



## APPENDIX 2-3

COMMUNITY REPORT



**Appendix 2-3  
Community Report**

**Curraglass Renewable Energy  
Development, Co. Cork**

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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 Curraglass Renewable Energy development. Wingleaf 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 wind farm development, which Wingleaf Ltd. has been at the forefront of developing, is its Community Benefit Package. The concept of directing benefits from wind farms 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, Wingleaf 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 Guidelines<sup>1</sup> (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 Ireland<sup>2</sup> (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 Guidelines<sup>3</sup> (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 Wingleaf 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Wind Energy Planning Guidelines 2006, p19

<sup>2</sup> 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

<sup>3</sup> 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 distributed information regarding the Proposed Development to households within approximately 2km of the Proposed Development site boundary. The Community Liaison Officer visited approximately 47 homes between 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 7<sup>th</sup> April 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

Wingleaf Ltd. organised a number of door-to-door consultations, with the dedicated CLO intending to visit all households within 2km of the Proposed Development. There were three visits proposed to all of the selected properties, to be held between 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020 and 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

The visits to households are detailed below:

##### 2.1.1.1 8<sup>th</sup> January – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020

Initial door-to-door visits were made by the appointed CLO to houses 1 to 47 identified on the map, as well as Cappabue National School. These had been selected for the public consultation process due to their proximity to the Proposed Development site, within an approximate 2km 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 Wingleaf 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 47 houses, direct contact was made with 42. The remaining five 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 17<sup>th</sup> February – 24<sup>th</sup> February 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 32 of the 47 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 **3<sup>rd</sup> April to 7<sup>th</sup> 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 31 of the 47 houses. Of those who were contacted, they were encouraged to communicate the latest information to their neighbours. Of the remainder, 5 had been uncontactable from the beginning, another 5 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.

### 2.1.2 **Public Exhibition**

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, it was decided that it would not be appropriate to hold a public meeting to display the details of the project to the local community. The dedicated project website was used to display the relevant information to the local community and those closest to the Proposed Development were contacted to inform them that the information was available, [www.curraglassinfo.com](http://www.curraglassinfo.com).

## 2.2 **Dedicated Contact Details**

Since the project was first announced in January 2020, Wingleaf 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 over 10 enquiries about the Proposed Development.

## 2.3 **Project Website**

In June 2020, Wingleaf Ltd. launched a dedicated project website, [www.curraglassinfo.com](http://www.curraglassinfo.com). 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.

2.4

## Community Liaison Officer

In December 2020, Wingleaf 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 Cappabue National School and St. Colums GAA club, water-mains connections for residents who relied on river water, 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 45 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 Cork 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 wind farm to Cork 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 €60,000 per annum over the lifespan of the Proposed Development based on the current estimated generating capacity. This will equate to potential funding of €1.8 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 Fund**

A dedicated annual fund could be made available through the Community Gain 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 Gain 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 Gain 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 Gain 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**

Wingleaf 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.

The development of the proposed Curraglass Renewable Energy Development will provide an enduring economic benefit to the communities surrounding the Proposed Development as outlined in Chapter 4 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**



### 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.



## Frequently Asked Questions

- Q. 1. Why are the turbines so big?**  
**A.** Larger turbines produce more electricity. 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. There are strict guidelines on wind turbine noise limits to make sure local houses are not impacted. Detailed analysis will be completed for the local houses around the site to ensure the guidelines are not exceeded.
- 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.** No. Wind energy is one of the cleanest, most environmentally-friendly energy sources. This subject area has been studied extensively and all reputable studies concur with The World Health Organisation's finding which states that as long as wind turbine remain below required noise levels "There is no reliable evidence to support adverse effects of wind turbines on health".
- Q. 5. Do wind farms affect property values?**  
**A.** Research carried out in the United States, the UK and Australia has proven there to be no statistical evidence that home values near wind farm are affected in the post-construction or post-announcement / pre-construction periods. To date, over 250,000 property transactions have been studied internationally to reach the above conclusions.
- 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 view of wind farms, and say that it would not affect their likelihood of returning to an area.
- Q. 7. Who can I contact?**  
**A.** Patrick McMorrough  
 Phone: 021 7336034 [patrick.mcmorrough@turnkeydev.com](mailto:patrick.mcmorrough@turnkeydev.com)  
 We would like to hear any comments or queries you may have

# Renewable Energy Project Wind Information Leaflet



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- Background **P.1**
- Benefits **P.2**
- Enerco Energy Projects **P.3**
- Questions & Feedback **P.4**

## Who We Are Enerco Energy

Enerco Energy is based near Macroom, Co.Cork and is one of Ireland's leading renewable energy companies, 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.



