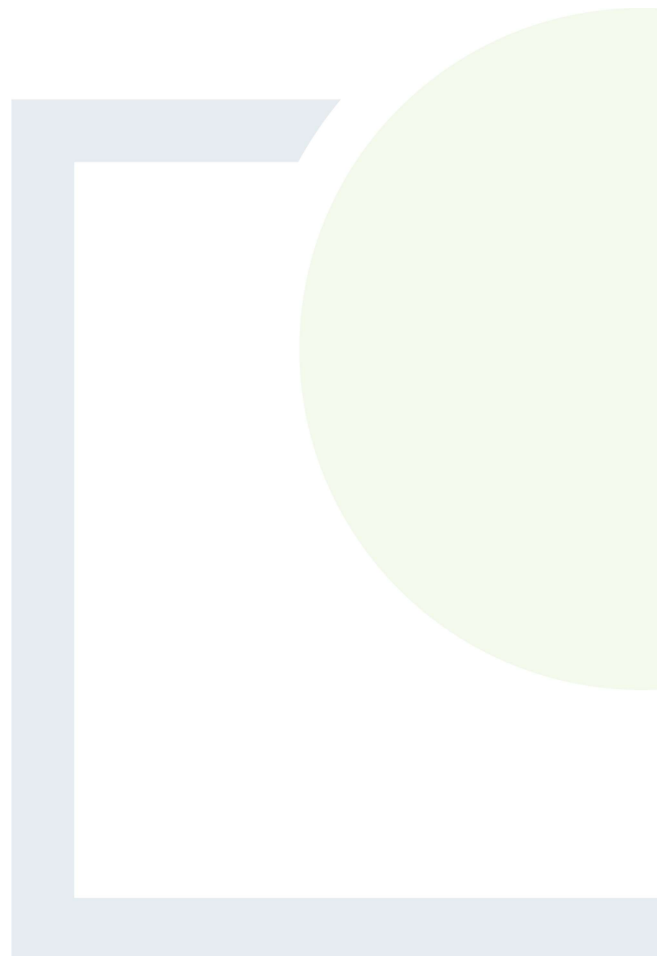




CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
& PLANNING

## APPENDIX 5.1

EIAR Scoping Report









CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &  
PLANNING

# FAHY BEG WIND FARM

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## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING REPORT

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Prepared for: RWE Renewables Ireland

# RWE

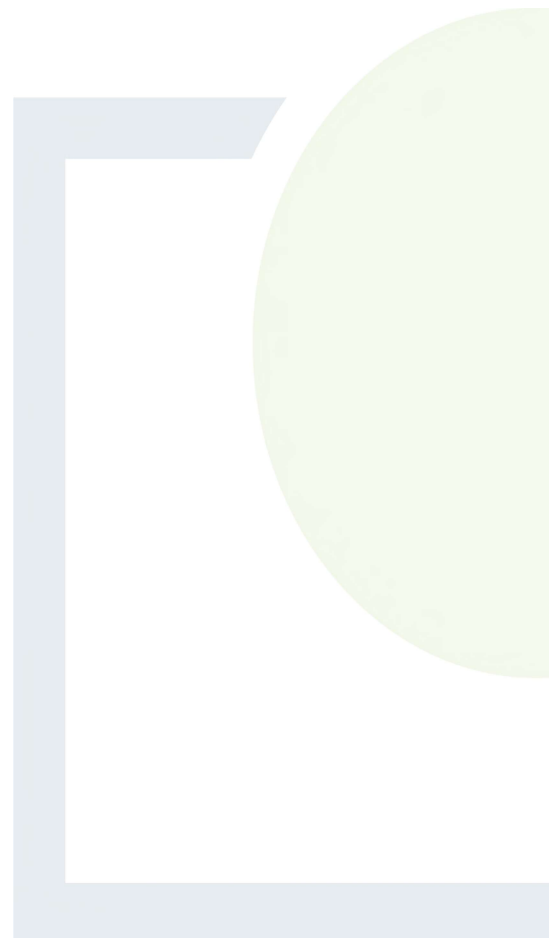
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## FAHY BEG WIND FARM

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT – SCOPING REPORT

**REVISION CONTROL TABLE, CLIENT, KEYWORDS AND ABSTRACT**  
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**Client:** RWE Renewables

**Keywords:** Wind Farm, Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Scoping

**Abstract:** This is a scoping report prepared for a proposed wind energy development at Fahy Beg near Bridgetown, County Clare. The purpose of the scoping report is to identify the content and extent of the information to be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed project.

