



Cloghercor Wind Farm

Volume I - Non-Technical Summary / Imleabhar I - Achoimre Neamhtheicniúil



CLOGHERCOR WIND FARM

EIAR-NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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Revision	Description	Author:	Date	Reviewed By:	Date	Authorised by:	Date
D01	Draft Issue						
A	Final						

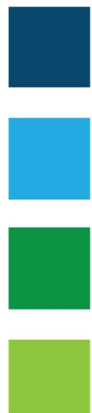
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INTRODUCTION

Cloghercor Wind Farm Limited, a joint venture company between Ørsted and FuturEnergy Ireland, intend to apply to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission to construct the proposed Cloghercor Wind Farm in County Donegal. The proposed wind farm is located approximately 2 km south of Doochary in west County Donegal and will have an electrical output of between 95-136.8 MW.

The proposed Cloghercor Wind Farm, hereafter referred to as the proposed project, comprises a wind farm of 19 no. wind turbines and all associated infrastructure including turbine foundations, hardstanding areas, borrow pits, access tracks, an on-site electrical substation, works to facilitate delivery of equipment to site, a grid connection and facilitating works on the public road network and at private properties to accommodate the delivery of turbine components (which includes a temporary turbine component transfer area). The proposed development refers only to the elements for which planning permission is being sought as part of this application, however this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) accounts for the overall proposed project.

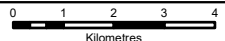
The extent of the overall proposed project is shown in Figure 1-1 and incorporates an area of approximately 2,198 hectares (ha), including 252 ha of Biodiversity Enhancement lands. The proposed development, planning application site area, extends to an area of approximately 256 ha.



Legend *

- Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary
- Turbine Delivery Route works
- Biodiversity Enhancement lands

*all land identified is within Boundary of the Proposed Project



NOTES
 1 FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS DRAWING
 2 ALL DRAWINGS TO BE CHECKED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE
 3 DIMENSIONS TO BE INCREASED BY ANY DISCREPANCIES BEFORE ANY WORK COMMENCES
 4 ALL LEVELS RELATE TO ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM AT MAIN HEAD

A	03/03/2023	Final Issue	S.P	J.S
Issue	Date	Description	By	Drawn

Client: Cloghercor Wind Farm Ltd.

Project: Cloghercor Wind Farm

Title: Figure 1-1: Proposed Project Extent

Scale @ A4: 1:150,000

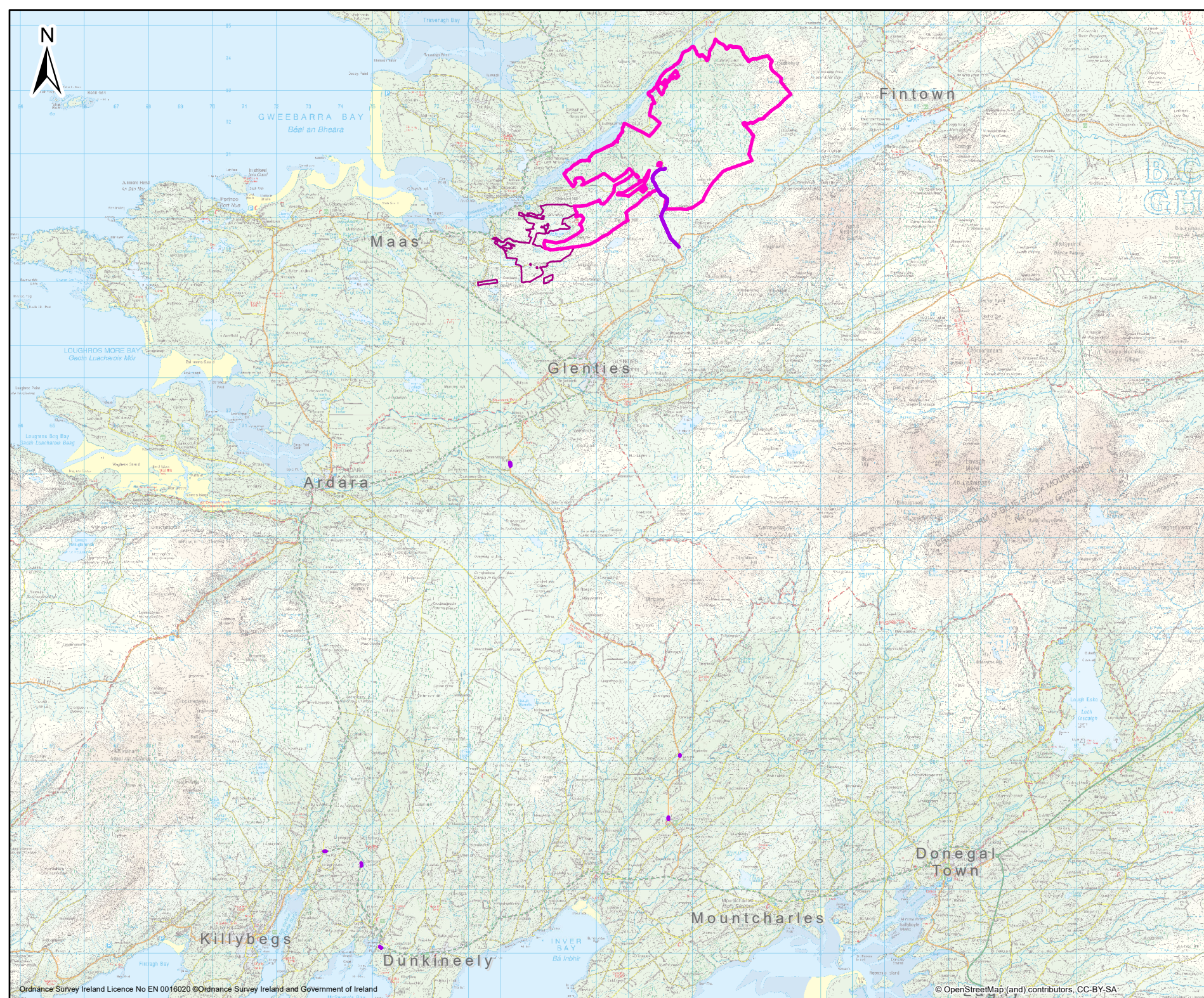
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The Applicant

The applicant for permission (Cloghercor Wind Farm Limited) is a joint venture company between Ørsted and FuturEnergy Ireland. Both Ørsted and FuturEnergy Ireland are large companies in the renewable energy market, who provide a significant proportion of the renewable energy required to achieve the government targets thus far, with ambitions to grow this contribution in the future.

Ørsted develops, constructs, and operates offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, and bioenergy plants, and provides energy products to its customers. In Ireland, Ørsted owns and operates a portfolio of onshore wind farms with a combined capacity of more than 300 MW. Their ambition is to increase this by more than 600 MW in the coming decade. FuturEnergy Ireland is a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB that is actively looking to drive Ireland's transition to a low carbon economy. The company's ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

Structure and Purpose of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required to ensure that projects that are likely to have significant effects on the surrounding area and the environment are properly assessed. Any significant impacts discovered in the assessment must be avoided or minimized where possible. The findings and outcome of the EIA are presented as a report, known as an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

TOBIN Consulting Engineers has prepared the EIAR in accordance with relevant and specific environmental legislation, guidance and advice notes. The report has been compiled in consultation with statutory bodies, interested parties and the local community. Further details on the consultation process are provided below.

This document is Volume 1 of the EIAR. It is a Non-Technical Summary (NTS), which gives a brief description of the project and the assessment of the relevant environmental matters in non-technical language. The additional Volumes contain information as described below:

Volume 2: The Main EIAR – Contains detailed information relating to the proposed Cloghercor Wind Farm and the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment. Volume 2 also contains drawings, figures and maps.

Volume 3: Appendices: This Volume contains information and data that has been used in the Environmental Impact Assessment and is referred to in Volume 2.

Volume 4: Photomontages: This Volume contains imagery that has been used as part of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment contained in Volume 2: The Main EIAR.

The purpose of this NTS is to provide a concise overview, in non-technical terms, of the issues, impacts and mitigation measures highlighted by the EIA and presented in the main EIAR, Volume 2.

The Need for the Proposed Project

In terms of setting out the need for the proposed Cloghercor Wind Farm, and renewable wind energy in general, it is important to place this proposed project in an international, national, and local policy context from the perspectives of environment, energy and planning.

Some of the key national policy targets and objectives are summarised here as are some brief statistics and research on renewable energy use, which gives context to the current dependency on imported fossil fuels in Ireland, and therefore which demonstrate the need for the proposed project both in general and at this particular location.

From a National perspective, the Government's *Climate Action Plan* (December 2023) is the key document which provides a roadmap for Ireland to meet its European Union (EU) target to halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050. The action plan maintains the target from previous plans of 80% of electricity to be produced by renewable energy sources by 2030 with an indicative contribution of up to 9.0 Gigawatts (GW) (i.e. 9,000 MW) to be provided from increased onshore wind capacity. In Ireland (as of May 2022), there is an installed wind capacity of 4,333 MW¹ which leaves a gap of 4,667 MW of wind energy capacity to be installed in order to meet the 2030 targets. In essence, a more than doubling of current wind capacity is needed.

Energy security comprises many diverse factors, including import dependency, fuel diversity, the capacity and integrity of the supply and distribution infrastructure, energy prices, physical risks, supply disruptions and emergencies. According to information published by the SEAI in 2022², indigenous production accounted for 32% of Ireland's energy requirements in 1990 and only ever reached a peak of 34% since then. However, since the mid-1990s, import dependency had grown significantly, accounting for ~ 80% of Ireland's energy requirements in 2021.

This dependence on fuel imports makes Ireland highly susceptible to price fluctuations in the international supply market and vulnerable to volatile international trade wars and political decisions. This is very apparent in the current energy price situation. The Government White Paper entitled *Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030* sets out a framework to guide Ireland's energy policy development. The White Paper states "*Renewable energy will also play a central role in the transition to low carbon energy. No single renewable energy technology – existing or emerging – will alone enable Ireland to overcome the low carbon challenge. Rather, a diverse range of technologies will be required along the supply chains for electricity, heat and transport*". In this context, the addition of between 95-136.8 MW of installed wind energy capacity from the proposed Cloghercor Wind Farm will improve our security of supply and reduce our reliance on energy imports. In context of the current gap in wind capacity required to meet the 2030 targets, the proposed project would contribute between 2 and 2.9% of additional wind energy in support of meeting that target.

Carbon pricing also plays a role in establishing a need for the proposed project. The Government has committed to progressively raise the carbon tax rate to reach EUR 100 per tonne of carbon dioxide by 2030, while recycling revenue to prevent fuel poverty, finance climate-related investment and ensure a just transition³. The proposed project is expected to offset between 3,420,585 and 4,925,655 tonnes of carbon over its 35 year lifespan, depending on the type of turbine chosen (see Air Quality and Climate section below for further context, and Chapter 14

¹ <https://windenergyireland.com/about-wind/the-basics/facts-stats> (Accessed 18th January 2023)
<https://www.seai.ie/publications/Energy-in-Ireland-2022.pdf> Energy in Ireland - 2022 Report.

³ <https://www.oecd.org/climate-action/ipac/practices/a-credible-carbon-tax-trajectory-for-ireland-a39128a3/> [Accessed on 23 Sept. 2022]

of the EIAR). At an expected tax rate of 100 € per tonne of CO₂ by 2030, this would equate to savings of between 293.8M and 445.5 M euro.

It should be noted that there is a considerable economic benefit to the development of wind farms nationally and specifically at this location. Research has shown the sector can support job growth during construction and through the operational stage on a local county level and nationally. There are other potential financial costs and savings of the use of renewable electricity for the end customer when compared to a fossil fuel use scenario.

The development of renewable energy is a natural step in the evolution of locally generated electricity. Electricity generation has brought significant economic gain to many areas in Ireland over the years. Ireland is now on a path of decarbonisation and the energy that we use is changing from fossil fuels to renewables, such as wind. The potential to extract local, economic and societal gains is a major benefit associated with the development of renewable energy projects. All renewable projects that are developed over the coming years will attract a significant community benefit fund for the local area which will bring significant opportunities for local communities.

The proposed project has the potential to bring significant positive benefit to the local community. The project will contribute annual rates to Donegal County Council and it will provide opportunity for local community investment in the project in line with the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) estimated at €500,000 per year for the first 15 years of the project. A community benefit fund will be put in place for the lifetime of the project to provide direct funding to those areas surrounding the project.

THE PROPOSED PROJECT

Background

In September 2022, it was confirmed that Ireland yet again missed its targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Wind energy however provides a clean, sustainable solution to our energy problems. It can be used as an alternative to fossil fuels in generating electricity, without the direct emission of greenhouse gases. The proposed project will add to Ireland's overall renewable energy generating capacity and will contribute to national and international efforts to reduce carbon emissions to the atmosphere. Ireland is currently one of the leading countries in its use of wind energy and is in fifth place worldwide based on 2021 usage after Denmark, Uruguay, Spain and Portugal⁴.

2050 European targets mean that Europe's energy production will have to be almost carbon-free by 2050 and while Ireland has come a long way in recent years to increase renewable energy generation, the targets are ever increasing. It is this commitment on energy and climate policy that justifies a clear need for renewable energy generation in Ireland and for the proposed project.

Due to the scale of the proposal, the project is of strategic economic and social importance to the Region and the State. The capital investment will represent a significant economic contribution to the Region and the State as a whole. The project will assist in meeting national renewable energy targets and will also result in significant reductions in carbon emissions from

⁴ https://www.ren21.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/GSR2022_Full_Report.pdf [Accessed January 2023]

electricity generation and reduce the reliance on imported fossil fuels and will assist in the transition from the dependency on fossil fuels to energy generation from renewable sources.

There is a considerable economic benefit to the development of wind farms in job creation, investment and energy production. In this particular case, approximately 96-139 jobs will be supported during the construction phase and the Institute of Sustainable Futures (2015) estimates that the operational and maintenance job output for the Cloghercor Wind Farm would be 0.3 jobs per MW of total installed capacity.

The Cloghercor Wind Farm site and the associated areas lies within the functional areas of Donegal County Council and thus informed by the provisions of the Donegal County Development Plan 2018-2024. It is the strategic aim of Donegal Council to:

“facilitate the development of a diverse energy portfolio by the sustainable harnessing of the potential of renewable energy including ocean energy, bioenergy, solar, wind and geothermal, along with the sustainable use of oil and gas, and other emerging energy sources in accordance with National Energy policy and guidance. It is also an aim to facilitate the appropriate development of associated infrastructure to enable the harnessing of these energy resources and to promote and facilitate the development of Donegal as a Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy.”

Scoping and Consultation

As part of the EIA process, Cloghercor Wind Farm Limited and TOBIN Consulting Engineers met with An Bord Pleanála, to discuss the scope of the application for planning permission. A “Scoping Report” accompanied a consultation cover letter that was issued in June 2021 to relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies and all comments from each of the bodies have been taken into consideration in the design and assessment process.

Consultation was a continual and on-going process and all comments, observations or concerns raised by consultees are addressed in the EIAR.

The Proposed Site

The proposed site is comprised of three main areas:

- The main wind farm site including the grid connection (hereinafter referred to as the ‘wind farm site’);
- Turbine Delivery Route; and
- Biodiversity Enhancement Lands.

The wind farm site (Figure 1-1) which extends to approximately 1,945 ha, of which approximately 1,027 ha is owned by Coillte and the remaining area is third party property, located 2.1 km south of Doochary in northwest County Donegal.

The wind farm site runs in a northeast-southwest direction and comprises a single, slightly elongated land parcel. These lands lie between the R250 that runs from Glenties to Fintown and the River Gweebarra estuary, located adjacent to the northwest boundary of the wind farm site. The site lies between the settlements of Doochary, Lettermacaward and Glenties, which are located approximately 2.1 km north, 850 m west and 3.5 km south of the site of the proposed wind farm respectively.

The land use/activities on the site of the proposed wind farm are primarily commercial forestry, with some areas of open peatland that is extensively grazed. The surrounding landscape is a mixture of peatland, forestry, and agricultural land (See Plate 1-1).



Plate 1-1: View to the South from Within Proposed Wind Farm Site

The turbines will be delivered along the existing road network from Killybegs Port in southwest County Donegal to the proposed wind farm site, along the Turbine Delivery Route.

Biodiversity Enhancement Lands will encompass approximately 252 ha of land adjacent to the wind farm site, as shown in Figure 1-1 above.

The Main Elements of the Proposed Project

A detailed description of the proposed project assessed in the EIAR is provided in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Project), and is comprised of the main wind farm, the works required along the turbine delivery route and the grid connection.

The proposed wind farm includes the wind turbines, internal access tracks, hard standings, the permanent meteorological mast, recreational amenity trail and associated signage, onsite substation, internal cabling, temporary construction compound, drainage infrastructure and all associated works related to the construction of the wind farm.

The grid connection includes for the underground cabling between the proposed substation and the existing overhead line, all of which are within the proposed wind farm site, with almost no use of public roads apart from a single location where it perpendicularly crosses the L6483. The turbines will be delivered along the existing road network from Killybegs Port in southwest County Donegal to the proposed wind farm site, and the proposed works to accommodate this delivery are considered as part of the EIAR.

The main elements of the proposed project are outlined below, with further detail provided in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Project) of the EIAR:

- Erection of 19 no. wind turbines with an overall blade tip height range from 185 m to 200 m, a rotor diameter range from 149 m to 164 m, a hub height range from 112 m to 125 m, and all associated foundations and hard-standing areas in respect of each turbine;
- Construction of new site entrance with access onto the L6483 local road for the construction phase (operational phase maintenance traffic only), and utilisation of a permitted forest entrance (Pl. Ref. 1951040) to the L6483 as a second construction phase site access point. A third site entrance on the L6483 will form the operational phase public entrance to the wind farm;
- Improvements and temporary modifications to 5 no. locations adjacent to the public road to facilitate delivery of abnormal loads and turbine delivery on the R262 and N56 in the townlands of Tullycumber, Drumard, Darney, Cashelreagh Glebe and Aghayeevoige;
- Construction of an area of temporary hard standing to function as a blade transfer area to facilitate turbine delivery on the R262 in the townland of Drumnacross;
- Widening of sections of the L6363 and L6483 within the road corridor (up to 4.5 m running width) to facilitate delivery of abnormal loads/turbines in the townlands of Cloghercor, Shallogan More, Derryloaghan and Straboy;
- Construction of 2 no. temporary construction compounds with associated temporary site offices, parking areas and security fencing;
- Installation of 1 no. permanent meteorological mast with a height of 100 m;
- 4 no. borrow pits;
- Construction of new internal site access roads and upgrade of existing site roads, to include passing bays and all associated drainage;
- Construction of drainage and sediment control systems;
- Construction of 1 no. permanent 110kV electrical substation including:
 - 1 no. EirGrid control building containing worker welfare facilities and equipment store;
 - 1 no. Independent Power Producer (IPP) control building containing HV switch room, site offices, kitchen facilities, storeroom and toilet amenities.
 - All electrical plant and infrastructure and grid ancillary services equipment;
 - Parking;

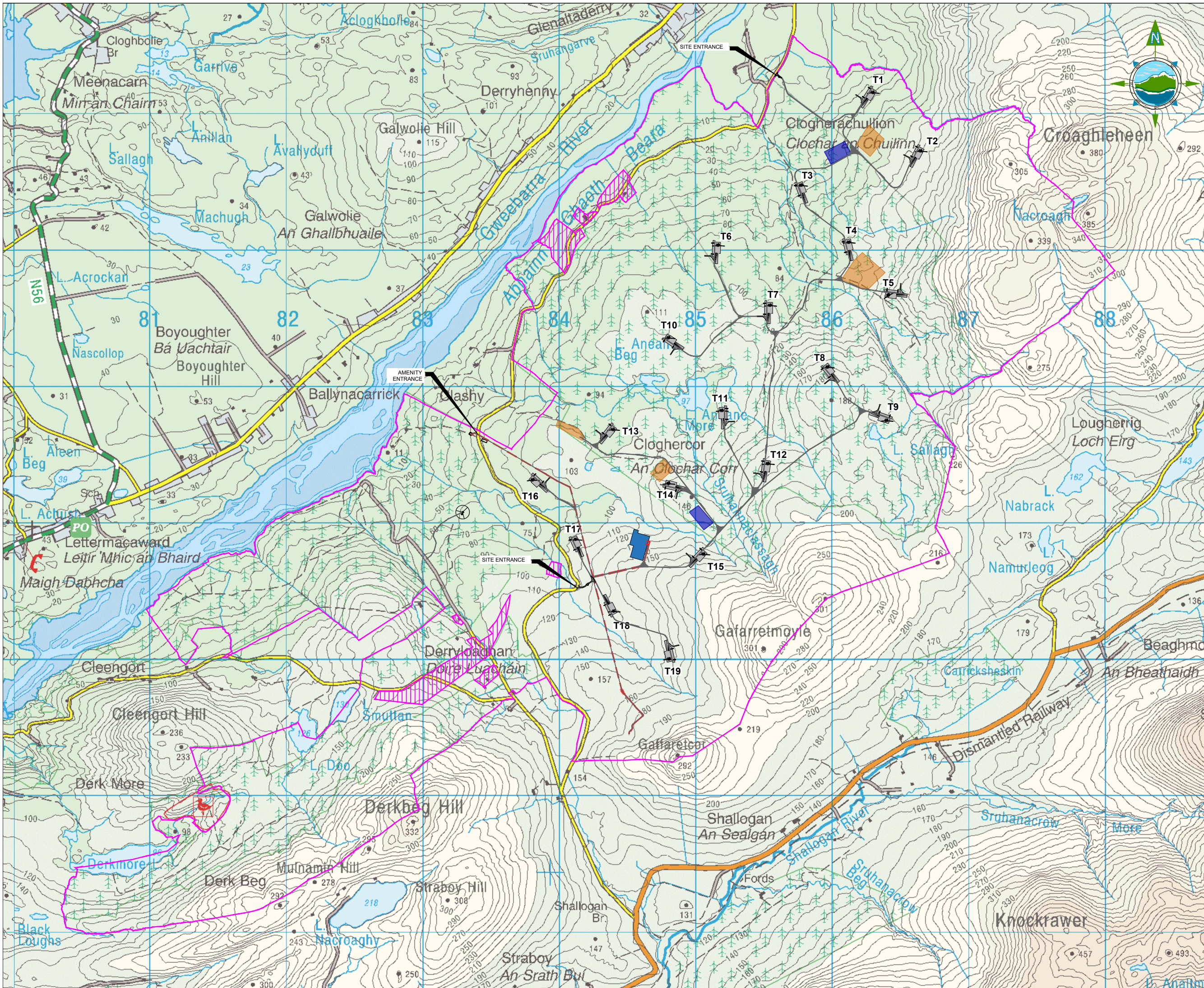
- Lighting;
- Security Fencing;
- Wastewater holding tank;
- Rainwater harvesting equipment;
- All associated infrastructure and services including site works and signage;
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the proposed wind farm substation;
- All works associated with the connection of the proposed wind farm to the national electricity grid, which will be via a loop-in 110 kV underground cable connection (approximately 4.1 km cable length within trenches on approximately 3.36 km of internal access roads) to the existing 110kV overhead line in the townland of Cloghercor, Co. Donegal, with two new 16 m and 21 m high steel lattice end masts at each interface;
- Removal of 13 no. existing wooden polesets and 1 no. steel lattice angle mast between the 2 no. proposed new interface end masts;
- 2 no. watercourse (stream) crossings on the grid connection route;
- All related site works and ancillary development including berms, landscaping, and soil excavation;
- Forestry felling to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed development and any onsite forestry replanting;
- Development of a permanent public car park with seating/picnic tables at the end of the construction phase of the development at the location where the proposed grid connection intersects the L6483;
- Permanent recreational facilities including marked walking trails along the site access roads and paths, and associated recreation and amenity signage; and
- Approximately 252 ha of biodiversity enhancement lands located over 3 km from the proposed wind turbines.

A 10-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire wind farm is being sought. Given the recent advances in turbine technology, and the anticipated lifespan of wind turbines, this is considered to be the optimal operational life for the proposed project. The duration of this operational life allows the proposed turbines to be used to generate clean renewable energy until they have reached the end of their life, rather than being removed prematurely.

The application includes an onsite substation with an underground grid connection to the existing overhead line in Cloghercor. Two new masts will be required in Cloghercor to allow for the connection and thirteen existing wooden polesets, part of the existing overhead line, will be removed and replaced with the underground cabling. The overall length of the grid connection between the proposed substation and the existing overhead line is approximately 3.36 km, of which all is off road and within the site of the proposed wind farm.

A recreational facility will be developed at the wind farm site as part of the proposed project, which will provide a further benefit to the local community and the wider area. Walking trails, of varying levels of difficulty are included within the plan for the site in addition to supporting infrastructure to enhance the experience for users. These include a viewing area to enjoy the Gweebarra vista, car parking, signage and seating areas.

An area of land currently extensively farmed will be managed through agreed land practices as part of the proposed project, shown as the Biodiversity Enhancement Lands in Figure 1-1. This will result in an improvement of those lands as suitable habitats for Red Grouse and Irish Hare.



- LEGEND:**
- PROPOSED WIND FARM SITE BOUNDARY
 - AREA EXCLUDED FROM BOUNDARY
 - ACCESS ROADS WITH PASSING BAYS
 - GRID CONNECTION ROUTE
 - TURBINE HARDSTAND
 - TURBINE LOCATIONS
 - TEMP. CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND
 - SUBSTATION LOCATION
 - BORROW PIT LOCATIONS
 - MET MAST LOCATION

OSI 1:50,000 Sheet No's: 1638, 1640, 1838, 1840
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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	07.03.22	INFORMATION ISSUE	EB	OF

Client:
CLOGHERCOR WIND FARM LTD.

Project:
CLOGHERCOR WIND FARM

Title:
SITE LAYOUT

Scale @ A3: 1:25,000
 Prepared by: E. Beggs
 Checked: O. Fitzpatrick
 Date: January 23
 Project Director: S. Tinnelly
 Drawing Status: Information

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Drawing No.: **Figure 2.1**
 Revision: **A**

Outline of Construction

Construction Schedule

It is anticipated⁵ that 96-139 persons will be employed during the peak construction period and it is estimated that the construction phase will take approximately 24 months from starting onsite to completion of commissioning of the turbines. Where practical, vegetation clearance that is required during construction works will commence outside the breeding birds season, which runs from the 1st of March to the 31st of August.

The hours of construction activity will be limited to avoid unsociable hours where possible. Construction operations shall generally be restricted to between 7:00hrs and 19:00hrs weekdays and between 7:00hrs and 14:00hrs on Saturdays.

However, to ensure that optimal use is made of good weather periods or at critical periods within the programme (i.e. concrete pours) or to accommodate delivery of large turbine components along public routes it could be necessary on occasion to work outside of these hours. Any such out of hours working will be agreed in advance with Donegal County Council.

A start date of January 2026 is anticipated for the construction phase, which can be broken down into 5 no. main phases as follows (there will be overlap between these):

- 14 months – Civils (including site roads, hardstands, turbine foundations, forestry felling, drainage);
- 6 months – Electrical grid connection/substation installation and commissioning;
- 12 months – Site electrical (installing between turbines and substation, pulling cables);
- 4 months – Turbine deliveries and erection;
- 2 months – Commissioning.

