



APPENDIX 2-2

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT



Appendix 2-2 Community Report

Slieveacurry Renewable
Energy Development, Co.
Clare

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1.

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared to record the consultation carried out with the local community in respect of the proposed Slieveacurry Renewable Energy development. Slieveacurry Ltd. has carried out consultation in relation to the Proposed Development with local residents. The objective of the consultations was to ensure that the views and concerns of all were considered as part of the project design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

The Proposed Development has the potential to have significant benefits for the local economy, by means of job creation, landowner payments and commercial rate payments. An important part of any renewable energy development, which Slieveacurry Ltd. has been at the forefront of developing, is its Community Benefit Package. The concept of directing benefits to the local community is promoted by the National Economic and Social Council (NESCC) and the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) among others. While it may be simpler and easier to put a total fund aside for a wider community area, Slieveacurry Ltd. is endeavouring to develop new ways to direct increased gain towards the local community with particular focus on those living closest to the Proposed Development.

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines¹ (2006) state that:

“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 Ireland² (June 2017) which stated the following with 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 Guidelines³ (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 report outlines the consultation and community engagement initiatives undertaken by Slieveacurry Ltd. prior to the submission of the planning application. It also outlines the main issues identified during this process, how the final proposal reflects community consultation and the steps taken to ensure that the Proposed Development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned.

¹ The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, *Wind Energy Planning Guidelines 2006*, p19

² The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, *Information Note Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 “Preferred Draft Approach”*, 2017, p.8

³ The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, *Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019*, p. 42

2. CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

2.1 Notification of the Local Community

To inform local residents about the Proposed Development, the project Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Aidan Stakelum distributed information regarding the Proposed Development to households within approximately 1.5km of the Proposed Development site boundary. The Community Liaison Officer visited approximately 61 homes between 3rd February 2020 and 20th March 2020. The information distributed to each household consisted of:

- Project contact details;
- A leaflet on the applicants Renewable Energy Projects and Wind Information; and
- An information leaflet detailing the biodiversity within the study area.

2.1.1 Community Interactions

Slieveacurry Ltd. organised a number of door-to-door consultations, with the dedicated CLO intending to visit all households within 1.5km of the Proposed Development. There were three visits proposed to all of the selected properties, to be held between 3rd February 2020 and 7th April 2020. Only two visits took place between February and March while the third proposed visit in April comprised of consultation with the community by phone. Additional communications took place in March and October 2021 in the form of a newspaper notice and letter delivered to dwellings identified within 2km of the proposed development site.

The visits to households are detailed below:

2.1.1.1 3rd February– 14th February 2020

Initial door-to-door visits were made by the appointed CLO to houses 1 to 61 identified on the map. These had been selected for the public consultation process due to their proximity to the Proposed Development site, within an approximate 1.5km zone. Introductions were made and a brief outline of the proposal was given. Residents were each shown the location of their house on the map in relation to the proposed renewable energy development area. An Enerco Energy (the driver behind Slieveacurry Ltd) leaflet was left with them, outlining information on a range of topics, including wind energy in Ireland, the development process and community involvement, as well as contact details for the CLO.

This was also an opportunity to further check on the validity of the sensitive receptors that had previously been identified, with a few new ones added and others marked as derelict properties.

In the event that nobody was home through-out this period, a leaflet was left in the post box and contact details were sought from nearby neighbours in an attempt to ensure that contact was made.

A number of Irish and international phone calls were also made to the owners of houses that were identified as holiday homes or seasonal dwellings. In this instance, the project was discussed over the phone and a postal address was requested, to enable the aforementioned leaflet to be sent.

Meetings were arranged for dates and times that suited those residents who were unavailable at the time of calling, or who wished for other family members to be present for the discussion.

Of the 61 houses, direct contact was made with 48. The remaining 13 were lived in seasonally and phone numbers could not be sourced from neighbours. Information leaflets were left at these houses with contact details.

2.1.1.2 **9th March – 20th March 2020**

A second round of door-to-door visits was made. This was predominantly to answer any questions that had arisen following the previous round of visits, as residents would have had a chance to discuss the proposal with family members and neighbours. Additional information was provided in the form of a biodiversity leaflet, produced by environmental consultants MKO, which contained some local ecology information resulting from the surveys that were ongoing at the time

Where residents were not home during this period, a leaflet was left in their post box and several attempts were made to reach them by phone where possible. Contact was made with 37 of the 60 houses, while a copy of the biodiversity leaflet with contact details was left at the remainder.

Overall, the general reception was good. People were happy with the continued consultation and with the general flow of information. General queries related to turbine heights, noise levels, over-head lines and the potential impacts of construction traffic and were all satisfactorily addressed there and then. As turbine height had yet to be finalised, residents were informed that this detail would come at a later stage.

2.1.1.3 **3rd April to 7th April 2020**

Due to the advancing Covid-19 crisis, the planned door-to-door visit was cancelled, as it was not reasonable to be calling to houses during this period. In place of this, phone calls were made to residents to explain the situation, outline further developments in the project and answer any queries they may have. Details of the number of turbines and their proposed maximum tip height were given.

Contact was made with 41 of the 60 houses. Of those who were contacted, they were encouraged to communicate the latest information to their neighbours. Of the remainder, 8 had been uncontactable from the beginning, another 11 had not provided contact numbers, while the remainder did not answer after several attempts were made at varying times over the duration of the consultation period.