Please send all responses to: [fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)

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



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 General

#### 1.1.1 Introduction

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning consent for a renewable energy development referred to as the Fahy Beg Wind Farm, located in South East County Clare, near the town of Bridgetown. The proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm project includes lands contained within the following townlands: Fahy Beg, Fahy More North, Ballymoloney, Ballyknavin and Ballyquin More. A site location map is included in Figure 1-1

A number of alternative grid connection route options are currently being considered in order to supply power from the proposed development to the Irish National Electricity Grid. It is proposed to construct a new substation on-site and connect by underground cable to the Ardnacrusha 110kV substation, located approximately 9.5km south west of the proposed project, subject to consultation with Eirgrid.

#### 1.1.2 The Proposed Development

The proposed development is located in the jurisdiction of Clare County Council, approximately 7km south west of Killaloe and approximately 14km north east of Limerick City. The most proximate settlements are the village of Bridgetown, approximately 1.5km to the south east of the site and O'Briensbridge, approximately 3.5km south east of the site.

The project team is currently considering a Study Area for an 8 Wind Turbine layout. The 8 Wind Turbine layout will consist of turbines with a tip height of up to 180m. The current project layout (preliminary layout) is presented in Figure 1-2.

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

4 no. possible grid connection arrangement options are being considered to connect the project to the national grid. The preferred connection is likely to be an underground cable connection to the Ardnacrusha 110kV substation, located approximately 9.5km south west of the site. 3 no. route options are being considered for an underground grid route buried in the public road between Ardnacrusha and the on-site substation at the proposed wind farm. Additionally, an overhead line option is also being considered. The potential grid route options are at an early stage of consideration and may be subject to change following environmental assessment.

The grid route options are illustrated in figure 2-1

#### 1.1.3 The Applicant

The applicant for the proposed project is RWE Renewables. RWE Renewables are among the largest global renewable energy generators. RWE Renewables develop onshore and offshore wind, utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar power and energy storage and have a total installed capacity of 9 gigawatts and an additional 2.6 gigawatts under construction. The company's goal is to expand the use of renewable energies with technologies that address the concerns about energy security, energy affordability, and climate change.



RWE's objective for Ireland is to grow an organic development business from greenfield sites, where it will be a long-term energy partner for Ireland during its energy transition to 2030 and beyond. RWE foresees long-term investment into onshore wind, offshore wind and new battery storage projects in Ireland which will bring significant foreign investment.