Construction Methodologies

Chapter 2 of the EIAR details construction methodologies for the following elements of the proposed project:

- Site Access Tracks and Drainage;
- Temporary Compound, Material Storage Areas and Site Offices;
- Turbine Hardstand, Foundations and Erection;
- Turbine Delivery Route;
- Permanent Meteorological Mast;
- Recreation Facility and
- Grid Connection.

The construction methodology associated with the grid connection for the proposed project also considers the methods proposed for crossing of two watercourses.

Environmental Management during Construction

A CEMP has been drafted for the proposed project. The CEMP will be updated prior to commencement of the construction works to address the requirements of any relevant planning conditions, including any additional mitigation measures which are conditioned, and will be

⁵ http://www.ewea.org/fileadmin/files/library/publications/reports/Wind_at_work.pdf

submitted to Donegal County Council for written approval. The construction contractor will be responsible for implementing the mitigation measures specified in the EIAR and CEMP and for communicating the requirements with all staff on-site. Their implementation of the mitigation measures will be overseen by the supervising Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), ecologists, archaeologists and/or geotechnical engineers, as appropriate.

CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES

The chapter within the EIAR that considers reasonable alternatives studied by the applicant includes alternative design/ layout, technology and processes, in addition to the site selection process. A ‘Do-Nothing’ scenario is also considered, that is an outline of what would happen to the proposed wind farm site should the proposed project not be implemented.

Under the “Do-Nothing” scenario, the proposed project would not go ahead, the development of wind turbines would not be pursued, and all lands associated with the proposed project would remain in their current uses (primarily forestry). The prospect of creating sustainable energy would be lost at this site. The nation’s ability to produce sustainable energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to meet EU targets and targets set out in the Climate Action Plan (2023) would be reduced.

The site selection process for the proposed project initially began in 2014, Coillte’s Renewable Energy Development Team (later became FuturEnergy Ireland) undertook a detailed screening process using a number of criteria and stages to assess the potential of a large number of possible sites suitable to accommodate a wind energy development. During a further sieving of the available sites, a number of sites, including the site at Cloghercor, were selected to take forward for further consideration.

The site layout design stage considered the size, number and positioning of turbines and layout of associated site infrastructure i.e. internal access tracks, temporary construction compounds, met masts, substations, etc. Alternatives considered for each of these elements are documented in the EIAR.

The siting and design of the proposed wind farm development has evolved through the consideration of alternatives and allowing for stakeholder input into the process. Early review of the design considered such aspects as landscape and visual effects, size of site footprint, noise disturbance and shadow flicker potential.

A Turbine Delivery Route Assessment assessed different delivery route options from a number of ports, with a review of the environmental effects of each undertaken as part of the EIAR. The impact on the local roads network was assessed when determining the most suitable site access to the proposed wind farm site.

The substation location and grid connection route was determined by the location of the existing electrical infrastructure and the intention of keeping the majority of grid connection works within the proposed wind farm site.

The construction methods for the proposed project are dependent on a number of factors specific to the site and design, and have been considered in relation to ground conditions, foundation installation and turbine erection. Site-specific information gathered through intrusive site investigation and environmental surveys was taken into consideration when reviewing alternative methodologies for construction. So, decisions on the construction methods for groundwork and foundation installations, as well as the internal road and grid connection, were informed and based on best practice.

A study of the reasonable alternatives in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale has been undertaken and presented in the EIAR chapter. The options which are relevant to the proposed project and its specific characteristics of a large scale wind farm in an upland rural area are documented. The overriding reason for selecting the chosen option is to maximise the renewable energy production from the site while minimising the environmental impact.

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH

This chapter in the EIAR presents the potential effects on population, human health, socio-economics, employment, tourism, land-use and health and safety.

A large portion of the proposed project is located on lands under the ownership and control of Coillte. The proposed project also has a significant number of third-party private landowners who have consented to the application and proposed project.

The land use activities on the proposed wind farm site are primarily commercial forestry, with some areas of open peatland that is extensively grazed. The surrounding landscape is a mixture of forestry, agricultural land and peat bog.

The main urban centres in the region are Donegal Town, located c. 22 km southeast and Letterkenny Town, located c. 31 km northeast of the proposed wind farm site. The closest residential receptor is located 925 m from the nearest proposed turbine location. A number of community facilities and amenities are available in the locality, with Lettermacaward and Glenties providing those nearest the proposed wind farm site. Lettermacaward village is home to an active GAA club (Na Rossa GAA Club), a service station, shops, health centre, public houses, accommodation, community hall and churches. The proposed wind farm site is located mostly within a Gaeltacht (Ghaeltacht Dhún na nGall).

A section of the Wild Atlantic Way route passes close to the proposed wind farm site, along the N56, between Mulnamina More, crossing Gweebarra Bridge, through Lettermacaward and Meenderry before continuing northwards towards Cloughwally.

Census results between 2011 and 2016 show a fall in population in Donegal of -1.2%. However, during the 10-year period of 2006 to 2016, the population nationally increased by approximately 12% and the population of County Donegal increased by approximately 8%, while the population of the Electoral Districts within which the proposed project is located decreased by approximately -3%.

Best practice construction methodology and measures to minimise impacts from excavation works, and in terms of health and safety will be as described in Chapter 8 (Land, Soils and Geology), will keep the development area to a minimum and reduce land use changes. The project will employ all of the latest and relevant guidelines and legislation (See CEMP in Appendix 2-2 of the EIAR for further details) in terms of health and safety both for works within the wind farm site as well as for works outside the main wind farm such as those on the TDR.

Overall Effects

The proposed project will have a slight positive residual effect (after implementation of best practise mitigation measures) on the local population through an influx of construction workers in the short-term. This influx is likely to cause a slight increase in local population over a short period of time resulting in a boost to the local economy through accommodation and spend in local shops and restaurants. There will be a short term slight negative effect as a result of the construction phase traffic and associated noise. In terms of land-use, the construction will

involve long-term land use change primarily for the excavation of borrow pits and the construction of infrastructure. The construction itself may have short term slight negative effect on the forestry operations within the site.

The proposed project will provide clean energy from a renewable resource and help to achieve targets in national energy and climate change policies. This is a direct positive long-term residual effect for the country which will benefit the local population and communities.

The establishment of a Community Benefit Fund is considered to be a long-term positive effect on the local community in general. This in turn would have a positive effect on the individuals living in this community and have a positive effect on their individual psychological health through the development of community led projects and maximising the level of local involvement in terms of influencing how the funds are spent.

It is considered that the proposed project will have a long-term, slight, positive effect on the tourism experience and numbers in the vicinity of the site given that the current amenity will be enhanced by the project and additional marked trails will be available to the public.

Overall, it is considered likely that there will be a long-term, slight, positive effect on the local population and human health as a result of the proposed project.

BIODIVERSITY

The biodiversity assessment included: desk reviews; habitat and vegetation surveys; mapping of invasive species; surveys and assessments of the aquatic flora and fauna associated with the streams and lakes within the wind farm site; a two-year bat survey; and surveys of other protected fauna.

Designated Sites

The eastern corner of the wind farm site is part of the Meenmore West Natural Heritage Area, while the Derkmore Wood Nature Reserve and proposed Natural Heritage Area is adjacent to the western section of the wind farm site. There is no proposed wind farm infrastructure within 1 km of either of these sites and neither site will be affected by the wind farm development.

The potential impacts on Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas are assessed in the Natura Impact Statement (NIS), submitted alongside the EIAR as part of the overall planning application documentation.

Habitats and Vegetation

Most of the wind farm site is occupied by conifer plantations. Small patches and narrow strips of open habitats occur along forest roads, rides, stream corridors and in small clearings. These are mainly wet heath, with some areas of dense bracken and lowland blanket bog. More extensive open areas of bog and heath habitat occur around the margins of the site, but these areas will not be developed. No rare plant species were recorded in the wind farm site.

The wind farm development will remove around 28 ha of conifer plantation habitat, while another 29-50 ha will be felled and kept open along the access roads and around the turbines. Open habitats within forestry plantations generally have significant positive effects on the overall biodiversity of the plantation. Therefore, while the loss of forestry habitat to hard surfaces will have a minor negative impact, the overall net impact on the habitat value of the forestry plantation is likely to be positive.

The wind farm development will remove around 6 ha of wet heath and blanket bog habitat. However, new wet heath and bog habitat is likely to develop in the areas that are felled along the access roads and around the turbines. A Biodiversity Management Plan will be implemented that will include the management and restoration of 3 ha of lowland blanket bog and 3.5 ha of wet heath habitat in the wind farm site. A Golden Eagle Habitat Management Plan will also be implemented that will include the management of around 170 ha of blanket bog and wet heath habitat outside the proposed wind farm site, but within the proposed project boundary, the Biodiversity Enhancement Lands (Figure 1-1). Therefore, the overall residual impacts on wet heath and blanket bog habitat are likely to be positive.

Invasive Species

Rhododendron was widely distributed across the wind farm site but did not occur in large stands. Two stands of Japanese Knotweed were recorded and a single stand of Montbretia. An Invasive Species Management Plan has been prepared to prevent the construction work from causing the introduction and / or spread of invasive species.

Aquatic Biodiversity

Three small lakes and four smaller ponds occur within the section of the wind farm site that will be developed. The lakes were classified as acid oligotrophic lake habitat while the ponds were classified as dystrophic lake habitat. These lakes and ponds are all at least 55 m from the nearest points of the development footprint.

Several small streams drain the wind farm site to the Gweebarra Estuary. These streams do not have suitable habitat for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel and have little value as habitat for salmonid fish, lampreys, or eels.

The wind farm development will include construction of culverts and clear span bridges across some of the streams. This will result in a permanent loss of bankside vegetation, but there will be no permanent loss of aquatic habitat. The overall effect on aquatic habitats is assessed as a permanent, slight negative impact at the county scale.

Surface water runoff from the wind farm development will drain to the streams that cross the wind farm site, while two of the lakes (Loughs Aneane Beg and Aneane More) are within the catchments of the nearby wind farm infrastructure. Therefore, these streams and lakes and could potentially be affected by water quality impacts, particularly during the construction phase. However, after implementation of the construction phase and operational phase mitigation measures, the residual water quality impacts to these watercourses and lakes are predicted to be very slight temporary and occasional.

Bats

Eight bat species were recorded within the development site: Soprano Pipistrelle, Common Pipistrelle, Leisler's Bat, Daubenton's Bat, Nathusius' Pipistrelle, Natterer's Bat, Whiskered Bat and Brown Long-eared Bat. However, the overall level of bat activity was low.

A set of buildings and surrounding mature trees, within the proposed wind farm area was assessed as having medium suitability for roosting bats. However, no evidence of bats roosting in these buildings was recorded. These buildings and trees will not be affected by the wind farm development. No other bat roosts were recorded within the wind farm site, or in buildings around the margins of the wind farm site.

The wind farm development will potentially cause collision mortality to local bat populations. The impact assessment concluded that, if no mitigation measures are implemented, there are four high risk turbines: T3, T9, T15 and T19. The other turbines were classified as moderate or low risk.

To reduce the collision risk to bat populations, buffer zones will be established around each turbine within which all trees and other tall woody vegetation will be cleared. These buffer zones will be maintained as bog / heath type vegetation dominated by low-growing dwarf shrubs and grasses. These buffer distances required range from 74.2 m for the Nordex N149 turbine to 99.3 m for the GE GE-164 turbine. However, at turbine T19, a buffer distance of at least 100 m will be required, regardless of the turbine model, due to the high level of Leisler's Bat activity that was recorded at this location.

Further mitigation to reduce the collision risk will include: feathering of the blades to prevent them from freewheeling during low wind conditions; and raising the cut-in speed (the minimum wind speed at which the turbine starts to operate) to 5.5 m/s at the high-risk turbines.

A bat monitoring programme will be implemented, which will include surveillance of bat activity and carcass searches. The monitoring will take place for the first three years of operation of the wind farm and then be repeated at Year 10 and Year 20.

Other Fauna

There are recent records of the Marsh Fritillary butterfly from two locations around the edge of the wind farm site. However, no potential Marsh Fritillary breeding habitat was found within the section of the wind farm site that will be developed.

No Otters, or signs of Otter activity, were recorded along the streams, or around the lakes, in the section of the wind farm site that will be developed. While it is likely that Otters from the Gweebarra Estuary use watercourses and other habitats within the wind farm site at times, the low productivity of the aquatic habitats in the wind farm site and the lack of significant fish populations are likely to limit Otter usage of the site.

Badger signs or sightings were recorded at two locations in open bog / heath habitat around the edges of the wind farm site during survey work for this project, and there are previous records from the western part of the wind farm site. However, no Badger signs were found during the protected species survey of areas around the proposed wind farm infrastructure.

Other protected species recorded within the wind farm site were Common Frog, Common Lizard, Red Squirrel, Pine Marten, Irish Hare and Red Deer, while Hedgehog, Pygmy Shrew and Irish Stoat are also likely to occur.

Red Squirrels are largely dependent on forest habitats. Therefore, the loss of conifer plantation habitat is assessed as a permanent slight negative impact on the Red Squirrel population at the county scale, while disturbance during the construction phase is assessed as a short-term moderate negative impact at the county scale.

The other protected amphibian, reptile and mammal species are either only partially dependent on forest habitats (e.g., Pine Marten and Red Deer) or associated with non-forest habitats (e.g., Common Lizard and Irish Hare). For the species, that are partially dependent on forest habitats, the loss of forest habitat is likely to be compensated by development of a more diverse mixture of forest and open space habitat. The impact on some of the non-forest species may be positive. In particular, Common Lizard is likely to benefit from the net gain in wet heath and bog habitat.

The creation of ponds as part of the Biodiversity Management Plan may result in a long-term positive impact to the local Common Frog population. The implementation of the Golden Eagle Habitat Management Plan is likely to result in a long-term positive impact to the local Irish Hare population.

ORNITHOLOGY

Scope of the Assessment

The ornithological assessment was based on bird surveys carried out between 2019 and 2022. These included vantage point surveys to monitor flight activity over the wind farm site, and surveys of moorland breeding birds, breeding Golden Eagles, breeding Red-throated Divers, breeding gulls, breeding Merlin, and wintering waterbirds.

The results of the surveys were evaluated to identify Important Avian Features. These were bird populations of conservation importance that could potentially be affected by the proposed project.

The impact assessment included assessments of construction disturbance, habitat loss, operational disturbance, displacement, barrier effects, collision risk and cumulative impacts. Displacement refers to the avoidance of operational turbines by nesting, foraging, or roosting birds, which results in birds being displaced from habitats that they would otherwise have occupied. Barrier effects refers to the avoidance of operational turbines by commuting birds, which results in longer flight paths as birds divert around the wind farm.

Species Recorded

A total of 24 raptor, waterbird and grouse species were recorded during the bird surveys, excluding species that only occurred in the Gweebarra Estuary.

The wind farm site is within the home range of a pair of Golden Eagles, and has resident populations of Sparrowhawk, Buzzard, and Kestrel. Merlin occur in the moorland habitat around the wind farm site: there was no evidence of breeding within or close to the wind farm site, but the area may be part of the home range of Merlin breeding some distance away from the wind farm site. There were also occasional records of Red Kite, White-tailed Eagle, Hen Harrier, Osprey and Peregrine.

The moorland habitat within and around the wind farm site supports a resident Red Grouse population, as well as scattered breeding Snipe and a single breeding pair of Golden Plover. Whooper Swans migrate across the wind farm site in spring and autumn. A single pair of Common Gulls breed at one lake within the wind farm site. Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls regularly commute across the wind farm site.

Red-throated Divers were not recorded in any of the lakes within, or around, the wind farm site, or commuting across the wind farm site.

The evaluation of the bird survey results and additional information from desk reviews identified 17 Important Avian Features: migrating Whooper Swans, resident Golden Eagles and breeding Golden Plovers (international importance); breeding Merlin (county / international importance); commuting Lesser Black-backed Gulls, Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls during the breeding season, which were probably associated with one or more coastal colonies (national / international importance); commuting Herring Gulls and Great Black-backed Gulls during the non-breeding season; resident Red Grouse, and breeding Teal and Snipe

(county importance); and resident Sparrowhawk, Buzzard and Kestrel and breeding Common Gull (local importance).

Golden Eagle

One of the nesting sites that has been used by the local pair of Golden Eagles is adjacent to the wind farm site. Construction and/or operational disturbance could cause nesting failure by the local pair of Golden Eagles, if they attempt to occupy this nest site, or another site close to the wind farm. This would be a very significant short-term negative impact. It is also possible that the presence of turbines could cause the eagles to avoid nest sites close to the wind farm site, although there does not appear to be any evidence regarding turbines causing displacement impacts to nesting eagles. However, Golden Eagles use multiple nest sites and population modelling indicated that intermittent nesting failures by the Cloghercor pair will not have significant impacts on the Irish Golden Eagle population.

Annual monitoring of breeding Golden Eagles will be carried out. If nesting Golden Eagles are found during the construction period, no construction work will take place within 1.5 km of the nest site. If nesting Golden Eagles are found during the operational period, public access to any recreational trails and access tracks within 1 km of the nest site will be closed and access to these sections of the wind farm for operational purposes will be restricted as far as possible.

Avoidance of the turbines could cause displacement of eagles from up to 244 ha of potential foraging habitat, although the likely displacement impact is much smaller. A Golden Eagle habitat management plan will be implemented to mitigate for this potential displacement impact. This will involve management of around 250 ha of mainly open lands, including around 170 ha of bog and heath habitats. The objective of the habitat management plan will be to enhance populations of Red Grouse and Irish Hare, which are key prey resources for the Irish Golden Eagle population. Successful implementation of the Golden Eagle habitat management plan should offset the effects of any displacement impact to foraging Golden Eagles and may result in a net positive impact on Golden Eagle prey resources within the home range of the Cloghercor Golden Eagle pair.

The predicted collision risk for the Cloghercor Wind Farm would result in around 1-2 Golden Eagle fatalities over the lifespan of the wind farm. Population modelling indicated that, with the additional collision mortality, the Irish Golden Eagle population will continue to grow, but at a lower rate. This would delay the Irish Golden Eagle population reaching favourable condition by around two-five years under the worst-case collision risk scenario, or six-ten years under precautionary doubling of that collision risk scenario. This is not considered to be a significant impact. Evidence from Scotland indicates that the 99% avoidance rate used for Golden Eagle collision risk modelling is likely to overestimate the collision risk, so the predicted impacts described above probably overestimate the likely effects on the Irish Golden Eagle population.

Other Important Avian Features

The wind farm may cause locally significant displacement and/or disturbance impacts to the breeding Common Gull population. It is also likely to cause moderate displacement and/or disturbance impacts to the breeding Teal and Snipe populations of county importance.

All the other potential impacts to Important Avian Features were assessed as being slight, very slight, imperceptible, or neutral. Some of the key reasons for these assessments were:

- The proposed wind farm infrastructure is in a large conifer plantation, while the resident Red Grouse, breeding Golden Plover, and foraging Merlin are associated with open moorland habitat.

- Breeding Golden Plover often commute from their moorland breeding areas to feed in more productive grasslands. However, no evidence of Golden Plover commuting across the wind farm site was recorded. A worst-case scenario collision risk assessment showed that, even if they did commute across the wind farm site, the collision risk would not be significant.
- The level of flight activity by migrating Whooper Swans, commuting gulls and resident Sparrowhawk, Buzzard and Kestrel were too low to generate significant collision risk impacts.

Mitigation and Monitoring

The mitigation and monitoring will include annual Golden Eagle surveys and implementation of a Golden Eagle habitat management plan (see above).

During the construction period, annual surveys of breeding Golden Plover and Merlin will also be carried out. If new Golden Plover or Merlin nest sites are found close to the proposed wind farm infrastructure, any construction work within 500 m of the nest sites will be suspended until the breeding attempt has been completed.

Post-construction monitoring will include carcass searches to monitor collision mortality, vantage point surveys to help interpret the results of the carcass searches, and various breeding surveys to assess displacement impacts to breeding Golden Eagle, Golden Plover, Snipe and Teal.

Overall Effects

The only significant residual effects that are predicted are the disturbance/displacement impact to the locally important breeding Teal population.

The mitigation measures should prevent disturbance impacts causing nesting failures by the local Golden Eagle pair, while implementation of the Golden Eagle Habitat Management Plan may have a net positive effect on prey resources for this pair.

LAND, SOILS AND GEOLOGY

An assessment on Soils, Geology and Land has been carried out in accordance with the 2022 EPA Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports with consideration of Peat Stability Risk Assessments undertaken for the proposed project.

The available desktop information and the numerous geotechnical site investigations undertaken on the proposed project site have been used to inform the baseline Soils, Geology and Land conditions and to undertake the assessment of the impacts for the proposed project.

The topography of the wind farm site typically consists of gently sloping ground with steeper slopes closer to the southern boundaries of the site. There is no current evidence of peat slides on the site or surrounding area.

The site of the proposed wind farm is predominantly covered in actively managed coniferous forestry plantations, rough grassland and bog. There is an extensive network of existing access roads across the site to facilitate the ongoing forestry operations. Soils excavated will be reused within the site for landscaping purposes and borrow pit reinstatement. There are no Irish Geological Heritage sites inside the proposed project site boundary.

Four locations within the proposed wind farm site will be used as borrow pits for extracting rock. Based on the calculated volumes, the proposed borrow pits will provide the volume required for access tracks and hardstand. Potential instability can arise from excavation works. The proposed footprint of the infrastructure aims to avoid deeper pockets of peat deposits on the wind farm site.

Construction phase activities of the proposed project will require earthworks resulting in the removal of vegetation cover and excavation of mineral subsoil. Incorrect site management of earthworks and excavations could, therefore, lead to loss of suspended solids to surface waters as a consequence of soil stripping, if necessary, run-off and erosion from soil stockpiles.

The construction of the development has the potential (with no mitigation) to negatively affect the soil and geology mainly due to the management and movements of soils and stone materials. Mitigation measures are proposed to address potential effects on land soils and geology.

Mitigation Measures

The disturbance of soil, subsoil and bedrock is an unavoidable effect of the development, but every effort will be made to ensure that the amount of earth materials excavated is kept to a minimum in order to limit the effect on the geological aspects of the site. Excavation works will be monitored by a suitably qualified and experienced geotechnical engineer or engineering geologist. The earthworks will not be scheduled to be carried out during severe weather conditions.

The findings of the Peat Stability Risk Assessments indicate a “low” hazard ranking for instability related to the requirement for excavations on the site, subject to appropriate mitigation measures.

Oil storage will be required, primarily in the substation, although remote use of fuel and oil will be required from time to time. Fuel and oil storage and handling requirements will be as detailed for construction, with permanent fuel and oil storage located within permanent covered bunds.

Overall Effects

Overall, it is not envisaged that there will be any significant cumulative effects in relation to soils and geology during construction. This is due to the efficient design along with the material management such as using onsite borrow pits which will ensure optimisation of the volume of materials required to be imported to site. The felling of forestry and the replanted forestry has been assessed in terms of cumulative impact with the proposed project.

All other potential effects on the soil and geological environment will be mitigated through good site practice on vehicular movements, management of pollutant fluids, sustainable use of soils etc. Overall, the residual effects from these aspects will be not significant to imperceptible, permanent and negative.

HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY

The proposed wind farm site stretches from the Gweebarra River which runs along the western wind farm site boundary toward the mountainous area in the north, east and south of the site. The area is moderately steep with areas of increase slope associated with granitic rock outcrops.

Cloghercor is located to the north-northeast of Glenties and the landscape is dominated by Croghleheen Mountain along the north-western proposed wind farm site boundary;

Garfarretmoyle (also known as Cloghercor South) and Gaffaretcor Mountains and Derkbeg Hill along the south-eastern proposed wind farm site boundary; Cleengort Hill along the southwestern proposed wind farm site boundary.

All of these waters are of moderate to steep gradient and higher flow rate, representing natural watercourses typical eroding/upland rivers.

Potential Effects

The onsite lakes and rivers have limited potential for fisheries due to the low biological production, fish barriers and lack of suitable aquatic habitats. A number of natural fish barriers exist on the Cloghercor and Clogherachullion streams.

The construction of the wind farm will involve the removal of vegetation and forestry, the excavation of mineral subsoil and rock primarily from proposed borrow pits. Exposed and disturbed ground may increase the risk of erosion and subsequent sediment laden surface water runoff. The release of suspended solids is primarily a consequence of the physical disturbance of the ground during the construction phase, if not correctly compacted.

There is no record of pluvial flooding at the proposed wind farm site.

Mitigation Measures

Surface water arising at developed areas of the site will be managed by a dedicated stormwater drainage system designed in accordance with Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) principles, limiting discharge from the site to greenfield runoff rates.

During the construction phase, all works associated with the construction of the wind farm will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance contained within CIRIA Document C741 'Environmental Good Practice on Site' (CIRIA, 2015).

Inspections of silt control measures are critical after prolonged or intense rainfall while maintenance will ensure maximum effectiveness of the proposed measures. A programme of inspection and maintenance will be designed, and dedicated construction personnel assigned to manage this programme. A checklist of the inspection and maintenance control measures will be developed, and records kept.

Overall Effects

The residual effects on the surrounding water quality, hydrology, hydrogeology and existing drainage regime at the proposed wind farm site are considered to be not significant and mainly short term in nature. The existing on-site drainage system will remain active during the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm and will be complemented by the drainage plan that has been designed for this development. Apart from the upgrade of existing roads and stream crossings along the grid connection, the proposed wind farm areas are generally away from areas on the site that have been determined to be hydrologically sensitive. The large setback distance from sensitive hydrological features means they will not be impacted on by excavations/ drains or any general construction works. There are no significant long-term effects predicted.

In summary, the proposed project presents no significant long-term effect on water quality, hydrology and hydrogeology, provided that the works are designed, constructed, maintained

and decommissioned in accordance with the mitigation measures outlined in this chapter in the EIAR.

SHADOW FLICKER

Wind turbines can cast long shadows when the sun is low in the sky. 'Shadow flicker' is an effect that occurs when the rotating blades of a wind turbine cast a moving shadow over a building. The effect is experienced indoors where a moving shadow passes over a window in a nearby property and results in a rapid change or flicker in the incoming sunlight.

The current 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines state that, *"Careful site selection, design and planning, and good use of relevant software, can help avoid the possibility of shadow flicker in the first instance. It is recommended that shadow flicker at neighbouring offices and dwellings within 500 m should not exceed 30 hours per year or 30 minutes per day"*.

The Guidelines also state that, *"At distances greater than 10 rotor diameters from a turbine, the potential for shadow flicker is very low. Where shadow flicker could be a problem, developers should provide calculations to quantify the effect and where appropriate take measures to prevent or ameliorate the potential effect, such as by turning off a particular turbine at certain times"*.

The shadow flicker modelling approach presented in the assessment in the EIAR chapter is consistent with these guidelines.

The maximum rotor diameter of the turbines in this proposed project will be 164 m, therefore all sensitive receptors within 1.64 km of the proposed turbine locations (i.e. 10x rotor diameters) have been included in the shadow flicker model. A total of 103 no. shadow flicker receptors were identified and the property locations added to the model.