The general feedback from those who were spoken to over the phone was that the correct decision had been made in avoiding door-to-door contact. Again, people were happy with the continued consultation that communication lines remained open for any queries they might have. Some residents questioned the tip height, as they felt the turbines were quite tall. It was explained that this was a maximum proposed tip height and that the final height would be decided upon by the availability of turbine models if/when that stage of the project was reached. There were multiple queries relating to the community benefit fund, predominantly how best to go about applying for it. It was reiterated that if suggestions were emailed or posted in, they would be filed for consideration and it would be best if members of the community could reach some level of consensus on this.

2.1.1.4 **25th March to 26th March 2021**

At this point, the original planning application that was lodged in November 2020 had been withdrawn, following legal proceedings being taken against Clare County Council regarding the validation of the application. The court ruled to put a stay on any decision pending the outcome of the legal case. Due to the uncertainty associated with the timing of a decision on the legal proceedings, it was decided to withdraw the planning application that was lodged in November 2020 and re-submit the planning application in April 2021.

In order to maintain communication with the local community and ensure they were kept informed with the most up-to-date information relating to the project, an additional round of consultation was subsequently completed. An advertisement was placed in the Clare Champion dated 25th March 2021, providing a brief update and directing people to the project website for further information. Contact details were also provided to facilitate individuals that may not have had internet access. In conjunction with this newspaper notice, a letter was delivered to 98 of 104 dwellings identified within 2km of the Proposed Development site. The 6 dwellings missed were all within the 1.5km to 2km range and were identified on the ground as derelict.

2.1.2 Public Exhibition

A public information event was held in Milltown Malbay Community Centre, Co. Clare on Tuesday 29th September 2020 from 14:00 to 21:00. The event was advertised in the Clare Champion, a local paper on Thursday 24th September and was advertised to the local community individually where possible. Each household within 1.5 km of the proposed area was left a leaflet in the letter box inviting them to make an appointment for the information event. Due to the Covid 19 restrictions at that time, attendance could only be facilitated by appointment. Those wishing to attend were asked to make an appointment by contacting the CLO via the mobile number and/or email address advertised. Each household unit was allocated a half hour appointment, with up to a maximum of three members from the same household allowed to attend each appointment. Anyone who couldn't attend the public exhibition we're met at their convenience by the CLO.

At the session, there were a series of information leaflets and mapping on display that contained details on the following:

- Proposed location of the development;
- The necessity of wind energy development in the context of national policy;
- The suitability of the area for wind energy;
- Criteria for site selection;
- Preferred draft approach to Wind Energy Development in Ireland;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report;
- Visual Impact Assessment;
- Project Benefits;
- Indicative Project Timeline; and
- Community Engagement.

Members of the public were invited to submit comments, concerns and opinions regarding the proposed development through a feedback form at the event. They were provided with a leaflet containing the project website address, www.slieveacurryinfo.ie, and the contact details of CLO. The website contains all information that was displayed at the session along with a comments page which facilitates any feedback or queries from the community.

The main queries raised during this stage of the consultation, as recorded by Enerco Energy Ltd. staff and MKO staff at the sessions, were:

1. Proximity of houses;
2. Community Gain Scheme;
3. Number of Turbines;
4. Near Neighbour Scheme;
5. Noise;
6. Height of turbines;
7. Visual Impact; and
8. Wind Farm Amenities.

Following the public information sessions, CLO, the Community Liaison Officer followed up with any queries raised at the consultation.

2.2 **Dedicated Contact Details**

Since the project was first announced in February 2020, Slieveacurry Ltd. has provided dedicated contact details for the Proposed Development, including a dedicated phone number, email address and postal address. To date, these channels have facilitated several enquiries about the Proposed Development.

2.3 **Project Website**

In September 2020, Slieveacurry Ltd. launched a dedicated project website, www.slieveacurryinfo.ie. The website is an additional communications channel to keep members of the public informed about the Proposed Development. Information distributed through door-to-door consultation and through other communication channels are provided on the website and includes information on the proposed location, information leaflets, layout maps and dedicated contact details for the project.

Following the aforementioned withdrawal of the original planning application and subsequent site layout amendments, the information hosted on the website was updated accordingly in March 2021, with an additional October 2021 Community Consultation section provided to ensure that members of the public could easily access the latest information. It is intended to update the website accordingly as any new information becomes available.

2.4 **Community Liaison Officer**

In January 2020, Slieveacurry Ltd. appointed a dedicated Community Liaison for the Proposed Development to ensure continued on the ground engagement with the local community. As outlined above, the Community Liaison has visited homes in the locality of the Proposed Development on a number of occasions to ensure they are kept informed about the project.

3. **ENDURING ECONOMIC BENEFIT**

3.1 **Economic Benefits – Community Benefit Fund**

Throughout the public consultation process, residents were informed about the availability of a community benefit fund, in the event of a grant of planning for the project. Details of how other communities had utilised this fund on similar projects were given, to help provide a loose framework of what it could be used for. It was highlighted that this fund could be used, for example, as funding for a range of community group, schools, clubs etc, for local development initiatives or split among residents into an annual payment, scaled based on the distance from their dwelling to the nearest turbine.