#### 1.1.4 Purpose of the Scoping Report

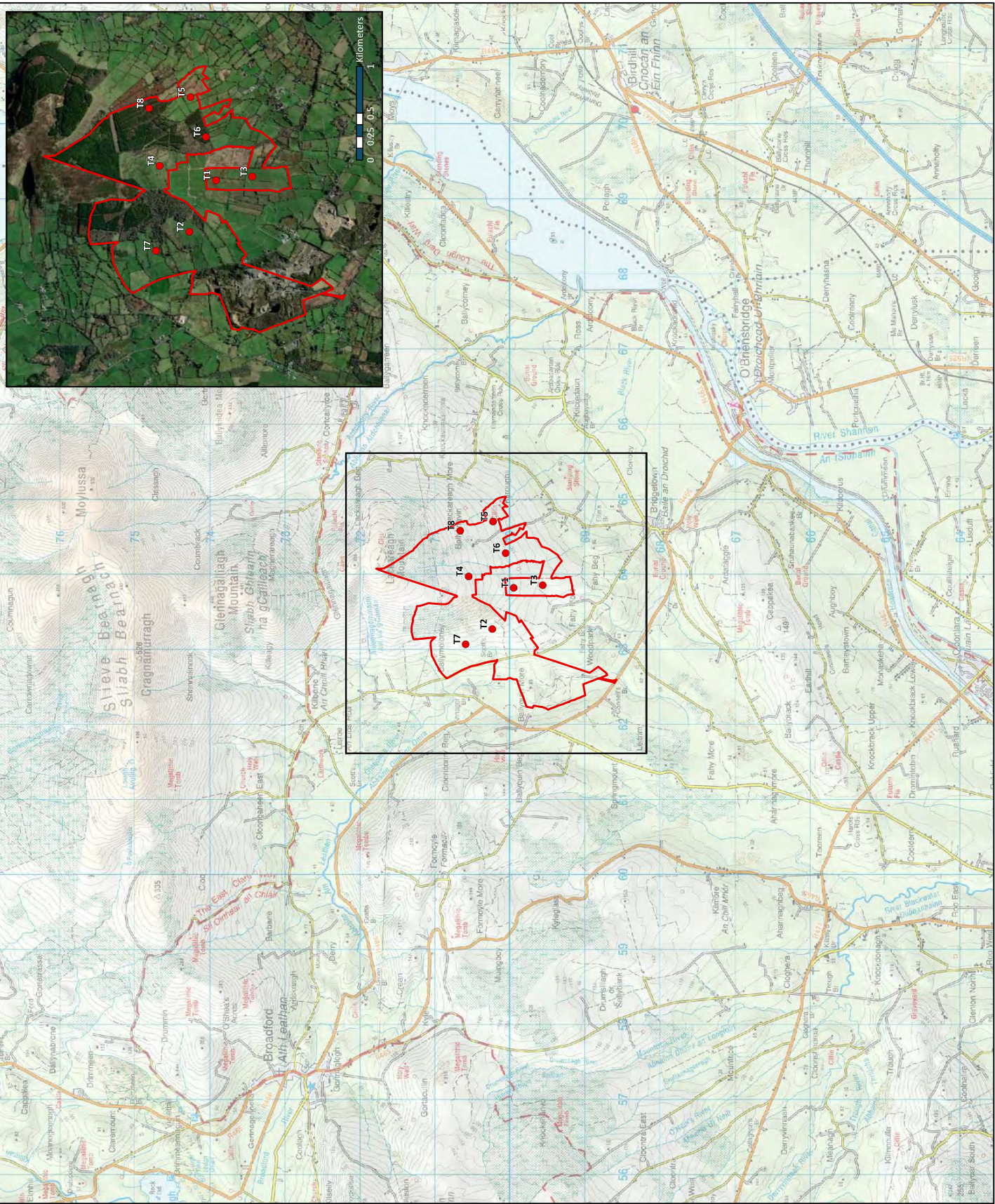
This is a scoping report prepared for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm in south east County Clare.

The purpose of the EIA scoping process is to identify the key points and issues which are likely to be important during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and to eliminate those that are not. The scoping process identifies sources or causes of potential environmental effects, the pathways by which the effects can happen, and the sensitive receptors, which are likely to be affected. It defines the appropriate level of detail for the information to be provided in the EIAR. In essence, the primary focus of scoping is to define the most appropriate assessment of significant effects related to the proposed development.