The modelling assessment undertaken is based on worst-case conditions, with the result that 39 no. shadow flicker receptors are predicted to experience daily shadow flicker in excess of the 2006 WEDGs threshold of 30 minutes per day. It is predicted that 38 no. receptors will experience shadow flicker in excess of 30 hrs per year in the worst-case scenario. The actual occurrence and incidence of shadow flicker over the course of a day and the year, when the above realistic conditions are taken into account, is likely to be significantly less than the predicted worst-case effects. When reduction factors for sunshine probability and wind direction are taken into account in the model, there is 1 exceedance (at an unoccupied property for which a commercial agreement is in place) of the current guideline threshold limit of 30 hrs per year.

For the operational phase of the proposed project, the potential impact from shadow flicker in the worst-case scenario (i.e. Without accounting for cloud cover, screening or wind direction, etc. and without any mitigation measures in place) at a defined number of receptors will be likely significant and periodic over the long-term and will have a brief effect with respect to the duration of the impact on a daily basis.

In the interests of developing best practice, the Applicant is committed to minimising any adverse effects from the proposed project on the local community and is committing to ensuring zero shadow flicker at all of the sensitive shadow flicker receptors identified within 1.64 km (ten rotor diameters) of the proposed wind turbine locations. This is subject to the technical capabilities of turbine technology where a controlled and safe slow-down of blade rotation is required in the event that shadow flicker on a receptor is predicted to occur.

Mitigation measures in the form of a Turbine Shutdown Scheme will be implemented during operation to ensure that shadow flicker does not occur at the affected properties. A process will be established by the wind farm operator whereby local residents can highlight any concerns or complaints about the operation of the scheme. All concerns raised will be investigated by the wind farm operator and the turbine shutdown software adjusted accordingly, as required.

If there is found to be sufficient existing screening (from vegetation, buildings, etc. which are not accounted for in the software) at a shadow flicker receptor, the Turbine Shutdown Scheme may not be necessary for that receptor. On operation of the proposed project, the Applicant will engage with any affected residents to investigate options for new or additional screening measures (such as planting), where appropriate and agreeable to the affected residents.

The implementation of mitigation measures to screen shadow flicker effects from sensitive receptors and/or implement wind turbine control measures in accordance with a defined Turbine Shutdown Scheme will ensure that any residual shadow flicker impacts from the proposed project will be eliminated at any shadow flicker receptors.

MATERIAL ASSETS

This chapter within the EIAR assesses the effect on telecommunication signals, broadcast signals, and aviation arising from the proposed project, in addition to electricity and water infrastructure, and waste services.

The nearest significant airport to the proposed project is Donegal Airport, located approximately 18 kilometres north of the proposed wind farm site. Telecommunication operators were consulted to understand extent of assets within the area of the proposed project, and the design was reviewed and revised, as necessary, to minimise any potential for impacting on telecommunications networks.

While there are some overhead electricity lines within the proposed wind farm site, there is potential for underground electricity cables discovered during the proposed works, particularly near public roads and houses or farmyards. A desk study did not identify any waste facilities, illegal waste activities, chemical monitoring points or industrial Environment Protection Agency licensed facilities within a 10 km radius of the wind farm site. The nearest waste facilities to the proposed wind farm site are near Donegal Town and Letterkenny.

Overall Effects

The construction phase will have the potential to produce municipal waste (site office, canteen), wastewater (site welfare facility) and construction waste (wood, packaging, metal, etc.) which will need to be processed at local waste processing facilities. Segregation of waste will be carried out on site and a licensed commercial waste collector will be used to remove any waste that does occur on site to a local waste processing facilities within Donegal. Overall, there will be an imperceptible short-term negative effect on waste services.

With incorporation of certain lighting requirements as part of the design and the distance between proposed turbine locations and existing telecommunication links, the proposed project will have no residual effects on aviation telecommunication assets.

The operational phase is anticipated to have an extremely low rate of production of municipal waste (compound office, canteen) and wastewater (site welfare facility) which will need to be processed at local waste processing facilities, and result in a potential long-term imperceptible neutral effect on local waste services.

The decommissioning phase will have the potential to produce quantities of waste larger than other phases (considering the removal of turbines, met mast and other structures), however these are largely composed of metal and other recyclable materials which will be brought to specialised facilities for processing/recycling such items. There will be a potential short-term slight negative effect on local waste services.

NOISE AND VIBRATION

This chapter in the EIAR presents the assessment into the likely environmental noise and vibration impacts of the proposed project.

The relevant guidance in respect of environmental noise for wind energy developments is '*Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2006*' (WEDG) with further detail on the methodology in '*A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise*' published by the Institute of Acoustics.

Establishment of the baseline noise environment in the area was done by way of simultaneous wind measurements on the site and noise monitoring at eight locations over a number of weeks, to capture noise levels over a representative set of wind speeds and directions at each location. Typical background noise levels for day and night periods at various wind speeds have been measured in accordance with best practice guidance contained in the IOA Good Practice Guide. Prevailing noise levels are primarily attributable to local road traffic noise and other agricultural and anthropogenic sources in the area. The results of the background noise survey have been used to derive appropriate noise criteria for the development in line with the guidance contained in the WEDG.

When considering a development of this nature, the potential noise and vibration effects on the surroundings must be considered for two stages: the short-term construction phase and the long-term operational phase.

Overall Effects

The assessment of construction noise and vibration and has been conducted in accordance with best practice guidance. Subject to good working practice as recommended in the EIAR Chapter, it is not expected that there will be any significant noise and vibration impacts associated with the construction phase and the likely noise from construction activity at the nearest Noise Sensitive Locations (NSLs) is expected to be well below recommended significance threshold values. The associated construction noise and vibration impacts are not expected to cause any significant effects.

The analysis also includes an assessment of a range of possible turbines, varying in sound emissions and in dimensions. Based on detailed information on the site layout, the turbine noise emissions and a set of turbine hub dimensions for the proposed project, two sets of predicted turbine noise levels at over 500 NSLs have been assessed, representing the upper and lower ends of the turbine range. Applying the mitigation measures specified in the EIAR, the predicted turbine noise levels associated with the proposed project are predicted to be well within the best practice noise criteria curves recommended within the WEDG.

No significant vibration effects are associated with the operation of the site.

In summary, the noise and vibration impact of the proposed project is not significant considering national guidance for wind farm developments.

LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL IMPACT

This chapter describes the landscape context of the proposed project and assesses the likely landscape and visual impacts of the scheme on the receiving environment. Although closely linked, landscape and visual impacts are assessed separately.

Landscape Impact Assessment (LIA) relates to assessing effects of a development on the landscape as a resource in its own right and is concerned with how the proposal will affect the elements that make up the landscape, the aesthetic and perceptual aspects of the landscape and its distinctive character. Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) relates to assessing effects of a development on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people. Cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment is concerned with additional changes to the landscape or visual amenity caused by the proposed project in conjunction with other developments.

The proposed project is located in a complex landscape of rolling rugged upland terrain, winding river valleys and distinctive coastal features. The proposed wind farm site is located along the northwest-facing slopes of the Gweebarra River valley. The site and Gweebarra River are contained to the south by a broad rolling ridge oriented in a general northeast by southwest direction that comprises hilltops summits including Croaghleheen, Cloghercor South, Gaffartemor and Derkbeg Hill. The site is contained to the southwest by Cleangort Hill. The terrain north of the river rises from the valley context to a broad plateau that contains Gannivegil Bog. Other notable landscape features within the central study area include Finntown Valley and the broad Gweebarra Estuary.

Whilst much of the site itself is cloaked in extensive areas of commercial conifer forestry, the surrounding landscape comprises a mix of mountain moorland, areas of farmland, broad peat bogs and small settlements. The nearest settlements to the proposed wind farm site include the small village of Doochary located along the Gweebarra River corridor some 2.1 km north of the site and the dispersed settlement of Lettermacaward situated to the north of the Gweebarra estuary and just over c. 850 m north of the site at its nearest point.

The principal transport route in relation to the proposed wind farm site is the N56 national secondary route and passes just under c. 1 km to the northwest of the site and some c.3 km west of the nearest turbine as it passes through the village of Lettermacaward. The nearest major routes to the proposed wind farm site include the R250 and R252. The R250 is situated some c. 1.2 km south of the site and connects the settlements of Glenties and Fintown.

The study area also encompasses several linear amenity routes including the Wild Atlantic Way, The Eurovelo Atlantic's Coast Route, the Donegal Way – Slí na Rosann, a section of the Donegal Cycle Route and the Bluestack Way National Waymark trail. A small section of Glenveagh National Park is located on the north-eastern periphery of the study area, whilst numerous coastal settlements which possess strong touristic values area also located in the study area and its wider surrounds. Other noteworthy heritage features in the study area include Doon Fort, Iniskeel island, Maghera Caves and Assaranaca Waterfall.

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006/2019 draft revision) provide guidance on wind farm siting and design criteria for a number of different landscapes types. The site of the proposed wind farm site is consistent with both the '*Mountain Moorland*' landscape type and the '*Transitional Marginal*' landscape type and thus, the guidance for these landscape types is considered most relevant.

In terms of the current Donegal County Development Plan the proposed project is primarily located within a 'Moderate Scenic Amenity' (MSA) designation, the lowest of three scenic amenity designations within the county development plan. Nonetheless, some parts of the site encompass an 'Especially High Scenic Amenity' (EHSA) designation and include areas of the site adjacent to the Gweebarra River and the most elevated eastern parts of the proposed wind farm site.

The current Donegal CDP identifies a number of protected views throughout County Donegal. The nearest and most relevant of these to the proposed wind farm are located along the Gweebarra Bridge south of Lettermacaward. All other scenic designations within County Donegal were assessed and those deemed relevant were included as viewpoints for assessment.

Overall Effects - Landscape

The greatest potential for landscape impacts to occur is as a result of the change in character of the immediate area due to the introduction of tall structures with moving components. Whilst wind turbines are a familiar feature throughout the landscape of Donegal, they are a relatively unfamiliar feature within the central study area. Thus, whilst the proposed wind farm represents a new form of development within the central study area, on a broader scale, it represents the intensification of an established land use in this part of Donegal. The proposed turbines will be a prominent and defining landscape feature within the local landscape. Nonetheless, in terms of scale and function, the proposed wind farm is well assimilated within the context of the central study area due to the broad scale of the landform, landscape elements and land use patterns. Whilst there is some localised sense of the naturalistic in the immediate Gweedore River environs, the plateau terrace that contains the site is cloaked in extensive commercial conifer forest plantations, is traversed by corridors of overhead electricity lines and has a notable utilitarian character despite its low population density.

Overall, it is not considered that the proposed wind farm will give rise to significant landscape effects.

Overall Effects - Visual

The visual impacts of the proposed Clogher Wind Farm development were assessed across 29 different viewpoints where the sensitivity of each receptor varied widely from High-medium to Medium-low.

The most notable visual impacts in relation to the proposed wind farm will occur within the partially contained section of the Gweebarra River valley that extends northeast by southwest from Lettermacaward to the small riverside settlement of Doochary. The highest assessed visual impacts of 'Substantial-moderate' principally relate to views from the nearest local roads to the site, in addition to direct cross-valley views from L1783 local road to the north of the Gweebarra river corridor.

Despite the broad scale and extent of the development, the proposed turbines do not appear over-scaled in the context of this broad valley that comprises large-scale landscape features and land uses. The proposed project will be one of the most distinctive features when viewed from its near surrounds and when viewed from residential receptors on the south-facing slopes of the river valley. However, when viewed from the opposite side of the river valley, the turbines present in a legible manner within extensive commercial conifer forestry and are not considered an incongruous addition. Indeed, they occupy a broad forested plateau terrace that occurs midway between the more sensitive river corridor and skyline ridge.

In relation to scenic designations, the turbines are most often located in the opposite direction to the protected views identified in the current Donegal CDP, many of which are oriented towards the coastal parts of the study area. The only scenic view oriented in the direction of the site within the central study area is the Gweebarra Bridge scenic view. Whilst the proposed turbines will be clearly visible from the northeast aspect of this scenic view, the view to the west/southwest will remain unaffected by the proposed project and this is considered the more scenic aspect of this dual aspect scenic view.

The general visual enclosure of the site is highlighted by the Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) map for the proposed project, which shows that more than half of the study area will afford no turbine visibility at all. It is also discrete from the coastal areas of Donegal, which are renowned for their high degree of scenic amenity. This degree of enclosure within the Gweebarra Valley also contributes to the limited cumulative effect of the proposed project which is located more than 5km from the nearest other wind farm. Consequently, the contribution of the proposed project to cumulative effects is deemed to be 'Low'.

AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE

This chapter assesses the effect on air quality and climate for the region surrounding the proposed project.

Climate

As atmospheric levels of CO₂ are widely recognised as being one of the primary causes of climate change, the impact assessment below is based on the potential impacts that the proposed project would have in relation to changes in emissions of CO₂.

The carbon emitted or saved as a result of the proposed project is hugely significant in order to assess its impact on climate. The carbon calculation takes into account the carbon released from a number of sources during the construction, operational and decommissioning stages in addition to estimating the savings of carbon over the lifetime of the wind farm, compared to the current fossil fuel methods of electricity generation which power the grid. The assessments in the carbon savings category relate to the generating capacity of the wind farm over the number of years for which it is operational, forestry felling, improvement works at the site (i.e. peatland improvement, habitat creation, etc.) and the restoration of the site (i.e. removal of infrastructure and restoration of previous conditions) when the wind farm will be decommissioned.

Air Quality

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the competent authority responsible for the implementation of all Irish and EU ambient air quality legislation. The main air pollutants monitored by the EPA are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides, sulphur dioxide, particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), benzene, lead, Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH), Arsenic, Nickel, Cadmium and Mercury⁶. Apart from ozone, all of these pollutants result from the burning of fossil fuels, either from transport, domestic heating, electricity generating stations or industry. High ozone levels are formed from the reaction of two key pollutants, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs), in the presence of sunlight.

⁶ <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/monitor/>

The proposed Cloghercor Wind Farm site is situated within the EPA's 'Rural West' Air Quality Index for Health Region. The most recent reporting by the EPA indicates that the current air quality in this region is classified as Good (according to EPA records accessed on 17/08/22).

Although no data is available relating to air quality in the immediate vicinity of the study area, it is expected that the air quality at the proposed Cloghercor Wind Farm site can be represented by sites classed as Zone D (rural environment) as the data presented is the most recent data available and provides a reference of the air quality in a rural setting in relative proximity to the site.

Overall Effects

Climate

The proposed construction works will have a short-term imperceptible negative effect on climate due to greenhouse gas emissions from construction traffic. The avoided emissions, resulting from the operation of the wind farm will have a moderate, long-term, positive effect on climate.

When the forestry replanting (and the associated balance of carbon) is accounted for, over the 35-year life of the wind farm it is anticipated that between 3,420,585 and 4,925,655 tonnes will be offset in the production of electricity (dependent on whether the minimum or maximum MWs are installed within the range). The project will have a positive long-term impact on climate and air quality, with a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by utilisation of the least cost renewable energy technology.

Air Quality

There is anticipated to be a very localised potential slight, short-term, negative effect on air quality through dust generation and exhaust emissions during the construction stage, following the application of mitigation measures outlined above and in the CEMP.

In the context of an operational lifetime of 35 years, emissions of a number of pollutants associated with burning fossil fuels including nitrous oxides (NO_x), sulphurous oxides (SO_x), particulate matter (PM) and secondary pollutants, such as ozone, will be avoided at energy production facilities elsewhere in the country through the generation of renewable energy. The avoided emissions, therefore, result in a potential slight long-term, positive effect on air quality at those locations.

CULTURAL HERITAGE

The cultural heritage chapter of the EIAR identifies previously recorded archaeological and architectural sites within and near to the wind farm site, along the proposed route of the grid connection cable and at locations of turbine delivery route works and all associated works. This background desk-top information is considered in relation to the proposed project design and informed the methodology and targets of ground surveys of the wind farm and associated works which were carried out in April 2021 and October 2022. This chapter addresses Cultural Heritage under two headings: archaeology and architectural/built heritage.

The evaluation of impacts upon the archaeological, architectural, and cultural heritage resource is based on a desktop study of published and unpublished documentary and cartographic sources, followed by field survey. Considering the legislative protection afforded to the cultural heritage resource this report evaluates the archaeological, architectural, cultural, and historical

importance of the subject area and examines the potential impacts of the proposed project on both the local archaeological monuments and cultural heritage sites. The results of the study take into account the potential direct and indirect impact of the proposed project on cultural heritage.

The chapter concludes that there is low potential for previously unrecorded archaeology to be present in areas of planted forest where there has been previous ground disturbance from mechanical ripping, planting, and harvesting, as well as previously established tracks. Prior disturbance of topsoil and subsoil on previously planted and harvested forest was observed across much of the proposed wind farm.

The proposed works will not directly impact on any recorded archaeological monuments. There is one recorded archaeological monument within the study area – a megalithic structure (DG058-005), located in the northwest of the area; another four recorded monuments are within 3 km – two holy wells, a bullaun stone and a mound. There are notable concentrations of archaeological sites along the Turbine Delivery Route, particularly at Inver, Frosses and Dunkineely. These sites will not be directly impacted.

Although only one archaeological site has been recorded within the study area, there remains the possibility of previously unrecorded sites being present. There has been little archaeological investigation of this area: apart from surveys of known monuments, no archaeological fieldwork has been documented in the study area or its immediate surroundings. The potential for direct impacts on previously unrecorded archaeological material at this location was assessed as low.

The proposed project will not directly physically impact any upstanding architectural features. There are few recorded sites of architectural significance in the vicinity. There are no listed architectural heritage sites in the subject area or its immediate surroundings. There are notable concentrations of architectural sites along the Turbine Delivery Route particularly at Inver, Frosses and Dunkineely. These sites will not be directly impacted.

Just north of Frosses village in Meenacahan townland roadside modifications will be carried out in the immediate vicinity of a named bridge (Sir Alberts Bridge) which is recorded on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH number 40909326). Further north in Tullynaglaggan townland there is a multi-arched bridge recorded on the NIAH (NIAH number 40909325). Road modification works will be carried out immediately to the south of this bridge. There will be no direct impact on these two bridges.

There are no predicted impacts on previously unrecorded features of architectural heritage importance. Within the study area there is a small number of historical features identified from historical maps which include dwellings and small farmsteads. There will be no direct impact on these features.

In the wider surroundings, there are another 74 recorded monuments within 10 km of the study area. These sites include megalithic tombs, early medieval settlement remains such as raths and souterrains and medieval ritual sites such as holy wells and bullaun stones. There are no National Monuments within 10 km of the area – the closest is the medieval ecclesiastical complex at Inishkeel Island (NM658, DG064-003). There will be a slight adverse impact on the setting of these sites. The Turbine Delivery Route works will not impact on the setting of any recorded archaeological sites.

Within 3 km of the study area there are four structures on Donegal County Council's Record of Protected Structures: Doocharry Bridge (RPS 40905802), St Bridget's Church in Lettermacaward (RPS 40906501), Lettermacaward Parish Church (RPS 40906502) and Glebe

House (RPS 40906503). The study area does not cross any Architectural Conservation Areas or demesnes or historic gardens. There will be a slight adverse impact on these sites.

Archaeological monitoring and presence of a suitably qualified cultural heritage consultant during aspects of construction are recommended as mitigation of the above described effects.

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT

This chapter assesses the potential impact of the proposed project on the surrounding road network and its capacity. Regional access to the site area is typically via national roads (e.g., N59) with local access into the proposed site from the following local roads, R262, R250 and L6483.

For the different stages of the project (construction, operation and decommissioning), access to the site will be via different routes to reduce the impact on the existing environment. All construction traffic to the wind farm site will arrive via the R250, with the most prevalent use of the national road network to be the N59. The majority of materials delivered to site will be delivered using maximum length articulated lorries or smaller vehicles. The operational access will be via the L6483. The traffic management of the decommissioning phase will be advised by the road conditions at the time of decommissioning.

A Stage 1 Road Safety Audit (RSA) has been undertaken on the 3 no. accesses on the L6483, and the resulting recommendations have been incorporated into the scheme design.

The construction activity with the largest impact on the traffic volumes is the pouring of the turbine foundations and the second largest is the haul of material to the site for the internal access track construction. A number of haul routes were identified based on proximity to site and suitable road infrastructure. Mitigation measures on the haul route include selection of viable route with the lowest impact on the road network, avoidance where possible of sensitive receptors and urban setting, and to mitigate traffic on the national road network, a number of possible routes have been investigated as possible sources of material for delivery.

The proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) was investigated and assessed, with sections along the route identified for advanced works to facilitate delivery of the turbine components.

The potential impact of the proposed wind farm construction traffic on the existing road will have a likely temporary/ short-term slight negative effect. The largest impact is as expected on the L6483, which is due to the existing extremely low traffic flows and lower Heavy Goods Vehicle content. All the traffic to the proposed wind farm site during construction will travel on this road, either from the east or west. In the peak scenarios (i.e. concrete pours for turbine foundations), the traffic flows will increase significantly, with a predicted likely significant adverse brief effect. A Traffic Management Plan will be implemented to manage impacts to the road network during construction.

The grid connection includes for the underground cabling between the proposed substation and the existing overhead line, all of which are within the site of the proposed wind farm site, with almost no use of public roads apart from a single location where it perpendicularly crosses the L6483.

The operational stage of the proposed project will result in low traffic volumes for operation and maintenance works at the wind farm. A benefit of the wind farm when constructed is its use as a recreational amenity (for walking). Traffic information from similar sites indicates that the recreation amenity will result in an increase of 11 movements to the development per day. Due to the low volume of traffic, no mitigation measures were applied to the operational stage

impacts. Overall, the operational stage traffic impact is likely to have a slight negative long-term effect on the road network in the vicinity of the wind farm.

When the proposed project is decommissioned, a decommissioning plan will be prepared and implemented in order to minimise the residual effects during this stage. The decommissioning phase will employ similar mitigation measures as the construction phase. When the turbine blades are decommissioned, they are cut to a more manageable size reducing the overall impact during removal from site. As the expected volumes of traffic will be primarily associated with the transportation off-site of turbine components and materials only, the residual effect is considered to be slight and temporary.

INTERACTIONS OF THE FOREGOING

The potential effects of the proposed project and the measures proposed to mitigate these effects have been outlined in the EIAR. However, in any development with the potential for environmental effect there is also the potential for interaction between effects of the different environmental aspects.

The result of these interactions may either exacerbate the magnitude of the effect or may in fact ameliorate it. As part of the requirements of an EIAR, the interaction of the effects on the surrounding environment needs to be addressed.

The table below outlines the different environmental aspects which have potential to interact as a result of the proposed project. Interactions have been clearly identified in the early stages of the project and where the potential exists for interaction between environmental impacts, the EIAR specialists have taken the interactions into account when making their assessment. Potential interactions (both positive and negative) have been considered for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases of each of the different environmental aspects.

All environmental factors are interrelated to some extent. However, the most common interactions are between human beings and visual perception, noise, air quality and ecological resources. Having studied the interaction of potential impacts during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases it has been determined that no amplification effect is anticipated. The proposed project will have some positive impacts on an international, national, regional and local level. It is important to note that the physical, environmental and landscape and visual impacts are almost entirely reversible upon decommissioning of the development.

<i>Interaction Matrix</i>	<i>Biodiversity</i>	<i>Ornithology</i>	<i>Land, Soils & Geology</i>	<i>Hydrology & Hydro-geology</i>	<i>Landscape & Visual</i>	<i>Shadow Flicker</i>	<i>Material Assets</i>	<i>Air Quality & Climate</i>	<i>Noise & Vibration</i>	<i>Traffic & Transport</i>	<i>Cultural Heritage</i>	<i>Population & Human Health</i>
<i>Biodiversity</i>	█		✓	✓				✓	✓			
<i>Ornithology</i>		█	✓	✓				✓	✓			
<i>Land, Soils & Geology</i>			█	✓				✓			✓	✓
<i>Hydrology & Hydrogeology</i>				█								✓
<i>Landscape & Visual</i>					█						✓	✓
<i>Shadow Flicker</i>						█						✓
<i>Material Assets</i>							█					✓
<i>Air Quality & Climate</i>								█		✓		✓
<i>Noise & Vibration</i>									█	✓		✓
<i>Traffic & Transport</i>										█		✓
<i>Cultural Heritage</i>											█	
<i>Population & Human Health</i>												█

RÉAMHRÁ

Tá sé i gceist ag Cloghercor Wind Farm Limited, comhfhiontar idir Ørsted agus FuturEnergy Ireland, iarratas a dhéanamh chuig an mBord Pleanála ar chead pleanála chun Feirm Gaoithe an Chlochair Choirr a thógáil i gContae Dhún na nGall. Tá an fheirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe suite thart ar 2 km ó dheas ó Dhócha in iartharChontae Dhún na nGall, agus beidh aschur leictreach idir 95-136.8 MW.

Is éard atá i gceist le Feirme Gaoithe an Chlochair Choirr, dá ngairtear an tionscadal atá beartaithe anseo feasta, feirm ghaoithe de 19 uimh. tuirbíní gaoithe agus gach bonneagar gaolmhar lena n-áirítear fondúireachtaí tuirbín, limistéir chrua, claiseanna a fháil ar iasacht, rianta rochtana, fostáisiún leictreach ar an láthair, oibreacha chun seachadadh trealaimh chuig an láthair a éascú, nasc greille agus oibreacha a éascú ar an ngréasán bóithre poiblí agus ag maoinne príobháideacha chun freastal ar sheachadadh comhphárteanna tuirbín (lena n-áirítear limistéar aistrithe chomhpháirt tuirbín sealadach). Ní bhaineann an fhorbairt bheartaithe ach leis na gnéithe a bhfuil cead pleanála á lorg ina leith mar chuid den iarratas seo, ach is ionann an Tuarascáil ar Mheasúnú Tionchair Timpeallachta (EIAR) agus an tionscadal foriomlán atá beartaithe.

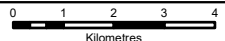
Léirítear fairsinge an tionscadail iomláin atá beartaithe i bhFíor 1-1 agus cuimsíonn sé achar de thart ar 2,198 heicteár (ha), lena n-áirítear 252 ha de thailte Feabhsaithe Bithéagsúlachta. Síneann an fhorbairt bheartaithe, limistéar láithreáin iarratais pleanála, go ceantar thart ar 256 ha.



Legend *

- Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary
- Turbine Delivery Route works
- Biodiversity Enhancement lands

*all land identified is within Boundary of the Proposed Project



NOTES
 1 FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS DRAWING
 2 ALL DRAWINGS TO BE CHECKED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE
 3 DIMENSIONS TO BE INCREASED IF ANY DISCREPANCIES BEFORE ANY WORK COMMENCES
 4 ALL LEVELS RELATE TO ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM AT MALIN HEAD

A	03/03/2023	Final Issue	S.P	J.S
Issue	Date	Description	By	Drawn

Client: Cloghercor Wind Farm Ltd.