Initial local suggestions for use of the fund included grants for Cloonanaha National School and Milltown Malbay Community Centre, upkeep works on the local Glendine road, local enterprise schemes, riparian planting of native species, energy retro-fitting of houses and contributions to electrical bills.

3.2 **Short Term Economic Benefits**

During the construction phase, it is estimated that at peak construction approximately 70 jobs will be created. This in turn will have a knock-on effect on the local economy through the supply of services to the workforce. While at a regional level additional employment will be created in the region through the supply of services and materials (such as stone and concrete) to the Proposed Development.

Additionally, the payment of a development contribution to Clare County Council in respect of public infrastructure and facilities will potentially provide benefits to the local community through schemes such as the refurbishment, upgrading or replacement of roads, car parks and car parking places; sewers and waste water facilities, drains or water mains; provision of open spaces/parks, community facilities, amenities and landscaping works etc.

3.3 **Long Term Economic Benefits**

The project will provide many long-term economic benefits to the communities surrounding the Proposed Development as outlined in the following sections.

3.3.1 **Employment**

It is estimated that the Proposed Development will create approximately 70 jobs during the construction, operational and maintenance phases of the Proposed Development.

3.3.2 **Rates**

Annual rates paid by the Proposed Development to Clare County Council will potentially support the provision of local services.

3.3.3 **Community Benefit Fund**

In addition, a range of other benefits associated with the development will be provided to local residents (Near Neighbours) and local community through an annual Community Benefit Package.

The community benefit scheme proposes to provide a fund of €100,000 per annum over the lifespan of the Proposed Development based on the current estimated generating capacity. This will equate to potential funding of €3 million to the local community which is a substantial contribution.

The number and size of grant allocations will be decided by a Community Fund liaison committee with various groups and projects benefiting to varying degrees depending on their funding requirement.

3.3.4 **Community and Voluntary Group Benefit Fund**

A dedicated annual fund could be made available through the Community Benefit Fund for local community groups and voluntary organisations to support their efforts and initiatives in the local communities around the Proposed Development. The types of projects and initiatives that could be supported by such a Community Benefit proposal could include youth, sport and community facilities, schools, educational and training initiatives, and wider amenity, heritage, and environmental projects.

The Developer and the Community will set the final qualifying criteria for projects and initiatives seeking funding from the Community Benefit Fund. Local community groups and not-for profit organisations around the Proposed Development site that promote the sustainable development of the area will all be considered for their projects and initiatives.

3.3.5 **Renewable Energy Fund for Local Residents**

The Proposed Development will make a significant contribution towards helping achieve national renewable energy and climate change targets. For a strategic renewable energy project of the scale proposed, a portion of the Community Benefit Fund could be dedicated to local residents living within an agreed range of any proposed wind turbine through a Renewable Energy Fund. Such a proposal could see direct payments being made to local residents from the Renewable Energy Fund on an annual basis to cover the cost of their annual electricity bill from a renewable energy supplier of their choosing, and may fund some renewable energy upgrades to their properties to improve energy efficiency, install domestic renewable energy technologies such as heat pumps or solar panels, and overall make them less reliant on fossil-fuel.

4. **CONCLUSION**

Slieveacurry Ltd. has actively engaged and consulted with the local community from an early stage during the pre-application phase. The consultation process has been an extremely valuable exercise and has provided a detailed, and enhanced understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community, which have ultimately shaped the final project proposal. There is currently on-going consultation with the local community and it is the intention of Slieveacurry Ltd, to continue with the consultation for the duration of the Proposed Development.

The development of the proposed Slieveacurry Renewable Energy Development will provide an enduring economic benefit to the communities surrounding the Proposed Development as outlined in Chapter 2 of the EIAR, through the community benefit package for residents and community groups, employment during the construction and operation of the development and through the annual rates payable to the local authority.

APPENDIX 1 – RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS AND WIND INFORMATION

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. 1. Why are the turbines so big?

A. Larger turbines maximise the amount of electricity produced from the clean renewable source. Wind energy is key to the Government's Climate Action Plan. The proposed height of the turbines is standard for modern wind turbines, and similar turbines have already been granted planning permission throughout the Country. The landscape and visual impact will be assessed for the project which will involve generating photomontages of the proposed development.

Q. 2. Are wind turbines noisy?

A. Wind turbines do emit noise. However, as the distance from the turbine increases, the noise reduces. The World Health Organisation* recommends, for average noise exposure, reducing noise levels produced by wind turbines below 45 dB L_{den}. Application of the current Irish Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) will generally achieve this. The Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines, released by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in December 2019, would also comply with the WHO recommendation. Detailed analysis will be completed for the houses around the proposed site to ensure the appropriate guidelines are met.

Q. 3. What is shadow flicker?

A. Shadow flicker occurs where the turbine blades cast a shadow over a window in a nearby house and the rotating blades causes the light within the room to flick on and off. This effect lasts only for a short period of time until the sun passes beyond the turbines. Detailed shadow flicker calculations will be carried out for all houses around the site to ensure the guidelines are not exceeded.

