelecoms.ie
Join us on [LinkedIn](#)



Marie Geary

From: Thomas Barry <Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE>
Sent: Friday 3 July 2020 14:39
To: Ballinagree Wind Farm
Subject: FW: Scoping Report Ballinagree, Co. Cork TT143679

Ciara,

We anticipate no impact from development at the proposed location. Can you ensure the proposal is also reviewed by eir.

Regards,
Tom

From: Derek Rosarius
Sent: Thursday 2 July 2020 17:43
To: Thomas Barry
Subject: FW: Scoping Report

Derek Rosarius | Compliance Manager |
TETRA Ireland Communications Ltd
Block 43a, 2nd floor, Yeats Way, Parkwest Business Park, Nangor Road, D12
M +353 85 1746044 | E derek.rosarius@tetraireland.ie | www.tetraireland.ie/

Error! Filename not specified.

----- Original message -----

From: Ballinagree Wind Farm <ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie>
Date: 02/07/2020 5:41 PM (GMT+00:00)
To: Info <info@TETRAIRELAND.IE>
Cc: Derek Rosarius <Derek.Rosarius@TETRAIRELAND.IE>
Subject: Scoping Report

Dear Sir/Madam

Coillte Renewable Energy in partnership with Brookfield Renewables Ireland intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree.

Please find attached cover letter and Scoping Report which is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the Environmental Impact Assessment report. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving

any comments you may have on the proposed development relevant to your area of expertise, before 3rd of August 2020.

If you have no comment to make, I would be grateful if you could acknowledge receipt of this email. If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact us at the above email address.

Kind Regards

Ciara Finn
For and on behalf of



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie  

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Marie Geary

From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: Thursday 3 September 2020 09:26
To: Eamon Hutton
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Eamonn,

This proposed wind farm will not affect our current network,

Best Regards,
Peter

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 4:23 PM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Greetings,

Coillte and Brookfield Renewables intend to apply for planning consent for a Wind Farm development near Ballinagree in north west County Cork. The Commission for Communications Regulation have recommended that we contact you in relation to potential interferences to telecommunications service as a result of the proposed wind farm. The proposed project is located north of the town of Ballinagree and south west of the Boggeragh Mountains. I have attached a KMZ file which includes all the proposed turbine locations (this can be opened in the google earth app) and I have attached a list of the ITM coordinates of the turbines below.

Please consider the location of this project with respect to your company's infrastructure. If there are any potential issues arising or any further information I can provide you with regarding the proposed project please do not hesitate to contact me by email or telephone.

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Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

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Marie Geary

From: Jimmy Sugrue <jsugrue@ivertec.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 2 September 2020 16:54
To: Eamon Hutton
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Eamon,

Ivertec do not have any issue with the proposed Wind Farm development.

Regards,
Jimmy Sugrue.

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 2 September 2020 16:24
To: Jimmy Sugrue <jsugrue@ivertec.ie>
Subject: FW: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Greetings,

Coillte and Brookfield Renewables intend to apply for planning consent for a Wind Farm development near Ballinagree in north west County Cork. The Commission for Communications Regulation have recommended that we contact you in relation to potential interferences to telecommunications service as a result of the proposed wind farm. The proposed project is located north of the town of Ballinagree and south west of the Boggeragh Mountains. I have attached a KMZ file which includes all the proposed turbine locations (this can be opened in the google earth app) and I have attached a list of the ITM coordinates of the turbines below.

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Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
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Marie Geary

From: Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie>
Sent: Thursday 3 September 2020 11:33
To: Eamon Hutton
Subject: RE: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Hi Eamon

The BAI does not perform an in-depth analysis of the effect of wind turbines on FM networks. However, we are not aware of any issues from existing windfarms into existing FM networks. Also, the proposed windfarms are not located close to any existing or planned FM transmission sites.

Regards

Roger

Senior Executive Engineer
Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
2-5 Warrington Place
Dublin D02 XP29

Tel: 01 6441200
Fax: 01 6441299

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From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 2 September 2020 16:26
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@bai.ie>
Subject: Ballinagree Wind Farm Telecoms Assessment

Greetings,

Coillte and Brookfield Renewables intend to apply for planning consent for a Wind Farm development near Ballinagree in north west County Cork. The Commission for Communications Regulation have recommended that we contact you in relation to potential interferences to telecommunications service as a result of the proposed wind farm. The proposed project is located north of the town of Ballinagree and south west of the Boggeragh Mountains. I have attached a KMZ file which includes all the proposed turbine locations (this can be opened in the google earth app) and I have attached a list of the ITM coordinates of the turbines below.

Please consider the location of this project with respect to your company's infrastructure. If there are any potential issues arising or any further information I can provide you with regarding the proposed project please do not hesitate to contact me by email or telephone.

Coordinates (ITM)

ID	POINT_X	POINT_Y
T1	534516	584018
T2	534726	583509
T3	535368	583157
T4	535887	582716
T5	536183	583312
T6	536752	582906
T7	537203	583542
T8	536719	583861
T9	536256	584346
T10	535446	584203
T11	535222	584749
T12	536270	586072
T13	536679	586708
T14	537355	586557
T15	537560	586024
T16	537070	585474
T17	538431	586680
T18	538953	586453
T19	539629	586861

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 9539
www.fehilytimoney.ie



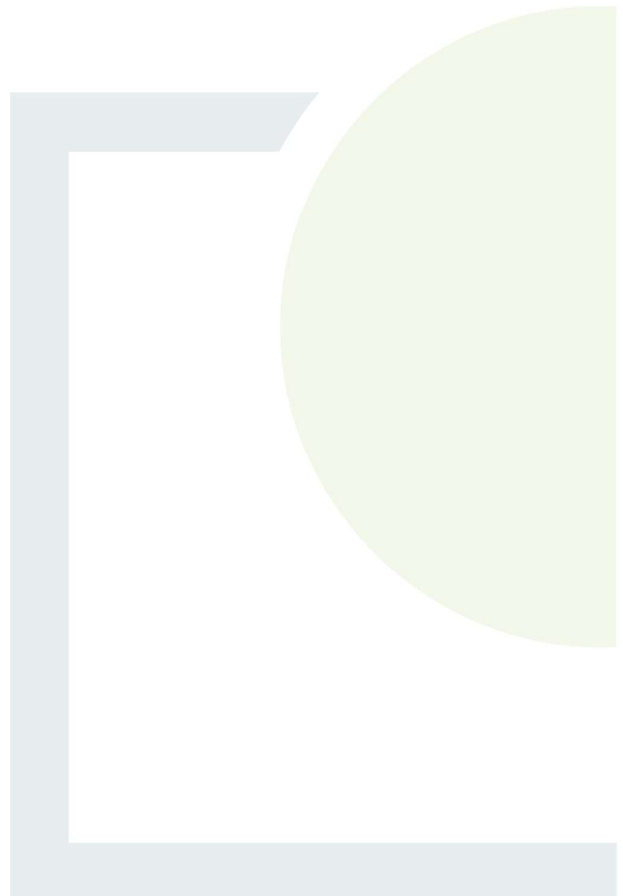
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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 5.2

Scoping Report



BALLINAGREE WIND FARM

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING REPORT

Prepared for: Coillte and Brookfield



Brookfield

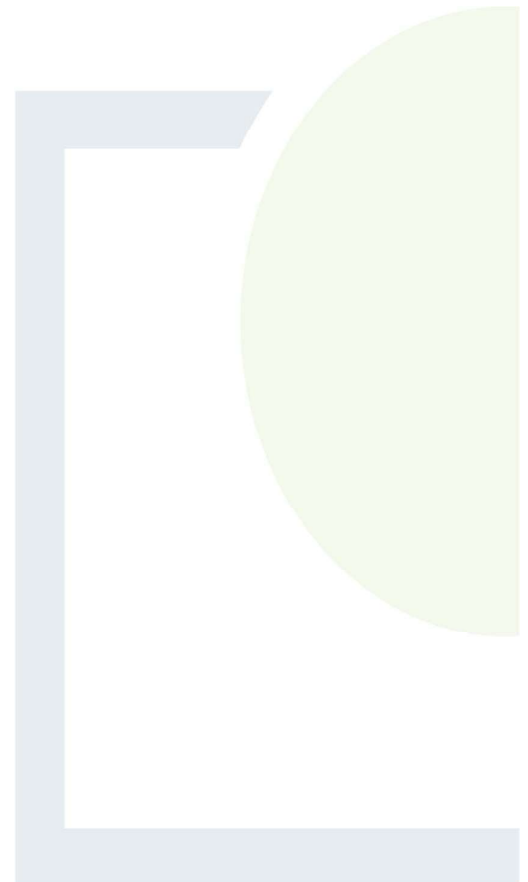
Date: June 2020

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork

T: +353 21 496 4133 E: info@ftco.ie

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING REPORT

Rev. No.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
0	For Issue	EH/CF	TB	JH	01.07.20

Client: Coillte Renewable Energy & Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited

Keywords: Ballinagree, Wind Turbines, Renewable Energy, Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Scoping, Planning Application

Abstract: This is a scoping report prepared for a proposed wind energy development near Ballinagree, County 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.

Please send all responses to: ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie

or respond by post to:
Fehily Timoney & Company,
Core House,
Pouladuff Road,
County Cork

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General

1.1.1 Introduction

Coillte Renewable Energy (Coillte) in partnership with Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited (Brookfield Renewable) intend to apply for planning consent for a renewable energy development referred to as the Ballinagree Wind Farm, located in North West County Cork, near the town of Ballinagree. The proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project includes lands contained within the following townlands: Annagannihy, Ballynagree East, Ballynagree West, Carrigagulla and Knocknagappul.

A site location map is included in Figure 1-1

A number of grid connection options are currently being considered in order to supply power from the proposed development to the Irish National Electricity Grid. It is proposed to construct a new substation on-site and connect by underground cable to either the Clashavoon 220kV substation or the Ballyvouskill 220kV substation, subject to consultation with Eirgrid.

1.1.2 The Proposed Development

The proposed development is located within the jurisdiction of Cork County Council, approximately 35km north west of Cork City. The project is located approximately 8km south east of Millstreet and approximately 10km north of Macroom.

The Study Area for the proposed development initially provided scope for up to 24 Wind Turbines. Following further project assessments as part of the Design Iteration 1 process, the project team is currently considering a Study Area for a 19 Wind Turbine layout. The 19 Wind Turbine layout will consist of turbines with a tip height of up to 185m. The current project layout (Design Iteration 1) is presented in Figure 1-2.

The proposed development is further detailed in section 2.1 of this report.

Several possible grid connection arrangement options are being considered to connect the project to the national grid. The preferred connection is likely to be an underground cable connection to the Clashavoon 220kV substation or the Ballyvouskill 220kV substation, subject to ongoing consultation with Eirgrid. These grid route options are illustrated in figure 2-1. The potential grid route options are at an early stage of consideration and may be subject to change.

The townlands associated with an underground grid connection to the Ballyvouskill 220kV substation option include Ballynagree West, Knocknagappul, Rahalisk, Maulnahorna, Cusloura, Knocknakilla, Glantane East, Carrigacoolen and Caherdowney (Option A of Figure 2-1).

The townlands associated with an underground grid connection to the Clashavoon 220kV substation option include Ballynagree West, Lacknahaghny, Caherbaroul, Kilberrihert, Derryroe and Aughinida (Option C of figure 2-1)



1.1.3 The Applicant

The applicants for the proposed project are Coillte Renewable Energy and Brookfield Renewable.

Coillte manages approximately 7% of Ireland's land. Coillte Renewable Energy are responsible for harnessing the wind energy above Coillte forests. We aim to build responsible projects in a way that is good for us, for society and our neighbours. Coillte is currently working toward our aspiration of adding a further 1GW of wind energy generation capacity over the next ten years, driving Ireland's ambition toward 70% renewable electricity by 2030.

Brookfield Renewable Ireland is one of the largest owners and developers of renewable assets in Ireland holding 10 % of the operating wind farms in Ireland, employing approximately 100 people in Cork and across their Irish wind farms. Brookfield's development pipeline will continue to bring new renewable energy onto the system further contributing to decarbonisation of the Irish economy.

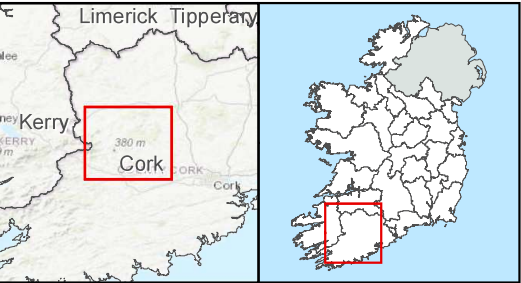
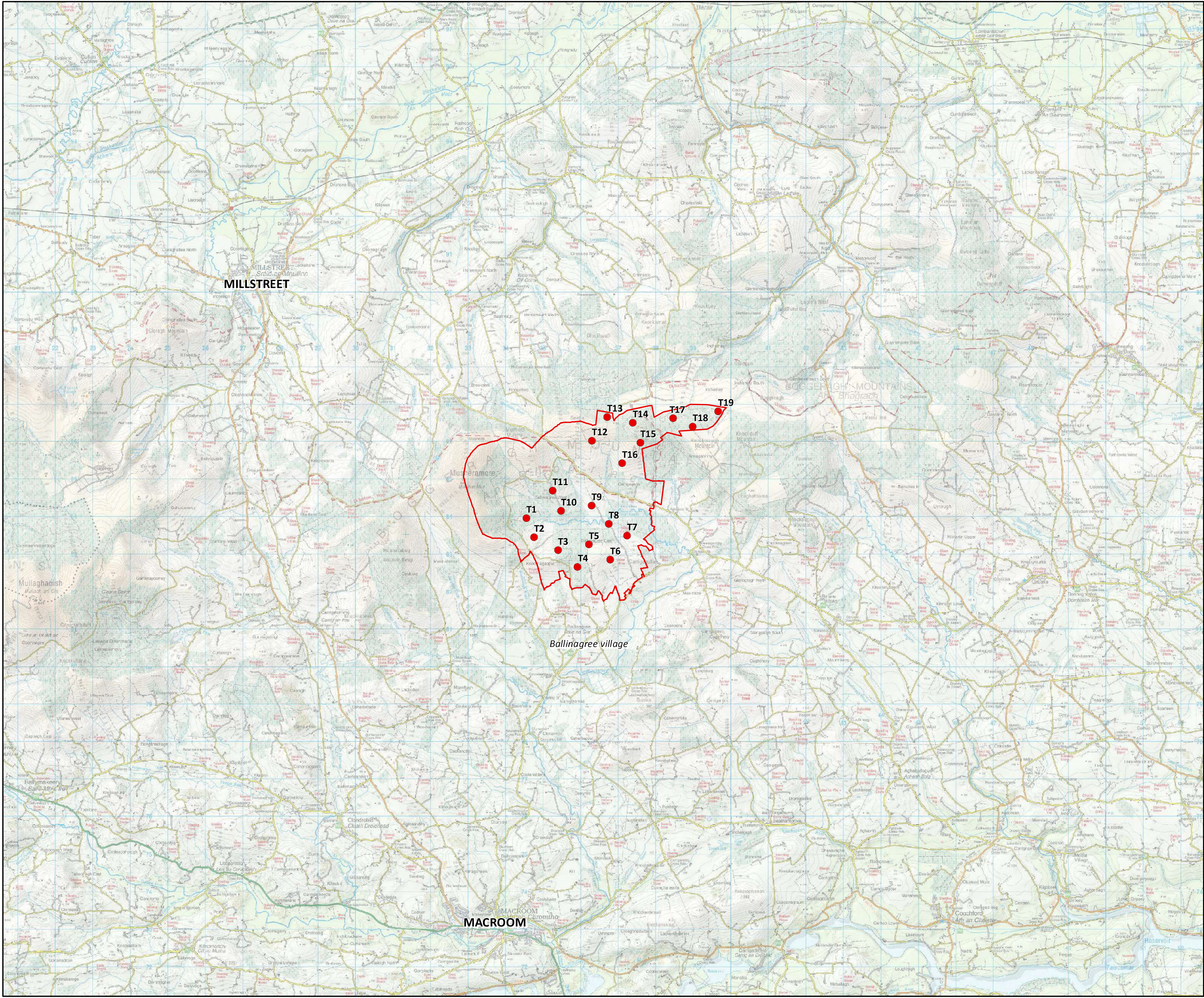
1.1.4 Purpose of the Report

This is a scoping report prepared for the EIAR for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm in north west 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 EIAR. In essence, the primary focus of scoping is to define the most appropriate assessment of significant effects related to the proposed development.

This scoping report has been distributed to a range of stakeholders who are considered to have appropriate expertise and relevant prior experience of the factors involved, knowledge of the characteristics of the project type and of the sensitivities likely to be present in the receiving environment as well as local knowledge and interest in the area. The scoping report will also be made available to individual stakeholders and the public on request.

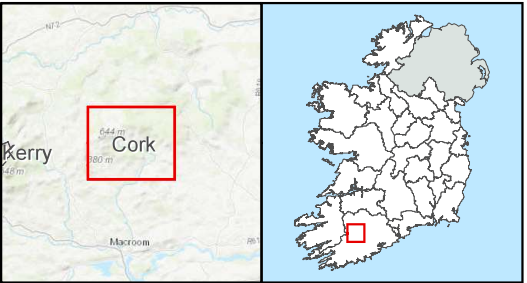
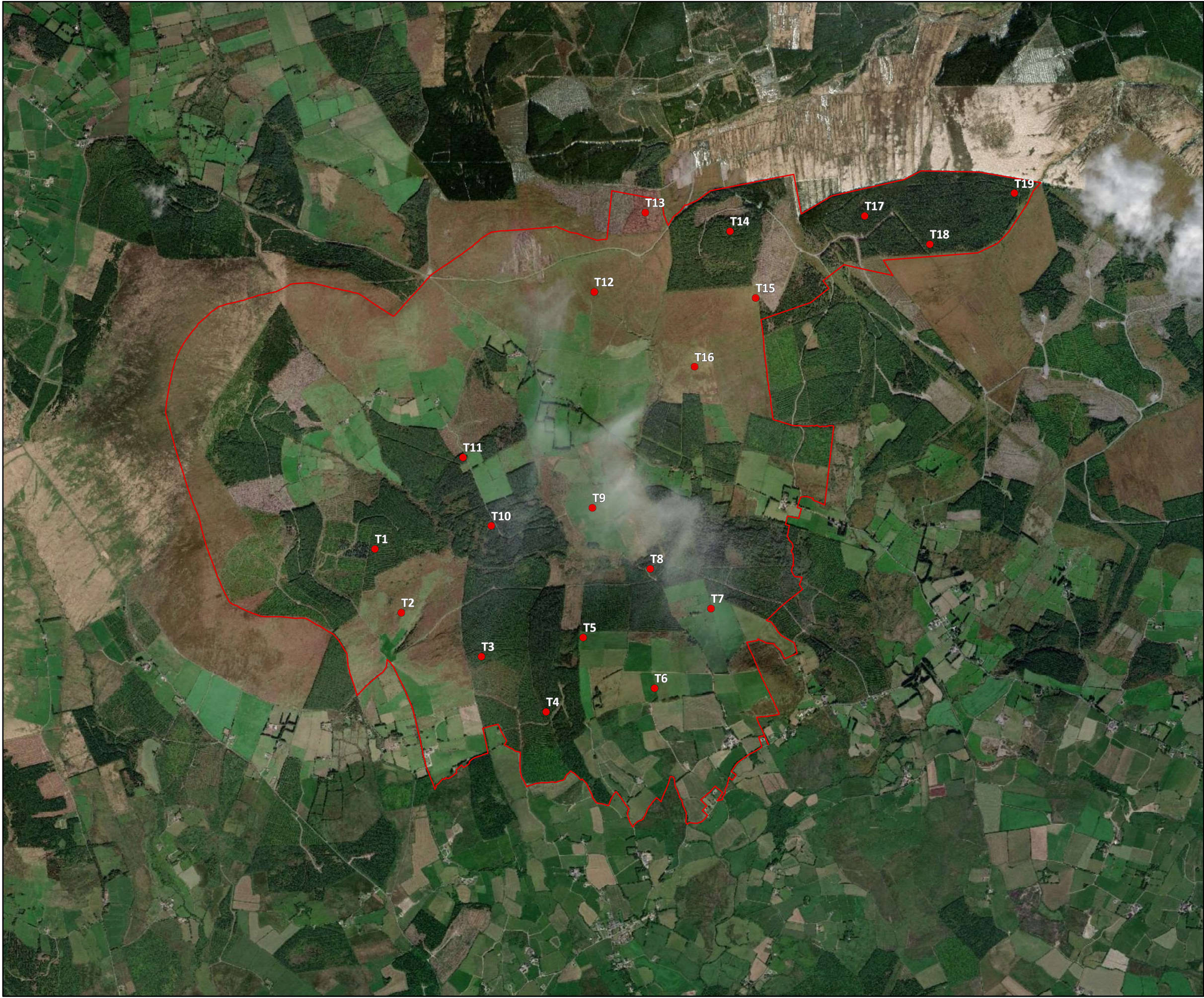
A full list of the scoping consultees is included in Appendix A of this document.



- Proposed Turbine Layout
- Site Boundary

TITLE:		Site Location	
PROJECT:		Ballinagree Wind Farm	
FIGURE NO:		1.1	
CLIENT:		Coillte & Brookfield	
SCALE:	1:100000	REVISION:	0
DATE:	17/06/2020	PAGE SIZE:	A3





- Proposed Turbine Layout
- Site Boundary

TITLE:		Site Layout	
PROJECT:		Ballinagree Wind Farm	
FIGURE NO:		1.2	
CLIENT:		Coillte & Brookfield	
SCALE:	1:30000	REVISION:	0
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1.2 Planning Process for 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.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 was amended in 2006 to require certain applications for permission for major infrastructure projects to be made directly to An Bord Pleanála, rather than to the local planning authority, as would have previously been the case. This is known as Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID).

In order to qualify for SID under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a proposed development must fall within of a class specified in the Seventh Schedule to the 2000 Act. Part 1 of the Seventh Schedule, as amended, specifies, inter alia, the following classes of development:

“An installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total output greater than 50 megawatts.”

Thereafter, the Board must satisfy itself that the proposed development meets one or more of the conditions set out in subsection 37A(2) of the 2000 Act, namely—

“(a) the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate,

(b) the development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Spatial Strategy or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be situate,

(c) the development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.”

The proposed development layout currently being considered (Design Iteration 1) has a potential capacity of up to 80 MW, therefore qualifying as SID under Part 1 of the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. A pre-application consultation request for Strategic Infrastructure Development was submitted to An Bord Pleanála under reference PL28.306948 in March 2020.

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 5 of Part 2 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 Contribution to the EIAR

This Scoping Report has been prepared by Fehily Timoney & Company (FT) on behalf of Coillte and Brookfield Renewable. 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; and
- Ecology Ireland who will be preparing the ecology assessment.
- Triturus Environmental who will be preparing an aquatic ecology assessment.

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 ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie or returned by post to Fehily Timoney & Company, Core House, Pouladuff Road, County Cork. We ask all consultees to submit responses by the **3rd of August 2020** to provide adequate time to consider all responses.

Project Website

A project website has been set up to inform the public of the project (www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie). The website is being used to notify members of the public of project updates, project timelines, upcoming public consultation and any changes in the design and layout as a consequence of consultations. It also provides an avenue for the public to contact the project development team directly and includes design updates in the 'Latest News' section.