Project: Cloghercor Wind Farm

Title: Figure 1-1: Proposed Project Extent

Scale @ A4: 1:150,000

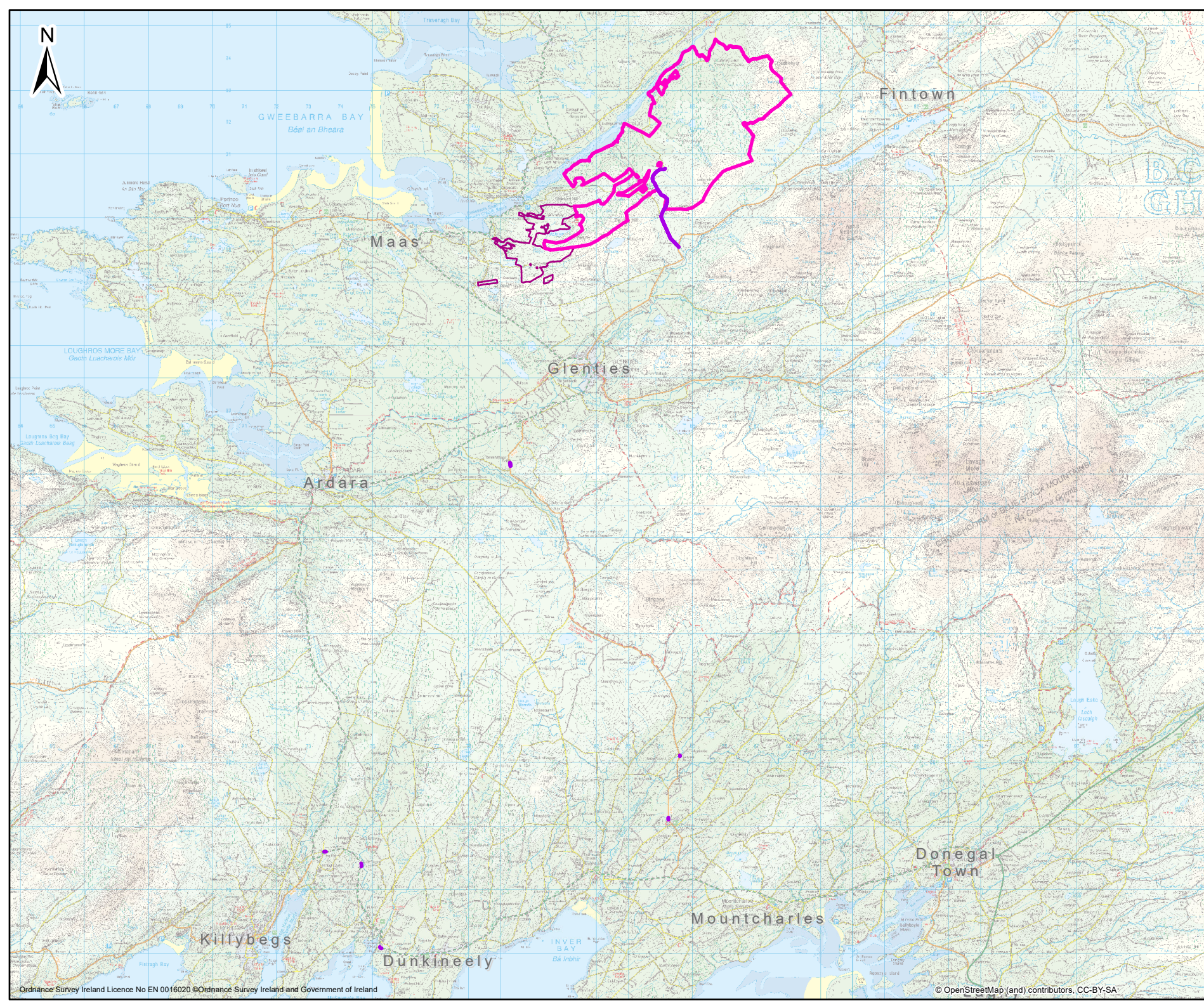
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An tIarratasóir

Is comhfhiontar é an t-iarratasóir ar chead (Cloghercor Wind Farm Limited) idir Ørsted agus FuturEnergy Ireland. Is cuideachtaí móra iad Ørsted agus FuturEnergy Ireland araon sa mhargadh fuinnimh in-athnuaite, a sholáthraíonn sciar suntasach den fhuinneamh in-athnuaite a theastaíonn chun spriocanna an rialtais a bhaint amach go dtí seo, le huaimhianta an méid sin a mhéadú amach anseo.

Forbraíonn Ørsted, tógann, agus oibríonn feirmeacha gaoithe amach ón gcósta agus ar tír, feirmeacha gréine, áiseanna stórála fuinnimh, agus gléasraí bithfhuinnimh, agus soláthraíonn sé táirgí fuinnimh dá chustaiméirí. In Éirinn, is le Ørsáilte punann d'fheirmeacha gaoithe ar tír ag a bhfuil comhacmhainn níos mó ná 300 MW. Is é an uaimhian atá acu an méid sin a mhéadú níos mó ná 600 MW sna deich mbliana amach romhainn. Is comhfhiontar é FuturEnergy Ireland atá faoi úinéireacht 50:50 ag Coillte agus ag ESB atá ag iarraidh aistriú na hÉireann chuig geilleagar ísealcharbóin a bhrú chun cinn. Is é uaimhian an chomhlachta níos mó ná 1GW d'acmhainn fuinnimh in-athnuaite a fhorbairt faoi 2030 agus cur go mór le tiomantas na hÉireann 80 % den leictreachas a tháirgeadh ó fhoinsí in-athnuaite faoi dheireadh na ndeich mbliana.

Struchtúr agus Cuspóir na Tuarascála um Measúnú Tionchair Timpeallachta

Tá gá le Measúnú Tionchair Timpeallachta (MTC) lena chinntiú go ndéanfar measúnú cuí ar thionscadail ar dócha go mbeidh tionchar suntasach acu ar an gceantar máguaird agus ar an gcomhshaol. Ní mór aon tionchar suntasach a aimsíodh sa mheasúnú a sheachaint nó a íoslaghdú más féidir. Cuirtear torthaí agus toradh an MTC i láthair mar thuarascáil, ar a dtugtar Tuarascáil ar an Measúnú ar an Tionchar ar an gComhshaol (EIAR).

D'ullmhaigh Tobin Consulting Engineers an EIAR de réir na reachtaíochta, na treorach agus na nótaí comhairle ábhartha agus sonracha a bhaineann leis an gcomhshaol. Cuireadh an tuarascáil i dtoll a chéile i gcomhairle le comhlachtaí reachtúla, le páirtithe leasmhara agus leis an bpobal áitiúil. Tá tuilleadh sonraí faoin bpróiseas comhairliúcháin ar fáil thíos.

Is é Imleabhar 1 den EIAR an doiciméad seo. Is Achoimre Neamhtheicniúil (NTS) é a thugann cur síos gairid ar an tionscadal agus ar an measúnú ar na cúrsaí comhshaoil ábhartha i dteanga neamhtheicniúil. Tá faisnéis sna hImleabhair bhreise mar a thuiriscítear thíos:

Imleabhar 2: An Príomh-EIAR — Tá faisnéis mhionsonraithe ann a bhaineann leis an bhFeirm Ghoirte Chlochair Chorr atá beartaithe agus le torthaí an Mheasúnaithe Tionchair Timpeallachta. Tá líníochtaí, figiúirí agus léarscáileanna in Imleabhar 2 freisin.

Imleabhar 3: Aguisíní: Tá eolas agus sonraí san Imleabhar seo a úsáideadh sa Mheasúnú Tionchair Timpeallachta agus dá dtagraítear in Imleabhar 2.

Imleabhar 4: Fótamontáisí: San Imleabhar seo tá íomhánna a úsáideadh mar chuid den Mheasúnú Tírdhreacha agus Tionchair Amhairc atá in Imleabhar 2: An Príomh-EIAR.

Is é is cuspóir don NTS seo forléargas achomair a thabhairt, i dtéarmaí neamhtheicniúla, ar na saincheistean, ar na tionchair agus ar na bearta maolaithe a léirigh an MTC agus a chuirtear i láthair i bpríomh-EIAR, Imleabhar 2.

An riachtanas is gá don Tionscadal atá beartaithe

Maidir leis an ngá atá le Feirm Gaoithe an Chlochair Choirr, agus le fuinneamh gaoithe in-athnuaite i gcoitinne, a leagan amach, tá sé tábhachtach an tionscadal beartaithe seo a chur i gcomhthéacs beartais idirnáisiúnta, náisiúnta agus áitiúil ó thaobh an chomhshaoil, an fhuinnimh agus na planála de.

Déantar achoimre ar chuid de na príomhspriocanna agus de na príomhchuspóirí beartais náisiúnta anseo mar aon le roinnt staitisticí gairide agus taighde maidir le húsáid fuinnimh in-athnuaite, lena dtugtar comhthéacs don spleáchas reatha ar bhreoslaí iontaise allmhairithe in Éirinn, agus dá bhrí sin a léiríonn an gá atá leis an tionscadal atá beartaithe go ginearálta agus ag an suíomh áirithe seo.

Ó thaobh an náisiúin de, is é *Plean an Rialtais um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide* (Nollaig 2023) an príomhghoiciméad ina gcuirtear treochlár ar fáil d'Éirinn chun sprioc an Aontais Eorpaigh (AE) a bhaint amach chun ár n-astaíochtaí a laghdú faoina leath faoi 2030 agus glan-nialais a bhaint amach tráth nach déanaí ná 2050. Coinnítear sa phlean gníomhaíochta an sprioc ó phleananna roimhe seo 80 % den leictreachas a bheidh le táirgeadh ag foinsí in-athnuaite fuinnimh faoi 2030 le rannchuidiú tásach suas le 9.0 Gigawatts (GW) (i.e. 9.000 MW) a bheidh le soláthar ó acmhainneacht mhéadaithe gaoithe ar tír. In Éirinn (ó mhí na Bealtaine 2022), tá toilleadh gaoithe suiteáilte 4.333 MW¹ a fhágann bearna 4.667 MW de thoilleadh fuinnimh gaoithe le suiteáil chun spriocanna 2030 a bhaint amach. Go bunúsach, tá gá le níos mó ná dúbailt na hacmhainne gaoithe reatha.

Tá go leor fachtóirí éagsúla i gceist le slándáil fuinnimh, lena n-áirítear spleáchas ar allmhairí, éagsúlacht breosla, acmhainneacht agus sláine an bhonneagair soláthair agus dáileacháin, praghsanna fuinnimh, rioscaí fisiciúla, suaitheadh soláthair agus éigeandálaí. De réir faisnéise a d'fhoilsigh SEAI in 2022², b'ionann táirgeadh dúchasach agus 32 % de riachtanais fuinnimh na hÉireann in 1990 agus níor shroich sí ach buaic 34 % ó shin. Ó lár na 1990idí i leith, áfach, bhí méadú suntasach tagtha ar an spleáchas ar allmhairí, rud is cúis le ~ 80 % de riachtanais fuinnimh na hÉireann in 2021.

Fágann an spleáchas seo ar allmhairí breosla go bhfuil Éire thar a bheith soghabhálach i leith luaineachtaí praghsanna sa mhargadh soláthair idirnáisiúnta agus i mbaol cogáí trádála idirnáisiúnta luaineacha agus cinní polaitiúla. Tá sé seo an-soiléir sa staid reatha maidir le praghas fuinnimh. Leagtar amach i bPáipéar Bán an Rialtais dar teideal *Aistriú na hÉireann chuig Todhchaí Fuinnimh Ísealcharbóin 2015-2030* creat chun forbairt bheartas fuinnimh na hÉireann a threorú. Luaitear sa Pháipéar Bán *“Beidh ról lárnach ag fuinneamh inathnuaite freisin san aistriú chuig fuinneamh ísealcharbóin. Ní chuirfidh aon teicneolaíocht fuinnimh in-athnuaite amháin – atá ann cheana nó atá ag teacht chun cinn – ar chumas na hÉireann an dúshlán ísealcharbóin a shárú. Ina ionad sin, beidh raon éagsúil teicneolaíochtaí ag teastáil feadh na slabhraí soláthair le haghaidh leictreachais, teasa agus iompair”*. Sa chomhthéacs sin, trí idir 95-136.8 MW de thoilleadh suiteáilte fuinnimh gaoithe a chur isteach ón bhFeirm Gaoithe an Chlochair Choirr, feabhsófar ár slándáil soláthair agus laghdófar ár spleáchas ar allmhairí fuinnimh. I gcomhthéacs na bearna reatha san acmhainn ghaoithe a theastaíonn chun spriocanna 2030 a bhaint amach, chuirfeadh an tionscadal atá beartaithe idir 2 agus 2.9 % den fhuinneamh gaoithe breise chun tacú leis an sprioc sin a bhaint amach.

¹ <https://windenergyireland.com/about-wind/the-basics/facts-stats> (Rochtain an 18 Eanáir 2023)

Tá ról ag praghsáil carbóin freisin maidir le riachtanas a bhunú don tionscadal atá beartaithe. Tá gealltanas tugtha ag an Rialtas an ráta cánach carbóin a ardú de réir a chéile chun EUR 100 in aghaidh an tona dé-ocsaíde carbóin a bhaint amach faoi 2030, agus ioncam a athchúrsáil chun bochtaineacht breosla a chosc, infheistíocht a bhaineann leis an aeráid a mhaoiniú agus aistriú cóir a chinntiú³. Táthar ag súil go ndéanfaidh an tionscadal atá beartaithe idir 3,420,585 agus 4,925,655 tona carbóin thar a shaolré 35 bliana a fhritháireamh, ag brath ar an gcineál tuirbín a roghnaítear (féach an roinn maidir le Cálíocht an Aeir agus an Aeráid thíos le haghaidh tuilleadh comhthéacs, agus Caibidil 14 den EIAR). Ag ráta cánach measta EUR 100 in aghaidh an tona CO₂ faoi 2030, is ionann sin agus coigilteas idir 293.8M agus 445.5 M euro.

Ba chóir a thabhairt faoi deara go bhfuil tairbhe shuntasach eacnamaíoch ann d'fhorbairt feirmeacha gaoithe go náisiúnta agus go sonrach ag an suíomh seo. Léirigh taighde gur féidir leis an earnáil tacú le fás post le linn na tógála agus tríd an gcéim oibríochtúil ar leibhéal áitiúil contae agus ar bhonn náisiúnta. Tá costais airgeadais eile a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann agus coigilteas ar úsáid leictreachais in-athnuaite don chustaiméir deiridh i gcomparáid le cás úsáide breoslaí iontaise.

Is céim nádúrtha é forbairt an fhuinnimh in-athnuaite in éabhlóid an leictreachais a ghintear go háitiúil. Tá gnóthachan eacnamaíoch suntasach tugtha ag giniúint leictreachais do go leor réimsí in Éirinn thar na blianta. Tá Éire anois ar chonair an dícharbónaithe agus tá an fuinneamh a úsáidimid ag athrú ó bhreoslaí iontaise go foinsí in-athnuaite, amhail an ghaoth. Buntáiste mór a bhaineann le forbairt tionscadal fuinnimh in-athnuaite is ea an acmhainneacht gnóthachain áitiúla, eacnamaíocha agus sochaíocha a bhaint amach. Meallfaidh gach tionscadal in-athnuaite a fhorbrófar sna blianta amach romhainn ciste suntasach chun tairbhe an phobail don cheantar áitiúil a thabharfaidh deiseanna suntasacha do phobail áitiúla.

D'fhéadfadh an tionscadal atá beartaithe leas dearfach suntasach a bhaint as an bpobal áitiúil. Cuirfidh an togra rátaí bliantúla ar fáil do Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall agus tabharfaidh sé deis d'infheistíocht phobail áitiúil sa togra i gcomhréir leis an Scéim Tacaíochta d'Fhuinneamh In-athnuaite (RESS) a mheastar a bheith cothrom le EUR 500,000 in aghaidh na bliana don chéad 15 bliana den togra. Cuirfear ciste sochar pobail i bhfeidhm ar feadh shaolré an tionscadail chun maoiniú díreach a chur ar fáil do na ceantair sin a bhaineann leis an tionscadal.

AN TIONSCADAL MOLTA

Cúlra

I mí Mheán Fómhair 2022, deimhníodh gur chaill Éire a spriocanna maidir le hastaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa a laghdú arís. Mar sin féin, is réiteach glan inbhuanaithe é an fuinneamh gaoithe ar ár bhfadhbanna fuinnimh. Is féidir é a úsáid mar mhalairt ar bhreoslaí iontaise chun leictreachas a ghiniúint, gan astaíochtaí díreacha gás ceaptha teasa. Cuirfidh an tionscadal atá beartaithe le cumas foriomlán giniúna fuinnimh in-athnuaite na hÉireann agus cuirfidh sé le hiarrachtaí náisiúnta agus idirnáisiúnta astaíochtaí carbóin san atmaisféar a laghdú. Tá Éire ar cheann de na tíortha is mó atá ar thús cadhnaíochta maidir leis an úsáid a bhaineann sí as fuinneamh gaoithe faoi láthair agus tá sí sa chúigiú háit ar fud an domhain bunaithe ar úsáid 2021 i ndiaidh na Danmhairge, Uragua, na Spáinne agus na Portaingéile⁴.

<https://www.seai.ie/publications/Energy-in-Ireland-2022.pdf> in Éirinn – Tuarascáil 2022
<https://www.oecd.org/climate-action/ipac/practices/a-credible-carbon-tax-trajectory-for-ireland-a39128a3/>³ [Rochtain an 23 Meán Fómhair 2022]

⁴ https://www.ren21.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/GSR2022_Full_Report.pdf [Arna rochtain i mí Eanáir 2023]

Ciallaíonn spriocanna Eorpacha 2050 go gcaithfidh táirgeadh fuinnimh na hEorpa a bheith beagnach saor ó charbón faoi 2050 agus cé go bhfuil Éire tar éis teacht chun cinn le blianta beaga anuas chun giniúint fuinnimh in-athnuaite a mhéadú, tá na spriocanna ag dul i méid i gcónaí. Is é an tiomantas seo ar bheartas fuinnimh agus aeráide a thugann údar maith le giniúint fuinnimh in-athnuaite in Éirinn agus leis an tionscadal atá beartaithe.

Mar gheall ar scála an togra, tá tábhacht straitéiseach eacnamaíoch agus shóisialta ag baint leis an tionscadal don Réigiún agus don Stát. Cuirfidh an infheistíocht chaipítíl go mór leis an Réigiún agus leis an Stát ina iomláine. Cuideoidh an tionscadal le spriocanna náisiúnta fuinnimh in-athnuaite a bhaint amach agus laghdófar go mór astaíochtaí carbóin ó ghiniúint leictreachais agus laghdófar an spleáchas ar bhreoslaí iontaise allmhairithe agus cuideoidh sé leis an aistriú ón spleáchas ar bhreoslaí iontaise chuig giniúint fuinnimh ó fhoinsí in-athnuaite.

Tá buntáiste suntasach eacnamaíoch ann d'fhorbairt feirmeacha gaoithe i gcruthú post, infheistíocht agus táirgeadh fuinnimh. Sa chás áirithe seo, beidh thart ar 96-139 post le tacaíocht le linn na céime tógála agus measann institiúid na Todhchaí Inbhuanaithe (2015) gurb é 0.3 post in aghaidh MW den acmhainn iomlán suiteáilte a bheadh in aschur poist oibríúcháin agus cothabhála d'Fheirm Gaoithe an Chlochair Choirr.

Tá suíomh Fheirm Gaoithe Chlochair Chorr agus na ceantair ghaolmhara laistigh de limistéir feidhme Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall agus mar sin tá sé bunaithe ar fhorálacha Phlean Forbartha Contae Dhún na nGall 2018-2024. Is é aidhm straitéiseach Chomhairle Dhún na nGall:

“forbairt éagsúil fuinnimh a éascú trí leas inbhuanaithe a bhaint as acmhainneacht an fhuinnimh in-athnuaite lena n-áirítear fuinneamh aigéin, bithfhuinneamh, grianfhuinneamh, gaoth agus geoiteirmeach, mar aon le húsáid inbhuanaithe ola agus gáis, agus foinsí fuinnimh eile atá ag teacht chun cinn i gcomhréir leis an mbeartas agus leis an treoir Náisiúnta Fuinnimh. Tá sé mar aidhm freisin forbairt chuí an bhonneagair a bhaineann leis a éascú chun leas a bhaint as na hacmhainní fuinnimh seo agus chun forbairt Dhún na nGall a chur chun cinn agus a éascú mar Ionad Barr Feabhais don Fhuinneamh In-athnuaite.”

Scóip agus Comhairliúchán

Mar chuid den phróiseas MTC, bhail Cloghercor Wind Farm Limited agus TOBIN Consulting Engineers leis an mBord Pleanála chun scóip an iarratais ar chead pleanála a phlé. Bhí “Tuarascáil Scóipeála” ag gabháil le litir chumhdaigh chomhairliúcháin a eisíodh i mí an Mheithimh 2021 chuig comhlachtaí reachtúla agus neamhreachtúla ábhartha agus cuireadh gach barúil ó gach ceann de na comhlachtaí san áireamh sa phróiseas deartha agus measúnaithe.

Ba phróiseas leanúnach leanúnach a bhí sa chomhairliúchán agus tugtar aghaidh ar gach tuairim, tuairim nó ábhar imní a chuir na comhairleoirí in iúl in EIAR.

An Suíomh Molta

Tá trí príomhréimse sa suíomh atá beartaithe:

- An príomhláithreán feirme gaoithe lena n-áirítear an nasc eangaí (dá ngairtear ‘láithreán gaoithe feirme’ anseo feasta);
- Bealach Seachadta Tuirbín; agus
- Feabhsú bithéagsúlachta Tailte.

An suíomh feirme gaoithe (Figiúr 1-1) a shíneann go dtí thart ar 1,945 ha, ar le Coillte tuairim is 1,027 ha de, agus is maoin tríú páirtí an chuid eile, atá suite 2.1 km ó dheas ó Dhócha in iarthuaisceart Chontae Dhún na nGall.

Ritheann an láithreán feirme gaoithe i dtreo soir ó thuaidh-siar ó dheas agus tá dáileacht talún amháin ann atá beagán fadaithe. Tá na tailte seo idir an R250 a ritheann ó na Gleannta go dtí Baile na Finne agus inbhear Abhainn Ghaoth Barra, atá in aice le teorainn thiar thuaidh shuíomh na feirme gaoithe. Tá an suíomh idir lonnaíochtaí na nDóchlainne, Leitir Mhic Dhomhnaill agus na nGleanntach, atá suite thart ar 2.1 km ó thuaidh, 850 m siar agus 3.5 km ó dheas ó shuíomh na feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe faoi seach.

Is foraoiseacht tráchtála den chuid is mó iad úsáid na talún/gníomhaíochtaí ar shuíomh na feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, agus tá roinnt limistéar de thalamh móna oscailte atá innilte go forleathan. Is meascán de thalamh portaigh, foraoiseacht agus talamh talmhaíochta é an tírdhreach máguaird (Féach Pláta 1-1).



Pláta 1-1: Radharc ó Dheas Laistigh Den Láithreán Feirm Ghaoithe Atá Beartaithe

Cuirfear na tuirbíní ar fáil ar an ghréasán bóithre atá ann cheana féin ó Chalafort na gCealla Beaga in iardheisceart Chontae Dhún na nGall go dtí an suíomh feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe ar feadh Bealach Seachadta na dTuirbíní.

Cuimseoidh Tailte Feabhsaithe Bithéagsúlachta thart ar 252 ha de thalamh in aice le láithreán na feirme gaoithe, mar a léirítear i bhFíor 1-1 thuas.

Príomhghnéithe an Tionscadail atá beartaithe

Tá cur síos mionsonraithe ar an tionscadal beartaithe a ndearnadh measúnú air in EIAR ar fáil i gCaibidil 2 (Cur síos ar an Tionscadal Beartaithe), agus is éard atá ann ná an príomhfheirm ghaoithe, na hoibreacha atá de dhíth ar bhealach seachadta an tuirbín agus an nasc greille.

Áirítear ar an bhfeirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe tuirbíní gaoithe, rianta rochtana inmheánacha, seasamh cruca, an crann meitéareolaíoch buan, cosán taitneamhachta áineasa agus comharthaí gaolmhara, fostáisiún ar an láthair, cáblú inmheánach, comhdhúil tógála sealadaí, bonneagar draenála agus gach obair ghaolmhar a bhaineann le tógáil na feirme gaoithe.

Áirítear leis an nasc greille don cáblú faoi thalamh idir an fostáisiún atá beartaithe agus an líne lasnairde atá ann cheana, a bhfuil gach ceann acu laistigh den láthair feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, agus nach bhfuil mórán aon úsáid á baint as bóithre poiblí seachas áit amháin ina dtrasnaíonn sé go háirithe an L6483. Déanfar na tuirbíní a sheachadadh feadh an ghréasáin bóithre atá ann cheana ó Chalafort na gCealla Beaga in iardheisceart Dhún na nGall go dtí an láthair feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, agus meastar gur cuid den EIAR na hoibreacha atá beartaithe chun freastal ar an seachadadh seo.

Tá príomhghnéithe an tionscadail atá beartaithe leagtha amach thíos, le tuilleadh sonraí ar fáil i gCaibidil 2 (Cur síos ar an Tionscadal Beartaithe) den EIAR:

- Tógáil 19 dtuirbíní gaoithe a bhfuil raon airde bharr na lann foriomlán acu ó 185 m go 200 m, raon trastomhas rôtair idir 149 m agus 164 m, raon airde an mhoil ó 112 m go 125 m, agus gach bunchloch gaolmhar agus gach limistéar cruca i ndáil le gach tuirbín;
- Bealach isteach nua a thógáil le rochtain ar bhóthar áitiúil an L6483 don chéim thógála (trácht cothabhála céime oibriúcháin amháin), agus bealach isteach foraoise ceadaithe a úsáid (Pl. Tag. 1951040) chuig an L6483 mar phointe rochtana don dara céim tógála. Beidh bealach isteach an tríú láithreán ar an L6483 mar chéim oibríochta an bhealaigh isteach phoiblí chuig an bhfeirm ghaoithe;
- Feabhsúcháin agus modhnuithe sealadacha ar 5 shuíomh in aice leis an mbóthar poiblí chun seachadadh ualaí neamhghnácha agus seachadadh tuirbíní ar an R262 agus ar an N56 a éascú i mbailte fearainn Thulach Chuar, Dhroim Ard, Darney, Glebe Chaisil Riach agus Aghayeevoe;
- Limistéar ina bhfuil seasamh cruca sealadach a thógáil chun feidhmiú mar limistéar aistrithe lann chun seachadadh tuirbíní a éascú ar an R262 i mbaile fearainn Dhroim na Croise;
- Codanna den L6363 agus den L6483 a leathnú laistigh den chonair bhóthair (suas go dtí leithead 4.5 m) chun seachadadh ualaí/turbíní neamhghnácha a éascú i mbailte fearainn Chlocharcór, Shallogáin Mhór, Dhoire Loaghan agus an tSraitha Búí;
- 2 chomhdhúile tógála shealadacha a fhoirgníú le hoifigí láithreacha sealadacha gaolmhara, limistéir pháirceála agus fálú slándála;
- Suiteáil 1 uimh. crann meitéareolaíoch buan atá 100 m ar airde;
- 4 no. claiseanna a fháil ar iasacht;

- Bóithre rochtana nua inmheánacha a thógáil agus bóithre láithreacha atá ann cheana a uasghrádú, lena n-áirítear bána pasála agus gach draenáil ghaolmhar;
- Córais rialaithe draenála agus dríodair a thógáil;
- Fostáisiún leictreach 110 kV buan a thógáil, lena n-áirítear:
 - Foirgneamh rialaithe EirGrid ina bhfuil saoráidí leasa oibrithe agus stóras trealaimh;
 - 1 uimh. Foirgneamh Rialaithe Léiritheoir Cumhachta Neamhspleách (IPP) ina bhfuil seomra lasc HV, oifigí suímh, áiseanna cistine, seomra stórais agus áiseanna leithris.
 - Gach gléasra agus bonneagar leictreach agus trealamh seirbhísí coimhdeacha eangaí;
 - Páirceáil;
 - Soilsíú;
 - Fálú Slándála;
 - Umar coinneála fuíolluisce;
 - Trealamh buainte uisce báistí;
 - Gach bonneagar agus seirbhís ghaolmhar lena n-áirítear oibreacha láithreáin agus comharthaíocht;
- Gach cáblú leictreach agus cumarsáide faoi thalamh a nascann na tuirbíní gaoithe leis an bhfostáisiún feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe;
- Na hoibreacha go léir a bhaineann leis an bhfeirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe a nascadh leis an eangach leictreachais náisiúnta, a bheidh trí nasc cábla lúb-isteach 110 kV faoi thalamh (thart ar 4.1 km ar fhad cábla laistigh de thrinsí thart ar 3.36 km de na bóithre rochtana inmheánacha) go dtí an líne lastuas 110 kV atá ann cheana i mbaile fearainn Chloghercor, Co. Dhún na nGall, le dhá chrann críochnaithe laitíse cruach 16 m agus 21 m ag gach comhéadan;
- 13 thacar cuailí adhmaid atá ann cheana agus crann laitíse cruach uillinne amháin (1) a bhaint de idir an dá (2) chrann deiridh comhéadain nua atá beartaithe;
- Crosairí sruthchúrsa (sruth) ar bhealach nasc an ghreille;
- Gach obair láithreáin ghaolmhar agus forbairt choimhdeach lena n-áirítear bermanna, tírdhreachú, agus tochailt ithreach;
- Leagan foraoiseachta chun tógáil agus oibriú na forbartha beartaithe agus aon athphlandála foraoiseachta ar an láthair a éascú;
- Carrchlós poiblí buan a fhorbairt ina bhfuil táblaí suí/picniceacha ag deireadh chéim thógála na forbartha ag an suíomh ina dtrasnaíonn an nasc greille atá beartaithe an L6483;
- Saoráidí buana áineasa lena n-áirítear cosáin siúlóide marcáilte feadh na mbóithre agus na gcosán rochtana ar an láithreán, agus comharthaí áineasa agus taitneamhachta a ghabhann leo; agus
- Thart ar 252 ha de thailte feabhsaithe bithéagsúlachta suite os cionn 3 km ó na tuirbíní gaoithe atá beartaithe.