Q. 4. Do wind turbines affect health?

A. Research by the Australian Government's National Health and Research Council (NMHRC)** states, "there is no consistent evidence that wind farms cause adverse health effects in humans". In 2017, the NMHRC commissioned a further two scientific studies to assess if inaudible noise from turbines has effects on human health when compared to silence and traffic noise. These studies are expected to be complete within 5 years.

Q. 5. Do wind farms affect property values?

A. Research carried out in the UK*** which analysed 82,000 housing transactions in proximity to wind farms found that "there is no evidence to suggest that there was a long-term negative impact on house prices, either during the period of construction or post completion of the wind farms".

Q. 6. Do wind farms affect tourism?

A. There is no evidence to suggest wind farms have any impact on tourism. In Irish and Scottish surveys undertaken, most respondents take a positive likelihood of returning to an area.

* *Environmental Noise Guideline for European Region (2018)*

** *Evidence on Wind Farms and Human Health (2015)*

*** *The Effect of Wind Farms on House Prices (2014)*

Q. 7. Who can I contact?

A. Aidan Stakelum

M 086 1427399 aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com

We would like to hear any comments or queries you may have

Renewable Energy Project Wind Information Leaflet

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Who We Are Enerco Energy

Enerco Energy, based near Macroom, Co.Cork is a 100% Irish owned leading renewable energy company, with the capability to develop, construct and operate projects that contribute towards our goal of creating a sustainable future.

The company's core activity includes the development and operation of medium to large scale wind farms. Enerco also works in other renewable sectors such as solar and battery storage.



To date Enerco has installed a generating capacity of approximately 550 MW, with 180 MW under construction and a further 400 MW in the planning process or already permitted.

Climate Action Plan 2019

Introduction

In August 2019 the Irish government published the Climate Action Plan to build net zero carbon energy systems and create a sustainable country. The principles of the action plan are as follows:

Current situation

- Ireland will miss the target set for 2013-2020 of reducing emissions by 20% (relative to 2005 Levels) by one eighth and more worrying it is expected that recent growth in emissions will put the country on a trajectory to be 25% off target for the 2021-2030 period.

Targets for 2030 and beyond

- Increase percentage of electricity generated from renewables from 30% to 70% by 2030.
- Establish a trajectory which leads to Ireland being net zero carbon by 2050.

Road map to achieve Targets

The greatest saving from known technologies lie in transport and electricity. Three quarters of the adjustments required will not impose a cost on the country. The Climate Action Plan proposes:

- Adding 8.2 gigawatts of onshore wind.
- 100% of new cars and vans to be electric (EV) by 2030.
- 30% Green House Gas reduction
- Ending coal burning in ESB's Moneypoint by 2025 and Bord na Mona transitioning away from peat by 2028.

Source: *Climate Action Plan 2019 (01/08/2019)*

Wind in Ireland

Ireland has over 250 wind farms with a total installed capacity of 3,700 MW and employing 4,400 people. In quarter 2 2019 wind energy generated 27% of the total electricity.

A new record for wind energy generated in Ireland was recorded on 18th December 2019, electricity generated by wind energy at that time had the potential to power over 1.9 million houses, and it accounted for approximately 72% of the electricity demand that day. As more wind farms are being built this record will continue to be broken and wind energy will fulfill more and more of our energy demand.

Source: www.eirgridgroup.com

The SEAI reports that in 2017 alone wind energy cut our carbon dioxide emissions by 2.7 million tonnes saving the Irish economy more than €220 million in fossil fuel imports. Wind energy helps reduce both our reliance on imported fossil fuels and our carbon emissions whilst contributing towards a downward pressure on the price of electricity.

Source: *SEAI - Renewable Energy in Ireland 2019 (01/2019)*

Solar in Ireland

Solar energy currently has low penetration in Ireland. This contrasts with other countries such as Germany and the UK, which have successfully deployed solar power. The proposed Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) is due to be rolled out next year making solar electricity generation more commercially viable. Under RESS Enerco will be in prime position to develop solar projects.

Decommissioning

The wind turbines which are part of each development are expected to have a lifespan of approximately 25 to 30 years. Following the end of their useful life, the wind turbines may be replaced subject to planning permission being obtained, or the site may be decommissioned fully, with the exception of the electricity substation.

Upon decommissioning of the proposed wind farm, the wind turbines would be disassembled in reverse order to how they were erected. All above ground turbine components would be separated and removed off-site for recycling.

Turbine foundations would remain in place underground and would be covered with earth and reseeded as appropriate. Leaving the turbine foundation in-situ is considered a more environmentally prudent option. Site roads facilitate other uses during the lifetime of the windfarm and therefore would be left in situ after decommissioning.

What is an EIAR?

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is a document that describes the proposed development and all issues relating to the potential impact of the proposed wind farm on the environment.

Each wind farm project undergoes a rigorous environmental impact assessment by the planning authority and/or An Bord Pleanála, prior to being granted planning permission. An EIAR is prepared and forms part of the planning permission application to be submitted to the Local Authority or An Bord Pleanála as appropriate.