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

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

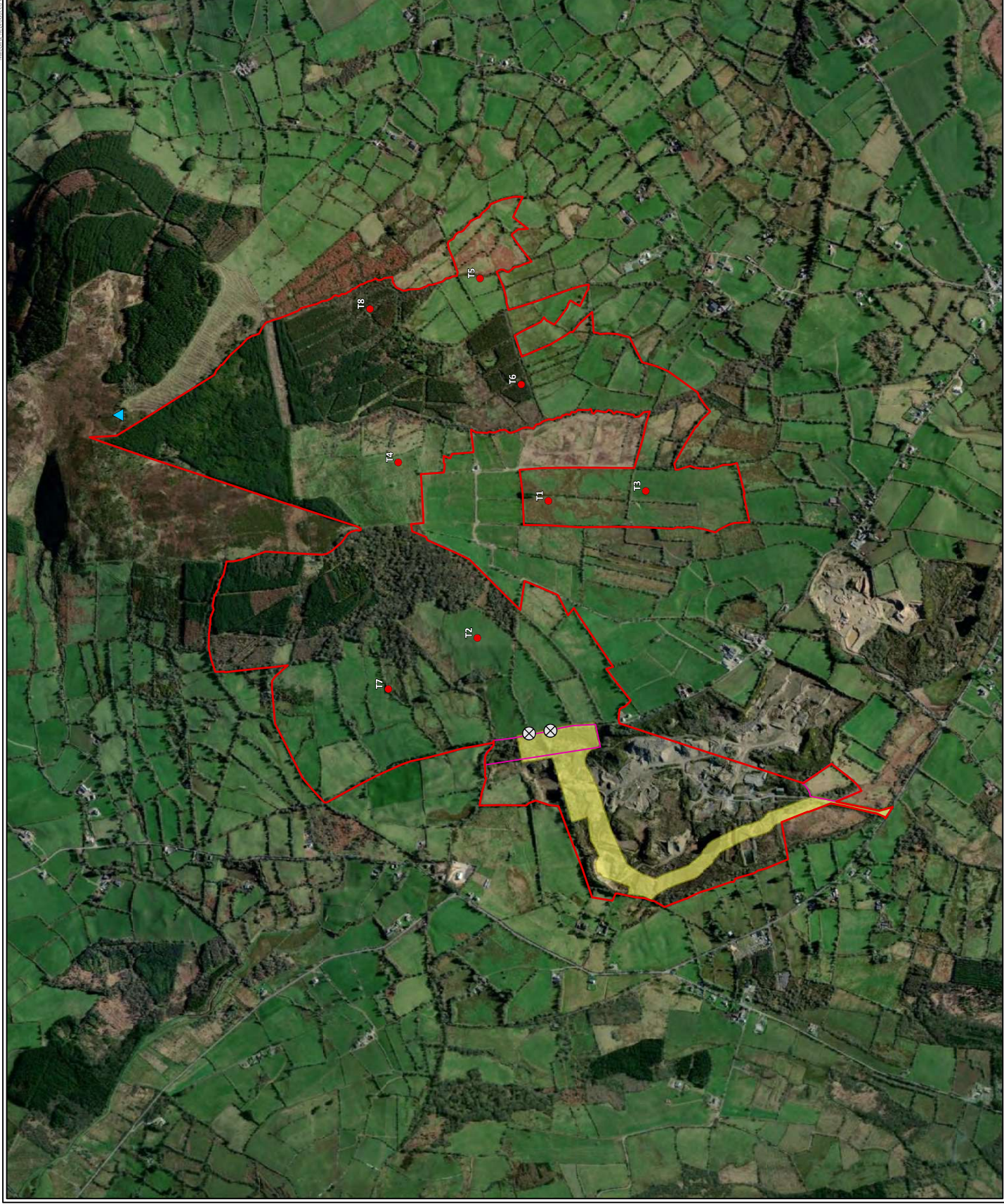




<b>TITLE:</b>	Site Location
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Co. Clare
<b>FIGURE NO:</b>	1.1
<b>CLIENT:</b>	Imrogy Renewables Ireland Ltd.
<b>SCALE:</b>	1:50000
<b>DATE:</b>	17/02/2021
<b>PAGE SIZE:</b>	A3







<b>TITLE:</b>	Site Layout (Design Iteration 1)	
<b>PROJECT:</b>	Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Co. Clare	
<b>FIGURE NO:</b>	1.2	
<b>CLIENT:</b>	Innogy Renewables Ireland Ltd.	
<b>SCALE:</b>	1:15000	<b>REVISION:</b> 0
<b>DATE:</b>	17/02/2021	<b>PAGE SIZE:</b> A3







## 1.2 Planning Process for Proposed Development

The proposed development will be submitted for planning consent pursuant to the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to the relevant local authority, Clare County Council. The grid route element of the project will be considered in the EIAR for this project and may be included in the planning application for the Fahy Beg Wind Farm or may be subject to a separate individual planning application.

## 1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and the Function of the EIAR

Under Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, a planning application for a development which comes within a class of development specified under Schedule 5 of Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in accordance with the 2014 Directive. Accordingly, as the proposed development will have more than 5 no. turbines and a generating capacity of greater than 5MW, an EIAR will be prepared for the project in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The purpose of an EIAR is to provide a detailed description of the proposed development and outline potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the project. Where adverse impacts have been identified, mitigation measures are proposed, and the residual impacts described. Potential cumulative impacts with other plans or projects will also be assessed.