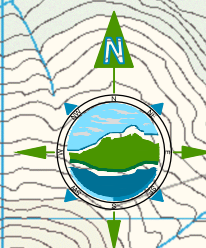
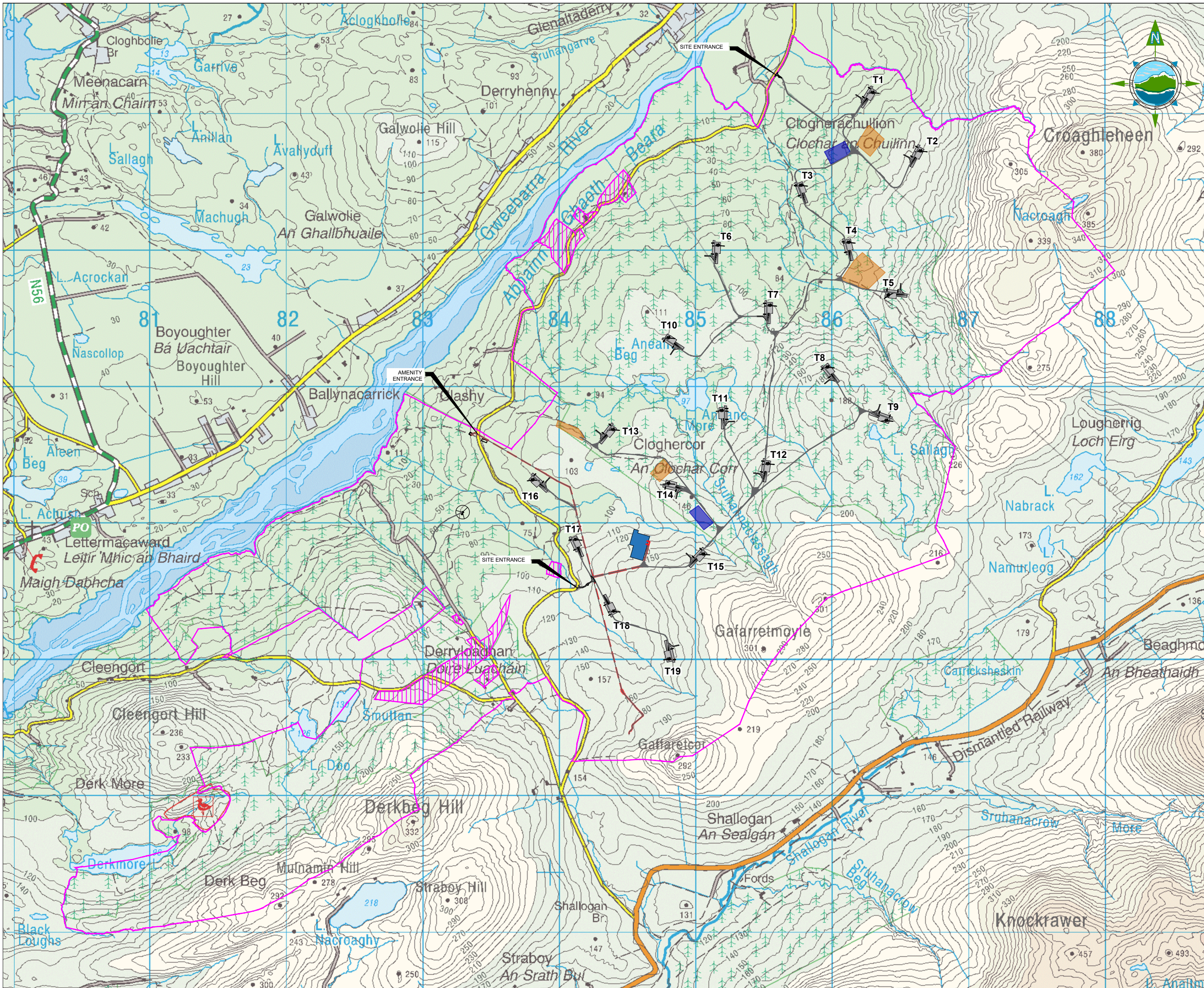
Tá cead pleanála 10 mbliana agus saol oibríochtúil 35 bliana á lorg ó dháta coimisiúnaithe na feirme gaoithe ar fad. I bhfianaise an dul chun cinn a rinneadh le déanaí i dteicneolaíocht na dtuirbíní, agus i bhfianaise na saolré a bhfuiltear ag súil léi i dtuirbíní gaoithe, meastar gurb é sin an saol oibríochtúil is fearr don tionscadal atá beartaithe. A fhad a mhairfidh an saol oibríochtúil seo, is féidir na tuirbíní atá beartaithe a úsáid chun fuinneamh in-athnuaite glan a ghiniúint go dtí go mbeidh a saolré bainte amach acu, seachas iad a bhaint roimh am.

Cuimsíonn an t-iarratas fostáisiún ar an láthair ina bhfuil nasc greille faoi thalamh leis an líne lasnairde atá ann cheana i sa Chlochar Chorr. Beidh gá le dhá chrann nua i sa Chlochar Corr chun an ceangal a cheadú agus bainfear an cábán faoi thalamh, trí cinn deag atá ann cheana féin, mar

chuid den líne lasnairde atá ann faoi láthair. Tá fad foriomlán an naisc ghreille idir an fostáisiún beartaithe agus an líne lasnairde atá ann faoi láthair thart ar 3.36 km, ar fad amach ón mbóthar agus laistigh de shuíomh na feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe.

Forbrófar áis áineasa ag suíomh na feirme gaoithe mar chuid den togra atá beartaithe, rud a chuirfidh tairbhe bhreise ar fáil don phobal áitiúil agus don cheantar máguaird. Tá cosáin siúil, ina bhfuil leibhéil éagsúla deacair, san áireamh sa phlean don suíomh chomh maith le tacú le hinfreastruchtúr chun eispéireas na n-úsáideoirí a fheabhsú. Ina measc seo tá láthair féachana chun taitneamh a bhaint as vista, carrchlós, comharthaíocht agus áiteanna suí Ghaoth Barra.

Déanfar limistéar talún a ndéantar feirmeoireacht fhairsing air faoi láthair a bhainistiú trí chleachtais chomhaontaithe talún mar chuid den tionscadal atá beartaithe, a thaispeántar mar Thalilte Feabhsaithe Bithéagsúlachta i bhFíor 1-1. Mar thoradh air sin cuirfear feabhas ar na tailte sin mar ghnáthóga oiriúnacha do Ghreabh Dhearg agus do Ghiorria na hÉireann.



LEGEND:

PROPOSED WIND FARM SITE BOUNDARY	
AREA EXCLUDED FROM BOUNDARY	
ACCESS ROADS WITH PASSING BAYS	
GRID CONNECTION ROUTE	
TURBINE HARDSTAND	
TURBINE LOCATIONS	
TEMP. CONSTRUCTION COMPOUND	
SUBSTATION LOCATION	
BORROW PIT LOCATIONS	
MET MAST LOCATION	

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	07.03.22	INFORMATION ISSUE	EB	OF

Client:
CLOGHERCOR WIND FARM LTD.

Project:
CLOGHERCOR WIND FARM

Title:
SITE LAYOUT

Scale @ A3: 1:25,000
 Prepared by: E. Beggs
 Checked: O. Fitzpatrick
 Date: January 23
 Project Director: S. Tinnelly
 Drawing Status: Information

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Drawing No.: **Figure 2.1**
 Revision: **A**

Achoimre ar Thógáil

Sceideal na bhFoirgneamh

Meastar⁵ go mbeidh 96-139 duine fostaithe le linn na buaic-thógála agus meastar go dtógfaidh an chéim thógála thart ar 24 mhí ó thosú ar an láthair go dtí go gcríochnófar coimisiúnú na dtuirbíní. Sa chás go bhfuil sé praiticiúil, cuirfear tús le glanadh fásra atá riachtanach le linn oibreacha tógála lasmuigh de shéasúr na n-éan goir,^a ritheann ón 1 Márta go dtí^{an} 31 Lúnasa.

Beidh na huaireanta gníomhaíochta tógála teoranta chun uaireanta neamh-inchomhlachaithe a sheachaint nuair is féidir. De ghnáth, beidh oibríochtaí tógála teoranta go dtí idir 7:00hrs agus 19:00 uair an chloig i rith na seachtaine agus idir 7:00hrs agus 14:00 ar an Satharn.

Chun a áirithiú, áfach, go mbainfear an úsáid is fearr is féidir as tréimhsí maithe aimsire nó ag tréimhsí criticiúla laistigh den chlár (i.e. doirteadh coinchréite) nó chun freastal ar sheachadadh comhphárteanna móra tuirbíní ar bhealaí poiblí, d'fhéadfadh sé a bheith riachtanach ó am go chéile oibriú lasmuigh de na huaireanta sin. Déanfar aon obair den sórt sin lasmuigh d'uaireanta oibre a chomhaontú roimh ré le Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall.

Táthar ag súil le dáta tosaigh Eanáir 2026 don chéim thógála, ar féidir í a mhiondealú ina 5 phríomhchéim mar seo a leanas (beidh forluí eatarthu):

- 14 mhí – Sibhialtacha (lena n-áirítear bóithre suímh, cruastair, fondúireachtaí tuirbín, leagan foraoiseachta, draenáil);
- 6 mhí – Nasc leictreach eangaí/suiteáil fostáisiúin agus coimisiúnú;
- 12 mhí – Suíomh leictreach (suiteáil idir tuirbíní agus fostáisiún, cáblaí tarraingthe);
- 4 mhí – seachadtaí agus tógáil tuirbín;
- 2 mhí – Coimisiúnú.

Seirbhís do Chustaiméirí

Sonraítear i gCaibidil 2 den EIR modheolaíochtaí tógála maidir leis na gnéithe seo a leanas den tionscadal atá beartaithe:

- Rianta Rochtana ar an Láithreán agus Draenáil;
- Cumaisc Shealadacha, Limistéir Stórála Ábhar agus Oifigí Suímh;
- Tuirbín Hardstand, Fondúireachtaí agus Erection;
- Bealach Seachadta Tuirbín;
- Mast Meitéareolaíochta Buan;
- Áis Áineasa agus
- Nasc na greille.

Sa mhodheolaíocht tógála a bhaineann leis an nasc greille don tionscadal atá beartaithe, breithnítear freisin na modhanna atá beartaithe chun dhá chúrsa uisce a thrasnú.

Bainistíocht Comhshaoil le linn Tógála

Dréachtaíodh CEMP don tionscadal atá beartaithe. Tabharfar an CEMP cothrom le dáta sula gcuirfear tús leis na hoibreacha tógála chun dul i ngleic le riachtanais aon choinníollacha pleanála ábhartha, lena n-áirítear aon bhearta maolaithe breise atá faoi choinníoll, agus cuirfear faoi bhráid Chomhairle Contae Dhún na nGall iad lena gceadú i scríbhinn. Beidh an conraitheoir tógála freagrach as na bearta maolaithe a shonraítear in EIR agus CEMP a chur chun feidhme

⁵ http://www.ewea.org/fileadmin/files/library/publications/reports/Wind_at_work.pdf

agus as na ceanglais a chur in iúl don fhoireann uile ar an láthair. Déanfaidh Cléireach Éiceolaíoch Oibreacha (ECOW), éiceolaithe, seandálaithe agus/nó innealtóirí geoiteicniúla maoirseacht ar chur chun feidhme na mbeart maolaithe, de réir mar is cuí.

ROGHANNA MALARTACHA RÉASÚNACHA A BHREITHNIÚ

Áirítear sa chaibidil laistigh den EIAR a bhreithníonn roghanna réasúnta a ndearna an t-iarratasóir staidéar orthu dearadh/leagan malartach, teicneolaíocht agus próisis eile, chomh maith le próiseas roghnúcháin an láithreáin. Breathnaítear ar chás ‘Ná Fágáil’ chomh maith, is é sin cur síos ar an méid a tharlódh don láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe mura gcuirfí an togra atá beartaithe i bhfeidhm.

Faoin gcás “Ná déan aon ní”, ní bheadh an tionscadal atá beartaithe ag dul ar aghaidh, ní bheadh forbairt tuirbíní gaoithe á saothrú, agus bheadh gach talamh a bhaineann leis an tionscadal atá beartaithe fós ina n-úsáidí reatha (foraoiseacht go príomha). Chaillfí an t-ionchas go gcruthófaí fuinneamh inbhuanaithe ar an suíomh seo. Laghdófaí cumas na tíre fuinneamh inbhuanaithe a tháirgeadh agus astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa a laghdú chun spriocanna agus spriocanna an Aontais atá leagtha amach sa Phlean um Ghníomhú ar son na hAeráide (2023) a bhaint amach.

Cuireadh tús leis an bpróiseas roghnúcháin suíomhanna don tionscadal atá beartaithe i dtús báire in 2014, thug Foireann Forbartha Fuinnimh In-athnuaite Coillte (ina dhiaidh sin, FuturEnergy Ireland) faoi phróiseas mionsonraithe scagthástála ag baint úsáide as roinnt critéar agus céimeanna chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar an acmhainneacht a bhaineann le líon mór suíomhanna féideartha atá oiriúnach chun freastal ar fhorbairt fuinnimh gaoithe. Le linn na suíomhanna a bhí ar fáil, roghnaíodh roinnt suíomhanna, lena n-áirítear an suíomh ag an gClochar Corr, le tabhairt ar aghaidh lena mbreithniú tuilleadh.

Measadh i gcéim dhearadh leagan amach an láithreáin méid, líon agus suíomh na dtuirbíní agus leagan amach an bhonneagair láithreáin lena mbaineann i.e. rianta rochtana inmheánacha, comhdhúile sealadacha tógála, crainn mheiteáilte, fostáisiúin, etc. Doiciméid eile a mheastar i gcás gach ceann de na heilimintí sin in EIAR.

Tá forbairt tagtha ar lonnú agus ar dhearadh na forbartha feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe trí roghanna malartacha a bhreithniú agus trí ionchur páirtithe leasmhara sa phróiseas a cheadú. Athbhreithniú luath ar an dearadh a breithníodh gnéithe cosúil le héifeachtaí tírdhreacha agus amhairc, méid lorg an láithreáin, suaithreadh torainn agus acmhainneacht caochaíle scáileanna.

Rinne Measúnú ar Bhealach Seachadta Tuirbín measúnú ar roghanna éagsúla bealaí seachadta ó roinnt calafort, agus rinneadh athbhreithniú ar na héifeachtaí comhshaoil a bhaineann le gach ceann acu mar chuid de EIAR. Rinneadh measúnú ar an tionchar ar an ngréasán bóithre áitiúil nuair a cinneadh an rochtain is oiriúnaí ar an láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe.

Socraíodh suíomh an fhostáisiúin agus bealach nasctha na heangaí de réir shuíomh an bhonneagair leictrigh atá ann cheana agus de réir na rún atá ann formhór na n-oibreacha ceangail greille a choinneáil laistigh den láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe.

Tá na modhanna tógála don tionscadal atá beartaithe ag brath ar roinnt fachtóirí a bhaineann go sonrach leis an suíomh agus leis an dearadh, agus cuireadh san áireamh iad i ndáil le coinníollacha talún, suiteáil bunús agus tógáil tuirbín. Cuireadh faisnéis a bhaineann go sonrach leis an láithreán a bailíodh trí imscrúdú ionsáite láithreáin agus suirbhéanna comhshaoil san áireamh nuair a bhí athbhreithniú á dhéanamh ar mhodheolaíochtaí malartacha tógála. Mar sin, cuireadh cinntí maidir leis na modhanna tógála le haghaidh suiteálacha oibre ar an talamh agus

bunchlocha, chomh maith leis an nasc inmheánach bóthair agus eangaí, ar an eolas agus bunaíodh iad ar an dea-chleachtas.

Rinneadh staidéar ar na roghanna malartacha réasúnta ó thaobh dearadh tionscadail, teicneolaíocht, suíomh, méid agus scála de agus tá sé curtha i láthair i gcaibidil EIAR. Déantar cur síos ar na roghanna atá ábhartha don tionscadal atá beartaithe agus ar na saintréithe sonracha a bhaineann leis d'fheirm ghaoithe ar mhórsála i gceantar tuaithe in airde. Is é an chúis sháraitheach leis an rogha a roghnaíodh ná an táirgeadh fuinnimh in-athnuaite ón suíomh a uasmhéadú agus an tionchar ar an gcomhshaol a íoslaghdú ag an am céanna.

DAONRA AGUS SLÁINTE AN DUINE

Léirítear sa chaibidil seo in EIAR na héifeachtaí féideartha ar an daonra, ar shláinte an duine, ar shocheacnamaíoch, ar fhostaíocht, ar thurasóireacht, ar úsáid talún agus ar shláinte agus sábháilteacht.

Tá cuid mhór den tionscadal atá beartaithe suite ar thailte atá faoi úinéireacht agus faoi rialú Coillte. Tá líon suntasach úinéirí talún príobháideacha tríú páirtí sa tionscadal atá beartaithe a thoiligh leis an iarratas agus leis an tionscadal atá beartaithe.

Is foraoiseacht tráchtála den chuid is mó iad na gníomhaíochtaí úsáide talún ar an láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, agus tá roinnt limistéar de thalamh móna oscailte atá innilte go forleathan. Is meascán d'fhoraoiseacht, talamh talmhaíochta agus portach móna é an tírdhreach máguaird.

Is iad Baile Dhún na nGall na príomhionaid uirbeacha sa réigiún, atá lonnaithe c. 22 km soir ó dheas agus Baile Leitir Ceanainn, atá suite c. 31 km soir ó thuaidh ón suíomh feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe. Tá an gabhdóir cónaithe is gaire suite 925 m ón suíomh tuirbín is gaire atá beartaithe. Tá roinnt áiseanna agus áiseanna pobail ar fáil sa cheantar, le Leitir Macaward agus na Gleannta ag soláthar na ndaoine is gaire don láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe. Tá club gníomhach CLG (Club CLG Na Rossa), stáisiún seirbhíse, siopaí, ionad sláinte, tithe poiblí, cóiríocht, halla pobail agus eaglaisí i sráidbhaile Leitir Máis. Tá an suíomh feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe suite laistigh de Ghaeltacht den chuid is mó (Ghaeltacht Dhún na nGall).

Téann cuid de bhealach Shlí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin gar don láthair feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, ar feadh an N56, idir Mulnamina More, ag trasnú Droichead Ghaotha Barra, trí Leitir Mhic Mhadaidh agus Nín Doire sula leanann sé ar aghaidh ó thuaidh i dtreo Chloch an Chlocháin.

Léiríonn torthaí an daonáirimh idir 2011 agus 2016 gur tháinig laghdú -1.2% ar dhaonra Dhún na nGall. Mar sin féin, le linn na tréimhse 10 mbliana ó 2006 go 2016, tháinig méadú thart ar 12% ar an daonra go náisiúnta agus tháinig méadú thart ar 8% ar dhaonra Chontae Dhún na nGall, agus tháinig laghdú thart ar -3% ar dhaonra na dToghcheantar ina bhfuil an togra beartaithe suite.

Déanfar modheolaíocht tógála dea-chleachtas agus bearta chun tionchair ó oibreacha tochailte a íoslaghdú, agus i dtéarmaí sláinte agus sábháilteachta mar a thuairiscítear i gCaibidil 8 (Tír, Ithir agus Geolaíocht), an limistéar forbartha a choinneáil chomh híseal agus is féidir agus laghdófar athruithe ar úsáid talún. Bainfidh an tionscadal leas as na treoirlínte agus an reachtaíocht is déanaí agus is ábhartha (Féach CEMP in Aguisín 2-2 den EIAR le haghaidh tuilleadh sonraí) ó thaobh sláinte agus sábháilteachta d'oibreacha laistigh de láthair na feirme gaoithe agus d'oibreacha lasmuigh den príomhfheirm ghaoithe ar nós oibreacha ar an TDR.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána

Beidh tionchar iarmharach dearfach beag ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe (tar éis bearta maolaithe dea-chleachtais a chur chun feidhme) ar an bpobal áitiúil trí insreabhadh oibríthe tógála sa ghearrthearma. Is dócha go dtiocfaidh méadú beag ar an daonra áitiúil thar thréimhse ghearr ama mar thoradh ar an insreabhadh seo, rud a chuirfidh borradh faoin ngeilleagar áitiúil trí chóiríocht agus trí chaitheamh i siopaí agus i mbialanna áitiúla. Beidh iarmhairt dhiúltach bheag ghearrthearmach ann mar thoradh ar thrácht chéim na tógála agus ar an torann a bhaineann leis. Maidir le húsáid talún, beidh athrú fadtéarmach ar úsáid talún i gceist leis an tógáil, go príomha chun claiseanna a thochailt agus chun bonneagar a thógáil. D'fhéadfadh tionchar diúltach beag gearrthearmach a bheith ag an tógáil féin ar oibríochtaí foraoiseachta laistigh den láithreán.

Cuirfidh an tionscadal atá beartaithe fuinneamh glan ar fáil ó acmhainn in-athnuaite agus cuideoidh sé le spriocanna a bhaint amach i mbeartais náisiúnta fuinnimh agus athraithe aeráide. Is iarmhairt iarmharach dhearfach fadtéarmach dhíreach é seo don tír a rachaidh chun tairbhe don daonra áitiúil agus do na pobail áitiúla.

Meastar gur tionchar dearfach fadtéarmach ar an bpobal áitiúil i gcoitinne é Ciste Sochair Pobail a bhunú. Bheadh tionchar dearfach aige sin ar na daoine atá ina gcónaí sa phobal seo agus bheadh tionchar dearfach aige sin ar a sláinte shíceolaíoch aonair trí thionscadail faoi stiúir an phobail a fhorbairt agus trí leibhéal na rannpháirtíochta áitiúla a uasmhéadú ó thaobh tionchar a imirt ar an gcaoi a gcaitear na cistí.

Meastar go mbeidh tionchar fadtéarmach, beag, dearfach ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar an eispéireas turasóireachta agus ar líon na dturasóirí i gcóngar an tsuimh ós rud é go gcuirfidh an tionscadal leis an taitneamhacht reatha agus go mbeidh conairí marcáilte breise ar fáil don phobal.

Ar an iomlán, meastar gur dócha go mbeidh tionchar fadtéarmach, beag, dearfach ar an daonra áitiúil agus ar shláinte an duine mar thoradh ar an tionscadal atá beartaithe.

BITHÉAGSÚLACHT

Áiríodh an méid seo a leanas sa mheasúnú bithéagsúlachta: athbhreithnithe deisce; suirbhéanna ar Ghnáthóga agus ar fhásra; speicis ionracha a mhapáil; suirbhéanna agus measúnuithe ar an bhflóra agus ar an bhfána uisceach a bhaineann leis na sruthanna agus na lochanna laistigh de láithreán na feirme gaoithe; suirbhé ialtóg dhá bhliain; agus suirbhéireachtaí fána chosanta eile.

Suíomhanna Ainmnithe

Tá an choirnéal thoir de shuíomh na feirme gaoithe mar chuid de Limistéar Oidhreachta Nádúrtha an Mhín Mhóir Thiar, agus tá Anaclann Dúlra Choill Dhoire Mhór agus an Limistéar Oidhreachta Nádúrtha atá beartaithe in aice leis an gcuid thiar de shuíomh na feirme gaoithe. Níl aon infreastruchtúr beartaithe d'fheirmeacha gaoithe taobh istigh de 1 km de cheachtar de na suíomhanna seo agus ní bheidh tionchar ag forbairt na feirme gaoithe ar ceachtar den dá láthair.

Déantar measúnú ar na tionchair fhéideartha ar Limistéir Chaomhantais Speisialta agus Limistéir faoi Chosaint Speisialta sa Ráiteas Tionchair Natura (NIS), a chuirtear isteach in éineacht leis an EIAR mar chuid de cháipéisíocht fhoriomlán na n-iarratas pleanála.

Gnáthóga agus Fásra

Tá an chuid is mó de shuíomh na feirme gaoithe á áitiú ag plandálacha buaircíneacha. Tarlaíonn paistí beaga agus stiallacha cúnga de ghnáthóga oscailte ar bhóithre foraoise, turais, conairí srutha agus i imréitigh bheaga. Is fraochmhá fliuch den chuid is mó iad seo, le roinnt réimsí de bhratphortach dlúth agus ísealchríocha. Tá limistéir oscailte níos fairsinge de phortaigh agus de ghnáthóg fraochÚn thart ar imeall an tsuímh, ach ní fhorbrófar na limistéir sin. Níor taifeadh aon speiceas plandaí neamhchoitianta ar láithreán na feirme gaoithe.