The EIAR usually includes detailed information on impacts relating to the following topics:

1. Introduction to the Project
2. Background to the Proposed Development
3. Site Selection and Alternatives
4. Description of the Proposed Development
5. Human Beings, Population & Human Health including Shadow Flicker
6. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
7. Land, Soils, Geology and Peat Stability
8. Water – Surface Water & Groundwater
9. Air and Climate
10. Noise and Vibration
11. Landscape and Visual
12. Cultural Heritage
13. Material Assists, including Traffic and Telecommunications
14. Interaction of Impacts



Knocknagoum Wind Farm 44.5MW

Wind Resource in Ireland

Wind Energy is one of Ireland's greatest natural resources. Modern wind farms use this natural resource to produce energy to power homes and industries throughout Ireland. Ireland has one of the best wind resources in Europe.

How Wind Turbines Work

When the wind speed rises above 4 metres per second (a gentle breeze) the turbine turns into the wind and the rotor begins to rotate. This causes a shaft inside the rotor to rotate. This shaft is often attached via a gearbox to a generator or may be gearless. The rotation of the generator generates electricity in much the same way as a bicycle dynamo works. The electricity is carried via cables down the turbine tower, and out into the local electricity grid to power homes and industry throughout Ireland.

Environmental Benefits

A wind farm generates clean, renewable, carbon neutral electricity. Every megawatt it generates is the equivalent of powering approximately 650 homes for a year.

Knocknagoum Wind Farm

Knocknagoum Wind Farm generates enough power to supply approximately 28,000 homes every year. Every watt of electricity generated at the wind farm will replace the same amount that would have been generated by burning coal or gas. A wind farm will emit no toxic substances or air pollutants, unlike coal or gas power stations. The carbon emissions created during the construction of the wind farm and the manufacturing of the turbines etc. will be offset in the electricity generated by the wind farm in the first 1-2 years of operation, therefore the wind farm generates carbon neutral power for the remaining 23-28 years of the project (Modern turbines have a lifespan of 25-30 years).

Economic Benefits

Wind farm developments have a number of long-term and short-term benefits for the local economy. The developments can represent an investment of several million euro in the locality of the development, with a large percentage of the total cost relating to on-site works, which would be relying heavily on local contractors and suppliers. The project will create many local jobs during the construction stage,

which generally lasts in the region of 18 months. The construction phase will see employment opportunities for:

- Local contractors
- Construction plant suppliers
- Machinery operators
- Skilled labourers
- Construction materials suppliers
- Transport companies.

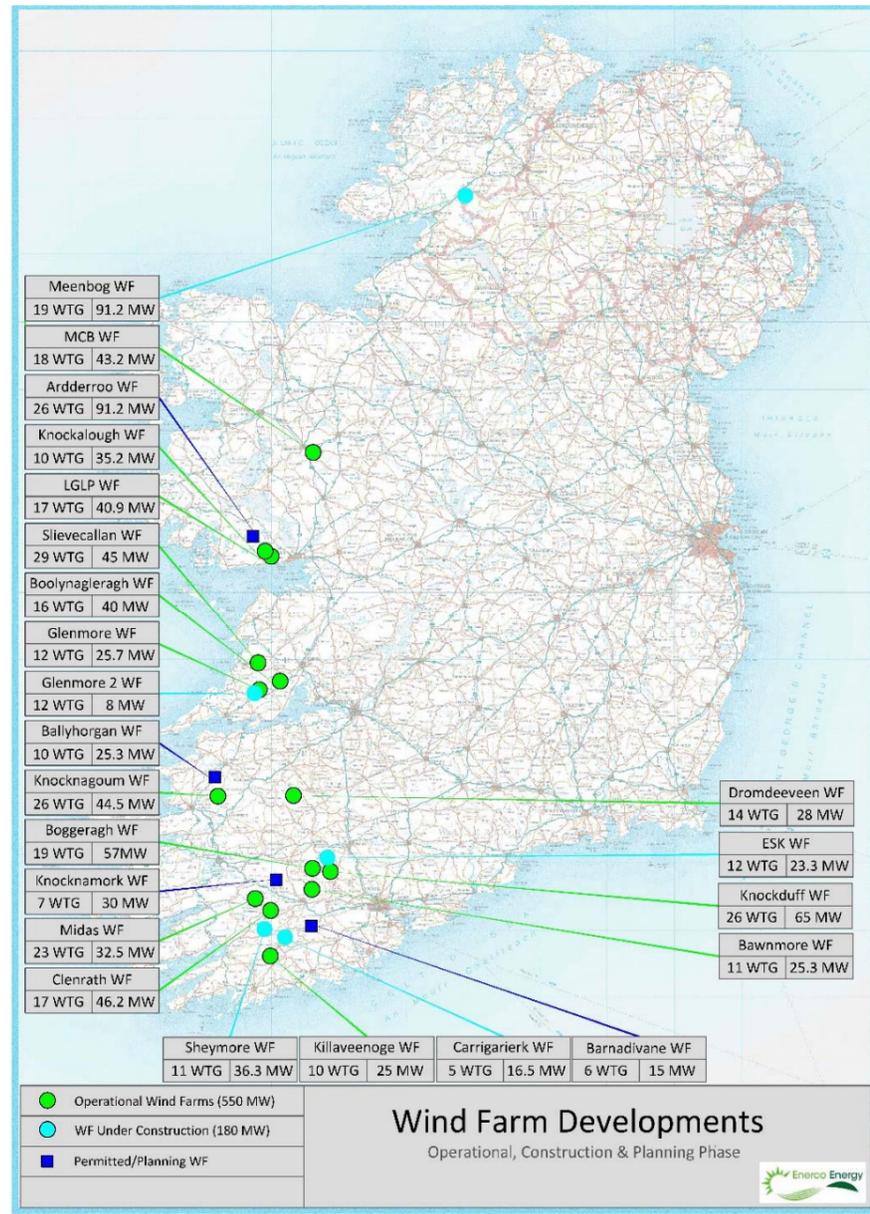
Increased activity in the locality benefits the local hospitality and service sector. Contractors and wind farm employees use shops, restaurants, hotels and B&B's in the wind farm proximity throughout a project lifecycle.