Enerco currently has an installed generating capacity of 442 MW, 195 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](http://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.

## 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



**LGLP Wind Farm 40.9MW**

### 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:

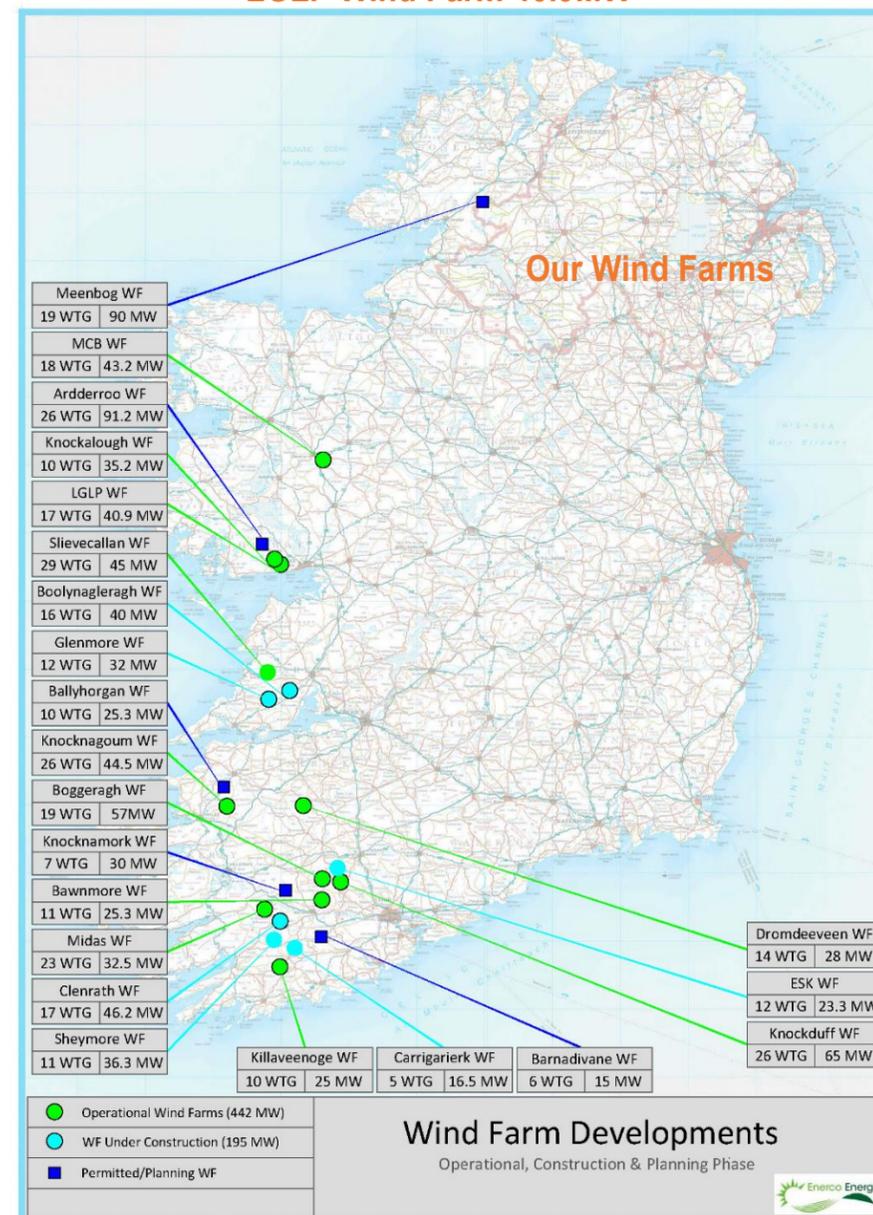
- Local contractors
- Construction plant suppliers
- Machinery operators
- Skilled labourers
- Construction materials suppliers
- Transport companies.

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.



## 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.
- Those in 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 - Watercourses** – The site at Curraglass is crisscrossed with small mountain streams. These support a large number of sensitive aquatic species, both on the site and downstream. These species not only include fish such as Salmon and Trout but also support a diverse range of aquatic insects that play a vital role in the food chain and provide food for fish and birds such as dipper. The design of the proposed development has ensured the protection of these watercourses
- **B – Peatland habitat:** The sections of the site that are not under coniferous forestry primarily support peatland habitats including bogs and heaths. These natural upland habitats are dominated by heather species, that flower in late summer and autumn and clothe the hillsides in an attractive purple hue.
- **C - Conifer forestry:** The conifer forestry on the site is the least natural habitat on this site. However, even this, highly modified habitat provides cover and shelter for a range of faunal species including songbirds and mammal species.