Bainfidh forbairt na feirme gaoithe thart ar 28 ha de ghnáthóg plandála buaircíneacha, agus déanfar 29-50 ha eile a leagan agus a choinneáil ar oscailt ar na bóithre rochtana agus timpeall na dtuirbíní. Is iondúil go mbíonn tionchar dearfach suntasach ag gnáthóga oscailte laistigh de phlandálacha foraoiseachta ar bhithéagsúlacht fhoriomlán na plandála. Dá bhrí sin, cé go mbeidh tionchar diúltach beag ag an gcaillúint gnáthóg foraoiseachta go dromchlaí crua, is dócha go mbeidh an glantionchar foriomlán ar luach gnáthóige na plandála foraoiseachta dearfach.

Bainfidh forbairt na feirme gaoithe thart ar 6 ha de fhraochmhá fliuch agus de ghnáthóg bratphortaigh. Mar sin féin, is dócha go bhforbróidh gnáthóg fraochmhá fliuch agus portaigh nua sna ceantair atá leagtha ar na bóithre rochtana agus timpeall ar na tuirbíní. Cuirfear Plean Bainistíochta Bithéagsúlachta i bhfeidhm lena n-áireofar bainistiú agus athchóiriú 3 ha de bhratphortach ísealchríocha agus 3.5 ha de ghnáthóg fraochmhá fliuch ar láithreán na feirme gaoithe. Cuirfear Plean Bainistíochta Ghnáthóga Órga i bhfeidhm freisin lena n-áireofar bainistiú thart ar 170 ha de gnáthóg bratphortach agus fraochmhá fliuch lasmuigh den láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, ach laistigh de theorainn an tionscadail atá beartaithe, na Tailte Feabhsaithe Bithéagsúlachta (Figiúr 1-1). Dá bhrí sin, is dócha go mbeidh na tionchair iarmharacha fhoriomlána ar gnáthóg fraochmhá fliuch agus bratphortaigh dearfach.

Speicis Ionracha

Dáileadh Rhododendron go forleathan ar fud shuíomh na feirme gaoithe ach níor tharla sé i seastáin mhóra. Taifeadh dhá sheastán de chuid Ghlúineach na Seapáine agus seastán amháin de Montbretia. Ullmhaíodh Plean Bainistíochta Speiceas Ionracha chun cosc a chur ar an obair thógála a bheith ina chúis le tabhairt isteach agus/nó leathadh speiceas ionrach.

Bithéagsúlacht Uisceach

Tarlaíonn trí loch bheaga agus ceithre lochán níos lú laistigh den chuid den láithreán feirme gaoithe a fhorbrófar. Rangáíodh na lochanna mar ghnáthóg loch oligotrophic aigéadach agus aicmíodh na locháin mar ghnáthóg locha dystrophic. Tá na lochanna agus na linnte go léir 55 m ar a laghad ó na pointí is gaire den lorg forbartha.

Déanann roinnt sruthanna beaga suíomh na feirme gaoithe a dhraenáil chuig Inbhear Ghaoth Barra. Níl gnáthóg oiriúnach ag na sruthanna seo don Diúilicín Péarla fionnuisce agus níl mórán luacha acu mar ghnáthóg d'iasc salmonid, lampaí, nó eascanna.

Áireofar ar fhorbairt na feirme gaoithe lintéir agus droichid réise shoiléire a thógáil thar roinnt de na sruthanna. Mar thoradh air sin caillfear fásra bainc go buan, ach ní bheidh aon chaillteanas buan de ghnáthóg uisceach ann. Déantar an éifeacht fhoriomlán ar ghnáthóga uisceacha a mheas mar thionchar buan, beag diúltach ar scála an chontae.

Draenálfadh uisce dromchla ó fhorbairt na feirme gaoithe go dtí na sruthanna a thrasnaíonn suíomh na feirme gaoithe, agus tá dhá cheann de na lochanna (Lochanna Aneane Beg agus Aneane More) laistigh de dhobharcheantair bhonneagar na feirme gaoithe in aice láimhe. Dá

bhrí sin, d'fhéadfadh tionchar a bheith ag na sruthanna agus na lochanna sin ar cháilíocht an uisce, go háirithe le linn chéim na tógála. Mar sin féin, tar éis chur chun feidhme chéim na tógála agus bhearta maolaithe na céime oibriúcháin, meastar gur beag tionchar sealadach agus ócáideach atá ar cháilíocht an uisce ar na sruthchúrsaí agus ar na lochanna sin.

Sciatháin leathair

Taifeadadh ocht speiceas sciatháin leathair laistigh den láithreán forbartha: ialtóg shopránach, ialtóg fheascrach, ialtóg Leisler, ialtóg Daubenton, ialtóg Natúisias, ialtóg Natterer, ialtóg ghiobach agus ialtóg fhadchluasach dhonn. Mar sin féin, bhí an leibhéal foriomlán gníomhaíochta sciatháin leathair íseal.

Rinneadh measúnú ar shraith foirgneamh agus crainn aibí timpeall orthu, laistigh de limistéar na feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe mar go bhfuil oiriúnacht mheánach acu le haghaidh ialtóga a rósadh. Mar sin féin, taifeadadh aon fhianaise ar sciatháin leathair roosting sna foirgnimh. Ní bheidh tionchar ag forbairt na bhfeirmeacha gaoithe ar na foirgnimh agus na crainn seo. Níor taifeadadh aon roostaí sciatháin leathair eile laistigh de shuíomh na feirme gaoithe, ná i bhfoirgnimh timpeall ar imeall shuíomh na feirme gaoithe.

Beidh an fhorbairt feirme gaoithe faoi deara d'fhéadfadh mortláíocht imbhualadh do dhaonraí sciatháin leathair áitiúla. Thángthas ar an gconclúid sa mheasúnú tionchair, mura gcuirtear aon bhearta maolaithe chun feidhme, go bhfuil ceithre thuirbín ardriosca ann: T3, T9, T15 agus T19. Aicmíodh na tuirbíní eile mar thuirbíní measartha nó riosca íseal.

Chun laghdú ar an riosca imbhualadh do dhaonraí ialtóg, beidh criosanna maolánach a bhunú timpeall gach tuirbín ina mbeidh gach crann agus fásra adhmaid ard eile a ghlanadh. Coinneofar na criosanna maolánacha seo mar fhásra de chineál portaigh/teasa a bhfuil toir abhaic ísealfhásta agus féara ag fás iontu. Tá na hachair mhaolánacha is gá sa raon ó 74.2 m don tuirbín Nordex N149 go 99.3 m don tuirbín GE GE-164. Mar sin féin, ag tuirbín T19, beidh achar maolánach 100 m ar a laghad ag teastáil, beag beann ar mhúnla an tuirbín, mar gheall ar an leibhéal ard de ghníomhaíocht ialtóg Leisler a taifeadadh ag an suíomh seo.

Áireofar an méid seo a leanas ar mhaolú breise chun an riosca imbhualte a laghdú: feathering na lanna chun iad a chosc ó shaorrothaí le linn coinníollacha gaoithe ísle; agus an luas gearrtha isteach (an t-íosluas gaoithe ag a dtosaíonn an tuirbín ag oibriú) a ardú go 5.5 m/s ag na tuirbíní ardriosca.

Beidh clár monatóireachta sciatháin leathair a chur i bhfeidhm, lena n-áirítear faireachas ar ghníomhaíocht sciatháin leathair agus cuardaigh conablaigh. Déanfar an mhonatóireacht ar feadh na chéad trí bliana d'oibriú na feirme gaoithe agus ansin déanfar arís é ag Bliain 10 agus Bliain 20.

Fauna eile

Tá taifid le déanaí ar féileacán fritileán réisc ó dhá shuíomh timpeall imeall an láithreáin feirme gaoithe. Mar sin féin, níor aimsíodh aon ghnáthóg phórúcháin ghréine sa chuid den suíomh feirme gaoithe a fhorbrófar.

Níor taifeadadh aon mhadra uisce, nó comharthaí de ghníomhaíocht madra uisce, feadh na sruthanna, nó timpeall na lochanna, sa chuid den suíomh feirme gaoithe a fhorbrófar. Cé gur dócha go mbainfidh madraí uisce ó Inbhear Ghaoth Barra úsáid as sruthchúrsaí agus gnáthóga eile laistigh de láthair na feirme gaoithe in amanna, is dócha go gcuirfidh táirgiúlacht íseal na

ngnáthóg uisceach ar láthair na feirme gaoithe agus an easpa daonraí suntasacha éisc teorainn le húsáid mhadra uisce an tsuímh.

Taifeadadh comharthaí nó radharcanna Badger in dhá láthair i ngnáthóg oscailte portaigh/teasa timpeall ar imeall shuíomh na feirme gaoithe le linn obair shuirbhéireachta don tionscadal seo, agus tá taifid roimhe seo ón gcuid thiar de shuíomh na feirme gaoithe. Mar sin féin, níor aimsíodh aon chomharthaí Broc le linn an tsuirbhé speiceas cosanta ar cheantair ar fud an infreastruchtúr feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe.

Speicis chosanta eile a taifeadadh laistigh de láthair na feirme gaoithe ba ea an Frog Coiteann, an Laghairt Choiteann, Iorua Rua, Cat Crainn, Giorria agus Deirge na hÉireann, agus is dócha go dtarlóidh Gráinneog, Dallóg Fraoigh agus Easóg na hÉireann freisin.

Tá iora dearga ag brath den chuid is mó ar ghnáthóga foraoise. Dá bhrí sin, déantar cailteanas gnáthóige plandála buaircíneacha a mheas mar thionchar diúltach beag buan ar dhaonra an Iorua Rua ar scála an chontae, agus meastar gur tionchar diúltach measartha gearrthéarmach ar scála an chontae an suaitheadh le linn na céime tógála.

Níl na speicis amfaibiaigh, reiptíle agus mamach eile faoi chosaint ach ag brath go páirteach ar ghnáthóga foraoise (e.g., Cat Crainn agus Fianna Dearg) nó tá baint acu le gnáthóga neamhforaoise (e.g., Guais Choiteann agus Giorria na hÉireann). I gcás na speiceas atá ag brath go páirteach ar ghnáthóga foraoise, is dócha go gcúiteofar cailteanas gnáthóg foraoise trí mheascán níos éagsúla de ghnáthóg foraoise agus de ghnáthóg spáis oscailte a fhorbairt. D'fhéadfadh tionchar dearfach a bheith ag an tionchar ar roinnt de na speicis neamhforaoise. Go háirithe, is dócha go mbainfidh an Ghuais Choiteann tairbhe as an ngnóthachan glan i bhfraochmhá fhlíuch agus i ngnáthóg portaigh. D'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh tionchar dearfach fadtéarmach ar an bpobal coiteann áitiúil Frog mar thoradh ar locháin a chruthú mar chuid den Phlean Bainistíochta Bithéagsúlachta. Is dócha go mbeidh tionchar dearfach fadtéarmach ar dhaonra áitiúil Ghiorria na hÉireann mar thoradh ar chur i bhfeidhm Phlean Bainistíochta Ghnáthán Órga an Iolair.

ÉANEOLAÍOCHT

Raon feidhme an Mheasúnaithe

Bhí an measúnú éaneolaíoch bunaithe ar shuirbhéanna éan a rinneadh idir 2019 agus 2022. Áiríodh orthu sin suirbhéanna ar phointí amhairc chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar ghníomhaíocht eitilte thar láthair na feirme gaoithe, agus suirbhéanna ar éin ghoir moorlainne, iolair fíréan ghoir, lómaí rua goir, gulaí pórúcháin, meirliún goir, agus éin uisce gheimhrithe.

Rinneadh meastóireacht ar thorthaí na suirbhéanna chun Gnéithe Tábhachtacha Éanúla a aithint. Ba iad sin líon na n-éan a raibh tábhacht chaomhantais ag baint leo agus a bhféadfadh an tionscadal atá beartaithe dífeare a dhéanamh dóibh.

Áiríodh sa mheasúnú tionchair measúnuithe ar shuaitheadh tógála, cailteanas gnáthóige, suaitheadh oibríochtúil, díláithriú, éifeachtaí bacainn, riosca imbhuailte agus tionchair channacha. Tagraíonn díláithriú do thuirbíní oibríochtúla a sheachaint trí éin a neadú, a bhrionnú nó a rósadh, rud a fhágann go ndíláithrítear éin ó ghnáthóga a bheadh áitithe acu murach sin. Tagraíonn éifeachtaí bacainne do thuirbíní oibríochtúla a sheachaint trí éin chomaitéireachta, rud a fhágann go mbíonn cosáin eitilte níos faide ann de réir mar a théann éin timpeall na feirme gaoithe.

Speicis a Taifeadadh

Rinneadh taifead ar 24 speiceas rapaire, éan uisce agus cearca fraoigh san iomlán le linn suirbhéanna na n-éan, cé is moite de speicis nár tharla ach in Inbhear Ghaoth Barra.

Tá an suíomh feirme gaoithe laistigh de réimse baile péire d'Iolair Fíréan, agus tá daonraí cónaithe den Spioróg, an Clamhán, agus an Pocaire Gaoithe. Maireann an Meirliún i ngnáthóg mhórthíre timpeall ar shuíomh na feirme gaoithe: ní raibh aon fhianaise ar phórú laistigh nó gar do shuíomh na feirme gaoithe, ach d'fhéadfadh an ceantar a bheith mar chuid den réimse baile an Mheirliúin ag pórú achar éigin amach ó shuíomh na feirme gaoithe. Bhí taifid ócáideacha ann freisin den Chúr Rua, an tIolar Mara, Cromán na gCearc, an Coirneach agus an Fabhcún Gorm.

Tacaíonn gnáthóg an mhóir talún laistigh agus timpeall láithreán na feirme gaoithe le daonra cónaithe de chuid na gcearc fraoigh, chomh maith le naoscach goir scaipthe agus péire feadóg bhúí ghoir. Téann Ealaí Glóracha ar imirce trasna shuíomh na feirme gaoithe san earrach agus san fhómhar. Pórann péire amháin d'Fhaoileáin Bhána ag loch amháin laistigh de láthair na feirme gaoithe. Déanann droimnigh bheaga, faoileáin scadán agus droimnigh mhóra timaistriú rialta trasna shuíomh na feirme gaoithe.

Níor taifeadadh Lómaí Rua in aon cheann de na lochanna laistigh nó timpeall ar láthair na feirme gaoithe, ná ag comaitéireacht trasna láthair na feirme gaoithe.

D'aithin an mheastóireacht ar thorthaí an tsuirbhé éan agus faisnéis bhreise ó athbhreithnithe deisce 17 Gné thábhachtach: imirce Ealaí Glóracha, Iolair Fíréan chónaithe agus Feadóga bhúí goir (tábhacht idirnáisiúnta); Meirliúin ghoir (tábhacht chontae/idirnáisiúnta); droimnigh bheaga, faoileáin scadán agus droimnigh mhóra le linn an tséasúir phóraithe, agus is dócha go raibh baint acu le coilíneacht chósta amháin nó níos mó (tábhacht náisiúnta/idirnáisiúnta); faoileáin scadán timaistríthe agus droimnigh mhóra le linn an tséasúir neamhphóraithe; cearca fraoigh cónaithe, agus Praslachain agus Naoscacha goir (tábhacht chontae); agus Spioróga cónaithe, an Clamhán agus an Pocaire Gaoithe agus Faoileáin bhána ghoir (tábhacht áitiúil).

An Iolar Fíréan

Tá ceann de na suíomhanna neadaithe atá in úsáid ag péire áitiúil na nIolar Fíréan in aice le suíomh na feirme gaoithe. D'fhéadfadh tógáil agus/nó suaitheadh oibriúcháin a bheith ina chúis le teip neadaithe ag péire áitiúil na nIolar Fíréan, má dhéanann siad iarracht an suíomh nead seo a áitiú, nó suíomh eile gar don fheirm ghaoithe. Bheadh tionchar diúltach an-suntasach gearrthéarmach aige sin. Is féidir freisin go bhféadfadh tuirbíní a bheith ina gcúis le hiolair chun suíomhanna neadacha gar do shuíomh na feirme gaoithe a sheachaint, cé nach cosúil go bhfuil aon fhianaise ann maidir le tuirbíní a mbíonn tionchar ag dí-áitiú orthu d'Iolair a neadú. Mar sin féin, úsáideann Golden Eagles iliomad suíomhanna neadacha agus léirigh samhltú daonra nach mbeidh tionchar suntasach ag teipeanna neadaithe uaineacha ag péire an Chlochair Choirr ar dhaonra Iolair Fíréan na hÉireann.

Déanfar monatóireacht bhliantúil ar phórú na nIolar Fíréan. Má aimsítear Iolair Fíréan neadaithe le linn na tréimhse tógála, ní dhéanfar aon obair thógála laistigh de 1.5 km den láithreán nead. Má aimsítear an tIolar Fíréan neadaithe le linn na tréimhse oibríochta, dúnfar rochtain phoiblí ar aon chosáin áineasa agus rianta rochtana laistigh de 1 km den láithreán nead agus beidh rochtain ar na codanna seo den fheirm ghaoithe teoranta a mhéid is féidir.

D'fhéadfadh seachaint na dtuirbíní a bheith ina chúis le hiolair a dhíláithriú ó suas le 244 ha de ghnáthóga a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann, cé go bhfuil an tionchar is dócha a bheidh ag an dlíáithriú i bhfad níos lú. Cuirfear plean bainistíochta gnáthóige an Iolair Fíréan i bhfeidhm chun an

tionchar díláithrithe féideartha seo a mhaolú. Is éard a bheidh i gceist leis sin ná thart ar 250 ha de thailte oscailte den chuid is mó a bhainistiú, lena n-áirítear thart ar 170 ha de ghnáthóga portaigh agus fraochmhá. Is é cuspóir an phlean bainistíochta gnáthóige feabhas a chur ar dhaonraí Bríste Deirge agus Ghorria na hÉireann, atá ina bpríomhacmhainní creiche do dhaonra an Iolair Fíréan in Éirinn. Ba cheart go gcuirfeadh cur i bhfeidhm rathúil an phlean bainistíochta gnáthóg an Iolair Fíréan éifeachtaí aon tionchair díláithrithe ar na hIolair Fíréan foraging agus d'fhéadfadh tionchar dearfach glan a bheith aige ar acmhainní creiche an Iolair Fíréan laistigh de raon baile an péire Iolar Fíréan an Chlochair Choirr.

Mar thoradh ar an riosca imbhuailte atá tuartha d'Fheirm Gaoithe an Chlochair Choirr, thar thréimhse saoil na feirme gaoithe, bheadh thart ar 1-2 bás ón Iolar Fíréan ann. Thug samhltú daonra le fios, leis an mortlaíocht bhreise imbhuailte, go leanfaidh daonra Iolar Fíréan na hÉireann ag fás, ach ag ráta níos ísle. Chuirfeadh sé seo moill ar dhaonra Iolar Fíréan na hÉireann riocht fabhrach a bhaint amach thart ar cúig bhliain faoin gcás is measa i mbaol imbhuailte, nó sé bliana faoi dhó réamhchúraim den chás sin i mbaol imbhuailte. Ní mheastar go bhfuil tionchar suntasach ag an méid sin. Tugann fianaise ó Albain le fios gur dócha go ndéanfaidh an ráta seachanta 99% a úsáidtear do shamhaltú riosca imbhuailte an Iolair Fíréin rómheastachán ar an riosca imbhuailte, agus mar sin is dócha go ndéanfaidh na tionchair réamh-mheasta a bhfuil cur síos orthu thuas rómheastachán ar na héifeachtaí dóchúla ar dhaonra an Iolair Fíréin.

Gnéithe eile Éanúla Tábhachtacha

D'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh tionchar suntasach ag an bhfeirm ghaoithe go háitiúil ar an easáitiú agus/nó go gcuirfí isteach ar dhaonra an Ghallóg Choiteann ghoir. Is dócha freisin go mbeidh tionchar measartha ag an díláithriú agus/nó ag cur isteach ar na daonraí pórúcháin Teal agus naoscach a bhfuil tábhacht chontae ag baint leo.

Measadh go raibh na tionchair fhéideartha eile ar Ghnéithe Tábhachtacha Éanúla beag, an-bheag, neamh-inghlactha, nó neodrach. Seo a leanas cuid de na príomhchúiseanna leis na measúnuithe sin:

- Tá an bonnagar feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe i bplandáil mhór buaircíneach, agus tá baint ag na Cearca Fraoigh cónaithe, Feadóga Buí, agus ag Meirliúin le gnáthóg oscailte móire.
- Is minic a bhíonn Feadóga Buí goir ag timaistirú óna limistéir ghoir moorlainne chun beatha a chur i bhféarthailte níos táirgiúla. Níor taifeadadh aon fhianaise, áfach, ar timaistriú na bhFeadóg Buí trasna shuíomh na feirme gaoithe. Léirigh measúnú riosca ar imbhuailte sa chás is measa, fiú dá mba rud é go raibh siad ag taisteal ar fud láthair na feirme gaoithe, nach mbeadh an riosca imbhuailte suntasach.
- Bhí leibhéal na gníomhaíochta eitilte ag dul ar imirce Ealaí Glóracha, gulaí timaistrithe agus spioróga, clamháin agus pocairí gaoithe ag maireachtáil ró-íseal chun tionchar suntasach ar riosca imbhuailte a ghiniúint.

Maolú agus Monatóireacht

Áireofar leis an maolú agus leis an bhfaireachán suirbhéanna bliantúla Iolar Fíréan agus plean bainistíochta gnáthóige Iolar Fíréan a chur i bhfeidhm (féach thuas).

Le linn na tréimhse tógála, déanfar suirbhéanna bliantúla ar Fheadóga Buí goir agus Meirliúin ghoir freisin. Má fhaightear suíomhanna nua neadacha Feadóg Buí nó Meirliúin gar don infreastruchtúr feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, cuirfear aon obair thógála laistigh de 500 m de na suíomhanna neadacha ar fionraí go dtí go mbeidh an iarracht phóraithe curtha i gcrích.

I measc na monatóireachta iarthógála beidh cuardaigh chonablaigh chun monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar bhásmhaireacht imbhualite, suirbhéanna ar phointe vantage chun cabhrú le torthaí na gcuardach conablaigh a léirmhíniú, agus suirbhéanna pórúcháin éagsúla chun tionchair dlíáthrithe a mheasúnú ar Iolair Fírén, Feadóg Buí, Naoscach agus Praslachain goir.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána

Is iad na héifeachtaí iarmharacha suntasacha atá tuartha ná an tionchar a bhíonn ag suaitheadh/dí-áitiú ar an bpobal Praslachain goir a bhfuil tábhacht áitiúil ag baint leis.

Ba cheart go gcuirfeadh na bearta maolaithe cosc ar thionchair shuaitheadh is cúis le teipeanna neadaithe ag an bpéire Iolar Fírén áitiúil, agus d'fhéadfadh tionchar glan dearfach a bheith ag cur chun feidhme Phlean Bainistíochta Ghnáthóg na nIolar Fírén Eagle ar acmhainní creiche don péire sin.

TALAMH, ITHREACHA AGUS GEOLAÍOCHT

Rinneadh measúnú ar Ithir, Geolaíocht agus Talamh de réir Threoirlínte 2022 an EPA maidir leis an bhfaisnéis atá le coimeád i dTuarascálacha Measúnaithe Tionchair Timpeallachta agus breithniú déanta ar Mheasúnuithe Riosca i gCobhsaíocht Feola a rinneadh don tionscadal atá beartaithe.

Baineadh úsáid as an bhfaisnéis deisce atá ar fáil agus as an iliomad fiosrúchán geoiteicniúil a rinneadh ar shuíomh an tionscadail atá beartaithe chun bonn eolais a chur faoi na dálaí bonnlíne Ithreach, Geolaíochta agus Talún agus chun measúnú a dhéanamh ar thionchar an tionscadail atá beartaithe.

Is iondúil gurb é atá i dtopagrafaíocht shuíomh na feirme gaoithe ná talamh a fána go réidh le fánaí níos géire atá níos gaire do theorainneacha theas an tsuímh. Níl aon fhianaise ann faoi láthair ar shleamhnáin mhóna ar an suíomh nó ar an gceantar máguaird.

Tá suíomh na feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe clúdaithe den chuid is mó i bplandálacha foraoiseachta buaircineacha a bhainistítear go gníomhach, i bhféarthailte garbha agus i bportach. Tá gréasán fairsing de bhóithre rochtana atá ann cheana ar fud an láithreáin chun na hoibríochtaí foraoiseachta leanúnacha a éascú. Déanfar ithreacha a thochailt a athúsáid laistigh den láithreán ar mhaithe le tírdhreachú agus athshuíomh poll a fháil ar iasacht. Níl aon láithreán Oidhreachta Geolaíochta na hÉireann taobh istigh de theorainn shuíomh an tionscadail atá beartaithe.

Úsáidfear ceithre shuíomh laistigh den suíomh feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe mar chlaiseanna chun carraigeacha a bhaint amach. Bunaithe ar na méideanna ríofa, cuirfidh na claiseanna iasachta atá beartaithe an méid is gá ar fáil le haghaidh rianta rochtana agus cruastand. D'fhéadfadh éagobhsaíocht fhéideartha eascairt as oibreacha tochailte. Tá sé mar aidhm ag lorg beartaithe an bhonneagair pócaí níos doimhne de thaiscí móna ar shuíomh na feirme gaoithe a sheachaint.

Beidh gá le cré-oibreacha le haghaidh gníomhaíochtaí chéim thógála an tionscadail bheartaithe agus bainfear clúdach fásra agus tochailt fo-ithreach mianraí dá bharr. Dá bhrí sin, d'fhéadfadh sé, dá bhrí sin, go gcaillfí solaid chrochta in uiscí dromchla mar thoradh ar chré-oibreacha agus tochailtí a bheith á mbainistiú go mícheart, más gá, agus dá bhrí sin, d'fhéadfadh sé tarlú go gcaillfí solaid ar fionraí in uiscí dromchla mar thoradh ar scriosadh ithreach, más gá, ar rith chun srutha agus ar chreimeadh ó stoc-chairn ithreach.

Tá sé de chumas ag tógáil na forbartha (gan aon mhaolú) tionchar diúltach a imirt ar an ithir agus ar an ngeolaíocht go príomha mar gheall ar bhainistiú agus gluaiseachtaí ithreacha agus ábhar cloiche. Tá bearta maolaithe beartaithe chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na héifeachtaí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ar ithreacha talún agus ar gheolaíocht.

Bearta maolaithe

Is iarmhairt dhosheachanta ag an bhforbairt é suaitheadh na hithreach, na fo-ithreach agus na buncharraige, ach déanfar gach iarracht a chinntiú go gcoinnítear méid na n-ábhar cré a thochlaítear chomh híseal agus is féidir chun teorainn a chur leis an éifeacht ar ghnéithe geolaíoch an láithreáin. Déanfaidh innealtóir geoiteicniúil nó geolaí innealtóireachta atá cáilithe go cuí agus a bhfuil taithí chuí aige faireachán ar na hoibreachatochailte. Ní dhéanfar na cré-oibreacha a chur i gcrích le linn drochaimsire.

Léiríonn torthaí na Measúnuithe Riosca maidir le Cobhsaíocht Feola rangú guaise “íseal” maidir le héagobhsaíocht a bhaineann leis an gceanglas maidir le tochairt ar an suíomh, faoi réir bearta maolaithe iomchuí.