Community & Stakeholder Consultation

Door to door consultation with community members located within 3 km of the proposed development began in Summer 2019 with the aim of facilitating discussion of the project with local residents. Two dedicated Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) have been appointed and, along with the Coillte and Brookfield Renewable Project Managers, are available for calls and meetings with members of the public.

As the design process progresses, one-to-one meetings will be ongoing with update newsletters distributed in the local area to provide clear information on the main aspects of the project as it evolves. The third project newsletter for distribution to the public is included in Appendix B of this report. The project website also displays up to date information and continues to evolve with the project to provide a source of up-to-date information as the project progresses.



Other stakeholders have been contacted at the outset of the project including local TDs and Councillors, local environmental groups, business groups, recreation clubs, the local Garda branch, and community action and development groups.

Local Authority Consultation

A pre-planning meeting was held with the Ballinagree Wind Farm Project Development Team and Cork County Council Planners on the 22/04/2020 to discuss the proposed project. The Local Authority Planners provided planning and environmental knowledge of the study area which will help shape the environmental impact assessment process for the project. Furthermore, the Local Authority Planners encouraged further consultation with other departments of the County Council, including the Archaeologist, Conservation Officer, Ecologist and Area Engineer. These various departments have since been contacted regarding the project.

Pre-application Consultation Meeting

As part of the Strategic Infrastructure Development process, as detailed in section 1.2 of this report, Coillte Renewable Energy and Brookfield Renewables submitted a pre-application consultation request to An Bord Pleanála in March 2020 under planning reference PL28 .306948. A pre-application consultation meeting will be held with the Ballinagree Wind Farm Project Development Team and representatives of An Bord Pleanála on the 8th of July 2020.



2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Proposed Wind Farm

Under the current design parameters the proposed development will consist of 19 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 185m and rotor diameter of up to 155m, turbine foundations and hardstand areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, an on-site substation and compound including control buildings and associated electrical equipment, underground electrical and communications cabling, anemometry mast of minimum 100 meters in height for measuring wind speed and direction, borrow pits, drainage and sediment controls, temporary construction compounds, tree felling, biodiversity enhancement and conservation areas and all associated works.

The current layout, Design Iteration 1 (DI1), 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 project site.

The electricity generated by the proposed wind farm will be transmitted by a collector system of underground cables to the proposed on-site 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.

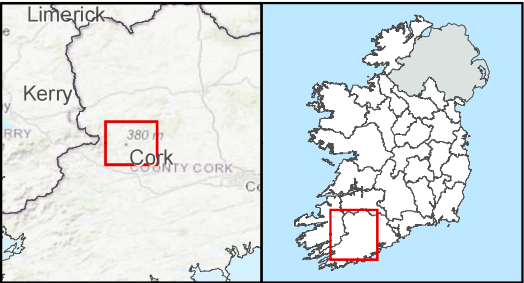
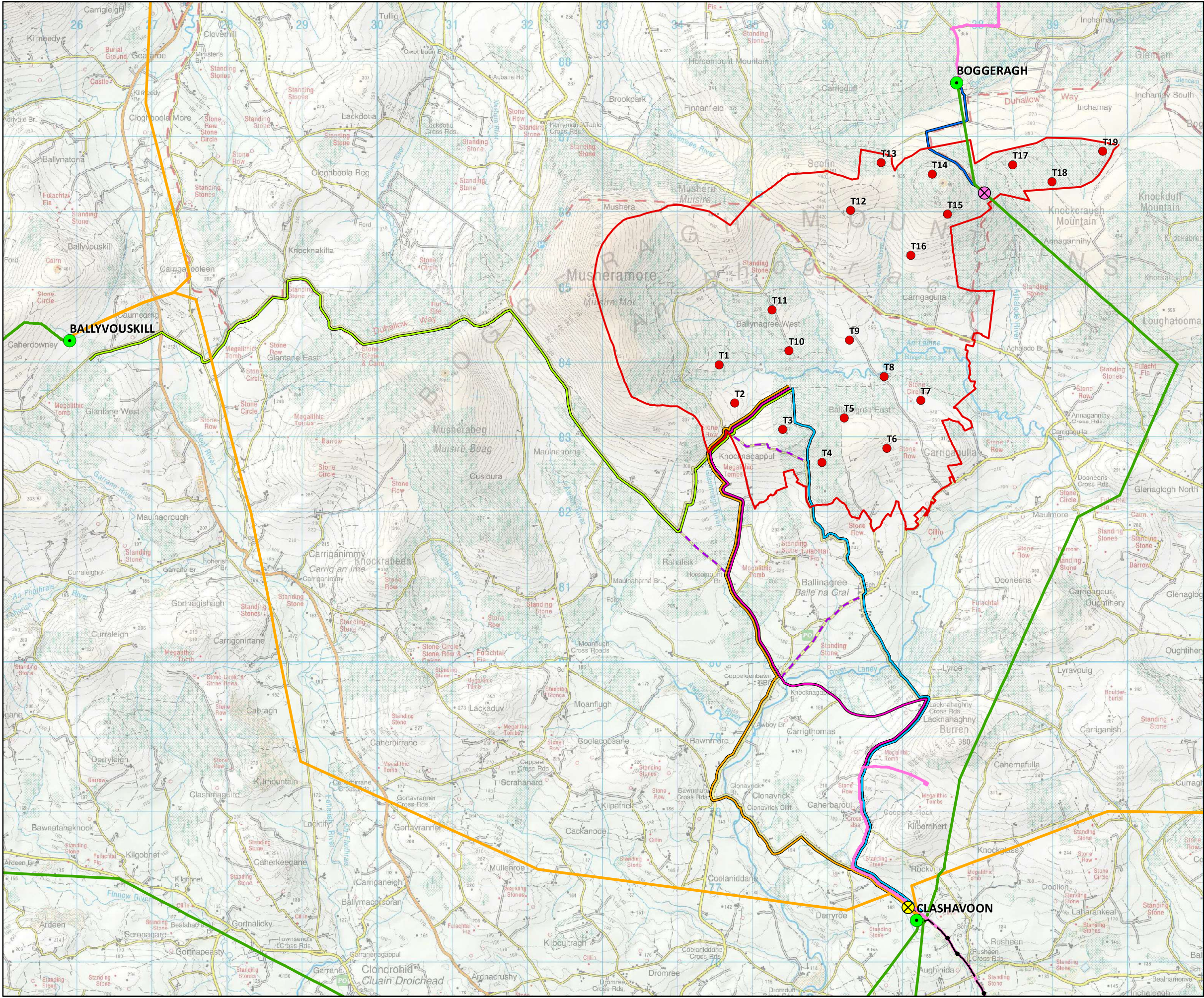
2.2 Grid Connection

It is proposed to supply power from the Ballinagree Wind Farm to the Irish electricity network via underground cable to either the existing Clashavoon 220kV substation located in the townland of Caherdowney or the Ballyvouskill 220kV substation located in the townland of Aughinida. The proposed on-site substation is currently located in the townland of Ballynagree West and will connect to one of the substation options via an underground cable.

A substation is proposed on-site which will collect the electricity produced by the wind farm. The grid connection cable will follow the route of the existing public road between the proposed substation and the point of connection at one of the existing 220kV substations. The final route will be decided in consultation with Eirgrid.

Connection will be sought under the Enduring Connection Process (ECP) grid access regime. The grid connection will be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The proposed grid connection route options are shown in Figure 2.1.



- Proposed Turbine Layout
- Site Boundary
- Substations (110-220kV)
- Existing Overhead ESB Lines (38-400kV)
 - 400KV Line
 - 220KV Line
 - 110KV Line
 - 38KV Line
 - Other
- Proposed Cable Route Options
 - Option A - 110kV UGC
 - Option B - 110kV UGC
 - Option C - 110kV UGC
 - Option D - 110kV UGC
 - Option E - 220kV Loop into OHL
 - Option F - 110kV UGC
 - Option G - 110kV Loop into OHL
 - Route Variant Options

TITLE:	
Grid Connection Options	
PROJECT:	
Ballinagree Wind Farm	
FIGURE NO:	
2.1	
CLIENT:	
Coillte	
SCALE:	1:50000
REVISION:	0
DATE:	17/06/2020
PAGE SIZE:	A3



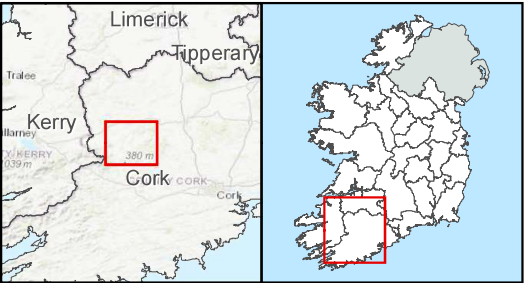
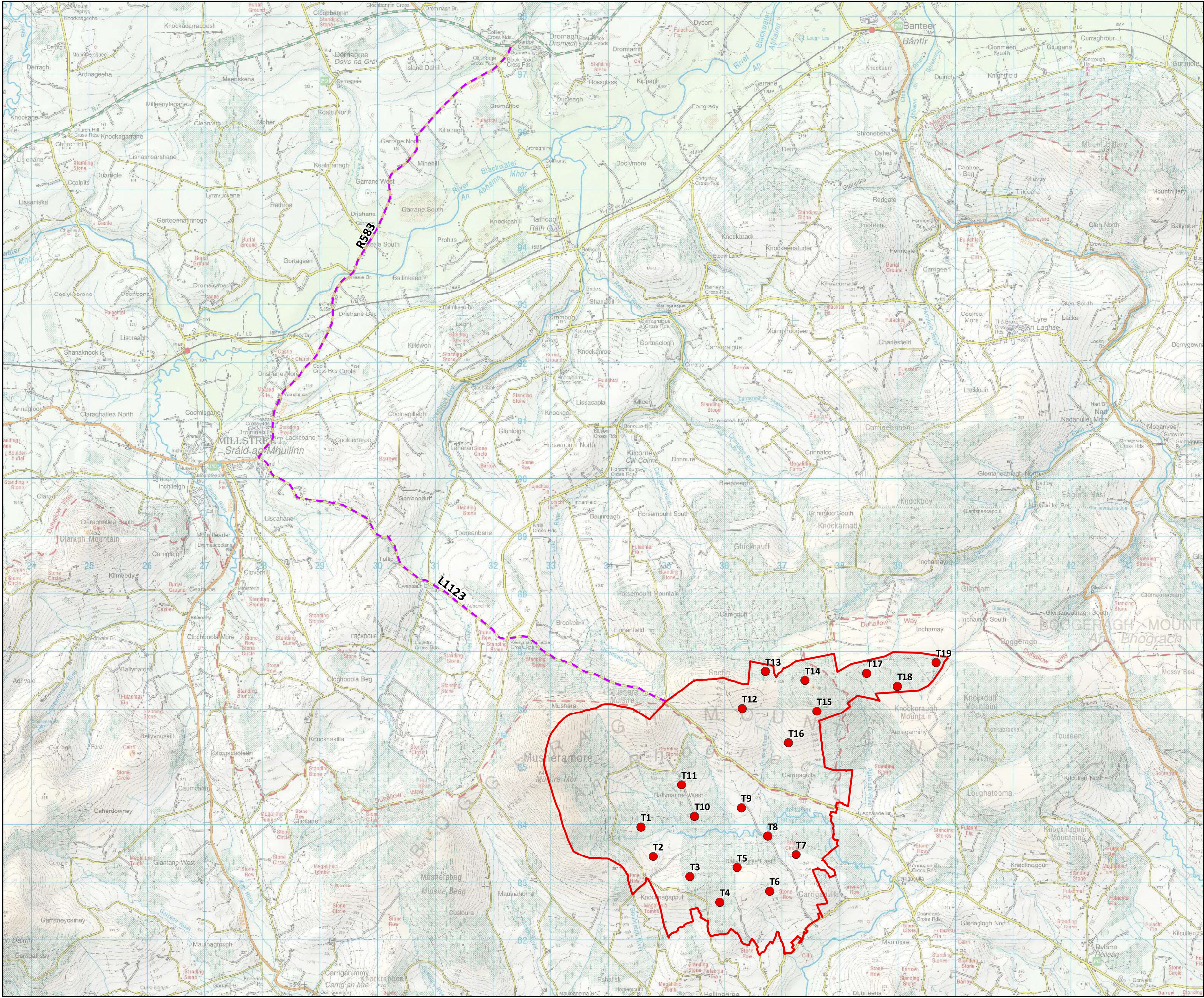


2.3 Turbine Delivery

A number of wind turbine components will enter the country through the ports including the blades, tower sections and the nacelles. The wind turbine components will be delivered to site by special transport vehicles and assembled on-site. A number of routes are being assessed to determine the most appropriate turbine delivery route.

It is likely that the turbine components will be transported to the proposed project via the N72 and R583 to Millstreet and then along the L1123 local road to the project.

The preliminary turbine delivery routes are shown on Figure 2-2



- Proposed Turbine Delivery Route
- Proposed Turbine Layout
- Site Boundary

TITLE:		Turbine Delivery Route	
PROJECT:		Ballinagree Wind Farm	
FIGURE NO:		2.2	
CLIENT:		Coillte	
SCALE:	1:65000	REVISION:	0
DATE:	18/06/2020	PAGE SIZE:	A3





3. STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE EIAR

3.1 Content of the EIAR – Statutory Requirements

The EIAR will be prepared in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, which sets out the contents of an EIAR. 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 EIAR (the 2014 EIA Directive).

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

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) and the subsequent Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019).

There are two different EIAR structures which are commonly used and which the EPA guidelines accept as equally valid. The structure, which the EIAR team proposes to use for the EIAR for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project, 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 EIAR is readily accessible to the general public, as well as to the statutory authorities, the EIAR team has proposed to structure the EIAR as described below:

- Non-technical Summary
- Introduction
- Need for the Development & Alternatives Considered
- 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 EIAR 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 EIAR.

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 EIAR Report Structure

The structure proposed for the EIAR is as follows:

Volume 1 - Non-Technical summary

Volume 2 - Main EIAR

Volume 3 - Appendices for the EIAR

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 summarise 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 Ballinagree Wind Farm will be described and the technology options for the project will be outlined in Chapter 2 Need for the Development & Alternatives Considered.

The principle alternatives studied with respect to the Ballinagree Wind Farm will be outlined under the following headings:

- Locations – This will include a discussion of the overall project site selection process for the Ballinagree Wind Farm on a national, regional and local scale. It will include a project site selection report which will be included in the EIAR outlining details of the criteria used to determine project 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 project 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 of Description

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

- Existing Environment
- Landownership
- On-site Wind Resource
- Turbine Layout
- Power Output
- Turbine Typical Components
- Access Tracks and Hardstandings
- Watercourse Crossings
- Grid Connection
- On-site Substation
- Anemometry Mast
- Electrical Cabling
- Traffic Management
- Turbine Delivery
- Tree Felling
- Replant Lands
- Wind Farms in Proximity
- Construction Overview
- Operation and Lifespan
- Community Benefit Package
- 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 Ballinagree Wind Farm 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 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

The Ballinagree Wind Farm will have a defined planning boundary to include not only the turbines but all ancillary infrastructure such as transformers and crane hardstanding areas at each turbine, borrow pits, new and upgraded access tracks, on-site underground cabling, substation and construction compounds. 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 Ballinagree Wind Farm:

- 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 Program

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



4.6 Environmental Aspects: Population, Human Health & Material Assets

4.6.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The Population, Human Health and Material Assets Chapter of the EIAR 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 Ballinagree Wind Farm on population trends and statistics (density, age) will be addressed in this chapter.

Human Health

The potential impacts on human health from the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm will be assessed.

Health and Safety

Details relating to health and safety arising from the proposed construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm will be assessed.

Socio-economic Activity

The potential impacts of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm on employment and economic activities of the region and locality.

Land-use

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed windfarm on existing and proposed land use.

Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm on residential amenity, recreational facilities and activities 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, including the area of the grid route corridor. 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 potential impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning 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 construction, operation and decommissioning 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. Desktop research and consultation will provide an indication of economic activity in the study area. The potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed wind farm on employment and economic activity both directly and indirectly, will be assessed.

Land-use

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

Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

All areas of scenic beauty in addition to heritage, culture and leisure facilities and activities in the study area 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 Ballinagree Wind Farm 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 from the various utility providers such as ESB and Gas Networks Ireland. The assets identified will be assessed in the context of the proposed development. The proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm 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 project is located to the east of the Musheramore Mountain, ca 8km south east of Millstreet and ca. 10km north of Macroom. The closest settlement to the proposed development is Ballinagree, ca. 2km south east of the project boundary. Due to topography, areas north of the proposed project are sparsely populated with a greater concentration of dwellings to the south.

Within 2km of the project boundary there are 174 no. dwellings including 32 no which are a mix of residential and commercial. There are 4 no. commercial properties located within 2km, centred on the town of Ballinagree.

Landcover includes peat bogs, coniferous forestry, agricultural lands and transitional woodland-shrub. Coillte had substantial forestry holdings in the area. Existing wind farm development is located to the north of the project. Walking and hiking trails are located in the area and angling is noted as a popular recreation activity in the region.

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 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 which can impact on 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 proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm. 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 (pending a full environmental impact assessment).

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. Possibilities for improvements to recreation facilities in the area will be considered.

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, grid route and delivery of turbines. 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 Wind farm software which will calculate times throughout the year when a turbine, viewed from the window of a house, is in line with the sun, and therefore the potential exists for shadow flicker to occur. All occupied and unoccupied dwellings and permitted houses (that are not yet constructed) as well as any other property considered sensitive (schools etc) within 10 rotor diameters of a proposed turbine will be included in the assessment. The effect of shadow flicker is not considered significant beyond the distance of 10 rotor diameters from each turbine location.

The outputs of the modelling assessment will be used to identify the potential direct and indirect impacts of shadow flicker on dwellings. The results will be compared with relevant guidance including:

- Section 5.12 of the 2006 Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DoEHLG) Planning Guidelines on Wind Energy Developments (2006).
- Section 5.8 of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guideless (2019)
- The Irish Wind Energy Association 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' (2012) .



Cumulative impacts of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm and other third-party 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. Potential cumulative impacts of shadow flicker between the proposed development and the adjacent Boggeragh Wind Farm will be considered.

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. Much of these receptors are located south of the proposed development with very few dwellings in proximity to the northern section of the project.

4.7.4 Potential Impacts

In times of direct sunshine, wind turbine blades could occasionally cast moving shadows on residences in close proximity to the turbines. At certain times of the year, the moving shadows of the turbine blades can periodically reduce light to a room causing the light to appear to flicker. Shadow flicker would not generally have any effect on health or safety but could on limited occasions present a brief nuisance effect.

4.8 Environmental Aspect: Noise and Vibration

4.8.1 Aspects to Address

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

4.8.2 Assessment Methodology

The noise assessment will be carried out on each phase of the wind farm:

- Construction phase
- Operational phase, including turbine and sub-station operations
- Decommissioning phase, including dismantling the turbines, and related traffic.

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) are currently the statutory guidelines for carrying out noise assessments for wind energy development in Ireland. Draft Guidelines were published in December 2019 and these are currently being reviewed by the developer. The Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, the Draft Wind Energy Guidelines and reference to the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) ‘A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise’ will all be considered in developing and assessing the wind farm.



The noise impact assessment will involve measurement of background noise levels and predicting noise impacts from the proposed development and nearby operational and consented developments. The background noise levels will be used to derive noise limits in accordance with relevant guidelines at the time the development is submitted for planning. In the event that the predicted noise levels exceed the noise limits, mitigation measures will be outlined.

Construction/decommissioning 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

All dwellings in proximity to turbines have been identified. A minimum setback distance of 750m between turbines and occupied dwellings shall be implemented as part of the design process.

4.8.4 Potential Impacts

Potential impacts of 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, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm. 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 project 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 area.

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, operation and decommissioning 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

The project is accessed by local roads and is bisected by the Millstreet to Rylane road, the L1123, which connects to the L2551 to the south east of the project. The N22 national primary route is located 10km to the south at Macroom. The N72 is located approximately 13km to the north at Banteer. The R579 is located 5km to the east and the R582, 5km to the west. The project area has a significant amount of existing forestry and farm tracks. It is likely that Ringaskiddy Port will be used for the importation of turbines. The port is located approximately 45km south east of the project.

4.9.4 Potential Impacts

A Traffic Impact Assessment will address the traffic impacts on the road network for the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm. The assessment will include the supply of materials, plant and equipment, the turbine elements and the components of the substation. Traffic arising from the construction and operations workforce will also be addressed.

The 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. The impact assessment will include a review of the traffic volumes and impacts which will be generated by the construction and operation of the proposed 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.

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

The turbines will be delivered to the proposed project area in separate parts, 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 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 roads as well as the construction of turbine bases and hardstands. All of these activities have the potential to generate significant local traffic numbers.



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 proposed project area 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 to reduce the nuisance being caused to local road users.

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 and decommissioning 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 proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm on micro-climate and macro-climate will be addressed. The project will also be assessed for compliance with the Climate Action Plan 2019.

4.10.2 Assessment Methodology

Air quality monitoring conducted by the EPA at a number of locations in the vicinity of the project 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 (2011) 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 (DMRB) (Volume 11, Section 3 Air Quality, 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 the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm 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 proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm become operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

4.10.3 Receiving Environment

In terms of micro-climate, the proposed wind farm is located in a rural area corresponding to air quality zone D, Rural Ireland, in the Air Quality Regulations SI 180 of 2011, as amended. Therefore, 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 wind farm.

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 Ballinagree Wind Farm 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, 2011) 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 wind farm is not expected to have a negative impact on air quality.

The proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm is expected to have a positive impact on emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation, which would not be required when the wind farm is operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

It is expected that the proposed development will have a positive impact on Air Quality including NO_x and Sox, a calculation of same will be included in the EIAR.

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 proposed 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 ecology 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 15km of the proposed project and routes.
- Other designated sites such as Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Refuges for Fauna or Flora
- Habitats listed in Annex I 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)
- Habitats that can be considered as corridors for the purposes of article 10 of the Habitats Directive
- 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. Bird surveys commenced in 2017 and are ongoing at the project site.

The scope of the bird survey includes vantage point surveys (from 10 locations), transect surveys, point counts, Hen Harrier survey, Red Grouse survey, breeding wader, breeding Merlin survey and Collision Risk Modelling.

Habitats shall be appraised and evaluated according to their occurrence as protected habitats under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and for their capacity to support rare, threatened and endangered species. The methodology used to assess the impact on habitats is based on NRA guidelines (2009¹), CIEEM guidelines and EPA guidelines. The habitat mapping exercise had regard to the 'Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping' (Smith et al., 2011²) published by the Heritage Council. In addition to habitat identification, each habitat will be assessed for its ecological significance, based on the National Roads Authority (NRA) Site Evaluation Scheme (NRA, 2009).

Given that a small proportion of the project is located within to the catchment of the Blackwater SAC (002170), and areas of the project which drain to the River Laney and River Lee, aquatic surveys are required to establish the existing baseline and to examine the potential for protected aquatic species to utilise the watercourses draining the project. Surveys shall be required for aquatic Annex I Habitats, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish and fisheries.

Bat surveys will be undertaken in accordance with Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2019³). Winter and breeding roost surveys will be required. Activity surveys will also be required during the bat activity season April to September as per Bat Conservation Ireland and Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines.