Peatland Habitat

## Useful sources of information

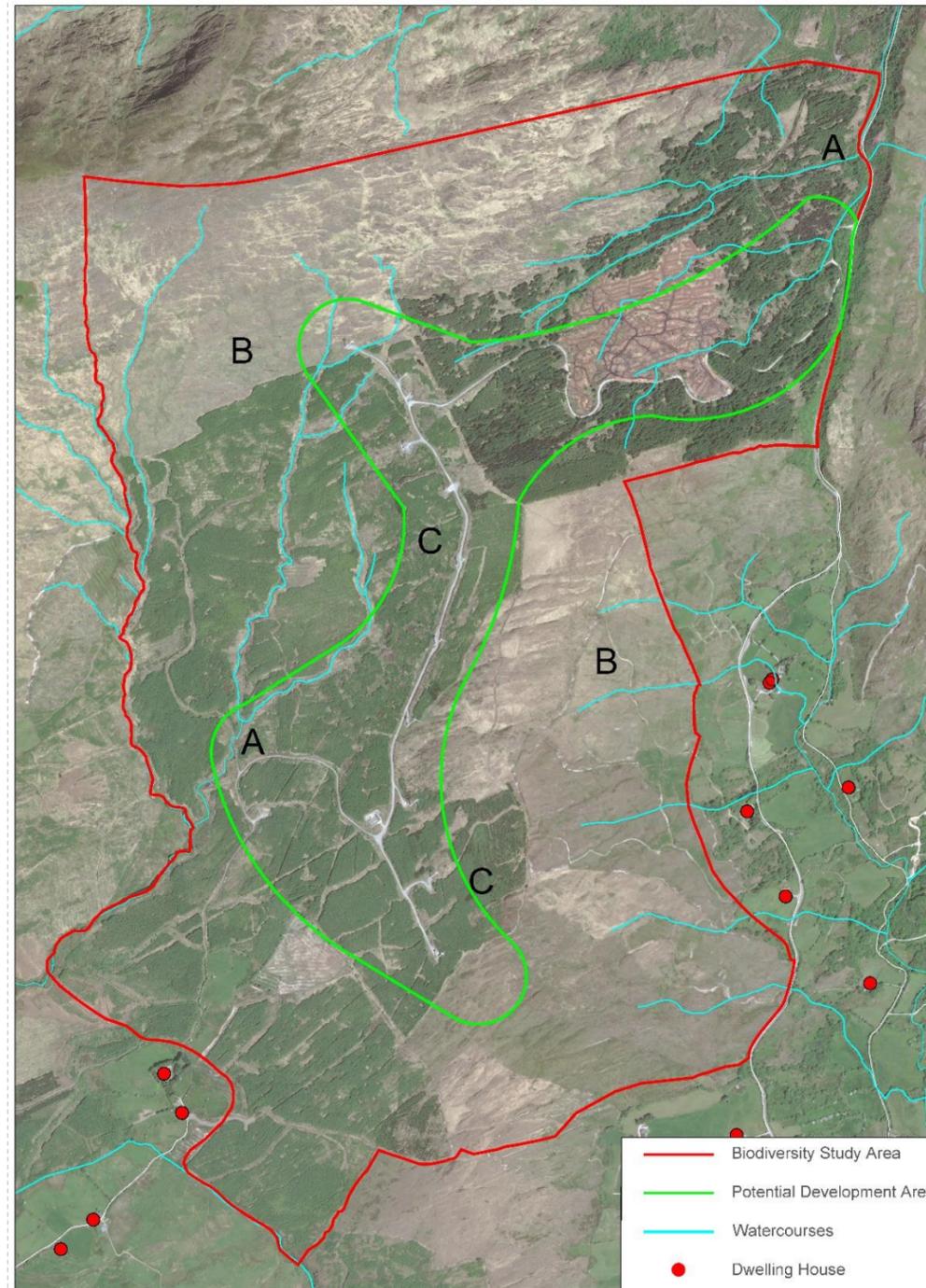
Bat Conservation Ireland

[www.batconservationireland.org/](http://www.batconservationireland.org/)

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

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

Irish Wildlife Trust [www.iwt.ie](http://www.iwt.ie)



**MAP 1 – CURRAGLASS BIODIVERSITY  
STUDY AREA AND  
ASSOCIATED POINTS OF INTEREST**

If you would like further information please contact  
MKO: [info@mkoireland.ie](mailto:info@mkoireland.ie)

# Curraglass Biodiversity

Information Leaflet  
February 2020



This leaflet was presented by Patrick McMorrough  
Enerco Energy Ltd. Phone: 021 7336 034  
Email: [patrick.mcmorrough@turnkeydev.com](mailto:patrick.mcmorrough@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 Curraglass and the surrounding area in recent years by MKO.