Security of Energy Supply

Ireland imported 66% of its energy requirement in 2017, one of the highest ratios in Europe. The more of its own energy Ireland can produce, the less vulnerable it would be to foreign policy and conflict interrupting gas, oil and electricity supply lines. There is an opportunity to continue developing a strong indigenous wind industry, that will take advantage of Ireland's excellent wind resource, reducing our import dependency.



LGLP Wind Farm 40.9MW



Benefits of Wind Turbines



- Carbon Neutral Electricity
- Low Ecology Impacts
- Income directly into the locality
- Employment Generation
- Boost Local Economy
- Improve local road and power infrastructure
- Low Cost Electricity

Community Involvement

- As a long-term owner, developer and operator of energy assets Enerco Energy Ltd. seeks to be an active partner in the communities in which we develop and operate projects.
- As part of planning a project we like to hear from the community about their vision for its future and how the project might help.
- A community benefit scheme will be made available every year for the operational lifespan of the wind farm.
- "Open up opportunity for community participation in renewable generation and community gain arrangements" is a stated aim of the Climate Action Plan 2019.
- The community benefit scheme will be available to communities and voluntary groups. The benefit will be set out to aid the local community, by supporting projects and the area around the development.
- The community closest to the proposed development will decide how the community benefit scheme is administered and whether the focus is on local groups and clubs, or those living closest to the wind farm.

APPENDIX 2 – BIODIVERSITY WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

Points of local interest

Map 1 illustrates the biodiversity study area and the following locations, as indicated on the map, may be of interest to the local community:

- **A – Molinia meadows:** Molinia/Purple Moor-grass meadows are species-rich wildflower meadows that primarily occurs in fairly low-lying areas with moderately base-rich and peaty gley soils. A wide variety of invertebrates benefit from Molinia meadows including marsh fritillary butterfly. These areas have been fully assessed and avoided during the project design.
- **B – Peatland habitat:** Where this habitat is still intact and not cut for peat extraction, two forms of peatland habitats occur within the site: upland blanket bog and wet heath. These two peatland habitats are differentiated by the depth of the peat and the species composition. Upland blanket bog has typically got a peat depth in excess of 50 cm with heath located on shallow peat. The peatlands on site have been assessed avoided where possible.
- **C - Conifer forestry:** This habitat is often low in biodiversity due to the density of trees planted and the monoculture composition. However a variety of species can be found here including pine marten, goldcrest, long-eared owl, Marsh fritillary etc.