The proposed project will require surveying for terrestrial mammal species including inter alia Badger, Red Squirrel and Otter. A targeted Marsh Fritillary Survey is required due to the potential for habitat on-site and records within the study area, to assess the distribution of the species within the project area and also the extent of suitable habitat for the species. During the course of ecological surveys of the project area, other species of fauna shall be noted and considered in the ecological appraisal.

¹ NRA (2009). Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines. Published by the National Roads Authority.

² Smith, G.F., O'Donoghue, P, O'Hara K., and Delaney, E. (2011). Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping. Published by the Heritage Council.

³ Scottish Natural Heritage, Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, Renewable UK, Scottish Power Renewables, Ecotricity Ltd, the University of Exeter and the Bat Conservation Trust (2019): Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation.



4.11.3 Potential Impacts

This chapter of the EIAR 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 haul route.

The ecological evaluation of the project area and its' Biodiversity 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, 2016). 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, 2002) will be used where applicable.

Potential impacts of the wind farm on Biodiversity include:

- Direct loss of habitat due to the footprint of the area;
- Damage to adjacent habitats during construction which could potentially be affected by construction activity;
- Impacts during construction on the hydrology of water dependant habitats
- Impacts on water quality 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.;
- Disturbance to local wildlife, including loss of habitat, disturbance and displacement;
- The potential collision risk to birds and bats;
- Damage to or habitat loss of important wildlife corridors or stepping stones during construction. Fragmentation of same at a larger more regional level as a result of habitat loss;
- 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, 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, Biodiversity.

Potential impacts on European (Natura 2000) sites as a result of the proposed development will be assessed through the appropriate assessment process.

4.11.4 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 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ("the Planning 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 Planning 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 negative impacts 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 assessment as to whether the integrity of the Natura 2000 site would be adversely affected.

European sites, as defined in the Planning 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 Planning 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. Where, however, the competent authority's screening assessment concludes that there is potential for significant effects, then it is necessary to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) ("Stage Two") for the purposes of Article 6(3), and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is prepared and submitted to the competent authority.

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 establish whether or not the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. The development area of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm is not located within a designated nature conservation site, however there are a number of designated sites within 15km including the following:

- Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (004162), immediately west of the Proposed Project; a Natura 2000 site selected for the "protection of hen harrier".
- Gearagh SPA (004109), approximately 13 km to the south; selected for the protection of "wigeon, teal, mallard and coot".
- The Gearagh SAC (000108) approximately 15 km to the south; River Lee in Co. Cork.
- Mullaghanish Bog SAC (001890) approximately 15 km to the west; Blanket Bogs.
- The Gearagh (Ramsar site no. 472) approximately 13 km to the south; Wetlands selected to support a "nationally important population of whooper swan".
- The Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170) catchment area.
- Natural Heritage Area (NHA – 002447) Immediately north of the Proposed Project; Peatlands - upland blanket bog habitat



The project is located in proximity to the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170) and the Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (004162). Among the qualifying interests protected under the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC are seven aquatic species (namely, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, White-clawed Crayfish, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Twaite Shad, Salmon and Otter) and nine habitats including Alluvial forests [91E0].

Among the qualifying interests protected under the Slaney River Valley SAC designation for this site are eight aquatic species (namely, Freshwater Pearl Mussel, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Twaite Shad, Salmon, Otter and Harbour Seal) and seven habitats. The River Barrow and River Nore SAC is designated for twelve species, of which 10 are aquatic, and twelve habitats including dry heath [4030]. The Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA is designated for Hen Harrier.

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

- Direct impacts refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development or agricultural purposes. Direct impacts can arise as a result of a change in land use or management, such as the elimination of agricultural practices that prevent scrub encroachment.
- Indirect and secondary 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 impact, 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.

In the event that significant effects cannot be ruled out during the Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment, the process proceeds to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement is prepared. 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. Information on the main alternatives studied by the developer and why they were excluded will also be provided within the AA process.

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 where practical.

4.12 Environmental Aspect: Land, Soils, Geology and Slope Stability

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'.

Site walkovers will be undertaken. Each site walkover will include peat probes and/or use of a hand vane/gouge cores at selected locations to confirm the presence and/or depth of peat (if present) across the project area. In addition, the following will also be conducted:

- A review of the characteristics of the entire project area (ground conditions, topography, vegetation cover/condition and peat formation, if any, across the project area)
- Identification of past and present land use of the project area (grazing, forestry etc.) and their current impact on the existing ground conditions
- Identification of potential borrow pit locations (if required)
- Identification of areas for possible storage/reinstatement of peat or other materials
- Identification of potential for peat landslide - With reference to slope stability issues in areas where peat is present, reference will be made to the Guidance Note for Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Generation Developments.

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 quaternary deposits at the project site generally comprise till derived from Devonian sandstones, which is in part overlain by a peat layer. Areas of Blanket Peat are recorded in the northern extent of the project boundary. Podzols & gleys chiefly underlies the project area however peat is the dominant soil coverage.

The bedrock of the project area is predominantly comprised of Devonian Sandstone formations with the western portion of the project underlain by the Upper Devonian Caha Mountain Formation, described as purple and green Sandstone and Siltstones. The eastern portion of the project area is underlain by the Upper Devonian, Ballytrasna Formation which is described as purple Mudstones and Sandstone lithologies. The extreme northern extent of the project boundary is underlain by the Devonian Old Red Sandstone Formation.

The project area is underlain by a number of faults which form the boundary between the mapped bedrock formations described above. These generally trend NW-SE and E-W through the project area.

4.12.4 Potential Impacts

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 drainage is a potential direct permanent effect that, without mitigation, could alter the existing hydrogeological balance;
- 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 area.
- 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 project; and
- Sanitary waste arising from temporary construction compounds could lead to contamination of groundwater.

At the substation and along the grid route, the potential impacts are the pollution of groundwater from an oil or fuel spillage during construction.



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 Ballinagree Wind Farm will also be addressed.

4.13.2 Assessment Methodology

The assessment will consist of a review of existing baseline data including water quality data from the EPA, River Basin Management Plans and flood risk data from the Office of Public Works (OPW). The objectives of the relevant River Basin Management Plans in relation to water quality will be considered. The review will include the Cork County Development Plan 2014-2020 and consideration of the policies and objectives of the Plan in relation to surface water and flooding. The assessment will be prepared in accordance with the EPA and OPW guidance. Any concerns expressed by consultees such as Inland Fisheries Ireland and relevant local authorities, relating to hydrology and drainage, will be addressed.

The review will have regard to the baseline data and the studies undertaken for the assessment of impacts on terrestrial and fresh water ecology, geology and hydrogeology in relation to environmentally protected areas, receiving waters and soil conditions.

It is proposed to conduct grab sampling of water courses which could potentially be impacted by construction of the wind farm, where gaps are identified in the review of published data. The scope of this sampling will be agreed with Inland Fisheries Ireland and will also follow relevant guidance for determining baseline water quality.

Site visits consisting of a walkover of the wind farm project area have been undertaken. These surveys included noting and examining the hydrological features and land use across the project area. The information gained on these site visits have influenced the development of Design Iteration 1, providing input with the aim of minimising river/stream crossings, providing a buffer to hydrological features and avoiding areas of significant flood risk.

The Hydrology Chapter will include a section on flood risk identification and assessment. This will include an assessment of the potential increase to flooding elsewhere and it will examine the potential flood risk to the proposed development. The type of development will be assessed in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, November 2009. Any increase in hard surfaces will be quantified and the impact of this modelled in the downstream structures over watercourses, where flood incidents have been recorded by the OPW. Cumulative impacts with neighbouring developments will also be tested in the model where appropriate.

A peat stability assessment will be carried out to determine potential peat stability issues, in line with the soils and geology chapter.

Where parts of the development are located on areas encroaching on floodplains, this may require additional drainage measures and further measures required to mitigate flood risk. Mitigation, such as attenuation of surface water run-off from the project, will be proposed where increases in flood risk are deemed to be significant.

In the case of essential infrastructure such as a sub-station, these are not permitted to be located in a floodplain.



For the access tracks, the stream crossings will be identified, and a preliminary design of the proposed stream crossings prepared. The accommodation of overland flow will be assessed and suitable locations for the treatment of discharges identified.

The following will also be included as part of the assessment for Hydrology:

- Identify potential impacts of the proposed development on hydrology (hydrodynamics and flooding).
- Identify potential cumulative hydrological impacts of the proposed development with any neighbouring wind farms or significant projects.
- Consider potential drainage into sensitive catchments.
- 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.
- Identification of mitigation measures for flooding and pollution of receiving waters.
- Identification of residual impacts.

4.13.3 Receiving Environment

The majority of the proposed project lies within the Sullane_SC_020 sub-catchment, with a small section of the north east of the project located within the Blackwater (Munster)_SC_070 sub-catchments as defined by Water Framework Directive (WFD). Greenfield runoff drains mainly to the River Laney and its tributaries. The River Laney is a tributary of the River Lee (Cork). The northern part of the proposed project is within NAD_010 and Glen (Banteer)_010 sub-basins which drain into the Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (002170).

According to the PFRA maps there are areas in the vicinity subject to flooding, but these are small and close to the project boundary.

4.13.4 Potential Impacts

The main potential impact from the construction of typical wind farm developments is the sedimentation of watercourses. Rainfall run-off containing silt could potentially lead to siltation and consequent physical effects on Biodiversity 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.
- Haulage roads passing close to watercourses could allow the migration of silt-laden run-off into watercourses (crushable stone in 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 project area 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 wind farm project include impacts on localised flooding patterns and downstream structures as well as cumulative hydrological impacts with neighbouring developments including neighbouring wind farms.

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 wind farm, potential impacts on water quality may 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.

Knowing the sources of these potential impacts on water quality allows for a range of mitigation measures to be prepared including a surface water management plan, installation of silt management infrastructure such as silt fencing, silt traps and stilling ponds and a water quality monitoring program, among other best practice measures, in order to avoid negative impact on water quality, biodiversity and fisheries. These mitigation measures will be detailed in the EIAR.

4.14 Environmental Aspect: Archaeology, 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 wind farm 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 assessment will comprise a desk study and field walkover survey and will be based on EPA guidelines and relevant national and international best practice guidelines.

Desk Study

A review of the following information will be carried out to inform the cultural heritage assessment report:

- A review and collation of information obtained from public and statutory consultees, for example nationwide surveys such as the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (including National Monuments in State Care, NIAH, RPS and landscape characterisation;
- A review of designated archaeological landscapes;



- A review of the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) in the Cork County Development Plan 2014-2020;
- A review of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) building survey sites, NIAH historic gardens and designed landscapes survey sites;
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland Archives National Museum of Ireland;
- A literature review of published and key references appropriate to the wind farm project including material from local interest groups and historical and archaeological societies;
- Collation of information from similar or other infrastructure projects in proximity to the proposed wind farms, for example EIARs, SEAs, conservation plans, archaeological test assessments and excavations (including the Database of Irish Excavations) Cartographic sources;
- A review of place names folklore/traditions and Gaeltacht areas;
- Other documentary sources;
- A review and interpretation of aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets; and
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approach will be undertaken.

Field survey

The assessment will include a field assessment of each of the turbine locations and associated infrastructure, the survey will confirm the location of recorded cultural heritage sites and will record their baseline condition; as well as the archaeological potential of all areas within the wind farm project area and areas likely to be affected by the proposed development works. Fieldwork will also identify any unrecorded features of architectural or cultural heritage merit and will assess if they will be impacted by the development. A drone survey will also be undertaken to assess if any potential features with surface expressions not visible at ground level are observable within the boundary. All significant features will be recorded and photographed.

Field walkover surveys will also be undertaken where the access roads and cable routes pass close to recorded monuments and protected structures and where the routes diverge from the paved road and at the jointing bay locations.

Fieldwork along the cable routes will also seek to identify previously unrecorded roadside cultural heritage features (such as milestones, water pumps and stone bridges etc.) and structures.

A survey of alignments and views from stone circles and stone rows located in the surrounding landscape will be assessed.

Setting

Every landscape presents different topographical and environmental conditions, land cover and land usage and as such the location, scale and physical form of each element of wind farm projects and associated works are site specific. As a consequence, the range of potential impacts depends on the individual circumstances of each proposed turbine and the combined contribution of the overall setting of the wind farm.

Based on the Zone of Theoretical Visibility, designated architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage features will be considered up to 5km of the development boundary. All undesignated cultural heritage features will be considered up to 500m of the development boundary. Selected highly sensitive heritage assets of national and international importance will be considered within 30km of the proposed development. The assessment of potential impacts on the setting of such assets will be carried out in consultation with the Landscape and Visual consultants for the proposed development and will include a review of relevant photomontages.



The reporting process ensures that all designations relating to heritage assets as well as cultural heritage features that are revealed through research, field assessment and consultation are clearly articulated. All relevant designated heritage assets will be mapped and lists all relevant cultural heritage constraints will be prepared.

Interactions and consultation

The scale, form and layout of the proposed wind farm development requires a collaborative and iterative design development process with designers, archaeologists and landscape and visual specialists interactively engaged in the process from the outset. Consultation with statutory and non-statutory bodies will also take place throughout the process.

4.14.3 Receiving Environment

There are 15 recorded archaeological monuments located within the constraints boundary for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm. These range in date from prehistoric to post-medieval periods with a notable concentration of ritual and settlement monument types typically associated with the Bronze Age (c. 2400-500 BC). Potential also exists for the presence of unrecorded archaeological sites and features to exist within the constraints boundary.

The Record of Protected Structures for County Cork and the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage do not list any of the buildings or structures located within the constraints boundary.

There are two stone circles located within the constraints boundary, one containing five stones and the other fifteen stones, while other examples are located within the surrounding landscape. These are ritual monuments typically interpreted as associated with Bronze Age ritual traditions. The five-stone circle within the constraints boundary is a National Monument in State Ownership (ref. 660).

There are two stone rows located within the boundary. These form part of a distinctive Cork and Kerry group that contain up to six upright stones. These monuments are typically associated with Bronze Age ritual activity and are often found close to cairns and stone circles. Other examples are located within surrounding lands.

Other monuments recorded within the constraints boundary for the proposed wind farm include the following:

- 1 no. standing stones of likely Bronze Age date;
- 4 no. fulachta fia;
- 1 no. cairn;
- 1 no. ringfort from the early medieval period;
- 1 no. holy well site located near the summit of Mushermore Mountain;
- 1 no. hut site on the summit of Mushermore Mountain

Carrigagulla House is a late 18th-century country house which has been designated a recorded archaeological monument. This Country House is located at the south end of the constraints boundary. A redundant record on the Sites and Monuments Record is also located within the project area. This is listed as a 'potential site'.



Prehistoric lithic monuments have been identified in the area of the proposed wind farm project and the surrounding landscape which contain stones arranged on long axis lines that are likely set on formal ritual alignments across the landscape. These may include views towards astronomical events (e.g. solstice), prominent landscape features or towards other archaeological monuments.

4.14.4 Potential Impacts

Wind farms comprise large upright structures with moving elements. Their scale relative to features in close proximity such as monuments or historical structures can have a visual intrusion on the archaeological and historic landscape. While direct physical impacts can easily be assessed in quantitative terms, the assessment of setting can be subjective and as such is a matter of qualitative and professional judgement.

The assessment will include the implications of the proposed development on the direct physical impact of the wind farm and any indirect impacts on the setting of monuments, historic buildings and cultural heritage complexes.

The potential impacts are briefly described as follows:

- Direct impacts – Construction of wind turbines and access tracks has the potential to impact any underlying archaeological remains.
- The construction phase of the development will consist largely of earthmoving activities such as soil removal for access tracks, borrow pits (if required), turbine bases and hard stand areas. This may have a number of potential negative impacts on the unrecorded and sub-surface archaeological heritage features. The sites are generally located in greenfield agricultural farmland, forested or bogland landscapes. There is a potential for uncovering sub-surface archaeological and cultural heritage features, or features which have no above ground expression, during peat or topsoil removal associated with the construction of the wind farm. Existing farm tracks however will be used where possible.
- Indirect Impacts – Wind farms have the potential to detract from the historic character or adversely impact the setting and visual amenity of a heritage asset affecting the integrity, sense of place, tranquillity and remoteness of that feature. This includes potential impacts on the formal ritual alignments of monuments which may focus on landscape features, other monuments or astronomical events.
- Cumulative Impacts – An assessment will be made on the cumulative impact where necessary, depending on the scale, density and proximity of the turbines within the wind farm and to other wind farms. This will include the consideration of the setting of heritage assets.
- Residual Impacts – these relate to the setting impacts from turbines and associated infrastructure during the lifetime of the wind farm development.

The main potential for negative direct impacts on cultural heritage features occurs during the construction phase. Once the wind farm is operational, the potential for negative direct impacts on archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage assets will be negligible. The proposed development will avoid the known locations of all recorded archaeological sites.



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 EIAR 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, Department of Defence, Commission for Energy Regulation, 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; and
- 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 cables associated with the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm, will be obtained and potential impacts assessed.

4.15.3 Receiving Environment

An initial desktop study has been conducted to identify telecommunication infrastructure in the area of the proposed project. The Comreg site viewer⁴ identifies a number of telecom masts in the surrounding proximities of the project.

4 no. masts are located ca. 2 km south of the project, west of the town of Ballinagree. 11 no. masts are located in proximity to the settlement of Millstreet, north west of the project. Other outlying masts have been identified to the south of the project at Macroom, to the east of the project at Donoughmore and New Tipperary and to the north east of the project at Mount Hillary and the townland of Glannaharee East.

Should an operator raise concerns, and the impact cannot be avoided by amending the layout of the wind farm, we will engage directly with the operator to quantify the interference impacts of the wind farm development and identify a likely telecommunications mitigation solution. This approach is proving successful on similar wind farm projects.

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 RTE.

⁴ <http://siteviewer.comreg.ie/#explore>



4.16 Environmental Aspect: Landscape and Visual Impact

4.16.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The landscape and visual assessment report will appraise the existing landscape character of the project area and its wider setting in order to assess the likely landscape, visual and residential amenity impacts arising from the proposed development. A Study Area of 30km is defined as set out in best practice guidance recently updated by Scottish Natural Heritage 2017. A suitable, bespoke study area will be proposed following further detailed analysis of the project. Potential mitigation measures are also included. 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).

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 LVIA Methodology can be summarised as undertaking the following key tasks:

- Desktop study of the project area in relation to its overall wider context;
- Visit to the project area and its environs;
- Visit to assess residential amenity impacts;
- Visit to assess route screening;
- Defining the baseline general landscape character, setting, and condition in relation to the position of the proposed development;
- Engagement with relevant landscape and amenity planning designations with the study area as outlined in the Cork County Development Plan 2014-2020 and any relevant policy within neighbouring county Kerry which falls within the 30km study area;
- Identification of quality and types of views in the areas;
- Establishing the extent of the visual envelope, i.e. the potential area of visibility of the project area in the surrounding landscape;
- Identification and evaluation of key components of the proposed development;
- Assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts, and residual impacts;
- Assessment of potential cumulative impacts with proposed/existing developments in the area;
- Preparation of Zone of Theoretical Visibility Maps (ZTVs) to a radial distance of c.30km from the project area; and
- Consideration of mitigation and enhancement measures.

The LVIA methodology is guided by the following guidance:

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2006, Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities.
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government 2019, Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2002, Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2003, Advice Notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2015, Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2017, Draft Revised Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements.
- Environmental Protection Agency, 2015, Draft Advice Notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Impact Statements.
- Landscape Institute, and Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment, 2013, Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, 3rd Ed.
- Scottish Natural Heritage, 2017, Visual Representation of Wind Farms, Version 2.2.

The impact significance criteria used in the assessment are based on the EPA Guidelines, 2002 and Advice Notes, 2003 with reference also to EPA's draft 2017 revised guidelines and the 2015 draft Advice Notes.



4.16.3 Receiving Environment

The proposed project extends across an area comprising commercial forestry, pasture and bog land. The general elevations range from 250m at Ballinagree East, to 630m at Musheramore Mountain in the northwest of the project area.

The proposed project is located in an area considered to be 'Open for Consideration' for wind farm development as defined in the Cork County Development Plan 2014. There are a number of wind farms in the vicinity of the proposed project most notably Boggeragh Wind Farm to the north, Bawnmore to the south and Gneeves and Coomacheo to the west.

The majority of the proposed project is identified as being located within the 'Ridged and Peaked Upland' Landscape Character Area as defined by the County Development Plan. The 'Ridges and Peaked Upland' Landscape Character has a 'medium' landscape value and sensitivity. The Duhallow Way dissects the proposed project along the Millstreet Road which is also a designated scenic route as indicated in the Cork County Development Plan.

4.16.4 Potential Impacts

In the European Landscape Convention, landscape is defined as 'an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors'. The term "landscape" is thus defined as a zone or area as perceived by local people or visitors, whose visual features and character are the result of the action of natural and/or cultural factors. Recognition is given to the fact that landscapes evolve through time and are the result natural and human activities.

Landscape and visual impact assessment has two separate but closely related aspects. The first is visual impact, i.e. the extent to which the wind turbines in the landscape can be seen. The second is landscape character impact, i.e. effects of the wind turbines on the fabric or structure of the landscape as perceived by people. Landscape character is derived from the appearance of the land and takes account of natural and man-made features such as topography, landform, vegetation, land use and built environment and their interaction to create specific patterns that are distinctive to particular localities.

The proposed wind turbines will be large 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, may have a major impact on the surrounding landscape.

Key to the development of the project will be the need for clear communication of the scale and extent of the proposed project. Clear and concise mapping of the existing areas of landscape and visual sensitivity together with photomontages of the proposed wind turbines will be essential in demonstrating the nature and extent of the development.

Zone of Theoretical Visibility Mapping (ZTV's) will be prepared based on the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's 'Wind Farm Planning Guidelines'. The ZTV's will illustrate the study area extending to 30km around the proposed project area and highlight the areas where the proposed turbines will theoretically be visible from, as well as the cumulative visual impact arising from the existing Boggeragh, Bawnmore, Gneeves and Coomacheo Wind Farms. These ZTV's do not take into consideration vegetation cover, changing weather conditions or the mitigating effect of distance and therefore illustrate the worst-case scenario of visibility.



Estimation of the visual impact of the proposed scheme on the landscape will be based on the visual presence of the turbines, their aesthetic impact the landscape context and the significance of the impact. The assessment will examine potential landscape and visual impact of the proposed turbines on designated landscape, properties, roads, recreation and tourism areas, including;

- Direct effects on landscape features, views, routes and areas described in the County Development Plans and Landscape Character Assessments. The review of the landscape setting will account for a 30km study area from the project boundary, thereby including parts of County Kerry. Assessments of and objectives for landscape character will be looked at in the Kerry County Development Plan to ensure a consistent and integrated appraisal of the area within this 30km area.
- Potential changes to landscape and townscape character referring to in the County Landscape Character Assessments noting subtle effects that contribute to the experience of more intangible landscape characteristics. Landscape types, significance/value, sensitivity and capacity for change will be examined.
- Effects on designated landscapes, views, conservation sites (including significant archaeological sites) and other special areas of interest.
- Effects during construction and decommissioning.

Viewshed reference points (VRP) from the surrounding landscape will be identified from the desktop studies outlined above and will be verified on site. Photomontages from these viewshed reference points will be prepared for the proposed wind turbines, together with a wireframe and photomontage views of the other planned/permitted wind turbines in the landscape, to assist in demonstrating the levels of visual impact.



5. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, INDIRECT IMPACT AND INTERACTION OF EFFECTS

5.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The cumulative impact of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm 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. An example of a project within the public domain can be projects that are listed in the County Development Plan or National Development Plan. 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.

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.

As part of scoping the studies required to assess the impacts of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm 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. Modelling and carrying capacity analyses will be used to evaluate impacts.

5.3 Receiving Environment

There is a significant number of wind energy projects located in the surrounding landscape of the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm which will be considered for cumulative impact. These include the following constructed wind farms:

- Boggeragh Wind Farm
- Bawnmore Wind Farm
- Carriganimma Wind Farm
- Carraigcannon Wind Farm
- Gneeves Wind Farm
- Caherdowney Wind Farm
- Clydaghroe Wind Farm
- Coomacheo Wind Farm



Furthermore, projects with planning permission for wind energy developments which have not yet been constructed will also be considered. This includes the Esk wind Farm, located to the north east of the Boggeragh wind farm.

Other planned, permitted or constructed projects in the area will be considered for potential cumulative impact. Furthermore, significant projects within the region will also be considered for potential cumulative impact.

5.4 Potential Impacts

If other projects of similar scale and type are under construction at the same time as the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm, there would be potential for cumulative impact due to increased construction traffic, increased demand on construction materials and skills as well as potential for increased runoff to local streams, potential for in-combination visual impact and potential for increased noise impacts.

Positive cumulative impacts are also possible, for instance, improvement to air quality as a result of renewable energy projects and achievement of national and international renewable energy generation targets.

Please send all responses to: ballinagreewindfarm@ftco.ie

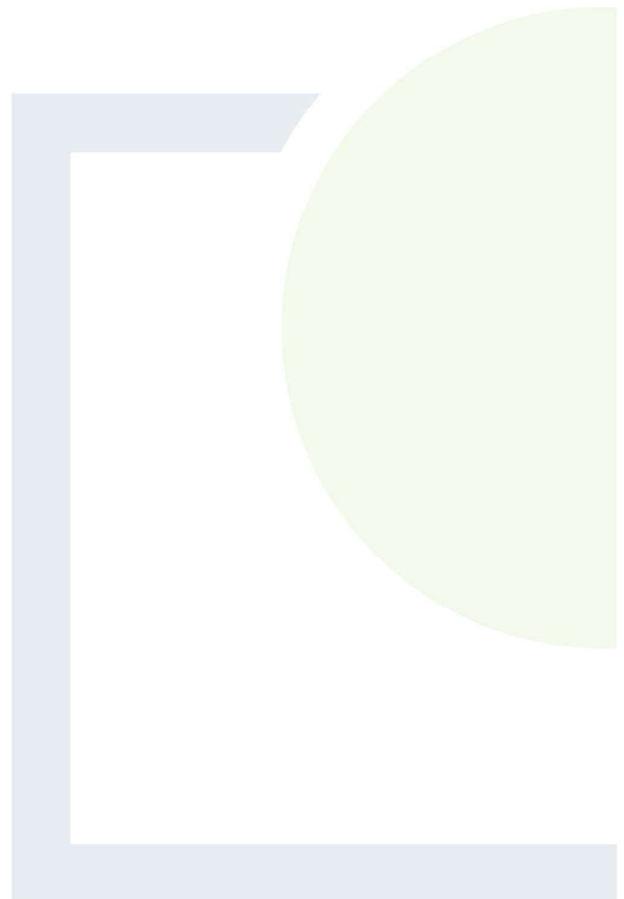
or respond by post to:
Fehily Timoney & Company,
Core House,
Pouladuff Road,
County Cork



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

APPENDIX A

LIST OF CONSULTEES



Cork County Council

Archaeologist
Conservation Officer
Area Engineer
Planning

Government Departments

Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government
Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAU)
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport

Telecommunications and Aviation

Nova Telecom
Skylink Communications
Imagine
Munster Broadband
Digiweb
Ripplecom
Magnet Networks
BT Communications Ireland Ltd
RTE
Now Virgin Media Ireland
Eir (Eircom)
Vodafone (Netshare)
Three
ESB Telecoms
TETRA Ireland Ltd.
TowerCom Ltd.
Virgin Media
Pure Telcom
Sky Broadband Ireland

Other Interested Bodies

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
The Heritage Council
An Taisce
An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Arts Council)
Failte Ireland
Irish Aviation Authority
Health and Safety Authority
Irish Water
An Bord Pleanála
Minister for Defence
Commission for Regulation of Utilities
National Roads Authority
Office of Public Works
Health Service Executive (HSE)

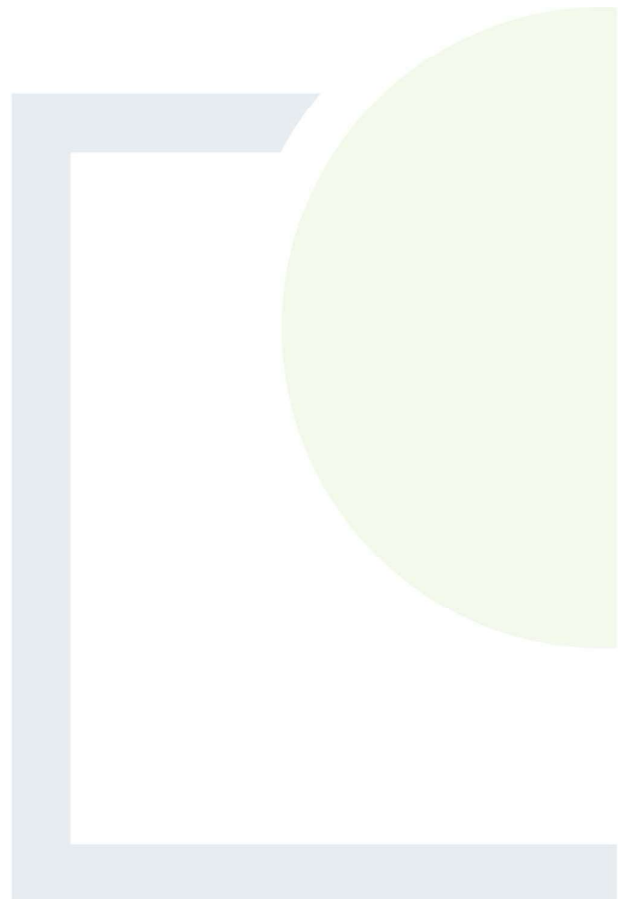
Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
Mountaineering Ireland
Office of Public Works (OPW)
Southern Regional Assembly
Biodiversity Ireland
Irish Wildlife Trust
Bat Conservation Ireland
Butterfly Conservation Ireland
Birdwatch Ireland
National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)
Irish Raptor Study Group
Irish Environmental Network
Teagasc
Gas Networks Ireland
Met Eireann
Eirgrid
ESB Networks
Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland
National Transport Authority
Irish Wind Energy Association
Geographical Society of Ireland
An Garda Síochána - Macroom Branch
Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland
Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Forestry Service
Cork Airport Authority
Macroom Trout Fly Anglers
Angling Council of Ireland
IRD Duhallow
Aubane Community Action Group
Ballinagree Community Development Group
Macroom & District Environmental Group
Cork County Mayor
Andrias Moynihan TD
Michael Moynihan TD
Cllr Martin Coughlin
Cllr Ted Lucey
Cllr Eileen Lynch
Cllr Michael Creed
Cllr Michael Looney
Cllr Gobnail Moynihan



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

APPENDIX B

Ballinagree Wind Farm
Newsletter 3 – Summer 2020





Ballinagree

Wind farm

NEWSLETTER 3

SUMMER 2020



Ballinagree Wind Farm

Project

Front Cover image: Looking south east across the project's Study Area towards Carrigagulla from the lower slopes of Musheramore

1. INTRODUCTION

The proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project is a co-development between Coillte Renewable Energy (Coillte) and Brookfield Renewable Ireland. This is the third Newsletter released on the proposed project. From the outset of our engagements on this project, we have strived to carry out the design process in a different way to previous projects of this type. The dedicated project Community Liaison Officers, David and John and Project Managers, Edwina and Michael, are doing this by actively placing a fundamental focus on inclusion and partnership with stakeholders. We started this process mid-2019 via door to door conversations with those who live closest to the project study area and prior to the start of any detailed design work. These conversations highlighted different opinions and questions and helped to inform the second project Newsletter which was distributed door to door from the end of 2019. Both the Project Managers and Community Liaison Officers have undertaken this to ensure that accurate project

information is shared and that local residents and stakeholders have an opportunity to address queries with the project team. We have also called to talk with local residents on Saturdays and in the evening time in order to get opinion and feedback from as much of the community as possible.

The current Government restrictions in place to combat the Covid-19 pandemic has led us to curtail our face to-face visits for a while. However, we are committed to continuing our approach of involvement and inclusiveness in our engagement and we are working hard on innovative solutions which will still enable the project team to keep the community updated. As our face to face conversations have had to be paused this, the third project Newsletter, is being issued to provide a detailed update on how work on the project is progressing.

The project information contained within this newsletter has been prepared to:

- Describe some of the ongoing technical and environmental studies for the project's design and environmental assessment process currently underway;
- Outline the steps to be taken prior, during and after the planning application to be submitted to the Consenting Authority;
- Present all current information and invite feedback from local residents and stakeholders, given the restrictions currently in place inhibiting face to face engagement. The project team would encourage and welcome anyone with questions or comments to contact us;
- Explore possible collaboration opportunities that the project may present for local communities and initiatives;
- Set out information on next steps and project timeline.

Looking north across the project's Study Area towards Musheramore

Why Onshore Wind?

Onshore wind energy makes sense for Ireland for many reasons. It's a clean fuel source which does not pollute the air like power plants that rely on combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal or natural gas. Unlike conventional power plants, wind turbines don't produce atmospheric emissions that cause acid rain or greenhouse gasses. Wind energy is a free domestic natural resource, produced in abundance in Ireland. As an operating wind farm occupies such a relatively small proportion of an overall site area, approximately a 3% footprint, many other land uses can co-exist such as commercial forestry, farming, recreation and biodiversity management.

The Government declared in May 2019 that Ireland was in the midst of a climate and biodiversity emergency. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that mean annual temperatures in Ireland have risen by 0.7° Celsius (C) over the past century and are likely to rise by 1.4°C to 1.8°C by the 2050's and by more than 2°C by the end of the century due to climate change. Climate change refers to the change in climate that is attributable to human activity arising from the release of greenhouse gases in particular from the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, peat) for transport, electricity generation and agriculture.

As Ireland's largest landowner, Coillte has the capacity and with that the responsibility to contribute significantly to Ireland's efforts to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Coillte's forestry business sequesters 1.1m tonnes of carbon annually. With a land asset suitable for wind farm development, this puts Coillte at the forefront of being able to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan (June 2019) announcing a target of 70% of Ireland's electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

Brookfield Renewable Ireland is one of the largest owners and developers of renewable assets in Ireland holding 10 % of the operating wind farms in Ireland, employing approximately 100 people in Cork and across their Irish wind farms. Brookfield's



development pipeline will continue to bring new renewable energy onto the system further contributing to decarbonisation of the Irish economy.

A firm commitment from the Irish Government on Climate Action is forming part of climate change legislation currently being publicised by our policy makers;

- A target of net zero economy-wide greenhouse gas, GHG, emissions by 2050.
- A target for the renewable share of electricity generation of 70% by 2030.
- Provision for five-yearly carbon budgets, consistent with the emissions reduction pathway to 2030 and 2050.

The amount of wind energy installed in Ireland has reached 4100 MW generated by 350 wind farms and the Irish Government has recently published 'Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2018 – 2027', which outlines the need for an additional 3,000 - 4,500 MW of renewable energy as an investment priority. The further development of renewable energy sources is a vital component of Ireland's strategy to tackle the challenges of combating climate change and ensuring a secure

supply of our future energy needs. The proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project is being brought forward, in part, as a response to these challenges and we feel it has the potential to contribute greatly to this global cause.

Why This Project?

Identifying a site suitable for a wind farm takes into consideration many different inputs. The suitability of the Study Area for this project can be attributed, in part, to the following characteristics:

- The Study Area is located in an area designated as 'Open to Consideration' for wind energy in the current Cork County Development Plan.
- The Study Area is not designated as a Natura 2000 site. It is not within a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area (SPA) nor a Natural Heritage Area (NHA), although some of these areas do exist nearby.
- The Study Area is in an accessible location for connection to the National Electricity Grid via existing electrical substations in the local area.

- There are good annual average wind speeds in the Study Area.
- Setback distances from houses can be achieved to align with the latest government guidance. The project team has already committed to a minimum setback of 750 m between a dwelling and a proposed turbine location.
- There is a limited network of existing forestry and farm roads within the Study Area that can be utilised.

The Project Team

The project team directly involved in the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project includes a Coillte Project Manager (Michael O'Connor), a Project Manager from Brookfield Renewable Ireland, (Edwina White), two Community Liaison Officers (John Lyons and David Eves) as well as a number of specialists in the areas of grid, planning and policy, and wind resource.

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) is a leading Irish engineering, environmental science and planning consultancy with offices in Cork, Dublin and Carlow. FT leads a multidisciplinary team appointed in January 2020 to carry out studies, design and preparation of the planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) on behalf of the project. FT has wide ranging experience in all aspects of the feasibility assessment, environmental impact assessment, planning, design and construction of wind farm and other energy related projects. The practice was established in 1990 and currently has c.70 members of staff, including engineers, scientists, planners and technical support staff. FT delivers projects in Ireland and internationally in their core competency areas of Waste Management, Environment and Energy, Civils Infrastructure, Planning and GIS and Data Management.

About The Project Study Area

The Study Area for the project is located within both forested Coillte and privately owned lands in an area south-east of Musheramore mountain and just north, north/east of Ballinagree village between the towns of Macroom and Millstreet. The Millstreet to Rylane road (The Butter Road) runs through the Study Area and The Duhallow Way also traverses the northern part of the Study Area in an east/west direction.

The Study Area is located east of the Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains Special Protection Area designated for the protection of breeding Hen Harrier. The site has an upland hilly/undulating topography. The River Laney flows through the Study Area, which is dominated by varying aged conifer plantation, agricultural grassland and wet grassland.

The following environmentally designated areas occur within 15 kilometres of the Study Area:

- Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (004162), west of the Study Area:
 - » This is a Natura 2000 site selected for the "protection of hen harrier".
- Gearagh SPA (004109), approximately 13 km to the south of the Study Area:
 - » This is a Natura 2000 site selected for "the protection of wigeon, teal, mallard and coot".
- The Gearagh SAC (000108) approximately 15 km to the south of the Study Area:
 - » This Natura 2000 site was selected for the presence of the following habitats and species: Floating River Vegetation, Old Oak Woodlands, Alluvial Forests and Otter.
- Mullaghanish Bog SAC (001890) approximately 15 km to the west of the Study Area:



Female Hen Harrier in flight

- » This is a Natura 2000 site selected for the protection of Blanket Bogs.
- The Gearagh (Ramsar site no. 472) approximately 13 km to the south of the Study Area:
 - » Wetlands selected to support a "*nationally important population of whooper swan*".
- Natural Heritage Area (NHA – 002447) Immediately north of the Study Area;
 - » Peatlands – Selected for upland blanket bog habitat.

The Study Area and surrounding landscape also contains a high concentration of Bronze-aged features. Some of these have historical ritual and visual alignments across the wider landscape.

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Castlepook Wind Farm in the Ballyhoura Mountains.

2. PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Following project assessments as part of the Design Iteration 1 process the project team is currently considering the Study Area under the following parameters:

- Capacity for up to 19 wind turbines;
- Associated internal underground cabling and grid connection cabling;
- Proposed overall turbine envelope height (when a turbine blade is pointing skyward) of up to 185 metres and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;
- An electrical substation with a control building and associated electrical equipment;
- Borrow pits to source construction stone on-site for road upgrade and construction;
- A permanent anemometry mast up to a height of 100 metres to measure wind speed and direction;

- Upgrade of existing and provision of new site access roads and associated drainage;
- Construction compounds; and
- Biodiversity enhancement and conservation areas.

The project also consult with Eirgrid and at this stage, it is proposed that the project will connect to the national electrical grid at either the existing 220kV Clashavoon substation, which is located approximately 5km north-east of Macroom, or the 220kV Ballyvouskill substation, which is located approximately 6.5km south of Millstreet. The project team are currently in the process of assessing the different route options for connecting the proposed project to the Clashavoon or Ballyvouskill substations via an underground cable.

3. PROJECT DESIGN PROCESS

The Study Area, set out in the second project newsletter and available on the project website, www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie, is currently being assessed by the project team. This detailed assessment has been underway since January 2020. Some general seasonal dependent ecology work has also been underway since 2017/2018. All field work, with the exception of limited and seasonal dependent ecology surveys, is paused at this time in line with the Government and HSE protocols surrounding the Covid-19 pandemic until further updates and/or restrictions are lifted.

Through this assessment, the Project's Study Area is reduced down into a working area from which a layout design, including preliminary wind turbine locations, is arrived at. Many sections of the initial Study Area have now been excluded in order to form the Working Area.

The Working Area includes:

- Setback distance from both the Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains Special Protection Area (SPA) and the National Heritage Area (NHA) to the north of the Study Area.
- Setback from dwellings – 750 m minimum
- Avoidance of areas of steep ground slope
- Setback from watercourses – 75 m
- Avoidance of Coillte designated biodiversity areas
- Avoidance of areas with excessive deep peat
- Optimisation of design for visual impact
- Setback from public roads
- Setback from overhead powerlines
- Setback from, and alignment with, archaeological/cultural heritage features

Furthermore, the locations of the proposed wind turbines and all other proposed infrastructure is informed by rigorous site investigations and assessments which include:

- Ecological Surveys
- Ornithological Surveys
- Geotechnical, Hydrological and Geological Site Investigations

- Shadow Flicker Modelling
- Noise Modelling
- Archaeological Surveys
- Landscape and Visual Assessment
- Wind Resource Modelling

The Working Area is continuously updated throughout the design process. We are currently at Design Iteration One. There are still two more design stages to be undertaken based on the findings of further site investigations and based on stakeholder feedback. Future design stages are likely to reduce the Working Area further as additional constraints are taken into consideration.

Design Iteration One is now available to view on the project website, www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie

Shadow Flicker

On Wind Farms, shadow flicker occurs at certain times of the day when the sun is very low in the sky, and where the movement of blades can periodically reduce the daylight coming through a window for example, causing the daylight to appear to flicker. Technology now allows for a wind farm project to comply with a zero shadow flicker policy, through detailed analysis and planned curtailment of the turbines. Current legislation limits allowable shadow flicker to a maximum of 30 minutes a day or 30 hours per year at residential properties. This project is striving towards a zero shadow flicker policy at residential properties in its design.

Telecommunications

This project is being designed with existing radio, internet and television receptions in mind. Details of the potential project layout shall be fully assessed and submitted to the planning authority for agreement prior to the commissioning of any turbines. This will follow consultation with all the relevant governing bodies and any known telecommunication companies providing services in the area.

4. THE PLANNING PROCESS

Development projects, such as wind farms, require a detailed Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to be submitted with the planning application. In order to ensure that the environmental assessment process is appropriate to the project and locality, project specific information will be prepared by the project team and circulated to statutory and non-statutory consultees in addition to near neighbours.

Regular consultation with local residents will also continue throughout the three design stages and the environmental assessment process, focusing on those residents within up to 3 km of the project's Working Area.

We feel it is very important that open dialogue on key aspects of the project continues. The project team are always open to feedback both on how best to keep community members up to date on the design process and on project progress overall.

The EIAR will focus on the following areas, will accompany the planning application and will be available for viewing and downloading. The below list is not exhaustive.

Chapter 1 Introduction
Chapter 2 Description of the Proposed Development
Chapter 3 Civil Engineering
Chapter 4 Alternatives
Chapter 5 Population and Human Health
Chapter 6 Biodiversity
Chapter 7 Ornithology
Chapter 8 Water
Chapter 9 Land and Soil
Chapter 10 Noise and Vibration
Chapter 11 Shadow Flicker
Chapter 12 Landscape
Chapter 13 Cultural Heritage
Chapter 14 Air and Climate

Chapter 15 Material Assets
Chapter 16 Interaction of the Foregoing
Chapter 17 Schedule of Environmental Mitigation

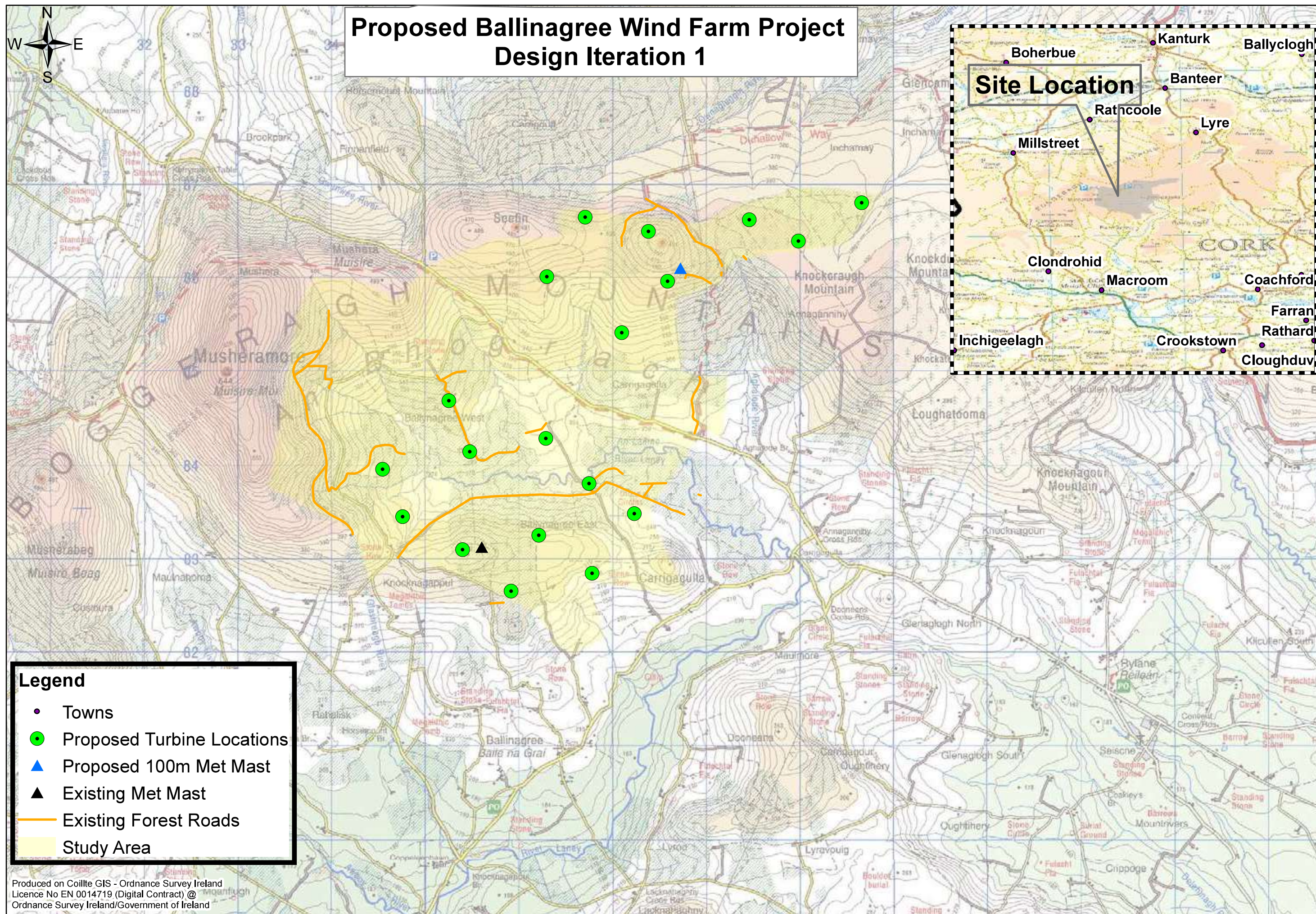
Planning Application

It is currently envisaged that an application for planning permission for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála as the project is of a scale to be deemed Strategic Infrastructure development (SID). Under current legislation, a wind farm project of scale is one capable of generating electricity in excess of 50 Mega Watts (MW). The current project timeline predicts a planning application being submitted in December 2020. This date has been somewhat impacted by the Covid-19 working restrictions and could potentially be delayed as a result.