## 1.4 Contribution to the EIAR

This Scoping Report has been prepared by Fehily Timoney & Company (FT) on behalf of RWE Renewables. FT is a planning, environmental and engineering consultancy based in Cork, Dublin and Carlow, specialising in civil and environmental engineering, environmental science and planning. FT is well established as a leading consultancy in wind farm development in Ireland.

FT will be designing and preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for submission to Clare County Council as described in Section 1.2 above.

Specialist contributors to the EIAR include:

- Macro Works who will prepare the landscape and visual impact assessment;
- John Cronin & Associates who will prepare the Cultural Heritage assessment; and
- Woodrow Sustainable Solutions who will contribute to the ecology assessment.

## 1.5 Consultation

The stakeholder consultation process is being carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland-Guidelines for Community Engagement (2016) (available at: [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie)).

Comments on the scope of the EIAR can be submitted by email to [fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie) or returned by post to Fehily Timoney & Company, Core House, Pouladuff Road, County Cork.



We ask all consultees to submit responses by the **5th of April 2021** to provide adequate time to consider all responses. A list of statutory and non-statutory consultees who are included in the scoping process are detailed in Appendix A of this report.

It is envisaged that the responses from this consultation will inform the ongoing design process in addition to informing the scope of the environmental assessments.

### Community & Stakeholder Consultation

RWE Renewables are operating as the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) for the proposed development and will function as a key point of contact within the local community. The CLO has been resourced to deal with all queries and will conduct informal local community consultation in the area. Feedback from the CLO will be passed on to the project design team and EIAR team on an ongoing basis in order to allow the consultation process to inform the design process.

### Local Authority Consultation

A pre-planning meeting with Clare County Council will take place following the scoping process in order to discuss the proposed development with the development management team of the Local Authority.





## 2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Proposed Wind Farm

Under the current design parameters the proposed development will consist of 8 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 180m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, an on-site substation and compound including control buildings and associated electrical equipment, underground electrical and communication cabling, drainage and sediment controls, temporary construction compounds and tree felling. It is proposed to locate the on-site substation and associated compound within the boundary of a disused quarry to the south west of the site which will form part of the proposed development.

The current layout (preliminary layout) is illustrate in Figure 1.2. The layout of the proposed wind farm has been designed to minimise the potential environmental effects of the wind farm while at the same time maximising the energy yield of the wind resource passing over the project site.

The electricity generated by the proposed wind farm will be transmitted by a collector system of underground cables to the proposed on-site substation. The proposed project will also comprise underground cables from the proposed development to the National Grid connection point as well as improvements to the public road network for the delivery of turbine components.

Access to the site will be made through the disused quarry to the south west of the site. The existing quarry entrance will be utilised on the R466. This entrance will be used for construction purposes.

### 2.2 Grid Connection

It is proposed to supply power from the Fahy Beg Wind Farm to the Irish electricity network via underground cable to the existing Ardnacrusha 110kV substation located in the townlands of Ballykeelaun and Castlebank.

4 no. route options have been identified for the grid route, including 3 no. underground routes and 1 no. overhead line. The routes follow the public road and range between 11 and 14 kms in length. Each of the four options will be examined and assessed for viability and the option with the least potential environmental impact will be prioritised where possible.

The grid route options are illustrated in Figure 2-1.

A substation is proposed on-site which will collect the electricity produced by the wind farm. It is proposed to locate the substation within the area of an existing disused quarry to the south west of the wind farm site. The grid connection cable will follow a route from the on-site substation entering the existing public road on the R466 and continue to the existing Ardnacrusha 110kV substations, approximately 9.5km south west of the project site.

The townlands associated with Option A (Blue) include Ballyquin More, Leitrim, Fahy More South, Ballybrack, Aharinaghmore, Tooreen, Coolderry, Blackwater, Rosmadda West, Parkroe, Lakyle, Castlebank and Ballykeelaun, County Clare.



The townlands associated with Option B (Green) include Ballyquin More, Leitrim, Springmount, Fahy More South, Aharinaghmore, Ballybrack, Tooreen, Aharinaghbeg, Knockdonagh, Roos East, Blackwater, Parkroe, Rosmadda West, Lakyle, Castlebank and Ballykeelaun, County Clare.