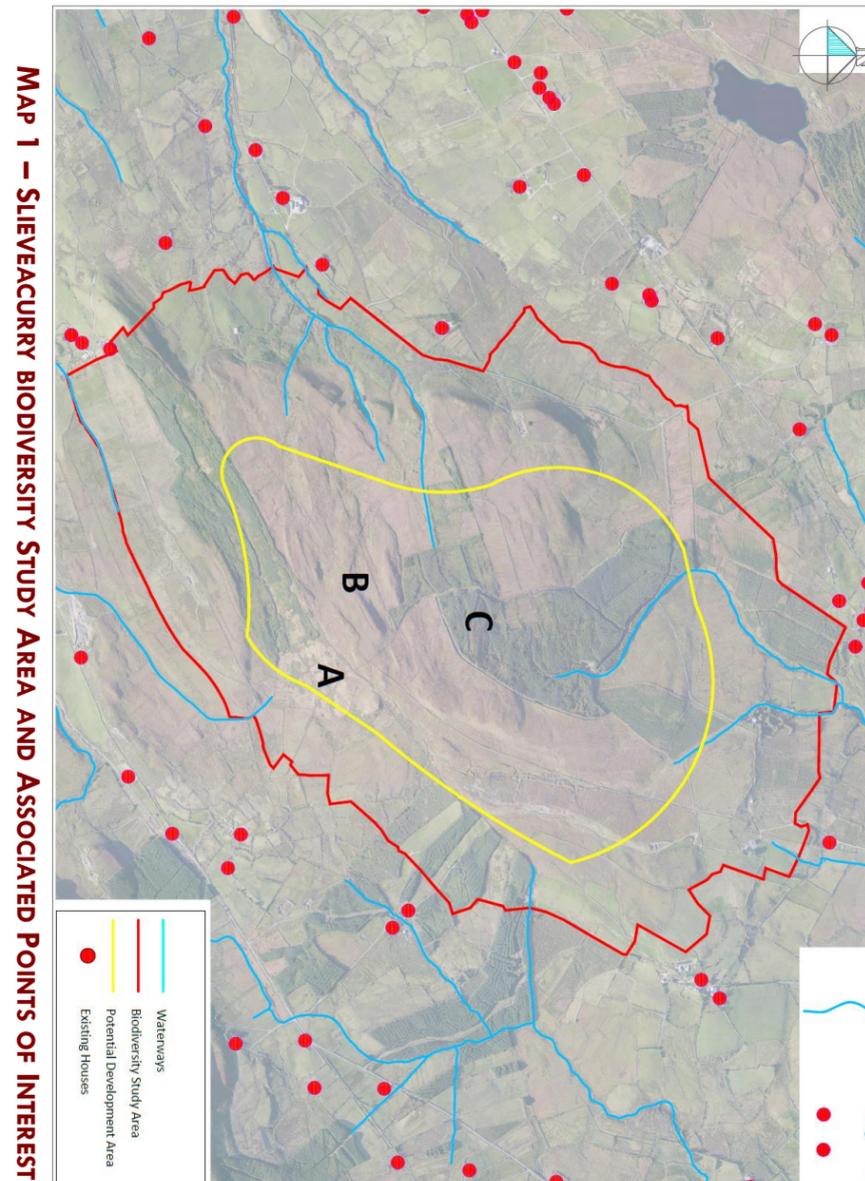
Molinia meadows

Useful sources of information

Bat Conservation Ireland
www.batconservationireland.org/

BirdWatch Ireland <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie>

Irish Peatland Conservation Council <http://www.ipcc.ie>



Common Frog

If you would like further information please contact:
McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd: info@mkoireland.ie

Slieveacurry Biodiversity

Information Leaflet
February 2020



This leaflet was presented by Aidan Stakelum, Enerco Energy Ltd.
Phone: 021 7336 034 Email: aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com



Long-eared owl

Local Biodiversity

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a term given to the variety of life on earth, including all species and ecosystems.

A wide variety of specialist ecological surveys have been undertaken at Slieveacurry and the surrounding area in recent years by MKO the with project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors.

These surveys have targeted a wide variety of species and habitats with the aim of determining their distribution in the area across the site.

This leaflet provides a brief overview of a variety of habitats and species of interest recorded at the site as well as some interesting facts for the reader.



Marsh fritillary

Habitats and Species of Slieveacurry

Marsh fritillary

Marsh fritillary colonies have been recorded within the area and the distribution of supporting habitat mapped in detail. This butterfly is Irelands only protected insect, listed on Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive. The proposed development footprint has been altered to avoid suitable habitat within the site.

Red deer

Red deer is a commonly recorded species in the area. Although this species is often elusive, preferring to be most active at dawn and dusk, tracks and signs of the species can be easily seen throughout the site.

Bird species

Red grouse have been recorded in the area and their unusual and distinctive call is unmistakable. This is often the easiest way to locate the species in large areas of peatland habitats, as their mottled brown plumage camouflages them very well. A wide variety of other common and widespread bird species have been recorded at the site including sparrowhawk and kestrel.

Bats

There are nine bat species in Ireland. A number of common bat species have been recorded at Slieveacurry including Irelands smallest bat, soprano pipistrelle, which weighs as much as a €1 piece. Irelands largest bat, Leisler's bat, has also been recorded. Each bat can eat over 3000 midges in one night!

Peatland & Bog Formation

Peat formation started at the end of the last glaciation, 10,000 years ago. Peat forms in waterlogged conditions and is made up of layers and layers of dead plant matter which doesn't decompose due to the waterlogged/low oxygen conditions. This habitat is home to a wide variety of unique plant and animal species. As peat is used as a source of fuel, turf cutting has occurred at the site over the years.

Upland rivers

The rivers that drain the site provide suitable habitat for a wide variety of invertebrates such as caddisflies, mayfly, dragonfly and damselfly larvae. Such invertebrates provide suitable prey for a wide variety of birds and bat species.

Local Biodiversity

Slieveacurry is situated within an upland plantation forestry and peatland landscape. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species of local interest recorded during ecological surveys of the area. These include:

Habitats

- Peatland habitats (Cutover blanket bog and Heath),
- Mature conifer forestry,
- Upland eroding rivers, and
- Wet grasslands.

Species

- Pine marten,
- Marsh fritillary,
- Bats,
- Red deer,
- Irish hare,
- Common frog,
- Fox
- Red grouse

.....



Red grouse

APPENDIX 3 – HOUSE LOCATION MAP



- ### Map Legend
- EIAR Site Boundary
 - Proposed Turbine Locations
 - Existing Roads - Upgrade Proposed
 - Proposed New Site Roads
 - Proposed Turbine Foundations
 - Proposed Turbine Hardstands
 - Proposed Borrow Pits
 - Proposed Temporary Construction Compounds
 - Met Mast Location
 - Temporary Runover Area
 - County Road to be Maintained
 - Public Road Expansion Area
 - Soft Levelled Area
 - Proposed Grid Connection Route
 - Proposed Extension to Existing Slieveacallan Substation
 - Existing Slieveacallan Substation
- House Locations
- Dwelling
 - 1000m Turbine Buffer
 - 1500m Turbine Buffer

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Proposed Site Layout and House Locations	
Project Title Slieveacurry Renewable Energy Development, Co. Clare	
Drawn By Ellen Costello	Checked By Michael Watson
Project No. 170224c	Drawing No. Figure 1
Scale 1:27500	Date 26/10/2021

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 Website: www.mkofireland.ie

APPENDIX 4 – NEWSPAPER NOTICES



Slieveacurry Windfarm Ltd. have updated the project website to inform interested parties of the proposed re-lodging of the Slieveacurry Wind Farm planning application, comprising up to 8 no. wind turbines in the townlands of Tooreen, Glendine North, Fahanlunaghta More, Curraghodea, Letterkelly, Cloghaun More, Cloghaun Beg, Silverhill, Doonsallagh East, Shanavogh East and Knockalassa, Co. Clare.