In preparation for submission of this planning application, the design team requested a pre-application consultation meeting in March 2020 with representatives of Cork County Council's Planning department and with An Bord Pleanála in order to discuss the application in relation to proper planning and sustainable development.

Along with the previously mentioned EIAR, a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) will also be prepared and submitted with the planning application. A separate website will be created as required by An Bord Pleanála to present the full application and all the supporting documents and drawings.

There is a very useful frequently asked questions section on An Bord Pleanála's website at www.pleanala.ie/sid/sidpp.htm#q7 which sets out a guide to how public participation and comments on any SID application can be done. Any person or body may make submissions on the project to the Board while the documents are available for viewing after the application has been submitted.



5. CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Ballinagree area and the wider Macroom and Millstreet areas are rich in archaeology and some extremely interesting examples are located in the landscape within the environs of the Study Area for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project. John Cronin & Associates archaeological consultancy, established in 2000 with a base in Cork City, has been commissioned to map and survey the known monuments within the Study Area and to advise the project team during the design process to ensure that all areas with sensitive archaeological and/or cultural heritage features are preserved and treated correctly. The project archaeologists are also scheduled to undertake field-walking and drone surveys in order to establish if any unrecorded monuments may exist in the area.

There are a number of stone circles, stone rows and wedge tombs located within the Study Area of the project. These consist of monument types associated with ritual activity dating to the Bronze Age (2400-500 BC).

Stone circles comprise rings of free-standing upright stones, symmetrically arranged so that one stone set on its side (the axial stone) is set directly opposite the two tallest stones which form an entrance into the structure. The stone rows within the project Study Area form part of a distinctive Cork and Kerry group that contain up to six upright stones, typically about 2m in height, and are often aligned on a northeast to southwest alignment.

Standing stones viewed in the Study Area comprise single upright stones and may have functioned as prehistoric burial markers, commemorative monuments or indicators of route ways or boundaries.

Wedge tombs surveyed in the Study Area comprise stone-built megalithic tombs containing a burial gallery, sometimes with a small end-chamber, and there is a notable concentration of these monuments

in County Cork. The low structures are generally broader and higher at the front and typically face in a westerly direction. Evidence suggests that they were constructed between 2,500 and 2,000 BC and represent the last phase of megalithic tomb building.

Other monuments within the Study Area of the project include Bronze Age cooking sites known as fulacht fiadh as well as later sites such as holy wells and enclosed Early Medieval farmsteads, known as ringforts, some of which may contain associated underground structures known as souterrains.

Carrigagulla House, in the southern portion of the Study Area, is a late 18th-century country house which has been designated a recorded archaeological monument. There is potential also for the presence of unrecorded archaeological sites and features to exist within the Study Area such as stone hut remains and historical field systems. The locations of such features will be carefully considered during the assessment and design of the project. This consideration will include review of historical maps and field surveys. Potential for facilitating greater public access to the locations of some of these monuments within the Study Area can also be considered as part of the design process. The cultural heritage of the area extends beyond known monuments and can include local folklore and traditions that may form an oral record of historical and archaeological activities not otherwise recorded. **Any information on local traditions associated with the lands in the environs of the proposed wind farm would be most welcome and will be shared with the project archaeologists to ensure that they are included in the studies.**



6. NOISE

The 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006 WEDG's) provide details on noise limits for wind farm developments in Ireland. These guidelines are currently under review and the draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (draft WEGs) were published in December 2019. These guidelines have been consulted on by the public and professionals in the noise industry alike. This is a welcome development as the 2006 WEGs are often criticised as not being up to date with current technology used by wind farm developers today. The noise limits in the new draft WEGs afford greater protection to residents living in the vicinity of proposed wind farms than the 2006 WEGs do. Furthermore, the draft WEGs also consider special audible characteristics. The draft WEGs are currently being debated, reviewed and refined following input from

all interested parties. Further information can be obtained on the Department's website as follows: www.housing.gov.ie

The main sources of noise from a wind turbine include aerodynamic noise (rotating blades in the air) and mechanical noise (gearbox and generator).

From the outset, the project team have committed to using the noise impact assessment procedure in the new draft WEGs as well as the Institute of Acoustics 'A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise' (2013).

ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE BEING UTILISED FOR THE PROPOSED BALLINAGREE WIND FARM PROJECT

As we are currently at the first of three design iterations, initial noise modelling is underway. The noise assessment process generally follows the below points.

Task	Status
Define Study Area using computer modelling Preliminary Noise Model (includes existing and proposed developments in the general area)	Complete
Identify areas in the Study Area to establish baseline/ background noise monitoring locations	19 Locations identified. The deployment of monitoring data has been delayed due to the COVID 19 concerns and restrictions.
Measure Background Noise Levels concurrently with wind speed and direction	Delayed due to COVID 19 concerns and restrictions.
Use Background noise data to derive noise limits	This will commence once permission is received from residents and COVID 19 restrictions are lifted or permission is provided in line with Government guidance.

Task	Status
Use computer modelling to predict noise from development <ul style="list-style-type: none">International StandardInput parameters in keeping with IOA GuidelinesTurbine noise data supplied by turbine manufacturerCumulative impacts	To be completed in finalising Design Iteration 1
Compare predicted noise levels against noise limits <ul style="list-style-type: none">Compliance demonstrated (v)Non-Compliance (x)<ul style="list-style-type: none">MitigationUpdate or change wind turbine layout or wind turbine technology	To be completed in finalising Design Iteration 3 (DI3)
Depending on the findings of the full noise study as well as other environmental considerations, the layout of the proposed wind farm can change.	To be completed in finalising Design Iteration 3 (DI3)
Once the layout has been finalised: In addition to operational noise predictions, construction noise predictions will also be undertaken and the Noise chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be prepared.	To be completed prior to planning application submission

Did you know:
The noise consultant has to discount the noise emitted by existing turbines in the area in order to establish true background noise. Wind Farms are limited in the amount of noise they can emit above this lower background level.



Typical noise monitor used to measure background noise levels during the design process

7. COMMUNITY BENEFIT AND INVESTMENT PROPOSAL

Wind Farms and the local Community

Both Coillte Renewable Energy and Brookfield Renewable Ireland recognise that any wind farm development means there will be change for an area and that this change is experienced mostly by those living in that local area. For this reason, we commit to ensuring that local communities should benefit from having a wind farm in their locality and that opportunities for local community investment in any successful project are also explored.

From our door to door conversations to-date we understand that not everyone is open to the prospect of exploring what benefits a project such as this could offer at this stage of the development process. However, this project does have the potential to bring significant positive benefit to the local community. The project will contribute annual rates to the local authority and will provide avenues to explore the opportunity for local community investment. As with all wind farm projects which Coillte Renewable Energy and Brookfield Renewable develop, a community benefit fund will be put in place for the lifetime of the project to provide direct funding to those nearest neighbours and local communities.

What will the community benefit fund look like?

There are currently two very important areas of Government policy and market support being developed which are nearing completion and which will have a bearing on the establishment of future community benefit funds. These are the updated Wind Energy Guidelines and the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS). The RESS 1 Term's and Conditions were announced in February of this year and we hope to see finalised Wind Energy Guidelines by the end of 2020. These policies will provide clarity on the Government requirements on future community benefit funds for renewable energy projects.

We will fully take into account these two important policies as we present our community benefit proposal for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm.

Based on RESS 1 guidelines, the project team expect that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by any future wind farm, the project owners will contribute €2 into a community fund for the RESS contract period i.e. first 15 years of operation and €1 per MWh for the remaining lifetime of the wind farm.

If the project does not enter into or qualify under a future RESS process, both Coillte Renewable Energy and Brookfield Renewables remain fully committed to facilitating an equivalent annual Community Benefit Fund.

The total fund per annum will depend on the final power output of a successful project.

How the fund will be used and administered?

For any Community Benefit Fund to be truly successful, we believe that it should be governed and belong to the local community. The aim of any benefit fund is that it should be used to bring about significant, positive change in the local area. Working together with the near neighbours of the project, the focus will remain on achieving a set of key principles for inclusion in a future planning application. We believe that these principles should be detailed

enough to give some clear boundaries and commitments at this stage. We also believe these principles should not restrict community flexibility and adaptability to changing circumstances in terms of the project evolution, government policy and direction. We understand that this will take much more community engagement over the coming year. With this in mind, we will continue to engage in many more meaningful conversations with local stakeholders on the possibility of exploring and developing a community benefit model that the local community are fully at the centre of.

8. ECOLOGY

Aquatic Ecology

The Study Area for the project is located almost entirely within the Lee, Cork Harbour and Youghal Bay catchment. A small northern section is contained within the Blackwater [Munster] catchment Special Area of Conservation (SAC), meaning there is a hydrological connection with the Blackwater River from the north of the Study Area. Consequently, an in-depth series of aquatic baseline surveys have been developed to examine aquatic species which may be using the streams and rivers which collect water from the Study Area. These include: freshwater pearl mussel, white-clawed crayfish, sea lamprey, brook lamprey, river lamprey, twaite shad, salmon and otter. The habitats, including Alluvial forests, in association with these rivers and streams will also be examined during the

aquatic studies with findings included in the design.

A survey of each tributary in the catchment area of the Study Area is scheduled to be carried out during the summer of 2020 under a license to be issued by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI). Electro-fishing will also be conducted at the same locations providing a solid baseline covering the majority of the tributaries and sections of the main channel of the catchment to provide a robust fisheries baseline. All studies will be carried out in consultation with, and as advised by, Inland Fisheries Ireland.





Heron pictured by trail camera on Laney river during ecology surveys

BIODIVERSITY

As the project design progresses, a key element will be the development of suitable proposals for habitat, nature, wildlife and ecological conservation within, and possibly outside of, the Study Area. The word “biodiversity” is a scientific term, referring to all of the living creatures that form the web of life in which we live. In working terms, the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity refers to the conservation of wild species of plants and animals, and the habitats on which they depend. “Nature conservation” refers to proactive management, where the objective is to maintain, enhance or restore natural habitats and/or the species associated with them. Science is showing that wild species are disappearing at a significant rate, particularly in recent decades, and there are concerns that this is having growing impacts on our world. All sectors of society are increasingly being asked to engage positively with this issue and find ways to address the balance of nature. As the ongoing studies and assessments of the ecology and habitats within the projects Study Area evolve a better picture will become available of where nature

conservation could have the greatest impact here. Our project ecologists will identify proposals which could be implemented in tandem with a successful future wind farm project.



Fox cub image captured by trail camera operating during the project ecology survey.

9. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL

Macro Works, established in 1999, is a leading consultancy firm based in Dublin that specialises in visual impact analysis and visual impact graphics. Macro Works have been commissioned to undertake the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) for the project and have completed preliminary desk studies and fieldwork to-date.

The view of the project from the surrounding landscape will be a key consideration as the project design progresses. A landscape and visual impact assessment will be carried out to understand the visual impact of the wind farm on the existing environment.

The desk studies completed by Macro Works to date include a detailed review of landscape and visual designations within the Cork County Development Plan, which include ‘High Sensitivity’ landscape zonings and designated scenic routes, such as the Butter Road, in the project’s Study Area. The desk studies also include a review of recreational features within a 20 km radius of the Study Area, such as walking routes (including the Duhallow Way), cycling routes and popular tourism, heritage and amenity sites. Settlements, key transport routes and local dwelling clusters are also considered at this stage.

Having established important locations (receptors) from which the visual impact of the proposed development needs to be examined, a ‘Zone of Theoretical Visibility’ (ZTV) map is produced. The ZTV indicates from where in the landscape of the Study Area, views of the proposed wind farm may, or may not, be visible from based on natural occurring screening. Only locations with potential views of

the proposed wind farm are relevant for further consideration in terms of the visual assessment.

Subsequent to the initial desk study phase, fieldwork was undertaken to gain an appreciation of the landscape character and key landscape elements within the Study Area and surrounds. Photography was captured at 19 key receptor locations, which represents around 60-70% of the total anticipated viewpoints likely to be used for a robust visual impact assessment. This initial modelling will be refined further at later design stages.

Using the photography captured from the initial set of these 19 viewpoints, ‘photomontages’ are then prepared to illustrate what the proposed wind turbines would look like from each viewpoint.

These photomontages give the project team and the public an opportunity to comment on and refine the proposed wind turbine layout in order to minimise visual impacts insofar as possible. This might mean removing/moving turbines that are visible from particularly sensitive locations or adjusting the wind turbine layout to avoid visual clutter or disharmony from other locations.

At this point in time, Macro Works have reviewed Design Iteration One using the steps outlined above and have provided constraints and design optimisation comments to the design team for consideration at the next design stage. Revised Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps and photomontages will then be prepared and reviewed for that next design stage in an ongoing design optimisation process.

10. NEXT STEPS

Project Milestones

- Summer 2017 ○ General ecological studies began in the wider study area.
- Winter 2017 ○ Initial landowner discussions began in the area.
- Summer 2019 ○ Engagement begins with the local community.
- Autumn 2019 ○ Local landowner discussions to finalise Study Area concluded.
- Autumn 2019 ○ Meteorological wind measuring mast scoping studies progress.
- Winter 2019 ○ Meteorological wind measuring mast erection.
- Winter 2019 ○ Environmental impact assessment project team appointed.
- Winter 2019/20 ○ Detailed environmental and engineering studies begin.
- Summer 2020 ○ Design Iteration 1.
- Summer 2020 ○ Grid route and turbine delivery route assessment progressed.
- Summer 2020 ○ Design Iteration 2.
- Autumn 2020 ○ Design Iteration 3.
- Autumn 2020 ○ Second meteorological wind measuring mast erection.
- Autumn 2020 ○ Planning application amalgamation and reviews.
- Winter 2020 ○ Planning application to be submitted to the Consenting Authority.



Ballyhoura and Castlepook Wind Farms on the Co. Cork / Co. Limerick border.

We would encourage and welcome your input and comments on what you have read in this Newsletter. Please get in touch either by e-mail, post or by phone as follows:

Lo-call (Mon – Fri): 1890 928740

E-mail: ballinagreewindfarm@coillte.ie

Post: FAO John Lyons, Coillte Office, Hartnetts Cross, Macroom,
Co. Cork. P12 XA50

Please visit the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project website at www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie for recorded presentations from some of the specialists working on the project, including the Ecologist, Aquatic Ecologist, Archaeologist and Landscape & Visual specialist. In the absence of being able to engage in face-to-face conversation at present, this content is being uploaded to further invite collaboration and feedback with local residents and interested stakeholders. Please check the “Latest News” section on the Ballinagree Wind Farm project website www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie to view this information.



Ballinagree
Wind farm



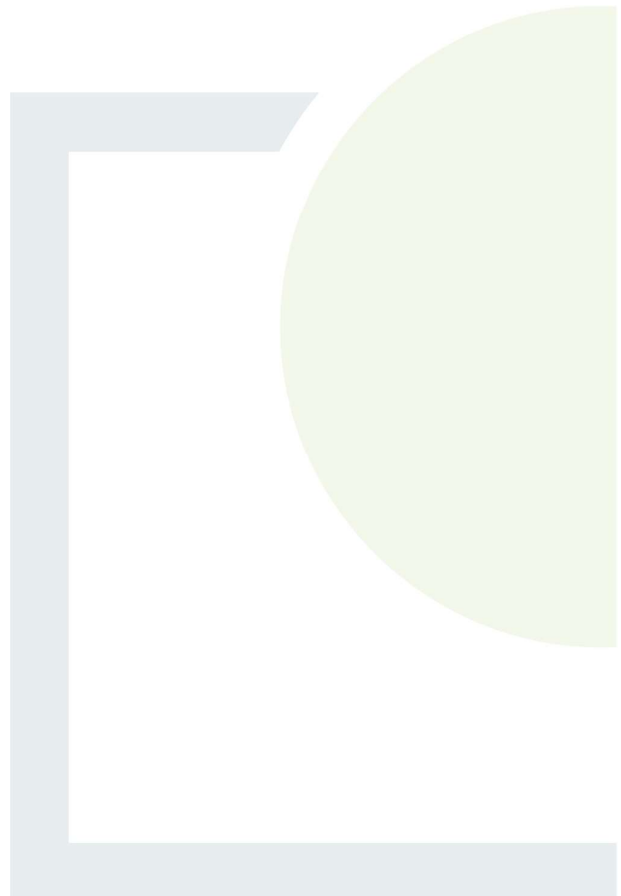
Brookfield



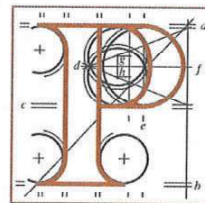
CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 5.3

An Bord Pleanála
Correspondence and
Pre-Application
Consultation Details



Our Case Number: ABP-306948-20



An
Bord
Pleanála

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

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution TS/ETH

24 MAR 2020

Job No:

Correspondence No: S

Comment:

Date: 23 March 2020

Re: The construction of 24 wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid.
Ballinagree, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your application for approval of the proposed development under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Please find enclosed a receipt for the fee lodged.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737250

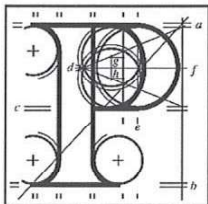
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Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

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Website
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(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902



An
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Pleanála

Admháil ar an bhFáil
Acknowledgement of Receipt
Uimh. Aitheantais Lóisteála:
Lodgement ID: LDG-025363-20

Ainm an chustaiméara: Name of Customer:	Fehily Timoney and Company
Gníomhaire: Agent:	
Cineál Lóisteála: Lodgement type:	Application
Iarratas ar éisteacht ó bhéal Oral Hearing Request:	No
Modh Lóisteála: Lodgement method:	Post
Íocaíocht Faighte: Payment received:	€4,500.00
Uimhir Thagartha Íocaíochta: Payment Reference Number:	PD-017370-20
Modh Íocaíochta: Payment Method:	Cheque
Lóisteáil Faighte: Lodgement Received:	18/03/2020 10:14
Faighte ag: Received by:	Lorraine Lee

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Glao Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

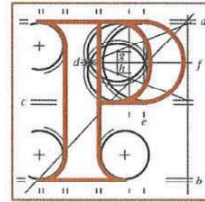
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1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Our Case Number: ABP-306948-20

Your Reference: Coillte CGA and Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution *TR / EH*

25 MAR 2020

Job No:

Correspondence No: *1*

Comment:

Fehily Timoney & Company
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
Co. Cork

Date: 24 March 2020

Re: The construction of up to 24 wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid.
Ballinagree, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

An Bord 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. A receipt for the fee lodged is enclosed.

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

The Board 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 Board at pre-application consultation meetings (if held).

The Board 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 Board.

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

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

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737250

VC01

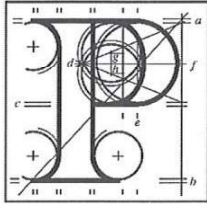
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64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902



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Admháil ar an bhFáil
Acknowledgement of Receipt
Uimh. Aitheantais Lóisteála:
Lodgement ID: LDG-025363-20

Ainm an chustaiméara: Name of Customer:	Fehily Timoney and Company
Gníomhaire: Agent:	
Cineál Lóisteála: Lodgement type:	Application
Iarratas ar éisteacht ó bhéal Oral Hearing Request:	No
Modh Lóisteála: Lodgement method:	Post
Íocaíocht Faighte: Payment received:	€4,500.00
Uimhir Thagartha Íocaíochta: Payment Reference Number:	PD-017370-20
Modh Íocaíochta: Payment Method:	Cheque
Lóisteáil Faighte: Lodgement Received:	18/03/2020 10:14
Faighte ag: Received by:	Lorraine Lee

Teil
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Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
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Email bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
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D01 V902

Tabhair faoi deara:

Maidir le hachomharc nó le haon hábhar eile ar riachtanach táille a íoc laistigh de thréimhse ama reachtúil tabhair faoi deara nach bhfuil san admháil seo ach deimhniú go bhfuarthas táille.

Ní hadmháil ar bith é:

- go bhfuarthas an táille taobh istigh den tréimhse ama reachtúil,
- ná gurb é an táille ceart é,
- ná go bhfuil sé glactha ag an mBord Pleanála go bhfuil an t-achomharc nó an t-ábhar eile bailí.

Más cuí, cuirfear deimhniú foirmeálta agus admháil oifigiúil amach ar dháta níos déanaí.

Please note:

In relation to an appeal or other matter which requires a fee to be submitted within a statutory time period, this receipt is an acknowledgement only of the fee received.

It is not an admission that:

- the fee has been received within the statutory period,
- it is the correct fee,
- the appeal or other matter has been accepted by An Bord Pleanála as being valid.

A formal acknowledgement and official receipt will be issued, if appropriate, at a later date.

From: [Maeve Williams](#)
To: [Eamon Hutton](#)
Subject: RE: SID Pre-application Consultation - 309648
Date: Wednesday 10 June 2020 12:23:28
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

Dear Mr. Hutton,

I have spoken to my colleagues and I have been informed that the meeting will be as follows:

Date: 8th July, 2020

Time: 11:00am

Venue: MS Teams

Please confirm your attendance and a list of any additional attendees, so I can add them to the meeting.

Additionally, The Board requires the power point presentation at least one day in advance of the meeting.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

Maeve

From: Maeve Williams
Sent: Tuesday 9 June 2020 16:50
To: eamon.hutton@ftco.ie
Subject: RE: SID Pre-application Consultation - 309648

Dear Mr. Hutton,

Many thanks for your email. I will discuss your request with my colleagues and once I have a date, I will revert back to you.

Kind regards,

Maeve

From: SIDS
Sent: Tuesday 9 June 2020 16:29
To: Maeve Williams <M.Williams@pleanala.ie>
Subject: FW: SID Pre-application Consultation - 309648

Hi Maeve,

Forwarded for your attention Case Ref: ABP-306948-20.

Regards
Ellen

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Monday 8 June 2020 14:18
To: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject: SID Pre-application Consultation - 309648

For the attention of Maeve Williams

Greetings Maeve,

My name is Eamon Hutton of Fehily Timoney & Company. We are acting as agents for Coillte & Brookfield for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm, County Cork, ref. 309648. I spoke to someone in SID who mentioned that the case has been assigned to you. We are hoping to get a pre-application consultation meeting organised. I understand that ABP are excepting meetings through Microsoft Teams. I would appreciate if we could get the ball rolling on the initial pre-application consultation meeting at your convenience.