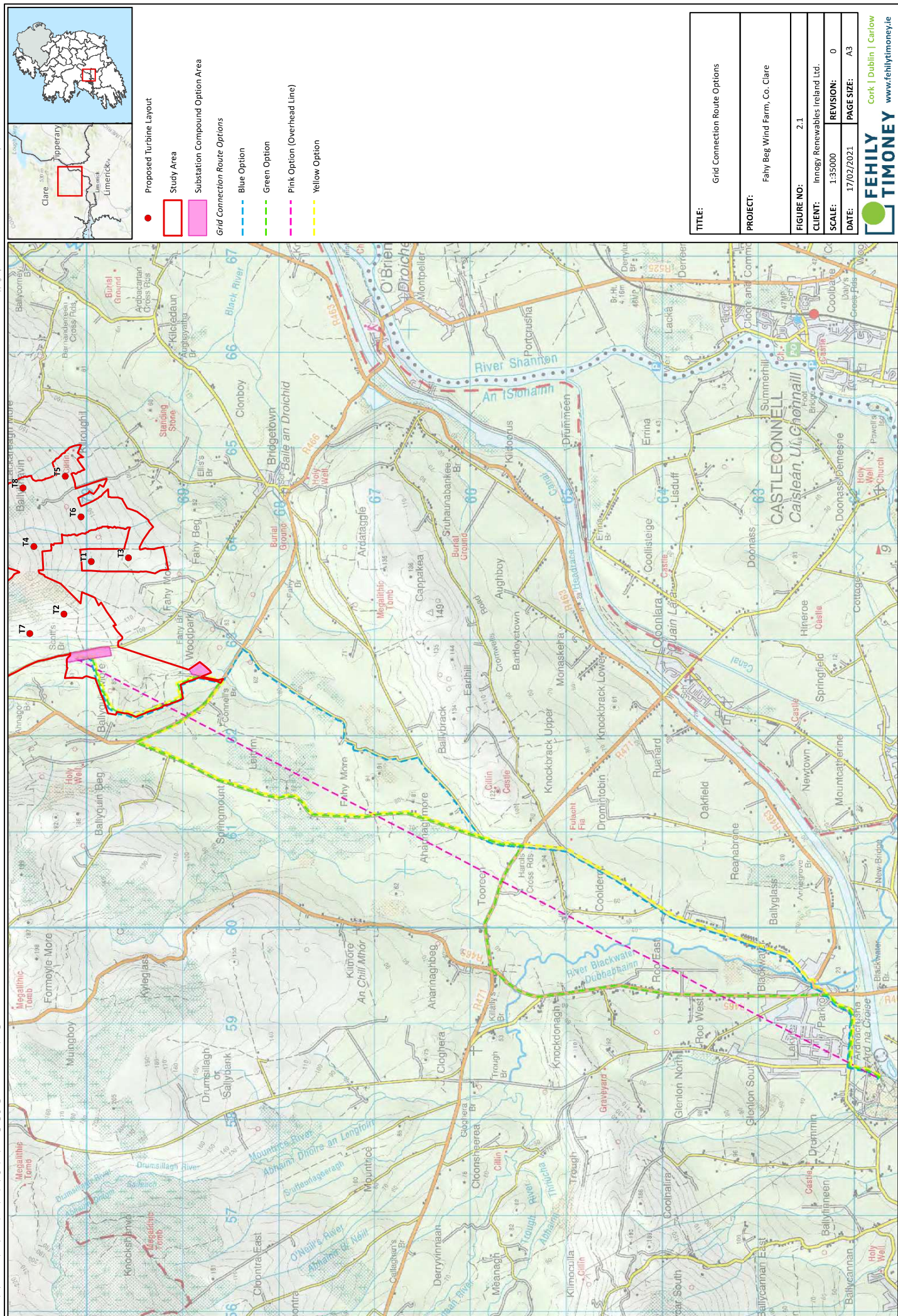
The townlands associated with Option C (Yellow) include Ballyquin More, Leitrim, Springmount, Fahy More South, Aharinaghmore, Ballybrack, Tooreen, Coolderry, Blackwater, Rosmadda West, Parkroe, Lakyle, Castlebank and Ballykeelaun, County Clare

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

## 2.3 Turbine Delivery Route

A number of wind turbine components will enter the country through the ports including the blades, tower sections and the nacelles. The wind turbine components will be delivered to site by special transport vehicles and assembled on-site. A number of routes are being assessed to determine the most appropriate turbine delivery route. This will involve a detailed engineer's assessment. Once identified, the turbine delivery route will be examined as part of the environmental impact assessment.