Due to Covid 19 restrictions it is not possible to hold a public information event regarding the proposed development. We wish to inform you that the dedicated website www.slieveacurryinfo.com contains relevant information in relation to the revised proposal and it is open to the public to view and provide feedback.

If you have any queries in relation to the project, please use the contact form on the project website and we will respond as soon as possible. Alternatively, for project questions or if the website is not accessible to you, please contact Aidan Stakelum on 0861427399 or by email at aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com.



Slieveacurry Ltd. wish to inform interested parties of the proposed lodging of a new planning application for the Slieveacurry Renewable Energy Development, comprising 8 no. wind turbines. The application relates to the townlands of Tooreen, Glendine North, Fahanlunaghta More, Curraghodea, Letterkelly, Cloghaun More, Cloghaun Beg, Silverhill, Doonsallagh East, Shanavogh East and Knockalassa, Co. Clare.

The dedicated project website www.slieveacurryinfo.com contains updated information and it will be further updated once the application is lodged to Clare County Council. The website is open to the public to view and provide feedback.

If you have any queries in relation to the project, please use the contact form on the project website and we will respond as soon as possible. Alternatively, for project questions or if the website is not accessible to you, please contact James Crowley on 0863979248 or by email at james.crowley@turnkeydev.com.

APPENDIX 5 – LETTERS TO RESIDENTS



25/03/2021

Proposed Slieveacurry Wind Farm Development

Dear Resident,

I hope you are keeping well during these uncertain times.

I am writing to you to update you on the progress with the Slieveacurry Wind Farm proposal. The original planning application was subject to legal proceedings being taken against Clare County Council regarding the validation of the application. The court ruled to put a stay on any decision pending the outcome of the legal case. Due to the uncertainty associated with the timing of a decision on the legal proceedings, it was decided to withdraw the planning application. We are now proposing to re-submit a planning application to Clare County Council in the coming weeks, with minor changes to the layout of the proposed development.

Due to the continuing Covid 19 restrictions, it will not be possible to present the proposed development at a conventional public information event. We will instead present the information on the project website www.slieveacurryinfo.com. We invite you to view the latest updated information on the website, for convenience we also provide you with the enclosed wind farm layout map.

In conjunction with this letter, an ad will appear in this weeks' edition of the Clare Champion, to notify the wider community on the availability of new information on the project website. The notice also provides my contact details for any interested parties to get in touch with any queries that may arise.

It is anticipated that a planning application will be submitted to Clare County Council around early April and once it is lodged, all the application documentation will be available on the Clare County Council website. We will update the project website accordingly to include the planning file number once it is available.

I would welcome any queries or questions you may have relating to the project and would appreciate your feedback. Please feel free to contact me, either through the contact page on the website, by email aidan.stakelum@turnkeydev.com, or by phone 086-1427399.

Yours sincerely,

Aidan Stakelum
Enerco Energy Ltd



27/10/2021

Proposed Slieveacurry Wind Farm Development

Dear Resident,

I hope you are keeping well during these uncertain times.

I am writing to you with an update regarding the Slieveacurry Renewable Energy Development. As you may be aware, the decision by Clare County Council in June to refuse planning permission for the proposed development was appealed to An Bord Pleanála. Following a recent court ruling known as the Derryadd Judgment we have been advised to withdraw the appeal from An Board Pleanála in order to rectify issues identified in the Derryadd judgment which are applicable to Slieveacurry. The court ruled that it was necessary to indicate a minimum size limit along with a maximum size limit for the proposed infrastructure. As the development description for the previous planning application only noted a maximum turbine tip height of up to 175m, it has been decided to withdraw the appeal case and lodge a new planning application to Clare County Council, which incorporates the requirements of the Derryadd Judgment.

The proposal has not changed from the last application. The documentation has been amended where appropriate to address the requirements of the Derryadd Judgment and the reasons for refusal by Clare County Council on the previous file have also been addressed. For convenience we have enclosed a copy of the proposed site layout map with this letter.

In conjunction with this letter, an ad will appear in this weeks' edition of the Clare Champion, to notify the wider community on the availability of new information on the project website www.slieveacurryinfo.com. The notice also provides my contact details for any interested parties to get in touch with any queries that may arise.

It is anticipated that a new planning application will be submitted to Clare County Council in the coming week and once it is lodged, all the application documentation will be available on the Clare County Council website. We will update the project website accordingly to include the planning file number once it is available.

I have taken over this project from my former colleague Aidan Stakelum. I would welcome any queries or questions you may have relating to the project and would appreciate your feedback. Please feel free to contact me, either through the contact page on the website, by email james.crowley@turnkeydev.com, or by phone 086-3979248. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley
Enerco Energy Ltd.