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 86 404 9024
www.fehilytimoney.ie



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Our Case Number: ABP-306948-20

Your Reference: Coillte CGA and Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited



Fehily Timoney
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
Co. Cork

Date: 09 September 2020

Re: The construction of up to 24 wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid.
Ballinagree, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord 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 8th July, 2020.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

pp Jennifer Sherry

Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737250

PC07

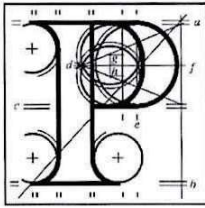
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An
Bord
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Record of 1st Meeting

ABP-306948-20

Development	The construction of up to 24 wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid at Ballinagree, Co. Cork		
Location	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	1 st		
Date	08/07/2020	Time	14:30p.m. – 16:15p.m.

Attendees		
Representing An Bord Pleanála		
Rachel Kenny, Director of Planning (Chair)		
Patricia Calleary, Senior Planning Inspector		
Jennifer Sherry, Executive Officer	j.sherry@pleanala.ie	01-8737266
Representing the Prospective Applicant		
Edwina White, Brookfield Renewable		
Sinead O'Malley, Coillte		

Michael O'Connor, Coillte
Jim Hughes, Fehily Timoney & Company
Trevor Byrne, Fehily Timoney & Company

Introduction

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant requesting pre-application consultations and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; 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 Board.

The Board mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board 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 Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board 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 Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.

- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or any legal proceedings.

Presentation by the prospective applicant

The prospective applicant gave an overview of the project under the following headings:

- **Proposed development** – the prospective applicant outlined the initial project design was for up to 24 no. wind turbines. However, following further project assessments as part of the Design Iteration 1 process, the prospective applicant is currently considering 19 no. wind turbines with potential capacity of approximately 80MW. While several possible grid connection options are being considered by the prospective applicant, the preferred option at this stage is an underground cable connection to the Clashavoon 220kV substation or the Ballyvouskill 220kV substation. The development will also consist of new and upgraded existing agricultural and forestry tracks along with ancillary civil and electrical infrastructure. The prospective applicant outlined the preferred turbine delivery route from R582 near Millstreet and continuing south east along local roads to the proposed development.
- **Legislation & Policy Context** – the prospective applicant states the proposed development would fall within a class of development as specified in the Seventh Schedule under section 37A(1) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended). The prospective applicant said the proposed development would also satisfy section 37A(2) of the Act as the proposal would have the potential to generate up to 230GWh per year which could power over 54,000 homes nationally and would contribute to Project Ireland 2040 – National Planning Framework – National Strategic Outcome 8 transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilience Society. The proposed development has the potential to provide up to 80MW of renewable electricity and this represents 1% of the overall national onshore target.
- **Local Planning Policy** – the prospective applicant states under Cork Development Plan Objective ED 3-5 commercial wind energy development is open to consideration in so far as, it can be demonstrated the proposed

development can avoid adverse impacts on residential amenity, urban areas and town green belts, Natura 2000 Sites, Natural Heritage Areas, architectural and archaeological heritage, and visual quality of the landscape.

- **Landscape Characteristics** – the proposed development is located within three landscape character types (valleyed marginal middleground, fissured marginal and forested rolling upland, and ridged and peaked upland) ranging between high landscape value and medium landscape value.
- **Scenic Routes** – the prospective applicant highlighted the most southern part of the proposed development site is characterised as high value landscape with landscape sensitivity and designated scenic routes in proximity. The proposed wind farm will be visible from some parts of the scenic route. It is the objective of the prospective applicant to protect the characteristics of scenic routes and examine how the proposed development interacts with the site by carrying out a comprehensive land visual impact assessment.
- **Current Stage of Project** – the prospective applicant is currently looking in detail at the turbine delivery route, grid route and carrying out the Design Iteration 2 process.
- **Consultation** – the prospective applicant sent information to prescribed bodies and is currently at EIAR scoping stage in the process and hence, are engaging in meaningful consultation over Design Iterations with a view to set up formal consultation meetings.
- **Public Consultation** – the prospective applicant undertook door to door community engagement in July and December, 2019. A number of local community groups have also been consulted (Ballinagree Community Development Group, IRD Duhallow, local fisheries group). Furthermore, the prospective applicant has set up an online website www.innovision.ie/ballinagree with a virtual consultation room to facilitate public consultation.
- **Turbine Delivery Route** – the preferred turbine delivery route is from Foynes along the N72 and on to R583 to the proposed development site. A detailed desktop assessment will be carried out to identify the route and any constraints.

This may be subject to change as and when travel restrictions are eased and an onsite assessment of the route can be carried out.

- **Grid Route Options** – the prospective applicant discussed a range of grid route options from Option A – Option G. The prospective applicant is focusing more on underground routes as opposed to overhead lines with Clashavoon the preferred option at present.
- **Natura 2000 Sites** – The proposed development is not within any Natura 2000 sites. However, directly adjacent to the proposed development is Blackwater SAC and Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA.
- **Archaeology** – there are 13 no. recorded archaeological monuments within the proposed development boundary and 5 no. significant Bronze Age ritual sites (stone circles and stone rows) in or in proximity to the proposed development.
- **Visual Impact** – the prospective applicant presented a number of different viewpoints from scenic routes in and in proximity to the proposed development.

Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

- The Board's representatives stated the preliminary view is that the proposed development would constitute a strategic infrastructure development, as it meets the requirements outlined in section 37A and B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.
- The Board referred to existing wind farm developments within the area and requested the prospective applicant to prepare additional maps with viewpoints that show existing wind turbines in the area in conjunction with wind turbines for the proposed development.
- The Board's representatives highlighted the importance of the scenic routes and landscape sensitivities of the proposed development site and advised a robust argument should be made to show that the proposed development can proceed without compromising this. The Board advised that alternative Design Iterations

in terms of the scenic routes would be useful to communicate how the impact of the proposed development has been addressed.


- The Board enquired if the proposed transport route is coming through Millstreet and if there are a number of houses on approach to the development site. The prospective applicant said the transport route turns before Millstreet onto L1123 and there are a number of houses on approach to the proposed site which will be taken into consideration. Several transport options are being considered by the prospective applicant.
- The Board's representatives noted biodiversity, hydrology and geology concerns relating to the proposed development site and stressed a robust argument should be made.
- The Board also enquired about noise levels and if there are any sensitivity receptors for the proposed development. The prospective applicant stated they are in the middle of background noise modeling and a key consideration is the existing Boggeragh Wind Farm to the north of the proposed site. The prospective applicant said they are consulting the 2019 Draft Guidelines and will be able to demonstrate that they can comply with the guidelines.
- The Board advised the prospective applicant to be mindful of the impacts to the climate, air quality and carbon footprint of the proposed development as a whole.
- The Board's representatives clarified the current legislative position for making the proposed development. The Board set out where the electricity infrastructure proposed is an integral component of the section 37 development application and not development in its own right, the Board is happy to consider the proposed development collectively under one application, subject to the prospective applicant's justification for same. The Board stressed it is ultimately the decision of the prospective applicant to make if they will proceed with a single application under section 37 dealing with both elements collectively or two separate applications under section 37 and section 182. The prospective applicant informed the Board they may not have all landowner consents at the outset and may need to make two separate applications.

- The prospective applicant said they are considering applying for planning permission of an indefinite duration for the operation of the proposed development and if so they would put in a decommissioning plan with the application. The Board said this would be something to discuss at a later meeting.

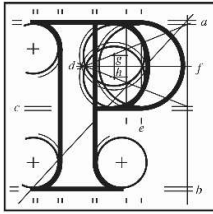
Conclusion:

The Board stated its preliminary opinion that the proposed development would constitute strategic infrastructure.

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant once it is finalised and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so or at the time of a further meeting. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board when it requires a further meeting.



Rachel Kenny
Director of Planning



An
Bord
Pleanála

Record of Meeting ABP-306948-20 2nd meeting

Case Reference / Description	ABP-306948-20 Construction of up to 24 wind turbines and associated works at Ballinagree, Co. Cork		
Case Type	Pre-application consultation		
1st / 2nd / 3rd Meeting	2 nd		
Date	03/12/20	Start Time	11 a.m.
Location	Virtual	End Time	12.30 p.m.

Representing An Bord Pleanála
Staff Members
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Patricia Calleary, Senior Planning Inspector
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer
Representing the Prospective Applicant
Michael O'Connor, Coillte
Fiona Maxwell, Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd
Sinead O'Malley, Coillte
Jim Hughes, Fehily Timoney
Trevor Byrne, Fehily Timoney
Richard Barker, Macroworks
Tony Cummins, John Cronin

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

Presentation by the prospective applicant:

The prospective applicant set out the nature and extent of the proposed development. Referring to the fact that a 19-wind turbine layout was presented at the previous pre-application consultation meeting, the prospective applicant said that, following further project assessment, a 21-wind turbine layout is now being currently progressed. The prospective applicant said that associated works include a 110kV on-site substation and connection to the national grid and the preferred connection is likely to be an underground cable connection to the existing Clashavoon 220kV substation. The existing Ballyvouskill 220kV substation has also been considered.

With respect to relevant planning legislation and policy, the prospective applicant referred to Objective ED 3-5 of the current Cork County Development Plan whereby the subject site is designated as 'Open to Consideration'. The prospective applicant also referred to the landscape character type which pertains to the subject site. The majority of the subject site consists of 'Ridged and Peaked Upland' and the prospective applicant noted Objective GI 7-2 of the current Cork County Development Plan which relates to the protection of scenic routes in the vicinity of the subject site (namely Routes 18, 19 and 20). The prospective applicant noted that none of the three scenic routes in question are designated as high landscape value, but acknowledged that they have to be protected nonetheless. With respect to the scenic routes and general amenity of the area, the prospective applicant noted that the north-west parcel of the subject site has been left free of proposed turbines and it also noted the fact that efforts have been made to lessen the visibility of proposed turbines in the northern area of the subject site generally, with particular regard to Scenic Route S20. The prospective applicant said that a reverse ZTV process was employed in order to assist design refinement in this regard so as to contain the visibility of proposed turbines where possible. In response to the Board's representatives request for clarification on the matter, the prospective applicant

confirmed that the area in question remains designated as 'Open to Consideration' in the current Cork County Development Plan.

With regard to the proposed turbine delivery route, the prospective applicant said that this will start from Foynes Port and traverse the Limerick to Mallow and Mallow to Millstreet routes. The approach is proposed to be from the R582 near Millstreet and thereafter will continue south east along local roads to the proposed site entrance. The prospective applicant said that it has completed further analysis along the proposed delivery route as regards potential pinchpoints and it has also assessed any required landtake to facilitate the delivery of component parts.

With respect to the proposed grid connection to facilitate the proposed development, the prospective applicant noted five options being considered at the time of its previous meeting with the Board. It said that it has narrowed this down now to three options and that ecological analysis and walkovers have been conducted with regard to this. The prospective applicant added that preferred water-crossing methodologies have also been established.

The prospective applicant referred to existing neighbouring wind farms in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm. These include the Carraigcannon Wind Farm and the Pluckanes Wind Farm. The closest existing wind farm will be the Boggeragh wind farm.

With regard to European Sites in proximity to the proposed wind farm, the prospective applicant said that the most proximate sites are the Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA and the Blackwater River SAC.

The hydrological features which are relevant to the subject site and vicinity were referred to by the prospective applicant. Aquatic surveys have been carried out which include analysis of impacts on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. In terms of civil, structural and geotechnical design, the prospective applicant said that the proposed turbines have been sited following consideration of existing ground conditions in order to minimise the risk of turbine foundation failure, toppling and landslide occurrence. The prospective applicant added that detailed peat probing will be carried out as part of overall site investigations and that slope stability analysis will be carried out for proposed turbines located on sloped ground. With respect to peat probing, the prospective applicant reported that site walkovers have been conducted

at preliminary turbine locations and that the locating of turbines in peat areas has been avoided where possible. The average peat depth across the subject site generally, as recorded to date, is less than two metres. The Board's representatives noted the design risk register which has been compiled with regard to the project and the design engineering employed therein. The Board's representatives emphasised to the prospective applicant the importance of being cognisant of matters such as temporary, ancillary and enabling works, as well as main construction works, with regard to the subject site which is undulating in nature. The prospective applicant noted this point and said that the design risk register is an evolving mechanism in this regard and will be subject to further iteration. With regard to the matter of peat stability generally, the Board's representatives also recommended further analysis and robust testing, including shear vane testing for establishment of soil strength characteristics. The Board's representatives said that it would wish to receive a full profile in this regard with respect to matters such as the amount of peat present on the subject site and the proposed removal of peat as part of any planning application.

In relation to the matter of archaeology, the prospective applicant noted for the record recent consultations with the Cork County Council Heritage Officer. The prospective applicant referred to known archaeological sites which are relevant within the overall landholding which has a notable concentration of Bronze Age sites; archaeological points of interest include stone circles, stone rows, a country house, a ringfort and a cairn. The prospective applicant provided aerial and ground view images of Stone Circle C049-007 and Stone Circle C049-008 and outlined their location with respect to the proposed wind turbines. The prospective applicant also provided images of the aforementioned country house (C0049-021) and the ringfort (C0049-022) which are located at the southern end of the landholding in question. Images were also presented with regard to Stone Rows C0049-020 and C0049-019, as well as Standing Stone (C0049-002) and remains of the Cairn in question (C049-064). The prospective applicant said that there are no planned works within a 200-metre radius of an archaeological site, but acknowledged that some indirect impacts will arise. The prospective applicant said that design work is on-going with respect to the wider landscape and with regard to monuments in the study area with particular sensitivities. The prospective applicant also referred to preliminary

discussions which have taken place with the Cork County Council Archaeologist which have included preliminary proposals for a heritage trail to access archaeological features of interest in the area.

With respect to its Landscape Visual Impact Assessment, the prospective applicant presented preliminary viewpoint locations and also provided some sample photomontages to illustrate its design approach (including views from Scenic Route S18, views from Scenic Route S20 and a sample view from Ballinagree Village).

In relation to its current intended timeline for the project generally, the prospective applicant said that it is currently at Design Iteration Stage 2 with Design Iteration Stage 3 intended to commence in the first quarter of 2021. At the present time, the prospective applicant's intention is to lodge the planning application circa Quarter 2 2021.

Lastly, the prospective applicant referred to consultations with relevant stakeholders to date. Consultations are on-going with bodies such as Eirgrid, the ESB, Irish Water and with representatives of Cork County Council. With respect to community engagement, the prospective applicant reported that door-to-door visits have been conducted, as well as consultations with local politicians and community groups in the vicinity of the subject site. A project website (with a virtual community consultation room) has been set up and the EIAR Scoping Report has been circulated with some responses received to date. The prospective applicant also stated its intention to conduct a follow-up meeting with the Cork County Council Archaeologist, as well as pursuing a formal meeting with representatives of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

Board's additional comments/questions:

With respect to a meeting between the prospective applicant and the NPWS, the Board's representatives emphasised the importance of pursuing such consultations. The prospective applicant noted this point and said that it has been experiencing difficulties in getting a meeting with this body.

With regard to the proposed grid connection to serve the proposed development, the Board asked the prospective applicant if this will form part of the forthcoming application. The prospective applicant replied that it has not made a final decision on this matter yet, but that, if it decides to include this particular element, then it will be doing so as part of a single section 37E application to the Board.

With regard to the matter of noise impacts arising from the proposed development, the prospective applicant said that all noise monitoring has been completed and, again, it noted its current intention to lodge the subsequent planning application circa Quarter 2 2021. The prospective applicant said that it does not know if the new Wind Energy Guidelines will be published by that time, but it noted for the record the fact that a detailed noise curtailment strategy has already been carried out for the proposed development, as well as a substantial amount of modelling. The prospective applicant said that it will demonstrate compliance with the new guidelines if they are published prior to the lodgement of the planning application; it added that it will deal with worse-case scenarios and will future-proof the project as best as possible.

The Board's representatives also reminded the prospective applicant to deal with topics such as land as a standalone topic (as per the amending EIA Directive) and major accidents as part of its EIAR to accompany the planning application.

With regard to the amenities of the area and archaeological points of interest, the Board's representatives enquired as to whether the prospective applicant intends to include a community benefit, such as the aforementioned heritage trail, as part of its planning application. The prospective applicant replied that this would be its intention.

In response to the Board's query on the matter, the prospective applicant said that hen harrier activity in the general area of the subject site is quite low. It added that it has gathered a substantial amount of data with respect to matters such as breeding grounds and flight-lines generally.

Noting the amount of studies done and data compiled to date, the Board reminded the prospective applicant to ensure that all data and information is up-to-date at the time of the lodgement of the planning application.

Conclusion:

The Board's representatives advised that a further meeting can be facilitated if so required by the prospective applicant.

The onus is on the prospective applicant to either request a further meeting with the Board or to request formal closure to the instant pre-application process.

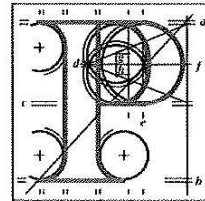
The meeting concluded at 12.30 p.m.

Ciara Kellett

Assistant Director of Planning

Our Case Number: ABP-306948-20

Your Reference: Ballinagree Wind DAC (for and on behalf of Coillite CGA and Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited).



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Eamon Hutton
Fehily Timoney
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
Co. Cork

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution

ETH

11 JUN 2021

Job No:

2

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Date: 10th June 2021

Re: The construction of up to 24 wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid.
Ballinagree, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to acknowledge your letter of the 9th June 2021, highlighting the name change of the prospective applicant to Ballinagree Wind Farm DAC (for and on behalf of Coillite CGA and Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited).

The contents of your letter have been noted.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-873 7250

AA03

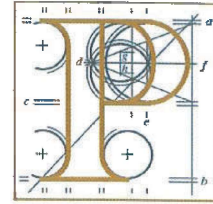
Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaao Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Our Case Number: ABP-306948-20

Your Reference: Ballinagree Wind DAC (for & on behalf of Coillte
CGA and Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited)



**An
Bord
Pleanála**

Eamon Hutton
Fehily Timoney
Core House
Pouladuff Road
Cork
Co. Cork

Date: 20 August 2021

Re: The construction of up to 24 wind turbines, 110kV on-site substation and associated connection to the national grid.
Ballinagree, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board hereby serves notice under section 37B(4)(a) that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a) and (b) of the Act. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Any application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Board considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed.

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

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board 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 attachment contains information in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

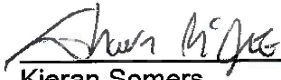
Tell	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Kieran Somers
Executive Officer
Direct Line: 01-8737250

PC09

Teil
Glaó Áitiúil
Facs
Láithreán Gréasáin
Ríomhphost

Tel
LoCall
Fax
Website
Email

(01) 858 8100
1890 275 175
(01) 872 2684
www.pleanala.ie
bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street
Dublin 1
D01 V902

ABP-306948-20

The following is a schedule of prescribed bodies considered relevant by the Board:

- Cork County Council
- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications
- Minister for Transport
- Southern Regional Assembly
- Irish Water
- Inland Fisheries Ireland
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- The Heritage Council
- An Taisce
- An Chomhairle Ealaíon
- Fáilte Ireland
- Irish Aviation Authority
- Health & Safety Authority
- Office of Public Works

Marie Geary

From: Kieran Somers <K.Somers@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Thursday 25 November 2021 09:36
To: Eamon Hutton
Subject: RE: P2114 - Ballinagree Wind Farm - Ref. 306948

Thanks for that Eamon.

If you have any further questions on the procedures, let me know please.

The reporting inspector has come back to me to advise that your proposed scale of drawings is fine.

Kind regards

Kieran

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Thursday 25 November 2021 09:32
To: Kieran Somers <K.Somers@pleanala.ie>
Subject: RE: P2114 - Ballinagree Wind Farm - Ref. 306948

Hi Kieran,

Many thanks for your response. The intention is to submit by the end of this year so we are now looking towards the procedures around the submission.

I will forward you the public notice once drafted. And hopefully I will be able to provide an approx. submission date once we have better clarity on the submission.

Thanks,
Eamon Hutton

From: Kieran Somers <K.Somers@pleanala.ie>
Sent: Thursday 25 November 2021 09:25
To: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Subject: RE: P2114 - Ballinagree Wind Farm - Ref. 306948

Hi Eamon.

I will ask the reporting inspector for advice on the scale of drawings etc. and revert to you on that when received.

The number of copies required is as follows:

Board – 2 hard copies and 8 electronic copies

Planning Authority – 5 hard copies and 5 electronic copies

Can I enquire please as to when it is the applicant's intention to lodge the application? We would wish to see draft public notice on this in advance please so that we can advise on any preocedural matters.

Kind regards

Kieran

From: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 24 November 2021 16:35
To: Kieran Somers <K.Somers@pleanala.ie>
Cc: SIDS <sids@pleanala.ie>
Subject: P2114 - Ballinagree Wind Farm - Ref. 306948

Hello Kieran,

I am writing to you in relation to the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm SID application (ref. 306948). We are currently in the process of preparing drawings for the proposal and I was hoping I could confirm drawing scales for the 'site layout plans' for the purpose of the submission.

As the proposed development is located over a large area and would result in a significant number of sheets at 1:500, we are requesting permission to submit site layout plans at a scale of 1:2500, and then include 1:500 plans of key areas such as site access points, compounds, turbine hardstandings, etc. Would this be permissible?

We also wish to confirm the number of physical copies and electronic copies to be sent to ABP and to the local authority. Previously we have been advised the following:

- 3 hard copies and 7 digital copies to ABP.
- 5 hard copies and 2 digital copies to the LA.

We note the list of prescribed bodies received from ABP 20/08/2021 and trust that this has not changed.

Kind regards,
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton
Senior Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773
t: +353 21 496 4133
www.fehilytimoney.ie



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CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE
& PLANNING

APPENDIX 5.4

Community Report



Community Report

Ballinagree Wind Farm

Co. Cork

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1 INTRODUCTION

FuturEnergy Ireland and Ørsted Ireland (together, the Developer) are seeking planning permission from An Bord Pleanála to construct and operate a 20 turbine wind farm project on lands at Ballinagree in Co. Cork.

The co-development partners commenced active engagement with the local community in Summer 2019 during the early stages of project design. The objective was to ensure the views and concerns of all members of the local community were considered as part of the project design and the Environmental Impact Assessment process.

National guidance on community engagement and consultation for wind energy developments is set out under the *Wind Energy Development Guidelines* (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2006) and states:

“While it is not a mandatory requirement, it is strongly recommended that developers of a wind energy project should engage in active consultation and dialogue with the local community at an early stage in the planning process, ideally prior to submitting a planning application.”

This was further addressed in the *Preferred Draft Approach to Wind Energy Development in Ireland* (June 2017), which stated the following in respect to planning applications for wind farms:

“Planning applications must contain a Community Report prepared by the applicant which will specify how the final proposal reflects community consultation. The Community Report must also outline steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned.”

The *Draft Revised Wind Energy Guidelines* (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2019) has retained this position, stating the following:

“In order to promote the observance of best practice, planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application and a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report.”

This Community Report outlines the engagement and liaison with the community local to the area of the proposed wind farm.

2 BACKGROUND

Coillte Renewable Energy (now FuturEnergy Ireland) and Ørsted Ireland have a long history of working with local communities across the country. This experience has generated an inherent understanding of the communities in which we operate. We aspire to work with the communities surrounding our renewable energy sites to build projects that are good for us as commercial companies, good for our neighbours, and that contribute to meeting national and global climate change objectives.

The project developers have developed a large number of wind farms in Ireland over the past decade and have learnt many valuable lessons in relation to working with local communities and the importance of including local people in decisions that affect them. Following a review of our Community Engagement process, a fresh, people-centred approach was adopted, which we refer to as our “Fair Play” model.