Beidh stóráil ola ag teastáil, go príomha san fhostáisiún, cé go mbeidh cianúsáid breosla agus ola ag teastáil ó am go ham. Beidh ceanglais stórála agus láimhseála breosla agus ola chomh mionsonraithe céanna le haghaidh tógála, agus beidh stóráil bhuan breosla agus ola suite laistigh de bhundáil buana clúdaithe.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána

Tríd is tríd, ní shamhlaítear go mbeidh aon éifeachtaí carnacha suntasacha ann maidir le hithreacha agus geolaíocht le linn na tógála. Tá sé seo mar gheall ar an dearadh éifeachtach chomh maith leis an mbainistíocht ábhar ar nós úsáid a bhaint as claiseanna ar iasacht ar an láthair a chinnteoidh leas iomlán a bhaint ar an méid na n-ábhar is gá a allmhairiú chuig an suíomh. Rinneadh measúnú ar leagan na foraoiseachta agus ar an bhforaoiseacht athphlandaithe i dtéarmaí tionchair charnacha leis an tionscadal atá beartaithe.

Déanfar gach tionchar féideartha eile ar an ithir agus ar an timpeallacht gheolaíoch a mhaolú trí dhea-chleachtas suímh maidir le gluaiseachtaí feithiclí, bainistiú sreabhán truailléan, úsáid inbhuanaithe ithreacha etc. Ar an iomlán, ní bheidh na héifeachtaí iarmharacha ó na gnéithe seo suntasach do-ghlactha, buan agus diúltach.

HIDREOLAÍOCHT AGUS HIDRIGHEOLAÍOCHT

Síneann an láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe ó Abhainn Ghaoth Barra a ritheann feadh teorainn shuíomh na feirme gaoithe thiar i dtreo an cheantair shléibhtiúil i dtuaisceart, in oirthear agus i ndeisceart an tsuímh. Tá an ceantar measartha géar le limistéir mhéadaithe fána a bhaineann le outcrops carraige granitic.

Tá an Clochar Corr suite go dtí soir ó thuaidh ó na Gleannta agus tá an tírdhreach faoi cheannas Shliabh Chruach Léithín feadh na teorann atá beartaithe don fheirm ghaoithe thiar thuaidh; An Ghamhraid Mhaol (ar a dtugtar an Clochar Corr Theas freisin) agus Sléibhte na Gamhraide Coirre agus Cnoc an Deirgigh feadh na teorann atá beartaithe don fheirm ghaoithe thoir theas; Cnoc Cleengort an Chlaonghoirt feadh teorainn shuíomh na feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe thiar theas.

Is de ghrádán measartha go géar agus de ráta sreafa níos airde iad na huiscí sin ar fad, rud a léiríonn sruthchúrsaí nádúrtha aibhneacha atá ag creimeadh/suas talún go tipiciúil.

Éifeachtaí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann

Tá acmhainneacht iascaigh teoranta ag na lochanna ar an láthair agus ag na haibhneacha mar gheall ar an táirgeadh íseal bitheolaíoch, bacainní ar éisc agus easpa gnáthóga uisceacha oiriúnacha. Tá roinnt bacainní nádúrtha éisc ann ar shruthanna an Chlochair Choirr agus Chlochár an Chuilinn.

Is éard a bheidh i gceist le tógáil na feirme gaoithe fásra agus foraoiseacht a bhaint, fo-ithreach mianraí agus carraig a thochailt go príomha ó chlaiseanna iasachta atá beartaithe. D'fhéadfadh talamh nochta agus suaite an riosca creimthe a mhéadú agus rith chun srutha uisce dromchla ualaithe ina dhiaidh sin. Is toradh é scaoileadh solaid ar fionraí go príomha ar shuaitheadh fisiceach na talún le linn na céime tógála, mura ndéantar é a dhlúthú i gceart.

Níl aon taifead ar thuilte pluvial ag an suíomh feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe.

Bearta maolaithe

Déanfar uisce dromchla a eascraíonn ag limistéir fhorbartha den láithreán a bhainistiú trí chóras draenála uisce stoirme tiomnaithe arna dheardh de réir phrionsabail na gCóras Draenála Inbhuanaithe (SuDS), a theorannóidh an scardadh ón láithreán go rátaí rith chun srutha glasa.

Le linn chéim na tógála, déanfar na hoibreacha go léir a bhaineann le tógáil na feirme gaoithe de réir na treorach atá i nDoiciméad CIRIA C741 'Dea-chleachtas Comhshaoil ar Láithreán' (CIRIA, 2015).

Tá iniúchtaí ar bhearta rialaithe silt ríthábhachtach tar éis báisteach fhada nó dian agus áiritheoidh cothabháil éifeachtacht uasta na mbearta atá beartaithe. Déanfar clár cigireachta agus cothabhála a dheardh, agus pearsanra tógála tiomnaithe a shannfar chun an clár seo a bhainistiú. Forbrófar seicliosta de na bearta rialaithe cigireachta agus cothabhála, agus coinneofar taifid.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána

Meastar nach bhfuil na héifeachtaí iarmharacha ar cháilíocht an uisce, ar an hidreolaíocht, ar an hidreolaíocht, ar an hidreolaíocht agus ar an gcóras draenála atá ann cheana ag an láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe suntasach agus gearrthéarmach den chuid is mó. Leanfaidh an córas draenála ar an láthair reatha de bheith gníomhach le linn thógáil agus oibriú na feirme gaoithe beartaithe agus déanfar é a chomhlánú leis an bplean draenála atá deartha don fhorbairt seo. Cé is moite d'uasghrádú na mbóithre atá ann cheana agus na dtrasnuithe srutha feadh nasc na greille, is iondúil go mbíonn na limistéir feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe ar shiúl ó cheantair ar an suíomh a cinneadh a bheith íogair ó thaobh hidreolaíochta de. Mar gheall ar an achar mór siar ó ghnéithe hidreolaíochta íogaire, ní bheidh tionchar ag tochair/draenacha orthu ná ar aon oibreacha tógála ginearálta. Níl aon éifeachtaí fadtéarmacha suntasacha tuartha.

Go hachomair, níl aon tionchar fadtéarmach suntasach ag an tionscadal beartaithe ar cháilíocht uisce, hidreolaíocht ná hidreolaíocht, ar choinníoll go ndéantar na hoibreacha a dheardh, a thógáil, a chothabháil agus a dhíchóimisiúin i gcomhréir leis na bearta maolaithe atá leagtha amach sa chaibidil seo in EIAR.

BLÁTHANNA CUMHRA: AON CUMHRÁIN

Is féidir le tuirbíní gaoithe scáthanna fada a chaitheamh nuair a bhíonn an ghrian íseal sa spéir. Is éard atá i gceist le 'scáthfhleasc' éifeacht a tharlaíonn nuair a chaitheann lanna rothlacha

tuirbín gaoithe scáth ag gluaiseacht thar fhoirgneamh. Tá an éifeacht taithí taobh istigh nuair a théann scáth ag gluaiseacht thar fhuinneog i maoin in aice láimhe agus mar thoradh ar athrú tapa nó flicker i solas na gréine ag teacht isteach.

Luaitear sna Treoirlínte maidir le Forbairt Fuinnimh Gaoithe 2006 atá ann faoi láthair, *“Is féidir le roghnú, dearadh agus pleanáil chúramach an tsuímh, agus dea-úsáid na mbogearraí ábhartha, cabhrú leis an bhféidearthacht scáileanna a sheachaint ar an gcéad dul síos. Moltar gan scáileanna in oifigí agus teaghaisí taobh istigh de 500 m a bheith níos faide ná 30 uair an chloig in aghaidh na bliana nó 30 nóiméad in aghaidh an lae”*.

Deir na Treoirlínte freisin go bhfuil, *“Achair níos mó ná 10 trastomhais rótar ó tuirbín, go bhfuil an poitéinseal le haghaidh caochaíle scáileanna an-íseal. I gcás ina bhféadfadh fadhb a bheith i gceist le scáthfhleasc, ba cheart d’fhorbróirí ríomhanna a sholáthar chun an éifeacht a choinníochtú agus, i gcás inarb iomchuí, bearta a ghlacadh chun an éifeacht a d’fhéadfadh a bheith ann a chosc nó a fheabhsú, amhail trí thuirbín ar leith a mhúchadh ag amanna áirithe”*.

Tá an cur chuige samhaltaithe scáthfhleasc a chuirtear i láthair sa mheasúnú i gcaibidil EIAR comhsheasmhach leis na treoirlínte seo.

Is é 164 m trastomhas uasta rótaí na dtuirbíní sa tionscadal beartaithe seo, dá bhrí sin, tá gach gabhdóir íogair laistigh de 1.64 km de na láithreacha tuirbín atá beartaithe (i.e. trastomhais rótaí 10x) san áireamh sa tsamhail scáthfhleasc. Aithníodh gabhdóirí caochaíle scáileanna 103 san iomlán agus cuireadh na suíomhanna maoin leis an tsamhail.

Tá an measúnú samhaltaithe a rinneadh bunaithe ar na coinníollacha sa chás is measa, agus táthar ag tuar 39 ngabhdóirí scáthfhleascacha go bhfaighidh siad scáileanna laethúla os cionn thairseach WEDGanna 2006 de 30 nóiméad in aghaidh an lae. Tá sé tuartha go mbeidh 38 no. gabhdóirí taithí ar chaochail scáileanna níos mó ná 30 uair an chloig in aghaidh na bliana sa chás is measa. Is dócha go mbeidh i bhfad níos lú ná na héifeachtaí is measa atá tuartha ag tarlú agus minicíocht an scáthfhlaic le linn lae agus na bliana, nuair a chuirtear na coinníollacha réalaíocha thuas san áireamh. Nuair a chuirtear fachtóirí laghdaithe maidir le dóchúlacht na gréine agus treo na gaoithe san áireamh sa tsamhail, tá sárú amháin (ag maoin neamháitithe a bhfuil comhaontú tráchtála i bhfeidhm ina leith) ar an teorainn tairsí treoilíne reatha de 30 uair an chloig in aghaidh na bliana.

Maidir le céim oibríochtúil an tionscadail atá beartaithe, is dócha go mbeidh tionchar suntasach agus tréimhsiúil ag líon áirithe gabhdóirí ar líon sainithe gabhdóirí san fhadtearma (i.e. gan clúdach néalríomhaireachta, scagthástáil ná treo na gaoithe, etc., agus gan aon bhearta maolaithe a bheith i bhfeidhm) ag líon sainithe gabhdóirí agus beidh éifeacht ghairid aige maidir le fad an tionchair ar bhonn laethúil.

Ar mhaithe le dea-chleachtas a fhorbairt, tá an tIarratasóir tiomanta d’aon éifeachtaí díobhálacha ón tionscadal atá beartaithe ar an bpopal áitiúil a íoslághdú agus tá sé tiomanta a chinntiú nach mbeidh aon scáthchleasaí scáile ar bith a aithnítear laistigh de 1.64 km (trastomhas an rótaí) laistigh de 1.64 km de shuíomhanna na dtuirbíní gaoithe atá beartaithe. Tá sé seo faoi réir cumais theicniúla na teicneolaíochta tuirbín ina bhfuil moilliú rialaithe agus sábháilte ar rothlú lann ag teastáil sa chás go bhfuiltear ag tuar go dtarlóidh scáthfhleasc ar gabhdóir.

Cuirfear bearta maolaithe i bhfoirm Scéim Múchadh Tuirbín i bhfeidhm le linn na hoibríochta chun a chinntiú nach dtarlóidh scáthfhleasc ag na hairíonna lena mbaineann. Bunóidh an t-oibreoir feirme gaoithe próiseas inar féidir le cónaitheoirí áitiúla aon imní nó aon ghearáin faoi fheidhmiú na scéime a chur in iúl. Déanfaidh oibreoir na feirme gaoithe gach ábhar imní a

ardaíodh a imscrúdú agus déanfar bogearraí múchta na dtuirbíní a choigeartú dá réir, de réir mar is gá.

Má fhaightear amach go bhfuil dóthain scagthástála ann (ó fhásra, foirgnimh, etc. nach bhfuil cuntas orthu sna bogearraí) ag gabhdóir caochaile scáileanna, b'fhéidir nach mbeadh gá le Scéim Múchadh na dTuirbíní don ghabhdóir sin. Nuair a bheidh an tionscadal beartaithe á oibriú, rachaidh an tIarratasóir i dteagmháil le haon chónaitheoirí dá ndéantar difear chun imscrúdú a dhéanamh ar roghanna le haghaidh bearta scagtha nua nó breise (amhail plandú), nuair is cuí agus is féidir leis na cónaitheoirí atá buailte.

Trí bhearta maolaithe a chur i bhfeidhm chun éifeachtaí flicker scáileanna a scagadh ó ghabhdóirí íogaire agus/nó chun bearta rialaithe tuirbíní gaoithe a chur i bhfeidhm de réir Scéim Múchadh Tuirbín sainithe, cinnteofar go gcuirfear deireadh le haon tionchar iarmharach scáileanna ón tionscadal atá beartaithe ag aon ghabhdóirí scáthchleasa.

SÓCMHAINNÍ ÁBHARTHA

Sa chaibidil seo laistigh de EIAR déantar measúnú ar an éifeacht ar chomharthaí teileachumarsáide, ar chomharthaí craolacháin, agus ar eitlíocht a eascraíonn as an tionscadal atá beartaithe, chomh maith le bonneagar leictreachais agus uisce, agus seirbhísí dramhaíola.

Is é Aerfort Dhún na nGall an t-aerfort suntasach is gaire don togra atá beartaithe, atá suite thart ar 18 gciliméadar ó thuaidh den suíomh feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe. Chuathas i gcomhairle le hoibreoírí teileachumarsáide chun tuiscint a fháil ar leathnú sócmhainní laistigh de réimse an tionscadail bheartaithe, agus rinneadh athbhreithniú agus athbhreithniú ar an dearadh, de réir mar ba gá, chun aon fhéidearthacht tionchar a imirt ar líonraí teileachumarsáide a íoslaghdú.

Cé go bhfuil roinnt línte leictreachais lasnairde laistigh den láthair feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, tá féidearthachtaí ann do cháblaí leictreachais faoi thalamh a aimsítear le linn na n-oibreacha atá beartaithe, go háirithe gar do bhóithre agus tithe poiblí nó clóis feirme. Níor aithníodh i staidéar deisce aon áiseanna dramhaíola, gníomhaíochtaí neamhdhleathacha dramhaíola, pointí monatóireachta ceimiceacha ná saoráidí ceadúnaithe de chuid na Gníomhaireachta um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil tionsclaíoch laistigh de gha 10 km de láithreán na feirme gaoithe. Tá na háiseanna dramhaíola is gaire don suíomh feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe gar do Bhaile Dhún na nGall agus Leitir Ceanainn.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána

D'fhéadfadh céim na tógála dramhaíl chathrach (oifig an tsuímh, ceaintín), fuíolluisce (saoráid leasa láithreáin) agus dramhaíl thógála (adhmaid, pacáistiú, miotal, etc.) a tháirgeadh, a chaithfear a phróiseáil ag saoráidí próiseála dramhaíola áitiúla. Déanfar dramhaíl a dheighilt ar an láthair agus bainfear úsáid as bailitheoir dramhaíola tráchtála ceadúnaithe chun aon dramhaíl a tharlaíonn ar an láthair a bhaint chuig áiseanna próiseála dramhaíola áitiúla i nDún na nGall. Ar an iomlán, beidh tionchar diúltach gearrthéarmach neamh-inghlactha ar sheirbhísí dramhaíola.

Le hionchorprú ceanglas soilsithe áirithe mar chuid den dearadh agus an t-achar idir láithreacha beartaithe tuirbín agus naisc teileachumarsáide atá ann cheana, ní bheidh aon tionchar iarmharach ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar shócmhainní teileachumarsáide eitlíochta.

Meastar go mbeidh ráta an-íseal táirgthe dramhaíola cathrach (oifig chumaisc, ceaintín) agus fuíolluisce (saoráid leasa an láithreáin) ag an gcéim oibriochtúil, rud a chaithfear a phróiseáil ag saoráidí próiseála dramhaíola áitiúla, agus a mbeidh tionchar neodrach do-ghlactha fadtéarmach ar sheirbhísí dramhaíola áitiúla mar thoradh uirthi.

Beidh sé d'acmhainn ag an gcéim díchoimisiúnaithe cainníochtaí dramhaíola a tháirgeadh atá níos mó ná céimeanna eile (ag cur san áireamh aistriú tuirbíní, crann cruinnithe agus struchtúir eile), ach tá siad comhdhéanta den chuid is mó de mhíotal agus d'ábhair in-athchúrsáilte eile a thabharfar chuig saoráidí speisialaithe le haghaidh míreanna den sórt sin a phróiseáil/athchúrsáil. D'fhéadfadh tionchar diúltach beag gearrthéarmach a bheith ann ar sheirbhísí dramhaíola áitiúla.

TORANN AGUS CREATHADH

Léirítear sa chaibidil seo in EIAR an measúnú ar an tionchar is dócha a bheidh ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar thorann timpeallachta agus ar chreathadh.

Is é an treoir ábhartha maidir le torann timpeallachta d'fhorbairtí fuinnimh gaoithe ná *'Treoirlínte Forbartha Fuinnimh Gaoithe d'Údarás Phleanála 2006'* (WEDG) le tuilleadh sonraí maidir leis an modheolaíocht *'Treoir Dea-Chleachtas maidir le Feidhmiú ETSU-R-97 le haghaidh Measúnú agus Rátáil Torainn Tuirbín Gaoithe'* a d'fhoilsigh an Institiúid Fuaiméiteach.

Bunaíodh an timpeallacht torainn bhonnlíne sa cheantar trí thomhais chomhuaineacha gaoithe ar an láithreán agus monatóireacht torainn ag ocht suíomh thar roinnt seachtainí, chun leibhéil torainn a ghabháil thar shraith ionadaíoch luasanna gaoithe agus teoracha ag gach suíomh. Tomhaiseadh gnáthleibhéil torainn chúlra do thréimhsí lae agus oíche ag luasanna éagsúla gaoithe de réir na teorach dea-chleachtas atá sa Treoir maidir le Dea-Chleachtas IOA. Is iad torann tráchta áitiúil agus foinsí eile talmhaíochta agus antrapaigineacha sa cheantar is mó atá i gceist leis na leibhéil torainn atá i réim. Baineadh úsáid as torthaí an tsuirbhé torainn chúlra chun critéir iomchuí torainn a dhíorthú don fhorbairt i gcomhréir leis an treoir atá sa WEDG.

Agus forbairt den chineál sin á breithniú, ní mór na héifeachtaí torainn agus creathaidh a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann ar an timpeallacht a mheas ar feadh dhá chéim: an chéim thógála ghearrthéarmach agus an chéim oibríochtúil fhadtéarmach.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána

Measúnú ar thorann agus ar chreathadh tógála agus rinneadh é i gcomhréir leis an treoir dea-chleachtas. Faoi réir dea-chleachtas oibre mar a mholtar i gCaibidil EIAR, níltear ag súil go mbeidh aon tionchar suntasach ar thorann agus ar chreathadh a bhaineann le céim na tógála agus táthar ag súil go mbeidh an torann is dócha a thiocfaidh ó ghníomhaíocht tógála ag na Suíomhanna Íoghracha Torainn (NSLanna) i bhfad faoi bhun na luachanna tairsí tábhachta molta. Níltear ag súil go mbeidh aon tionchar suntasach ag an tionchar gaolmhar ar thorann tógála agus ar chreathadh.

Áirítear sananailís freisin measúnú ar raon tuirbíní a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann, agus iad éagsúil ó thaobh astaíochtaí fuaimne de agus ó thaobh toisí de. Bunaithe ar fhaisnéis mhionsonraithe ar leagan amach an láithreáin, ar astaíochtaí torainn tuirbín agus ar shraith toisí mol tuirbín don tionscadal atá beartaithe, rinneadh dhá shraith de leibhéil torainn tuirbín tuartha ag os cionn 500 NSLanna a mheas, rud a léiríonn foircinn uachtaracha agus íochtaracha raon an tuirbín. Agus na bearta maolaithe a shonraítear in EIAR á gcur i bhfeidhm, meastar go mbeidh na leibhéil torainn tuartha tuirbín a bhaineann leis an tionscadal beartaithe go maith laistigh de chuir na gcritéir torainn dea-chleachtas a mholtar laistigh den WEDG.

Níl aon éifeachtaí creathadh suntasach a bhaineann le hoibriú an láithreáin.

Go hachomair, níl tionchar suntasach ar thorann agus ar chreathadh an tionscadail bheartaitheag smaoinemh ar threoir náisiúnta d'fhorbairtí feirme gaoithe.

TIONCHAR TÍRDHREACHA AGUS AMHAIRC

Déantar cur síos sa chaibidil seo ar chomhthéacs tírdhreacha an tionscadail bheartaithe agus déantar measúnú inti ar an tírdhreach agus ar an tionchar amhairc is dócha a bheidh ag an scéim ar an timpeallacht ghlactha. Cé go bhfuil dlúthnasc eatarthu, déantar measúnú ar leithligh ar thionchair tírdhreacha agus amhairc.

Baineann Measúnú Tionchair Tírdhreacha (LIA) le measúnú a dhéanamh ar éifeachtaí forbartha ar an tírdhreach mar acmhainn ina cheart féin agus baineann sé leis an tionchar a bheidh ag an togra ar na heilimintí atá sa tírdhreach, ar ghnéithe aeistéitiúla agus aireachtála an tírdhreacha agus ar a shaintréith. Baineann Measúnú Tionchair Amharcúil (VIA) le measúnú a dhéanamh ar na héifeachtaí a bhíonn ag forbairt ar thuairimí sonracha agus ar an taitneamhacht amhairc ghinearálta a bhíonn ag daoine. Baineann measúnú carnach tírdhreacha agus tionchair amhairc le hathruithe breise ar an tírdhreach nó ar an taitneamhacht amhairc de bharr an tionscadail bheartaithe i gcomhar le forbairtí eile.

Tá an tionscadal atá beartaithe suite i dtírdhreach casta ina bhfuil an tír-raon garbh talún rollta, gleannta tochrais abhann agus gnéithe sainiúla cósta. Tá an suíomh feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe suite ar fhánaí thiar thuaidh ghleann Abhainn Ghaoth Barra. Tá an suíomh agus Abhainn Ghaoth Barra suite ó dheas le droimín leathan rollta atá dírithe ar oirthuaisceart ginearálta ó thuaidh le treo an iardheisceart a chuimsíonn cruinnithe mullaigh barr cnoic lena n-áirítear Cruach Léithín, an Clochar Corr Theas, an Ghamhraid Chorr agus Cnoc na Deirce Bige. Tá an suíomh suite siar ó dheas ag Cnoc Cleangort. Ardaíonn an tír-raon ó thuaidh den abhainn ó chomhthéacs an ghleann go dtí ardchlár leathan ina bhfuil Portach Gannivegil. I measc na ngnéithe suntasacha tírdhreacha eile laistigh den limistéar staidéir lárnach tá Gleann Bhaile na Finne agus Inbhear leathan Ghaoth Barra.

Cé go bhfuil cuid mhór den suíomh féin cloakáilte i gceantair fhairsinge d'fhoraoiseacht buaircíneach tráchtála, cuimsíonn an tírdhreach máguaird meascán de mhórhír sléibhe, limistéir de thalamh feirme, portaigh mhóna leathana agus lonnaíochtaí beaga. I measc na lonnaíochtaí is gaire don láthair feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe tá sráidbhaile beag na nDóchlann atá suite ar chonair Abhainn Ghaoth Barra roinnt 2.1 km ó thuaidh den suíomh agus lonnaíocht scaipthe Leitir Mhic Mhadaidh atá suite ó thuaidh d'inbhear Ghaoth Barra agus díreach os cionn c. 850 m ó thuaidh den suíomh ag an bpointe is gaire dí.

Is é bealach tánaisteach náisiúnta an N56 an príomhbhealach iompair i ndáil leis an láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, agus téann sé díreach faoi bhun c. 1 km go dtí iarthuaisceart an láithreáin agus thart ar c.3 km siar ón tuirbín is gaire agus é ag dul trí shráidbhaile Leitir Módais. I measc na bpríomhbhealaí is gaire don láthair feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe tá an R250 agus an R252. Tá an R250 suite thart ar 1.2 km ó dheas den suíomh agus nascann sé lonnaíochtaí na nGleanntach agus Bhaile na Finne.

Cuimsíonn an limistéar staidéir roinnt bealaí taitneamhachta líneacha freisin, lena n-áirítear Slí an Atlantaigh Fhiáin, Bealach Cósta an Atlantaigh Eurovelo, Slí na Rosann — Slí na Rosann, cuid de Bhealach Rothaíochta Dhún na nGall agus Bealach Slímharc Náisiúnta an Stróic Ghoirm. Tá cuid bheag de Pháirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Bheatha suite ar imeall thoir thuaidh an cheantair staidéir, agus tá go leor lonnaíochtaí cósta a bhfuil luach láidir turasóireachta acu agus atá lonnaithe sa cheantar staidéir agus sa cheantar máguaird chomh maith. I measc na ngnéithe suntasacha eile a bhaineann le hoidhreacht sa cheantar staidéir tá Doon Fort, Inis Cabhail, Pluaiseanna Mhachaire Rátha agus Eas Assaranaca.

Tugtar treoir sna Treoirlínte maidir le Forbairt Fuinnimh Gaoithe (dréacht-athbhreithniú 2006/2019) maidir le critéir deartha agus suite ar fheirmeacha gaoithe le haghaidh roinnt

cineálacha éagsúla tírdhreacha. Tá suíomh an láithreáin feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe ag teacht leis an gcineál tírdhreacha ‘Méalaigh *Shléibhe*’ agus leis an tírdhreach ‘*Imeall Idirthréimhseach*’ agus, dá bhrí sin, meastar go bhfuil an treoir do na cineálacha tírdhreacha seo an-ábhartha.

Maidir le Plean Forbartha Contae Dhún na nGall atá i bhfeidhm faoi láthair, tá an togra atá beartaithe suite go príomha laistigh d’ainmniúchán ‘Nua-Cheangach Séanach’ (MSA), an ceann is ísle de thrí ainmniúchán taitneamhachta radhairc laistigh den phlean forbartha contae. Mar sin féin, cuimsíonn roinnt codanna den láithreán ‘Soitneamhacht Ard-Ghaolmhar go háirithe’ (EHSA) agus cuimsíonn siad limistéir den suíomh in aice le hAbhann Ghaoth Barra agus na codanna thoir is airde den láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe.