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

This leaflet provides a brief overview of a variety of habitats and species of interest with potential to occur within the site as well as some interesting facts for the reader.



Kerry Slug

## Habitats and Species

### Kerry Slug

The habitats on this site are suitable for Kerry slug. This is Ireland's only protected slug species. It is found only in the west of Ireland, and the north of Spain and Portugal. Special care will be taken in the design of the renewable energy development to avoid impact on this species or significant changes to its habitat.

### 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. Whilst no bat roosts were recorded, the following seven bat species were recorded foraging within and around the Curraglass study area; Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Nathusius Pipistrelle, Lesisler's Bat, *Myotis* sp., Brown Long-eared Bat and Lesser Horseshoe Bat.

### Peatland

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. This habitat is home to a wide variety of plant and animal species and is a characteristic feature of the Irish uplands.

### 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.

## Local Biodiversity

Curraglass 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:

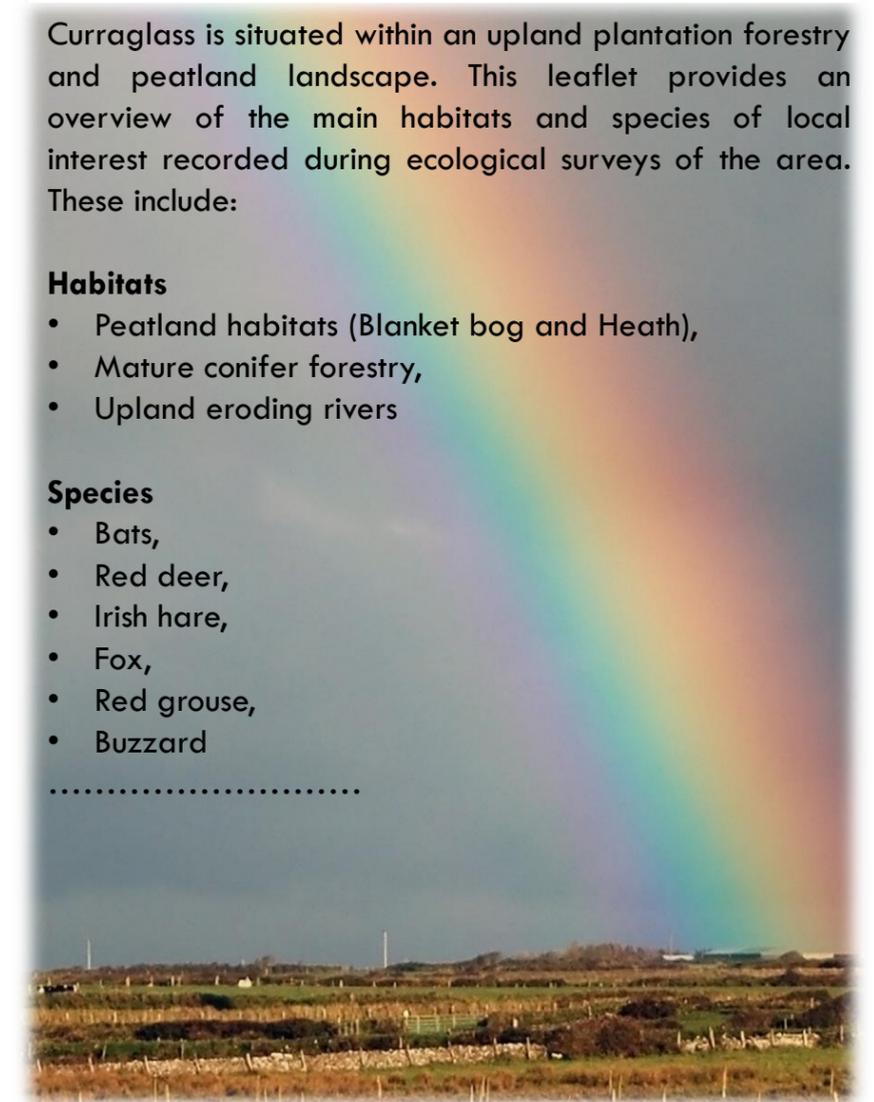
### Habitats

- Peatland habitats (Blanket bog and Heath),
- Mature conifer forestry,
- Upland eroding rivers