The key elements of this approach are:

- Detailed and systematic engagement with all close neighbours to the project (within 3 km of Ballinagree Wind Farm) from a very early stage of project design.
- Open, transparent dialogue and communications.
- Create opportunities for two-way dialogue on key issues.
- Involve local community at all stages of the project design process.
- Empower local communities to be part of project discussions that affect them.
- Ensure local community have access to all relevant information as soon as it is available, in a format that is easy to understand.

This approach emphasises a focus on the residents of dwellings within 3km of the initial 24 turbine layout as these residents will be closest to the development and will therefore be most sensitive to any potential impacts. In the past, engagement commenced when the project was almost fully designed and prepared for planning submission. In our ‘Fair Play’ model, we start engagement in the early stages of layout development. The approach also recognises the need to keep people further away from the development informed about the project as details become more defined.

In order to build better projects, the Developers recognise the imperative of enabling meaningful engagement between the project team and local residents. This engagement has to go beyond mere information provision, and through open, transparent dialogue move towards a more collaborative approach to infrastructure design that is of national interest yet has the potential to have a local impact.

What are the benefits of the “Fair Play” approach?

- Actively engaging in the conversation helps raise awareness and provides insight that can ensure successful project outcomes for everyone.

- Active and open dialogue with our community stakeholders is essential for the success of our projects. It is through two-way dialogue that the Developers can responsibly partner with local communities.
- The Developer is committed to strengthening partnerships with local communities.
- Public support is achieved by actively working with communities towards mutually desirable goals. Meaningful communication with stakeholders creates trust and mutual respect, as well as a shared understanding and vision of what a successful project can look like.
- Timely, proactive, open and honest communication is a cornerstone of our Engagement Charter. This approach helps to minimise possible adverse impacts on our neighbours and instead helps to achieve positive social, economic and environmental outcomes.
- In line with national policy, the Developers are committed to meaningful consultation, which brings about constructive local dialogue, as well as mutual trust and understanding.

3 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT RESOURCES

In order to implement this 'Fair Play' approach, the Developer has resourced this project with a number of dedicated staff from the outset. The following key personnel have been involved in Community Engagement on the Ballinagree Project:

John Lyons and David Eves are the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) for the project. John and David's role is to ensure project communications are distributed to the local community and act as the main point of contact for the community to discuss any queries or concerns that they might have. John spent 40 years in forestry and worked in Coillte since its formation, leading forest engineering operations. He brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and relationships to the project in his role as Community Liaison Officer. David has over 15 years' planning and environmental management experience within the Irish renewable energy industry, and has been involved with some of the largest wind and solar projects in the country at both planning and construction stages.

Kieran O'Malley is FuturEnergy Ireland's Project Manager for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm development. Kieran brings extensive experience having worked as a civil and environmental engineer for over 24 years including 13 years consenting and developing over 800 MW of renewable energy projects, mostly onshore wind.

Fiona Maxwell is Ørsted Ireland Project Manager for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm. A native of Tipperary, Fiona brings extensive experience in renewable energy development, having been involved at all stages of major energy projects, from initial concept and planning application through to construction and ongoing operation.

Anne Walsh is Coillte's Stakeholder Manager for the Ballinagree Project. Anne has worked on both large and small-scale electricity generation projects throughout Ireland for over 25 years and has been involved in the establishment of a successful community recreation project in Sliabh Bawn, a Coillte-operating wind farm in Co. Roscommon.

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) is a leading Irish engineering, environmental science and planning consultancy with offices in Cork, Dublin and Carlow. FT leads a multidisciplinary team appointed in January 2020 to carry out studies, design and preparation of the planning application and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm. FT has wide-ranging experience in all aspects of the feasibility assessment, environmental impact assessment, planning, design and construction of wind farms and other energy-related projects. The practice was established in Cork in 1990 and has around 70 staff, including engineers, scientists, planners and technical support. FT delivers projects in Ireland and internationally in its core competency areas of environment and energy, waste management, civil infrastructure, planning and Geographical Information Systems, and data management.

4 SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CARRIED OUT

John Lyons and David Eves were appointed as the Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) for the project in April 2019. The Developer emphasises a focus on the residents of dwellings within 3km of the site as these are closest and most sensitive to any potential effects caused by the proposed development. The 3km zone was identified by taking the initial developable area layout and applying a 3km buffer. Within this area all dwellings, lived in, vacant and with the potential to be occupied, were mapped. As the design progressed, a “buildable” or more accurate developable area was established. This defined 3km area was used as the basis for continuous engagement with near neighbours.

Initial engagement:

Engagement began in August 2019, when both CLOs worked together calling to all houses within the 3km zone (207 houses) with the first leaflet. This was before any detailed design work.

It was considered important to give out the accurate, up-to-date information in print to each household in a timely manner, within about three days, ensuring all local households received this at the same time. CLOs were on hand to discuss any queries, comments or concerns that residents may have had with regard to the project and to take back queries and concerns to the project managers. These initial conversations and questions highlighted items that helped to inform the second newsletter.

The CLOs also worked on Saturdays and some evenings in an effort to meet residents unavailable during weekdays. The project team made arrangements to talk with some local residents individually at their request and also met with a couple of smaller groups.

A second project newsletter was distributed in December 2019. This contained a map of the ‘developable area’ and information on environmental assessments being undertaken.

A low-call number and project email address were created to aid communications. These were subsequently included in all project leaflets.

Project information and newsletters were issued to the elected representatives in the area and to representatives of local community groups at the same time.

All communications issued contained contact details for members of the project team. Householders were invited to make contact if they had concerns or questions. Any significant issues raised at the doors and all issues raised in correspondence were followed up by the project managers.

Prepared notes were left in the letterboxes in cases where nobody was found to be at home on more than one of the calls, explaining that we had called again. Contact details were provided for the householder to make contact if they wished. Householders were told how they would be kept informed in future, as far as possible, as well as how to contact the project team with any queries.

The project team succeeded in meeting with approx. 95% of households within 3km. The balance of houses were written to with an invite to contact the team if they wished.

A project website was also launched in February 2020 and all materials circulated up to then in the local area were uploaded to this site. The project website also included contact details for any queries.

Next Phase Engagement:

Newsletter 3 issued in June 2020 and was a comprehensive 24-page document. This included information about the site and the proposed development, site layout map and information on the Community Benefit Scheme. It also included information on the planning process, the site design process, information on key aspects of the environmental studies and some of the environmental benefits associated with the proposed project and next steps. The leaflet was posted out to properties within the 3km zone due to Covid-19 restrictions.

A project update letter and questionnaire were delivered to all households in Sept 2020 by the CLOs. This asked residents if they had an interest in online communications. A limited number expressed interest, 7 in all, and provided relevant details. These were then contacted directly by the project manager. This satisfied their demand for information and opened a direct line of communications with the householders which they were happy to continue with.

In December 2020, Newsletter 4 was hand-delivered by the CLOs and included detailed information on the Design Iteration 2 process including an updated 21 turbine layout map.

In April 2021, a project update letter was delivered to all households. Due to Covid 19 restrictions this was carried out by Allhomes, a leaflet distribution service. The letter gave an update on the project timeline and also invited submissions on the draft Government document “Good Practice Principles Handbook for Community Benefit Funds”.

In August 2021, a detailed 24-page project leaflet (Newsletter 5) with final 20 turbine layout map was hand delivered by the CLOs to the vast majority of homes within a wider **5km** zone.

At all stages of the consultation process, individual calls and emails received by the project were responded to either in person, by phone or by email as they arose.

Engagement with local political representatives:

In parallel with the general community engagement, all local councillors and TDs were kept updated and each of the above representatives were given copies of all Newsletters and correspondence that issued to the houses in the 3km and 5km areas as outlined in Table 3.

The Ballinagree Wind Farm site is in the heart of the Cork North West Constituency, represented by 3 sitting TDs. The site is also located within the Macroom Municipal District. This Municipal District is represented by 6 councillors.

In Sept 2020, individual letters were issued to each representative by the Project Manager, providing them with relevant information of interest for them.

In April 2021, an on-line Webinar was held for the Macroom Municipal District as part of their monthly meeting. Five of the six councillors attended as well as some local Council staff, both engineers and administration. The format was a presentation by the project Developers outlining key aspects of the project followed by a questions and answers session.

Online virtual tour and information platform:

Covid-19 restrictions prevented an in-person public consultation event, however an informative online virtual presentation was developed with the assistance of Innovision, a virtual platform specialist. The virtual tour went live in June 2020 and is accessible from the project website homepage, <https://www.innovision.ie/ballinagree>.

The virtual presentation included an introductory video from the Project Managers, Turbine Layout map, detailed information on Archaeology and Cultural Heritage assessments, Ecology Field Surveys, Noise assessment, Photomontages, Aquatic Ecology and all project information issued to date. The virtual tour was updated in August 2021 in advance of the issue of the final design layout.

Advertorials:

Advertorials notifying the public about the recent distribution of the fifth newsletter and the updated virtual tour were placed in the relevant local papers, i.e. the Southern Star, The Corkman and the Lee Valley magazine in early September. The advertorials included key information about the proposed scheme and included the project website where people were invited to go for more information.

Webinar:

As an in-person open event was not possible due to Covid-19 restrictions, the project team hosted a Community Information webinar in October 2021. An advert for the webinar, which included contact details and how to register, was published in The Corkman and The Southern Star newspapers and Lee Valley Magazine. Similar information was also included in Local Parish newsletters in Ballinagree and Kilcorney. Information posters were also placed in the Ballinagree Post Office and in local shop windows in Ballinagree Village and Rylane Village, which included details of the webinar and Community Liaison Officer contact details. A hard copy of the webinar presentation was available for anyone who could not attend the webinar, or anyone who wanted a copy of the presentation.

Community Groups:

Table 1 below sets out a list of community groups and organisations generally located or representing areas within 3km of the proposed project. These groups received all the same information as the local householders and there were various contacts and discussions with many of these as queries arose.

Table 2 has a list of groups in the wider area that were included in circulation of the final Newsletter 5.

Table 1 - Local Community Groups within the 3km

Ballinagree Development Company
Aubane Social Club
IRD, Duhallow, CEO + Env Committee
Macroom District Environmental Group
Church, Ballinagree

Ballinagree National School
Macroom and District Trout/Fly Anglers Association
Macroom and District Gun Club
Aghinagh Macra
Aghinagh Comhaltas
Millstreet.ie
Ryane Community Park Development Group
Rylane Gun Club
Rylane Muintir na Tire and Community Alert
Conor Kelleher, Ecologist and bat expert.
Launa Valley Carriage Club

Table 2 - Groups in the Wider Area

Kilcorney Development Group
Kilcorney National School
Rylane National School
LTV Services Ltd, Carriganimma
Bawnmore Play and Learn Playschool
Muinefliuch National School
Millstreet Country Park

A summary of all community engagement is set out in Table 3 below.

Table 3 – Summary of Community Engagement for Ballinagree Wind Farm (2019 to 2021)

Date	Engagement
April 2019	Two Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) were appointed to work part-time on this project.
August 2019	<p>Newsletter 1 was delivered to over 200 properties within 3km by the 2 CLO's working together (see Section 9.1). This involved door knocks, and call backs to houses where nobody was at home. Notes left where direct contact failed, with a phone number for contact purposes.</p> <p>A dedicated project low-call number and email went live.</p>
December 2019	Newsletter 2 was delivered door to door again by the CLOs (see Section 9.1). This included evening and weekend calls to premises where nobody was at home during the day, in an effort to reach out to all.
January & February 2020	<p>A dedicated project website was launched to facilitate communications locally and with the wider public: https://www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie/.</p> <p>This provided information on project design, studies being carried out and expected timelines. It also included the CLOs' contact details, and copies of the two Newsletters issued. Householders were invited to monitor the website for updates.</p>
12 th March 2020	Initial Covid-19 restrictions are put in place nationally.
April 2020	In an effort to get in touch with the small number of remaining houses (c.5%) within the 3km zone where CLOs were unable to make contact, targeted letters were posted to these remaining households (See Section 9.2).
June 2020	<p>Newsletter 3 was delivered by An Post this time due to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on the movements of CLOs. This included a cover letter to explain this (see Section 9.1).</p> <p>Queries were addressed by CLOs and Project Managers and meetings arranged to discuss issues and concerns, subject to compliance with Covid-19 Regulations / Guidance in place at the time.</p> <p>An online virtual presentation was launched adding further to the information available to the public at large – https://www.innovision.ie/ballinagree.</p>
September 2020	A project update letter was issued, with a question to residents asking who would be interested in engaging in online communications due to current Covid-19 restrictions (see Section 9.3). This was hand delivered by CLOs in branded envelopes and contained a stamped addressed

	return envelope for responses. A letter also issued to political reps (see Section 9.4).
December 2020	Newsletter 4 was hand delivered by CLO's to all houses within 3km zone (see Section 9.1).
April 2021	An information update letter was issued along with Community Benefit information to local residents and local Community Groups and political representatives (see Section 9.5).
April 2021	The Developer joined Municipal District Council monthly, meeting to present on the project and answer any questions.
August 2021	The Virtual Tour was updated on the website to provide further information in lieu of project open evening(s) due to Covid-19 restrictions.
August & September 2021	Newsletter 5 was hand delivered by CLO's to most homes within a 5km zone of the project site, roughly 550 houses (see Section 9.1).
2 nd September 2021	An advertorial, " <i>Ballinagree Wind Farm prepares to submit planning application</i> " was published in the Corkman and Southern Star newspapers as well as in the local Lee Valley Magazine in an effort to reach as many as possible in the wider area (see Section 9.6).
30 th September 2021	<p>Public was notified of a Community Webinar scheduled for 7th October. This was advertised in in the Corkman, Southern Star newspapers and the Lee Valley Magazine on 30th September (see Section 9.7).</p> <p>Information posters were also placed in a shop window and the Post Office in Ballinagree village, Shop in Rylane and in Church Newsletters in Ballinagree and Kilcorney.</p> <p>Letters were posted to local Community Groups and political representatives. These included contact details as well as details of how to register.</p>
7 th Oct 2021	<p>The Community Webinar was held at 7pm, followed by a Q+A session.</p> <p>This resulted in follow-up calls/visits with individuals who raised questions (see Section 9.1).</p>

Table 4 sets out the number of occupied dwellings located within 3km of the proposed turbines.

Table 4 – Occupied Dwellings Within 3 km of Proposed Turbines

Distance from Turbines	No. of Dwellings	Cumulative Total
750 - 1000 m	18	18
1000 – 2000 m	123	141
2000 – 3000 m	66	207

A summary of the key issues raised during the course of engagement is set out in Table 5.

Table 5 – Summary of Key Issues Raised During Community Engagement

Topic	Issue Raised
Turbine Noise	<p>Potential effects on residential amenity.</p> <p>Potential effects on health associated with wind farm noise / low frequency noise / infrasound.</p> <p>How will the Developers ensure that the wind farm will not breach noise limits / impact upon residential amenity?</p> <p>How will the project be cumulatively assessed in terms of noise?</p>
Health Concerns	<p>How will the Developers ensure that there will be no health impacts associated with the operation of the wind farm?</p>
Visual Impact	<p>Negative impact on residential amenity - direct views from residents' homes (windows) to turbines.</p> <p>Scale of the turbines is very large.</p> <p>Why is the Ballinagree area being considered in the first place?</p> <p>Why is offshore / tidal not being used instead?</p> <p>Negative impact on Duhallow Way walking route.</p> <p>Will I be able to see what the proposed wind farm will look like from my property in advance of planning being submitted?</p> <p>Enough WFs in the locality already.</p> <p>Concerns over visual impact of red aviation lights at night-time.</p>
Local Concerns & Consultation Process	<p>How do the developers take on local concerns, and are these actually taken into consideration?</p>

	<p>Is this a genuine consultation process?</p> <p>How do the Developers respond to the accusation of community division and infringement on the rights of citizens to enjoy the residential amenity of their own homes?</p>
Archaeology & Local Heritage	<p>Potential negative impact upon St Johns well (Musheramore) and Musheramore Mountain.</p> <p>How will local heritage in the wider area be assessed?</p>
Shadow Flicker	<p>How can the Developers ensure that Shadow Flicker won't occur from the project?</p>
Disruption to Wi-Fi / TV signals	<p>How will the Developers ensure that the project won't impact on signals (Wi-Fi and TV) and how will this be rectified if any disruption occurs?</p>
Access to Wind Farm	<p>How will the Developers limit access to the wind farm once operational, will barriers be installed?</p> <p>Concerns over anti-social behaviour at night time.</p>
Who are the Developers / Landowners?	<p>Who are Ørsted, and why is the project being developed by two companies?</p> <p>Who are the local landowners involved in the project?</p>
How can I get involved in the project?	<p>Queries from local landowners as to how their lands could be utilised as part of the project, i.e. siting of a turbine or to be used as biodiversity enhancement lands.</p>
Construction Traffic and Noise	<p>Potential effects arising from use of local roads during construction – large trucks on narrow roads, how will this be managed and who is liable for any potential road damage?</p> <p>Will there be a liaison officer or point of contact person during construction phase?</p>
Grid Route	<p>Concerns over the grid route passing close to houses, and disruption during the construction phase.</p>
Property	<p>Potential effects of the project on property values in the area.</p> <p>Potential effects on ability to obtain planning permission for dwelling in the future.</p> <p>Will I be compensated for a loss of value to my property as a result of the construction / operation of the wind farm?</p>
Community Benefit Fund	<p>Questions around how the community benefit fund would be structured.</p> <p>Explain why the community benefit fund is needed? Is this just a bribe?</p> <p>How much will the community benefit fund be worth / when will it begin?</p>

Recreation	<p>Will there be a recreation aspect associated with the wind farm such as walking trails?</p> <p>Will there be an area for walking dogs, or a fenced area for dogs only?</p>
Water Quality	<p>Will there be disturbance to local groundwater / aquifers / water quality during construction phase / operational stage?</p> <p>Who will enforce regulations / monitor water quality? Who will be liable should a pollution incident occur?</p>
Ecology	<p>Will there be a negative impact upon local populations of Hen Harrier, Red Grouse and general local ecology and habitats?</p> <p>Negative feeling by some expressed towards Coillte Forestry / Coniferous forestry in the local area as being of no ecological value.</p> <p>Potential effects of turbines on horses.</p>
Bonds	<p>Who guarantees that the turbines will be removed at the end of the project?</p> <p>If the Developer goes bust during the project, who will pay to remove the turbines?</p>

These themes were discussed throughout the engagement process and were answered in a transparent and open manner as far as possible. Ultimately not all themes could be or were addressed to the satisfaction of all, but the project team remains open in trying to find fair and equitable solutions for all, including sharing information sources at our disposal. All of the above themes are also addressed clearly in the EIAR.

It is to be noted that the CLOs were treated with respect in the vast majority of cases, and while some neighbouring households were not pleased with what they were hearing, we were thanked at times for bringing the information to them. The long timeframe for this engagement has allowed people to digest what they were hearing, consult, discuss among themselves and reach out to the project team on any items that they felt needed further clarification.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions on public meetings, where requested further liaison/communication was carried out individually or in small groups outdoors in line with the applicable public health policy in place at the time. This allowed the project team to engage directly with local residents and address their concerns or queries regarding the project design, which was beneficial to all parties.

5 INFLUENCE OF ENGAGEMENT ON THE EVOLUTION OF THE WIND FARM DESIGN

As outlined in Section 4 above, the main concerns of local residents include impacts relating to wind turbine noise, visual impacts, shadow flicker and associated impacts on residential amenity, the structure of the Community Benefit Fund, ecological impacts, impacts on local archaeological features and impacts on telecommunication signals.

5.1 IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH NOISE AND VISUAL IMPACTS

Noise and visual impacts were addressed as part of the layout design process. A decision was made early in the design process to ensure that a minimum distance of 750m would be maintained between nearest dwellings and turbines. This is more than the current recommended setback of 500m as set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006. The setback of 750m also complies with the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019 which are not, as of the time of writing this report, official policy and may change in the final form. These draft guidelines recommend a minimum setback of 4 times the tip height of proposed turbines to protect residential amenity – this would equate to a minimum setback of 740 m based on proposed tip height of 185 m.

Various configurations and layouts were considered as part of the initial design considerations which included 24 turbine, 19 turbine and 21 turbine arrangements. Based on detailed visual impact assessment undertaken as part of the environmental impact assessment, a 20 turbine 179-185 m tip height layout was deemed to be the most suitable and provides a balance between efficient use of the project site area and consideration of visual impacts on the local and wider area. In the case of Ballinagree, designing a project layout that did not encroach onto the higher slopes of the Musheramore mountains was an overriding consideration from early in the design process. This was important feedback taken on board from 2019 community engagement as well as initial assessments from the project's Landscape and Visual consultant. Conversations with local residents ultimately resulted in potential development being removed from the upper slopes of Musheramore.

A number of residents requested images of what the wind farm would look like from their particular location. The photomontages prepared for the project are not intended to show the view from every dwelling but to be representative of local, regional and sensitive views in a wide area around the project. In these cases, where the photomontages did not cover a particular cluster of dwellings, informal images were prepared and issued to these residents to help them get a sense of what the project might look like from their location. Furthermore, within the Ballinagree Virtual Community Consultation room an interactive photomontage viewer presented 34 viewpoints where residents could judge the visual impact of the project from these selected locations; <https://innovision.s3.eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/Ballinagree/Output/index.html>

The 20 turbine layout was subject to a detailed noise impact assessment and it was determined that the proposed layout would meet the noise requirements set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 and relevant current guidance and best practice. The noise assessment also involved working with community members in order to compile the background noise levels where noise monitors were placed at local residences surrounding the project's Study Area.

A review of the literature relating to health effects associated with wind turbine noise finds no evidence of any significant health effects associated with low frequency noise or infrasound. There is no evidence to support increased likelihood of significant health issues associated with noise sensitive medical conditions.

Further details on this can be found in the Noise and Vibration Chapter, Population, Human Health and Material Assets Chapter and Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Chapter of the EIAR.

5.2 IMPACTS ASSOCIATED WITH SHADOW FLICKER

Concerns were raised directly with the CLOs from numerous households about the potential impact of shadow flicker from the turbines. Shadow flicker was considered as part of the environmental impact assessment process. The proposed layout can conform with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 of maximum 30 minutes of shadow flicker per day or 30 hours per annum at any sensitive receptor through the management of the turbine operations during periods when there is a potential for shadow flicker.

Further to this, in accordance with emerging best practice and the draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, the project is committed to elimination of shadow flicker through the daily management of turbine operations.

Further details on this can be found in the Shadow Flicker Chapter of the EIAR.

5.3 IMPACTS ON PROPERTY

Concerns were raised about potential impacts on property values surrounding the site area, both to the CLOs and the project team. There are a number of wide-ranging international studies that consider potential effects of wind farms on nearby property values. Based on our review of available papers, we have not identified any peer-reviewed evidence in Ireland that indicates wind farms have a significant impact on property value. In other parts of the world, the vast majority of studies indicate that there is no evidence to support the claim that a wind farm has a negative impact on local property prices.

Much of the research data emphasises the specific context of an individual wind farm, which makes engaging with local communities all the more important. The specific location, the quality of the community engagement programme and the level of net community gain in the form of a benefit fund and/or near neighbour scheme have been cited as important considerations.

Our community liaison team has explored the appetite for recreation facilities along with other local projects, which helps to increase community gain benefits. This is evident on other wind farm projects such as Mount Lucas Wind Farm, Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm and Galway Wind Park among others.