Aithníonn CDP Dhún na nGall roinnt tuairimí cosanta ar fud Chontae Dhún na nGall. Tá an ceann is gaire agus is ábhartha díobh seo don fheirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe suite ar Dhroichead Ghaoth Barra ó dheas ó Leitir Máis. Rinneadh measúnú ar gach ainmniúchán radhairc eile i gContae Dhún na nGall agus cuireadh san áireamh iad siúd a measadh a bheith ábhartha mar phointí measúnaithe.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána – Tírdhreach

Is é an poitéinseal is mó atá ann maidir le tionchair tírdhreacha ná an t-athrú ar charachtar an limistéir láithrigh mar gheall ar struchtúir arda a thabhairt isteach ina bhfuil comhpháirteanna gluaiстеacha. Cé gur gné choitianta iad tuirbíní gaoithe ar fud tírdhreach Dhún na nGall, is gné sách neamhchoitianta iad sa lárcheantar staidéir. Dá bhrí sin, cé gurb ionann an fheirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe agus cineál nua forbartha laistigh den lárlimistéar staidéir, ar scála níos leithne, is ionann í agus diansaothrú ar úsáid talún seanbhunaithe sa chuid seo de Dhún na nGall. Beidh na tuirbíní beartaithe mar ghné shuntasach agus shainiúil sa tírdhreach áitiúil. Mar sin féin, i dtéarmaí scála agus feidhme, déantar an fheirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe a chomhshamhlú laistigh de chomhthéacs an limistéir staidéir lárnaigh mar gheall ar scála leathan na talún, na neilimintí tírdhreacha agus na bpatrúin úsáide talún. Cé go bhfuil tuiscint éigin logánta ar an nádúrachas i gceantar máguaird Abhainn Ghaoth Dobhair, tá ardán an ardchláir ina bhfuil an suíomh clóbhuailte i bplandálacha foraoise móra buaircíneacha tráchtála, tá conairí línte leictreachais lastuas ag baint leis agus tá carachtar suntasach utilitarian aige in ainneoin a dhlúis íseal daonra.

Ar an iomlán, ní mheastar go mbeidh éifeachtaí suntasacha tírdhreacha ag an bhfeirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána – Amharc

Rinneadh measúnú ar iarmhairtí amhairc fhorbairt Fheirm Ghaoithe an Chlochair ar fud 29 dearcadh éagsúil nuair a d’athraigh íogaireacht gach gabhdóra go forleathan ón Ard-mheán go dtí an Meánleibhéal íseal.

Beidh na tionchair amhairc is suntasaí i ndáil leis an bhfeirm ghaoithe atá beartaithe le tarlú laistigh den chuid sin de ghleann Abhainn Ghaoth Barra a shíneann soir ó dheas ó Leitir Mhic Mhadaidh go dtí an lonnaíocht bheag cois abhann i nDoochary. Baineann na tionchair amhairc is airde a measúnaíodh a bhaineann le ‘modhnú suntasach’ go príomha le tuairimí ó na bóithre áitiúla is gaire don suíomh, chomh maith le radharcanna trasghleann díreacha ó bhóthar áitiúil an L1783 ó thuaidh de chonair abhann an Ghaoth Barra.

D’ainneoin scála agus fairsinge na forbartha, ní cosúil go bhfuil na tuirbíní atá beartaithe ró-scála i gcomhthéacs an ghleanna leathan seo a chuimsíonn gnéithe tírdhreacha ar mhórsála agus úsáid talún. Beidh an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar cheann de na gnéithe is sainiúla nuair a

bhreachnaítear air óna thimpeall agus nuair a bhreathnófar air ó ghabhdóirí cónaithe ar fhánaí theas an ghleann abhann. Mar sin féin, nuair a bhreathnaítear ar an taobh eile den ghleann abhann, bíonn na tuirbíní i láthair ar bhealach soléite laistigh d'fhoraoiseacht leathan buaircíneach tráchtála agus ní mheastar gur breisiú dosháraithe iad. Go deimhin, áitíonn siad ardán pláta foraoise leathan a tharlaíonn leath bealaigh idir an chonair abhann níos íogaire agus iomaire spéirlíne.

Maidir le hainmniúcháin radhairc, is minic a bhíonn na tuirbíní suite sa treo eile i gcomparáid leis na tuairimí cosanta a aithníodh i gClár Forbartha Pobail Dhún na nGall atá ann faoi láthair, agus tá go leor acu dírithe ar na codanna cósta den limistéar staidéir. Is é an t-aon amharc radhairc atá dírithe ar an suíomh laistigh den limistéar staidéir lárnach ná dearcadh radhairc Dhroichead Ghaoth Barra. Cé go mbeidh na tuirbíní atá beartaithe le feiceáil go soiléir ó ghné an oirthuaisceart den radharc radhairc seo, ní bheidh tionchar ag an togra atá beartaithe ar an dearcadh ar an taobh thiar/siar theas agus meastar gurb é seo an ghné níos radhairc den dearcadh radhairc seo.

Tá an t-imfhálú amhairc ginearálta ar an suíomh aibhsithe ag an léarscáil Crios na Infheictheachta Teoiriciúla (ZTV) don tionscadal atá beartaithe, a léiríonn nach dtabharfaidh níos mó ná leath den limistéar staidéir aon infheictheacht tuirbín ar chor ar bith. Tá sé scoite freisin ó cheantair chósta Dhún na nGall, a bhfuil clú agus cáil orthu as a gcuid taitneamhachta radhairc. Cuireann an méid imfhálaithe seo laistigh de Ghleann Ghaoth Barra le héifeacht charnach theoranta an tionscadail bheartaithe atá suite níos mó ná 5 km ón bhfeirm ghaoithe eile is gaire. Dá bhrí sin, meastar gur 'Íseal' an méid a chuireann an tionscadal atá beartaithe le héifeachtaí carnacha.

CÁILÍOCHT AN AEIR AGUS AN AERÁID

Déantar measúnú sa chaibidil seo ar an tionchar ar cháilíocht an aeir agus ar an aeráid don réigiún a bhaineann leis an tionscadal atá beartaithe.

Aeráid

Ós rud é go n-aithnítear go forleathan go bhfuil leibhéal atmaisféir CO₂ ar cheann de phríomhchúiseanna an athraithe aeráide, tá an measúnú tionchair thíos bunaithe ar na tionchair a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe i ndáil le hathruithe ar astaíochtaí CO₂.

Tá an carbón a astaítear nó a sábháladh mar thoradh ar an tionscadal atá beartaithe an-suntasach chun a thionchar ar an aeráid a mheas. Cuirtear san áireamh sa ríomh carbóin an carbón a scaoiltear ó roinnt foinsí le linn na gcéimeanna tógála, oibríochtúla agus díchoimisiúnúcháin chomh maith le meastachán a dhéanamh ar choigilteas carbóin thar shaolré na feirme gaoithe, i gcomparáid leis na modhanna breosla iontaise giniúna leictreachais atá ann faoi láthair lena gcumhachtaítear an eangach. Baineann na measúnuithe sa chatagóir coigiltis carbóin le cumas giniúna na feirme gaoithe thar na blianta dá bhfuil sí ag feidhmiú, le leagan foraoiseachta, le hoibreacha feabhsúcháin ar an suíomh (i.e. feabhas a chur ar thalamh portaigh, gnáthóg a chruthú, etc.) agus le hathchóiriú an láithreáin (i.e. bonneagar a bhaint agus coinníollacha roimhe seo a athchóiriú) nuair a dhíchoimisiúnófar an fheirm ghaoithe.

Cáilíocht an Aeir

Is í an Ghníomhaireacht um Chaomhnú Comhshaoil (EPA) an t-údarás inniúil atá freagrach as reachtaíocht uile na hÉireann agus an AE maidir le cáilíocht an aeir chomhthimpeallaigh a chur i bhfeidhm. Is iad na príomhthruailléin aeir a ndéanann an EPA monatóireacht orthu ná ózón, aonocsaíd charbóin, dé-ocsaíd nítrigine agus ocsaídí, dé-ocsaíd sulfair, ábhar cáithníníneach (PM₁₀

agus PM_{2.5}), beinséin, luaidhe, Hidreacarbóin Poly Aramatacha (PAH), Arsanaic, Nicil, Cadmiam agus Mearcair⁶. Cé is moite d'óзон, eascraíonn na truailléin sin go léir as breoslaí iontaise a dhó, ó iompar, téamh baile, stáisiún ghiniúna leictreachais nó ón tionscal. Cruthaítear leibhéil arda ózoin ó imoibriú dhá phríomhthruailléin, ocsaídí nítrigine (NO_x) agus comhdhúile orgánacha soghlaithe (VOCanna), i láthair solas na gréine.

Tá suíomh beartaithe Fheirm Gaoithe an Chlochair Choirr suite laistigh d'Innéacs 'Rural West' de chuid an EPA maidir le Cáilíocht an Aeir don Réigiún Sláinte. Léiríonn an tuairisciú is déanaí a rinne an EPA go bhfuil cáilíocht reatha an aeir sa réigiún seo aicmithe go maith (de réir thaifid EPA a fuarthas ar 17/08/22).

Cé nach bhfuil aon sonraí ar fáil a bhaineann le cáilíocht an aeir i ngarchomharsanacht an limistéir staidéir, táthar ag súil gur féidir le láithreáin atá aicmithe mar Chrios D (timpeallacht tuaithe) ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar cháilíocht an aeir ar shuíomh beartaithe Fheirme Gaoithe an Chlochair Choirr toisc gurb iad na sonraí a chuirtear i láthair na sonraí is déanaí atá ar fáil agus go soláthraíonn siad tagairt do cháilíocht an aeir i suíomh tuaithe atá gar don láithreán.

Éifeachtaí foriomlána

Aeráid

Beidh tionchar diúltach gearrthéarmach do-ghlactha ag na hoibreacha tógála beartaithe ar an aeráid mar gheall ar astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa ó thrácht tógála. Beidh tionchar dearfach measartha, fadtéarmach, dearfach ar an aeráid ag na hastaíochtaí a sheachnaítear mar thoradh ar oibriú na feirme gaoithe.

Nuair a chuirtear an t-athphlandú foraoiseachta (agus an comhardú carbóin a bhaineann leis) san áireamh, le linn shaolré 35 bliana na feirme gaoithe, meastar go ndéanfar idir 3,420,585 agus 4,925,655 tona a fhritháireamh i dtáirgeadh leictreachais (ag brath ar cibé acu an bhfuil an MW íosta nó uasta suiteáilte laistigh den raon). Beidh tionchar dearfach fadtéarmach ag an tionscadal ar an aeráid agus ar cháilíocht an aeir, agus laghdófar astaíochtaí gás ceaptha teasa tríd an teicneolaíocht fuinnimh in-athnuaite is lú costas a úsáid.

Cáilíocht an Aeir

Táthar ag súil go mbeidh tionchar an-logánaithe, beag, gearrthéarmach, diúltach ar cháilíocht an aeir ag giniúint deannaigh agus astaíochtaí sceite le linn chéim na tógála, tar éis na bearta maolaithe a leagtar amach thuas agus i CEMP a chur i bhfeidhm.

I gcomhthéacs saolré oibríochtúil 35 bliana, seachnófar astaíochtaí roinnt truailléin a bhaineann le breoslaí iontaise a dhó, lena n-áirítear ocsaídí nítriúla (NO_x), ocsaídí sulfaracha (SO_x), ábhar cáithnínach (PM) agus truailléin thánaisteacha, amhail ózon, ag saoráidí táirgthe fuinnimh in áiteanna eile sa tír trí fhuinneamh in-athnuaite a ghiniúint. Dá bhrí sin, is é an toradh a bhíonn ar na hastaíochtaí a seachnaíodh, go bhféadfadh tionchar beag fadtéarmach dearfach a bheith acu ar cháilíocht an aeir ag na suíomhanna sin.

OIDHREACTH CHULTÚRTHA

I gcaibidil EIAR maidir le hoidhreacht chultúrtha, sainaithnítear láithreáin seandálaíochta agus ailtireachta a taifeadh roimhe seo laistigh agus gar do shuíomh na feirme gaoithe, ar feadh

⁶ <http://www.epa.ie/air/quality/monitor/>

bhealach beartaithe an chábla ceangail greille agus ag láithreacha oibreacha bealaigh seachadta tuirbín agus na hoibreacha gaolmhara go léir. Déantar an t-eolas cúlra barr feabhais sin a mheas i ndáil leis an dearadh tionscadail atá beartaithe agus bhí sí mar bhonn eolais le modheolaíocht agus spriocanna na suirbhéanna talún ar an bhfeirm ghaoithe agus na hoibreacha gaolmhara a rinneadh i mí Aibreáin 2021 agus i mí Dheireadh Fómhair 2022. Tugtar aghaidh sa chaibidil seo ar an Oidhreacht Chultúrtha faoi dhá cheannteideal: Seandálaíocht agus oidhreacht ailtireachta/tógtha.

Tá an mheastóireacht ar na tionchair ar an acmhainn seandálaíochta, ailtireachta agus oidhreachta cultúrtha bunaithe ar staidéar deisce ar fhoinsí doiciméadacha agus cartagrafacha foilsithe agus neamhfhoilsithe, agus suirbhé allamuigh ina dhiaidh sin. I bhfianaise na cosanta reachtaí a thugtar don acmhainn oidhreachta cultúrtha, déantar meastóireacht sa tuarascáil seo ar thábhacht seandálaíochta, ailtireachta, cultúrtha agus stairiúil an limistéir ábhair agus déantar scrúdú inti ar an tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar shéadchomharthaí seandálaíochta áitiúla agus ar láithreáin oidhreachta cultúrtha araon. Cuirtear san áireamh i dtorthaí an staidéir an tionchar díreach agus indíreach a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar an oidhreacht chultúrtha.

Is é conclúid na caibidle go bhfuil acmhainneacht íseal ann do sheandálaíocht nár taifeadadh roimhe seo a bheith i limistéir foraoise curtha ina raibh suaithreadh talún roimhe seo ó shreap meicniúil, plandáil, agus fómhar, chomh maith le rianta a bunaíodh roimhe sin. Tugadh faoi deara go raibh suaithreadh sa bhreis-ithir agus san fho-ithir roimhe sin ar fhoraois a cuireadh agus a lománaíodh thar go leor den fheirm ghaoithe a bhí beartaithe.

Ní bheidh tionchar díreach ag na hoibreacha atá beartaithe ar aon séadchomharthaí seandálaíochta taifeadta. Tá séadchomhartha seandálaíochta taifeadta amháin laistigh den limistéar staidéir – struchtúr meigiliteach (DG058-005), atá suite in iarthuaisceart an cheantair; tá ceithre shéadchomhartha eile a taifeadadh laistigh de 3 km – dhá thoirbreacha naofa, cloch bulaíocht agus dumha. Tá tiúchain shuntasacha de láithreáin seandálaíochta ar Bhealach Seachadta na dTuirbíní, go háirithe in Inbhir, Frosses agus Dún Cionnaile. Ní bheidh tionchar díreach ar na suíomhanna seo.

Cé nach bhfuil ach aon láithreán seandálaíochta amháin taifeadta laistigh den limistéar staidéir, tá seans ann go mbeidh suíomhanna nár taifeadadh cheana i láthair. Is beag imscrúdú seandálaíochta a rinneadh ar an réimse seo: cé is moite de shuirbhéanna ar shéadchomharthaí aitheanta, níor tuairiscíodh aon obair pháirce seandálaíochta sa limistéar staidéir ná sa gharthimpeallacht. Measadh go raibh an fhéidearthacht tionchar díreach a imirt ar ábhar seandálaíochta nár taifeadadh roimhe seo ag an suíomh seo chomh híseal.

Ní bheidh tionchar díreach ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar aon ghnéithe ailtireachta atá ag teacht chun cinn. Is beag suíomh taifeadta a bhfuil tábhacht ailtireachta ag baint leo sa chomharsanacht. Níl aon láithreán oidhreachta ailtireachta liostaithe sa cheantar ábhair ná sa gharthimpeallacht. Tá tiúchain shuntasacha de láithreáin ailtireachta ar Bhealach Seachadta na dTuirbíní go háirithe in Inbhir, Frosses agus Dún Cionnaile. Ní bheidh tionchar díreach ar na suíomhanna seo.

Díreach ó thuaidh de shráidbhaile Frosses i mbaile fearainn Meenacahan, déanfar modhnuithe ar thaobh an bhóthair i ngarchomharsanacht droichead ainmnithe (Droichead San Alberts) atá taifeadta ar Fhardal Náisiúnta na hOidhreacht Ailtireachta (NIAH uimhir 40909326). Níos faide ó thuaidh i mbaile fearainn Tullynaglaggan tá droichead il-chuardach taifeadta ar an NIAH (NIAH uimhir 40909325). Déanfar oibreacha modhnaithe bóthair díreach ó dheas den droichead seo. Ní bheidh aon tionchar díreach ar an dá dhroichead seo.

Níl aon tionchar tuartha ar ghnéithe de thábhacht oidhreachta ailtireachta nár taifeadadh roimhe seo. Laistigh den limistéar staidéir tá líon beag gnéithe stairiúla aitheanta ó léarscáileanna stairiúla lena n-áirítear tithe cónaithe agus foirgnimh bheaga feirme. Ní bheidh aon tionchar díreach ar na gnéithe sin.

Sa timpeallacht níos leithne, tá 74 séadchomhartha taifeadta eile laistigh de 10 km den limistéar staidéir. Áirítear ar na láithreáin seo tuamaí meigiliteacha, iarsmaí lonnaithe na meánaoise ar nós rathaí agus souterrains agus láithreáin deasghnátha meánaoiseacha ar nós toibreacha naofa agus clocha bulaíochta. Níl aon Séadchomharthaí Náisiúnta laistigh de 10 km den cheantar – is é an coimpléasc eaglasta meánaoiseach in Inis Caoil (NM658, DG064-003) an coimpléasc eaglasta meánaoiseach. Beidh drochthionchar beag ar shuíomh na suíomhanna seo. Ní bheidh tionchar ag na hoibreacha Bealach Seachadta Tuirbíní ar shuíomh seandálaíochta taifeadta ar bith.

Laistigh de 3 km den limistéar staidéir tá ceithre struchtúr ar Thaifead na Struchtúr faoi Chosaint ag Comhairle Contae Dhún na nGall: Droichead Doocharry (RPS 40905802), Séipéal Naomh Bríde i Leitir macaward (RPS 40906501), Séipéal Paróiste Leitir macaward (RPS 40906502) agus Teach Gléibe (RPS 40906503). Ní thrasnaíonn an limistéar staidéir aon Limistéir Chaomhantais Ailtireachta nó diméin ná gairdíní stairiúla. Beidh drochthionchar beag ar na suíomhanna seo.

Moltar monatóireacht seandálaíochta agus láithreach sainchomhairleora oidhreachta cultúrtha atá cáilithe go cuí le linn gnéithe tógála mar mhaolú ar na héifeachtaí a thuairiscítear thuas

TRÁCHT AGUS IOMPAR

Déantar measúnú sa chaibidil seo ar an tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar an ngréasán bóithre máguaird agus ar a acmhainn. De ghnáth, is trí bhóithre náisiúnta (e.g., N59) a bhíonn rochtain réigiúnach ar limistéar an tsuímh agus tá rochtain áitiúil ar an suíomh beartaithe ó na bóithre áitiúla seo a leanas, R262, R250 agus L6483.

Maidir le céimeanna éagsúla an tionscadail (tógáil, oibriú agus díchoimisiúnú), is trí bhealaí éagsúla a bheidh rochtain ar an suíomh chun an tionchar ar an timpeallacht atá ann cheana a laghdú. Tiocfaidh an trácht tógála go léir chuig láithreán na feirme gaoithe tríd an R250, agus is é an N59 an úsáid is forleithne a bhainfear as an ngréasán bóithre náisiúnta. Déanfar formhór na n-ábhar a sheachadtar chuig an láthair a sheachadadh trí úsáid a bhaint as leoraithe ar fhad uasta nó as feithiclí beaga. Is tríd an L6483 a bheidh an rochtain oibríochtúil. Tabharfar comhairle do bhainistiú tráchta na céime díchoimisiúnaithe de réir na gcoinníollacha bóthair tráth an díchoimisiúnaithe.

Tugadh faoi iniúchadh Céim 1 um Shábháilteacht ar Bhóithre (RSA) ar an 3 uimhir rochtana ar an L6483, agus tá na moltaí a eascraíonn as sin ionchorpraithe i ndearadh na scéime.

Is é an ghníomhaíocht tógála leis an tionchar is mó ar na méideanna tráchta ná an fhondúireacht tuirbín a dhoirteadh agus is é an dara ceann is mó ná an t-ábhar a tharraingt chuig an láithreán le haghaidh tógáil rian rochtana inmheánach. Aithníodh roinnt bealaí dola bunaithe ar ghaireacht don láthair agus ar bhonneagar oiriúnach bóthair. Ar na bearta maolaithe maidir leis an mbealach dola tá rogha bealaigh inmharthana a bhfuil an tionchar is lú aige ar an ngréasán bóithre, gabhdóirí fógaire agus suíomh uirbeach a sheachaint nuair is féidir, agus trácht ar an ngréasán bóithre náisiúnta a mhaolú, rinneadh imscrúdú ar roinnt bealaí féideartha mar fhoinsí féideartha ábhair le seachadadh.

Rinneadh an Bealach Seachadta Tuirbíní (TDR) a imscrúdú agus a mheasúnú, agus aithníodh codanna ar feadh an bhealaigh le haghaidh oibreacha forbartha chun seachadadh comhpháirteanna an tuirbín a éascú.

Is dócha go mbeidh tionchar diúltach sealadach/gearrthéarmach ag an tionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an trácht tógála feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe ar an mbóthar atá ann cheana. Is é an tionchar is mó a bhfuiltear ag súil leis ar an L6483, arb é is cúis leis na sreafaí tráchta an-íseal atá ann cheana agus an t-ábhar is ísle d'Fheithicil Earraí Troma. Beidh an trácht go léir ar an láithreán feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe le linn tógála ag taisteal ar an mbóthar seo, ón oirthear nó ón iarthar. Sna buaicchásanna (i.e. doirteanna coincreíte d'fhondúireachtaí tuirbín), tiocfaidh méadú suntasach ar na sreafaí tráchta, agus is dócha go mbeidh drochéifeacht ghearr shuntasach ann. Cuirfear Plean Bainistíochta Tráchta i bhfeidhm chun tionchair ar an ngréasán bóithre le linn na tógála a bhainistiú.

Cuimsíonn an nasc greille don áblú faoi thalamh idir an fostáisiún beartaithe agus an líne lasnairde atá ann cheana, agus tá gach ceann acu laistigh de shuíomh an láithreáin feirme gaoithe atá beartaithe, agus níl aon úsáid beagnach á baint as bóithre poiblí seachas suíomh amháin ina dtrasnaíonn sé go hingearach an L6483.

Mar thoradh ar chéim oibríochtúil an tionscadail atá beartaithe beidh méid íseal tráchta ann d'oibreacha oibríocháin agus cothabhála ag an bhfeirm ghaoithe. Buntáiste a bhaineann leis an bhfeirm ghaoithe nuair a thógtar é ná a húsáid mar thaitneamhacht áineasa (le haghaidh siúil). Léiríonn faisnéis tráchta ó shuíomhanna den chineál céanna go mbeidh méadú ar ghluaiseachtaí 11 mar thoradh ar an taitneamhacht áineasa don fhorbairt in aghaidh an lae. Mar gheall ar an méid íseal tráchta, níor cuireadh aon bhearta maolaithe i bhfeidhm ar na tionchair ag an gcéim oibríochtúil. Ar an iomlán, is dócha go mbeidh tionchar diúltach fadtéarmach beag ag an tionchar tráchta céime oibríocháin ar an ngréasán bóithre atá cóngarach don fheirm ghaoithe.

Nuair a bheidh an tionscadal beartaithe díchoimisiúnaithe, déanfar plean díchoimisiúnúcháin a ullmhú agus a chur chun feidhme chun na héifeachtaí iarmharacha a íoslaghdú le linn na céime seo. Bainfidh an chéim díchoimisiúnaithe úsáid as bearta maolaithe atá cosúil leis an gcéim thógála. Nuair a dhéantar na lanna tuirbín a dhíchoimisiúnú, gearrtar iad go dtí méid níos soláimhsithe a laghdaíonn an tionchar foriomlán le linn iad a aistriú ón suíomh. Ós rud é go mbeidh na méideanna tráchta a bhfuiltear ag súil leo bainteach go príomha le hiompar comhpháirteanna agus ábhar tuirbín lasmuigh den láthair amháin, meastar go bhfuil an éifeacht iarmharach beag agus sealadach.

IDIRGHNÍOMHAÍOCHTAÍ AN MÉID SIN ROIMHE SEO

Tá na héifeachtaí a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe agus na bearta atá beartaithe chun na héifeachtaí sin a mhaolú leagtha amach in EIAR. Mar sin féin, in aon fhorbairt a d'fhéadfadh tionchar a imirt ar an gcomhshaoil, tá an fhéidearthacht ann freisin idirghníomhú idir éifeachtaí na ngnéithe éagsúla comhshaoil.

D'fhéadfadh toradh na n-idirghníomhaíochtaí seo méid na héifeachta a dhéanamh níos measa nó d'fhéadfadh sé é a fheabhsú. Mar chuid de riachtanais EIAR, ní mór aghaidh a thabhairt ar idirghníomhú na n-éifeachtaí ar an timpeallacht máguaird.

Tugtar cuntas sa tábla thíos ar na ngnéithe éagsúla comhshaoil a d'fhéadfadh idirghníomhú mar thoradh ar an tionscadal atá beartaithe. Sainaithníodh idirghníomhaíochtaí go soiléir sna luathchéimeanna den tionscadal agus nuair a d'fhéadfadh sé go mbeadh idirghníomhú ann idir tionchair chomhshaoil, chuir speisialtóirí EIAR na hidirghníomhaíochtaí san áireamh agus measúnú á dhéanamh acu. Rinneadh idirghníomhaíochtaí féideartha (idir dhearfach agus

dhiúltach) a mheas maidir le céimeanna tógála, oibríochta agus díchoimisiúnaithe gach ceann de na gnéithe comhshaoil éagsúla.

Tá baint ag na tosca comhshaoil go léir le chéile go pointe áirithe. Mar sin féin, is iad na hidirghníomhaíochtaí is coitianta idir daoine agus dearcadh amhairc, torann, cáilíocht an aeir agus acmhainní éiceolaíocha. Tar éis staidéar a dhéanamh ar idirghníomhaíocht na dtionchar a d'fhéadfadh a bheith ann le linn na gcéimeanna tógála, oibríochtúla agus díchoimisiúnaithe, cinneadh nach bhfuiltear ag súil le haon éifeacht aimpliúcháin. Beidh roinnt tionchar dearfach ag an tionscadal atá beartaithe ar leibhéal idirnáisiúnta, náisiúnta, réigiúnach agus áitiúil. Tá sé tábhachtach a thabhairt faoi deara go bhfuil na tionchair fhisiceacha, chomhshaoil agus tírdhreacha agus amhairc iniompaithe go hiomlán beagnach ar dhíchoimisiúnú na forbartha.

Maitrís Idirghníomhaíochta	Bithéagsúlacht	Éaneolaíocht	Talamh, Ithir & Geolaíocht	Hidreolaíocht & Hidrigheolaíocht	Tírdhreach agus Amharc	Caochaíl Scáileanna	Sócmhainní Ábhartha	Cáilíocht an Aeir agus an Aeráid	Torann agus Creathadh	Trácht & Iompar	Oidhreacht Chultúrtha	Daonra & Sláinte an Duine
Bithéagsúlacht			✓	✓				✓	✓			
Éaneolaíocht			✓	✓				✓	✓			
Talamh, Ithir & Geolaíocht				✓				✓			✓	✓
Hidreolaíocht & Hidrigheolaíocht												✓
Tírdhreach agus Amharc											✓	✓
Caochaíl Scáileanna												✓
Sócmhainní Ábhartha												✓
Cáilíocht an Aeir agus an Aeráid										✓		✓
Torann agus Creathadh										✓		✓
Trácht & Iompar												✓
Oidhreacht Chultúrtha												
Daonra & Sláinte an Duine												