### Species

- Bats,
- Red deer,
- Irish hare,
- Fox,
- Red grouse,
- Buzzard

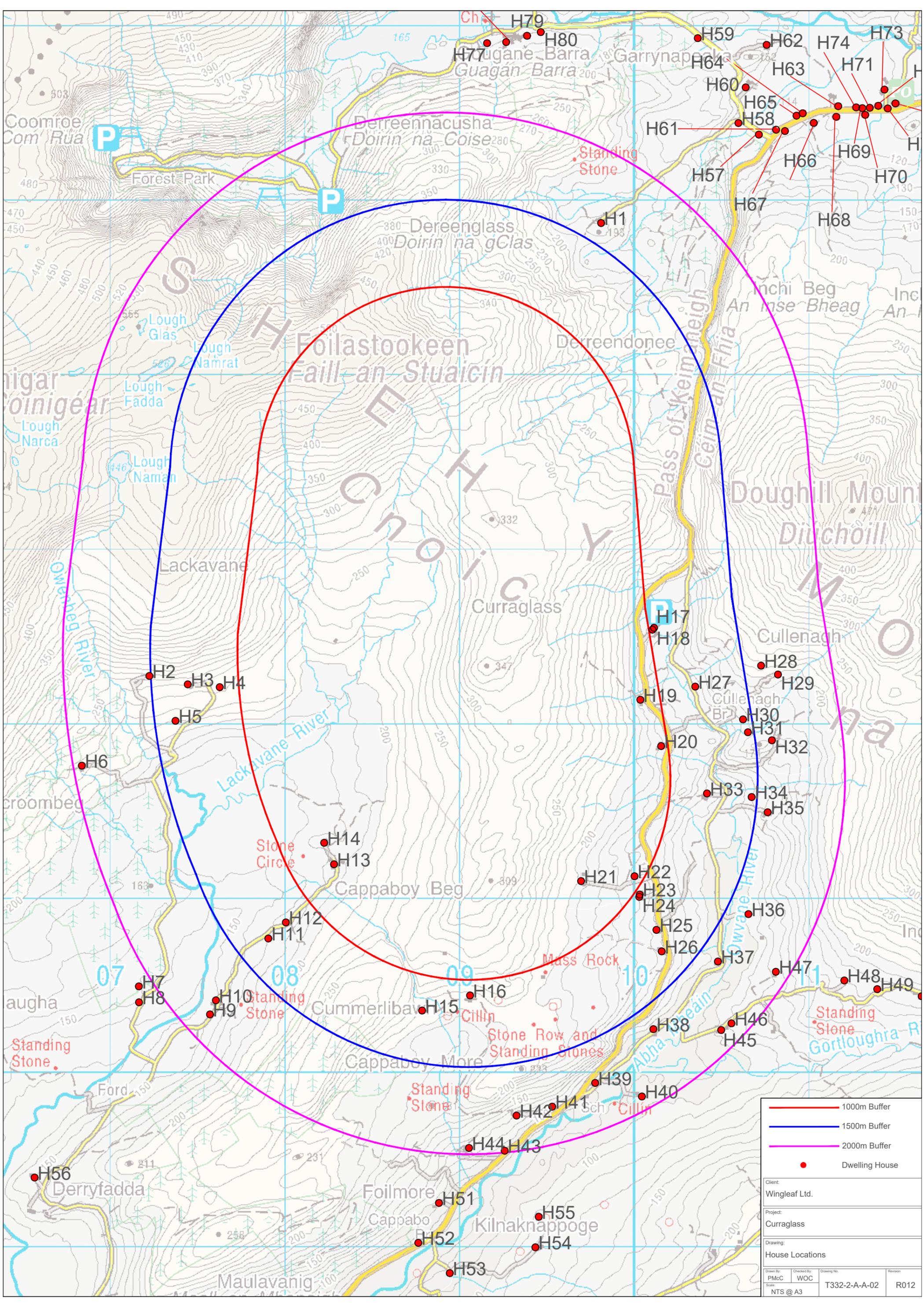
.....



Red grouse



### **APPENDIX 3 – HOUSE LOCATION MAP**



	100m Buffer
	150m Buffer
	200m Buffer
	Dwelling House
Client: Wingleaf Ltd.	
Project: Curraglass	
Drawing: House Locations	
Drawn By: PMcC	Checked By: WOC
Scale: NTS @ A3	Revision: R012
Drawing No: T332-2-A-A-02	