The Developers are committed to developing a Community Benefit Fund proposal, including a Near Neighbour Scheme, along with the potential for a Recreational Amenity Trails and Biodiversity Enhancement Areas to co-exist within the proposed development. The project team welcomes any input from members of the local community to help advance these proposals.

Impact on property values is discussed in further detail in the assessment of Population, Human Health and Material Assets Chapter of the EIAR.

5.4 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Concerns were raised with the CLOs regarding the structure and administration of any proposed Community Benefit Fund. The Ballinagree Community Benefit Fund will be designed and established based on RESS Community Benefit Fund Good Practice Principles as published by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication in July 2021. RESS (Renewable Electricity Support Scheme) is a policy initiative to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan and has specific requirements in relation to providing local support for those living close to wind farm developments. An important feature of RESS is that all projects must establish a Community Benefit Fund to be used for the wider

environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the local community. It is accepted that those living in closest proximity to the project should be priority beneficiaries and that is why some of the fund is designated for Near Neighbour payments. However, it is important that broader community benefits apply as well.

The scheme mandates all RESS projects to establish a Community Benefit Fund worth €2 per MWh (megawatt hour) of generated electricity for any future wind farm. Therefore, the project owners are required to contribute €2 per MWh annually into a community fund for the RESS contract period i.e. the first 15 years of operation. Further to this, the Developer commits to continue contributing to the Community Benefit Fund for the remaining duration of the project operation at a rate of at least €1 per MWh. The total fund per annum will depend on the final power output of a successful project.

The Ballinagree Wind Farm, if constructed as proposed, has the potential to produce more than 300,000 MWh of clean electricity a year. This means that the project could provide more than €600,000 per annum to the Community Benefit Fund, depending on the size of the permitted scheme and the wind resource which varies from year to year, for the first 15 years of its operational life.

RESS guidelines for the annual distribution of this fund are as follows:

- A minimum of €1,000 shall be paid to each household located within a distance of a 1 kilometre radius from the nearest turbine.
- A minimum of 40% of the funds shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13, including education, energy efficiency, sustainable energy and climate action initiatives.
- A maximum of 10% on administration.
- The balance of the funds shall be spent on initiatives successful in the annual application process, as proposed by clubs and societies and similar not-for profit entities, and in respect of Onshore Wind RESS 1 Projects, on “near neighbour payments” for households located outside a distance of 1 kilometre, but within a distance of 2 kilometres from such RESS 1 Project.

The Developer remains fully committed to facilitating an equivalent annual Community Benefit Fund if the project does not enter into or qualify under a future RESS process.

How the fund works

The Government’s ‘Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit Funds’ provides full details on how the fund is to be governed and requires local community participation in all decisions in regard to how the funding should be used. The fund is open to individuals, and not-for-profit groups such as community and voluntary groups, charities, social enterprises and clubs and societies. High quality administration, local where possible, is also a key expectation. Further details can be found at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5f12f-community-projects-and-benefit-funds-ress/>

It is envisaged that, should the project receive a positive planning outcome, the project team and the local community will work together to develop an appropriate local structure that would design the Ballinagree Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund. This group will make decisions on funding allocations and, with the assistance of an administrator, manage the fund, ensuring transparency and good governance.

5.5 IMPACTS ON LOCAL ECOLOGY

Concerns were raised about potential impacts on local ecology and habitats in the site area, both to the CLOs and the project team. Detailed site surveys and assessments were undertaken to consider potential impacts on all aspects of biodiversity including habitats, mammals, bats, birds, etc. The initial survey findings informed the layout design such that potentially sensitive areas were avoided in the initial layout design. More detailed surveys were undertaken following from the preliminary infrastructure layout designs and some amendments were made to the layout to avoid sensitive areas. Based on these assessments, it is considered that there will not be significant impacts on biodiversity in general and no further changes to the layout are required.

Significant ecological enhancements will also be provided throughout the wind farm site as set out in the Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan which includes over 300 hectares of improvement lands. Local community interests will be encouraged to contribute to a range of biodiversity initiatives which it is hoped will enhance the area, such as broadleaf planting in suitable areas, and these initiatives, with appropriate signage and access, can be used as an educational resource.

Further details on this can be found in the Biodiversity Chapter of the EIAR.

5.6 IMPACTS ON ARCHAEOLOGY

Concerns were raised at the beginning of the consultation process about potential impacts on local archaeological features. As is evident from OSI mapping, the Ballinagree area and the wider Macroom and Millstreet areas are rich in archaeology, and information on local traditions associated with the lands in the environs of the proposed wind farm was sought from the local community to include as part of the archaeological assessments. There are significant archaeological features in the South East of the project's study area, and careful assessment of turbine locations by the project archaeologist has taken place to ensure sensitivity to features and to maintain each monuments lines of visual alignment. The layout was also discussed with the Cork County Archaeologist,

Further details on this can be found in the Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage Chapter of the EIAR.

5.7 IMPACTS ON TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Concerns were raised directly with the CLOs about the potential impact on Wi-Fi / Television signals at certain properties which have a line of sight to transmitter towers. The Ballinagree project is being designed with all existing radio, internet and television receptions in mind and all telecommunications providers were consulted on the proposed layout. All telecommunications links in the area were avoided by design. The Developer commits to rectifying any issues with signal reception at individual dwellings if the need arises. This is uncommon with the new digital transmission format but the solutions are relatively simple and straightforward.

Further details on this can be found in the Telecommunication and Aviation Chapter of the EIAR.

6 POTENTIAL ENDURING BENEFITS OF THIS PROJECT

Ballinagree Wind Farm has the potential to bring significant positive benefit to the local community. The project will create sustainable local employment, contribute to local authority annual rates provide a local community benefit fund in line with the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme. The fund will remain in place for the duration of the project's RESS period providing direct funding to those areas surrounding the project.

6.1 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

There are two important Government policy developments that will have a bearing on the establishment of future community benefit funds. The first is the Renewable Energy Support Scheme, and its terms and conditions which have been published by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. The second is the updated Wind Energy Guidelines which have yet to be released. Both sets of policies specify Government requirements on future community benefit funds for renewable energy projects. The project partners confirm that these important policies will be fully adopted and integrated in our design and establishment of the Ballinagree Community Benefit Fund.

Based on RESS, for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €2 into a community fund for the RESS period i.e. 15 years of operation. Further to this, the Developer commits to continue contributing to the Community Benefit Fund for the remaining duration of the project operation at a rate of at least €1 per MWh. If this project is constructed as currently designed, we estimate that a total of approximately 15 million euro will be available in the local area for community funding over the operational period of the project. The above figure is indicative only and will be dependent on the generation capacity of the wind farm which is influenced by a number of factors including:

1. Number of wind turbines.
2. Capacity and availability of energy production of those turbines.
3. Quantity of wind.

6.2 COMMUNITY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY

What is meant by Community Investment?

The proposed Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) sets out that future renewable energy project proposals enable the possibility for local communities to invest in projects in a meaningful way as a means to directly gain from the financial dividends that a project can provide should it be consented, built and operated. In response to this, Coillte have been working hard with external agencies to develop workable models of Community Investment. At the time of writing, the details of a Community Investment Scheme continue to be worked through by the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. We look forward to its publication in due course and promoting this innovative offering to the community.

6.3 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

It is estimated that the proposed project will create over 120 jobs during the construction phase and over 35 jobs will be supported during the operational phase although the number of local jobs during operation stage will be low. During construction, additional employment will be created in the region through the supply of services and materials to the development. In addition to this, there will also be income generated by local employment from the purchase of local services i.e. travel and lodgings.

6.4 RECREATION

It is proposed to use the wind farm access tracks and existing forestry and farm tracks and paths as recreational amenity trails for community use. This includes the installation of associated signage and information boards, and the repurposing of the proposed temporary construction compound as a permanent trail-head car park and picnic area including landscaping.

7 ONGOING LIAISON AND CONTACT

A number of different phases have been detailed below with differing levels of engagement anticipated depending on the levels of project activity. Underpinning all of the engagement below will be a dedicated Community Liaison Officer for the project who is contactable by email and phone. These details will remain on the project website which will be in place for the duration of the project. As the project progresses, regular updates will be posted to this website.

Post Planning submission until 6 months pre-construction

During this period (12 -24 months) a number of key community related activities will continue to be progressed. The first is a participatory design process for the Ballinagree Community Benefit Fund (CBF). Approximately 6 months after the project has been submitted into the planning system the team will start a process of reaching out, initially to residents within the 3km zone and then slightly further afield, in order to bring together a small group of people who are interested in working on the design and structure of a community-based entity that would ultimately run this Community Benefit Fund. At the point at which the project receives a positive planning outcome this process will then start with a scoping exercise followed by a series of facilitated workshops. It is hoped that representatives involved in existing local development initiatives will be stakeholders in this process and will therefore contribute to this strategy.

The second piece of work is to explore the potential for Community Investment in the project as outlined in the new Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS). This will probably follow on from the CBF work stream and is predicated by the release of clear guidance on this from the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications.

Pre- Construction and Construction phase

Six months prior to the commencement of construction on the project we will initiate the set-up of a liaison group. The project will meet with this group on a monthly basis to prepare for the construction phase and monitor activities during construction. This group will develop plans on communicating effectively with residents directly impacted by construction activities and deliveries, especially traffic planning to minimise disruption.

The project will also engage with local suppliers prior to the construction phase in order to outline the project's future needs and promote the use of local suppliers and service providers wherever possible. This may take the form of a "meet the buyer" event.

Operational Phase

The project will continue with a proposed annual meeting with the liaison group to update the group on project performance and address any issues identified. The Community Liaison Officer will also be available throughout this period to directly address any issues raised by local residents. As stated above, the project website will also be maintained as a method of providing regular, up-to-date information on the project. There will be regular updates on performance of the community benefit fund and regular calls for proposals for funding.

Decommissioning Phase

A year prior to the commencement of decommissioning of the project, the project team will engage with the established liaison group as well as all residents within the 3km zone to outline the decommissioning plan and address any issues identified at that time.

8 CONCLUSION

As outlined throughout this Community Report, there has been engagement on the project throughout the planning design phase to date. We fully recognise, however, that the development of a proposed wind farm is a long and complex process and that there is ample time to jointly develop our community offerings with our near neighbours and other stakeholders, and we will be progressing these after the planning adjudication and decision phases should the project receive planning consent.

9 PROJECT LITERATURE

9.1 NEWSLETTERS AND WEBINAR

All of the newsletters and brochures and webinar information are accessible from the Latest News section of the project website at:

<https://www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie/>

9.2 APRIL 2020 TARGETED LETTER



Coillte Office
Hartnetts Cross
Macroon
Co. Cork
P12 XA50
14/04/2020

XXXXXX,
XXXXXX,
Macroon,
Co. Cork,
XXXXXX.

Dear Householder,

We, Coillte Renewable Energy and Brookfield Renewables, hope this correspondence finds you well. As communicated through previous community engagements in your area, we are currently looking at developing a wind resource in the locality. Please find enclosed our recent project information newsletter for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project which outlines further information.

We have been engaging in conversations and listening to everyone's opinions and ideas in the locality via door to door house calls since mid 2019. We have already met some of your neighbour's, but haven't called yet at the right time to meet you. We have previously called to your home on the 08.08.2019, 23.11.2019, 05.12.2019, 01.02.2020, 06.02.2020 and the 07.03.2020.

Once travel restrictions laid down to curtail the spread of the Covid-19 epidemic are lifted, we will endeavour to continue our face to face engagements and if there is a time that would suit you best, we would appreciate if you could email or call us on the below contact details and we will arrange a visit.

In the meantime please visit the projects website at www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie for further project information and updates.

Thank you for your time.

Kind Regards

John, David, Edwina and Michael,
Ballinagree Wind Farm Project Team,
1890 928740

ballinagreewindfarm@coillte.ie



9.3 SEPTEMBER 2020 UPDATE LETTER

Dear Homeowner,

September 2020

We hope that this note finds you and your family safe and well as we all continue to adjust to this new ‘normal’.

The 3rd Newsletter for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project was posted to households within c.3 km of the project’s Study Area in June 2020. Our preference would have been to deliver and discuss the information within the 3rd Newsletter with you in person. Unfortunately, due to the restrictions in place, this was not possible.

The recent restrictions have also had an impact on project timelines. The submission of a planning application for the proposed Ballinagree Windfarm Project is now scheduled for June 2021. The milestone dates for Design Iteration 2 and Design Iteration 3 are also affected and these are now planned for October 2020 and February 2021, respectively.

Over recent weeks, we have been able to meet with some local individuals outdoors after they had contacted the Project Team to request further information on areas of the project’s design. Please contact the Project Team if this is something you would like to arrange for yourself.

As a result of the continued restrictions on larger group meetings, we are proposing a new communications initiative; a regular online community collaboration meeting, where project design would be discussed and where you could engage in conversation with and ask questions of the Project Team. If this is of interest, please complete the short survey enclosed and post it back to us in the stamped addressed envelope also enclosed by the 28/09/2020. We will contact you to discuss further thereafter.

We understand that online engagement is not always ideal and may not suit everyone. Therefore, you can also share your thoughts and comments with us by completing Section 2 of the survey enclosed and returning it in the stamped address envelope also enclosed. Once received, we will respond to your comments as soon as possible.

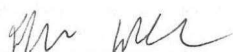
Please visit the Ballinagree Wind Farm project website, www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie, in order to view up to date information on aspects of the project’s design including Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Ecology Field Studies, Noise Assessment, Landscape and Visual Assessment and Aquatic Ecology.

Please make contact with the Project Team if there are any areas of the project’s ongoing design you wish to discuss further. The Project Team can be contacted by phone on 1890928740 or by sending an email to ballinagreewindfarm@coillte.ie.

Yours sincerely,



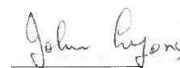
Michael O'Connor



Edwina White



David Eves



John Lyons



The data controller for this information is Coillte - For further details as to how your information will be stored and used by Coillte and your data protection rights, please see our Privacy Policy on www.coillte.ie/privacy-policy. The personal details provided by you on this form will be stored by Coillte for the duration of the above mentioned project. There is no obligation on you to provide your consent, and you can withdraw your consent at any time by contacting our Community Liaison Officer on 1890 928740 or ballinagreewindfarm@coillte.ie.

9.4 SEPTEMBER 2020 UPDATE LETTER TO POLITICAL REPRESENTATIVES

Coillte Office
Hartnetts Cross
Macroom
Co. Cork
P12 XA50
22/09/2020

Councillor XXXXX
XXXXXX,
Macroom
Co. Cork

Dear Councillor XXXXXX

I hope this note finds you and your family well. As a follow on from our last correspondence in June 2020, please find enclosed for your information a circular recently hand delivered to over 200 homes within c.3 km of the Study Area for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project.

As our face to face community engagements have had to be curtailed for a while this recent circular is intended to invite further community collaboration and feedback, to explore the potential for a regular online meeting between interested locals and the Project Team , and to update local residents on the current project timelines.

The submission of a planning application for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm Project is now scheduled for June 2021. The milestone dates for Design Iteration 2 and Design Iteration 3 are also affected by recent work and travel restrictions and these are now planned for October 2020 and February 2021, respectively.

Please find below some relevant messaging in relation to the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm project which may be of interest:

- There are 16 landowners, including Coillte, actively involved in the proposed project;
- All lands remain property of the landowner at all times and are leased to the developer, Coillte Renewable Energy and Brookfield Renewables for the duration of the proposed project;
- Set back distances from all nearest dwelling houses are greater than 750m
- Current design parameters indicate that the proposed project could have a capacity of approx. 95MW consisting of approx. 19 individual wind turbines;

- At its current scale, the proposed project could generate enough electricity to power approx. 57,000 homes¹
- Coillte Renewable Energy and Brookfield Renewables are fully committed to facilitating an annual Community Benefit Fund in line with current Government policy and the final power output of the proposed project and believe that it should be governed and belong to the local community.
- At its current scale, once operational, the proposed project would contribute annual rates to Cork County Council in the range of €800,000 – €900,000² – an important future contributor to exchequer funding.
- The current scale of this proposed project means that it is considered Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) and so the planning application will be assessed by An Bord Pleanála.
- The project will propose a Recreation and Biodiversity Enhancement Plan to help increase the habitat and amenity value of the ‘open forest policy’ in the local area;
- The National Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2019 has set a 70% target for renewable energy production by 2030. To meet this target, the amount of electricity generated from renewables will have to be doubled on current figures;
- The SEAI ‘Energy in Ireland - 2019 Report’ states that wind energy in 2018 provided 28% of Ireland’s electricity, avoided 3.15 million tonnes of CO2 and cut Ireland’s fossil fuel import bill by €432 million.

Please visit the Ballinagree Wind Farm project website, www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie, for up to date information on aspects of the project’s design including Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Ecology Field Studies, Noise Assessment, Landscape and Visual Assessment and Aquatic Ecology.

As ever, please make contact with us for more information or updates by phoning or emailing myself on the details below. Also you can contact us through the projects Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), John Lyons and David Eves, on 1890928740 or by sending an email to ballinagreewindfarm@coillte.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Michael O’Connor, Edwina White, John Lyons and David Eves

The Ballinagree Wind Farm Team

¹ www.iwea.ie – 600 homes per MW

² www.CorkCOCO.ie - €9000 per average MW installed in County

9.5 APRIL 2021 UPDATE LETTER



April 2021

Dear Homeowner,

First and foremost, we hope this finds you safe and well in these challenging times, and adjusting as best as possible to new ways of going about daily life. Covid19 restrictions have impacted various aspects of the proposed project, affecting the way we communicate, as well as causing some delays to the project's design work.

Our most recent newsletter (Newsletter 4) was issued in December 2020. This outlined the project timeline from the commencement of studies in 2017 to date, with a proposed Planning Application expected in Summer 2021. This is still the expectation.

A final Newsletter will issue in a few weeks' time, providing a detailed overview of all aspects of the project design as well as summary information on studies carried out. This will include a map of the final site layout, (number and location of turbines), and updates on work carried out in the areas of Archaeology and Cultural Heritage, Ecology, Noise Assessment, and Landscape and Visual Assessment as well as the many potential benefits of the project.

In a few weeks' time also, the www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie web site will be updated with relevant information, including some short videos and a series of questions and answers. This web site was set up to facilitate communications, not only locally, but any interested parties further afield who are not in receipt of the newsletters that are circulated to all householders in the c3Km local area.

The months following the issue of this next newsletter, prior to the submission of an application, i.e. April-July, provides an opportunity for you to discuss specific queries on any aspects of this proposal with members of the project team. During this period also, communications will take place in the press etc to reach a wider audience.

Community Benefit Fund update: the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications has just published a Good Practice Principles Handbook for Community Benefit Funds (CBF) and this is currently open for consultation¹. You are invited, as a member of the public or community groups to send in comments on any aspect of this draft document so that this will be a very fair and inclusive process. Closing date for submissions is **5.30pm 24 May 2021**.

Please feel free to make contact with the Project Team anytime if there are any areas of this project that you wish to discuss further by sending an email to ballinagreewindfarm@coillte.ie or using the other contacts listed on the web site.

Yours sincerely,
Project Team.

Kieran O'Malley, Project Manager, Coillte
Fiona Maxwell, Project Manager, Brookfield
and
Community Liaison Officers, John Lyons, David Eves.

¹ <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/995be-public-consultation-on-good-practice-principles-for-community-benefit-funds-under-the-renewable-electricity-support-scheme/>

9.6 PROJECT ADVERTORIAL

Ballinagree Wind Farm

prepares to submit planning application

This is a "code red for humanity", warned UN Secretary-General António Guterres after the recent IPCC report revealed the frightening reality of global warming.

The evidence is clear: devastating storms, severe flooding, punishing droughts and scorching heatwaves have wreaked havoc around the world in recent months. Climate change can no longer be ignored.

To help tackle global warming, the Government's Climate Action Plan commits the country to generating 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030, which requires an additional 4,000MW of onshore wind to be developed. Coillte Renewable Energy and Ørsted's intent is to contribute to Ireland's ambitious renewable energy goals with their co-development project, Ballinagree Wind Farm in Co. Cork.

Coillte, the state-owned forestry business, and Danish renewables company Ørsted, which recently acquired Brookfield's Irish operations, will submit a planning application for the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm to An Bord Pleanála in late October. The submission comprises 20 wind turbines with a proposed overall blade tip height of up to 185 metres to be constructed on Coillte land and that of local landowners.

This planning application comes after an extensive community engagement programme. Over the past two years, the Ballinagree project team has actively looked for input and feedback from local communities and representatives.

Our aim is to develop a wind farm that benefits the local community as well as the country as a whole. We want Ballinagree to be a well-designed wind farm that marks us as industry leaders in terms of community engagement, project management, construction and operations. Ballinagree Wind Farm has the potential to contribute significantly to reducing Ireland's carbon outputs by generating more than 300MWh (megawatt hours) of clean, green electricity every year.

Ballinagree's dedicated Community Liaison Officers recently distributed the fifth brochure containing a wealth of updated information while the second virtual community consultation is available at ballinagreewindfarm.ie. Webinars will follow in late September to provide an opportunity to meet the team and ask specific questions within Covid guidelines.

If the planning application is successful and the project enters the construction phase, a substantial

Community Benefit Fund will be available. This consists of a Near Neighbour Fund and a wider community fund that provides direct local project funding.

Based on the Government's Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), if the project is approved and constructed as proposed, Ballinagree Wind Farm could contribute more than €600,000 per annum to the Community Benefit Fund for the



first 15 years (based on RESS mandated amount of €2/MWh). The developers also commit to more than €300,000 a year in funds for the remainder of its operational life (based on a contribution of €1/MWh).

Participation in the RESS scheme obliges developers to establish a Community Benefit Fund where communities are placed at the heart of the decision-making process. Full details on the recently published 'Good Practice Handbook for RESS Community Benefit Funds' can be found at www.gov.ie.

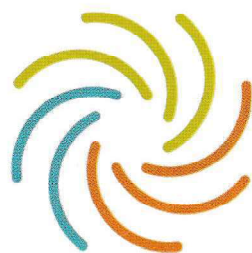
There are other benefits on a local level, including landowner payments and local authority rate contributions, as well as local services required mainly during the construction stage. The wind farm site itself would also have access tracks and

existing forestry paths upgraded to recreational amenity trails for community use. This includes the installation of signs and information boards, a car park and picnic area.

There's the bigger picture, too. This project could deliver sufficient electricity to power the equivalent of more than 70,000 homes, improving Ireland's energy security while avoiding approximately 110,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year.

When An Bord Pleanála has received the submission, the full planning application, complete with all relevant submitted documentation and diagrams, will be available at ballinagreeplanning.ie.

For more, see ballinagreewindfarm.ie



Ballinagree

Wind farm

Advertorial

9.7 WEBINAR ADVERT



Ballinagree Wind farm

COMMUNITY WEBINAR

Thursday October 7th 2021 at 7pm

You are invited to attend an information webinar on the proposed Ballinagree Wind Farm in Co Cork, a co-development between Coillte Renewable Energy and Ørsted. This is an opportunity to meet the team and ask any questions you might have about the project.

Please email ballinagreewindfarm@coillte.ie before midday on **Wednesday October 6th** to receive registration details. If you cannot attend, please email or call our Community Liaison Officer on **1890 928740** and we can send you the presentation and arrange a one-to-one meeting with the project manager if so desired.

For more information on the project visit
www.ballinagreewindfarm.ie