### 3. STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE EIAR

#### 3.1 Content of the EIAR – Statutory Requirements

The EIAR will be prepared in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, which sets out the contents of an EIAR. In addition, the contents of Directive 2014/52/EU, which was adopted in the EU on 16 April 2014, will also be included in the preparation of this EIAR (the 2014 EIA Directive).

The purpose of the EIAR is to provide in particular:

- a) a description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project;
- b) a description of the likely potential significant effects of the project on the environment;
- c) a description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
- d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment;
- e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d); and
- f) any additional information relevant to the specific characteristics of the wind farm project proposed.

The EIAR will identify, describe and assess the direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the following factors:

- a) population and human health
- b) biodiversity, with particular attention to protected species and habitats
- c) land, soil, water, air and climate
- d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape
- e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d).

#### 3.2 EIAR Methodology

##### 3.2.1 General

The EPA and the European Commission (EC) have published guidelines on the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, namely:

- Draft Advice Notes on Preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015);
- Draft Guidance on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2017);



- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Scoping (European Commission (EC), 2018);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EC, 2017);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018).

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

The team will also have regard to best practice guidance for individual environmental topics. Regard will also be paid to the 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' published by the Irish Wind Energy Association and the 'Wind Energy Development Guidelines' published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2006) and the subsequent Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019).

There are two different EIAR structures which are commonly used and which the EPA guidelines accept as equally valid. The structure, which the EIAR team proposes to use for the EIAR for the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm project, is the grouped format structure.

Using this structure there is a separate chapter for each topic, e.g. air quality, biodiversity, hydrology. The description of the existing environment, the proposed development and the potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts are grouped in the chapter. The grouped format makes it easy to investigate topics of interest and facilitates cross-reference to specialist studies.

Given the need to ensure that the EIAR is readily accessible to the general public, as well as to the statutory authorities, the EIAR team has proposed to structure the EIAR as described below:

- Non-technical Summary
- Introduction
- Need for the Development & Alternatives Considered
- Description of the Proposed Development
- Policy and Legislation
- EIA Scoping, Consultation and Key Issues
- Air Quality and Climate Change
- Noise and Vibration
- Biodiversity
- Land, Soils and Geology (including hydrogeology)
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Population, Human Health & Material Assets
- Shadow Flicker
- Traffic and Transportation
- Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage
- Landscape & Visual



- Telecommunications & Aviation
- Interactions of the Foregoing

### 3.2.2 EIAR Chapter Structure

The broad methodology framework used in each chapter will include the following:

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Existing Environment
- Potential Impacts
- Mitigation Measures
- Residual Impacts

#### Introduction

This section introduces the environmental topic to be assessed and the areas to be examined within the assessment.

#### Methodology

Specific topic related methodologies are outlined in this section. This will include the methodology used in describing the existing environment and undertaking the impact assessment. It is important that the methodology is documented so that the reader understands how the assessment was undertaken. This can also be used as a reference if future studies are required.

#### Existing Environment

An accurate description of the existing environment is necessary to predict the likely significant impacts of a new development. Existing baseline environmental monitoring data can also be used as a valuable reference for the assessment of actual impacts from a development once it is in operation.

To describe the existing environment, desktop reviews of existing data sources will be undertaken for each specialist area relying on published reference reports and datasets to ensure the objectivity of the assessment. Desktop studies are also supplemented by specialised field walkovers or studies in order to confirm the accuracy of the desktop study or to gather more baseline environmental information for incorporation into the EIAR.

The existing environment will be evaluated to highlight the character of the existing environment that is distinctive and what the significance of this is. The significance of a specific environment can be derived from legislation, national policies, local plans and policies, guidelines or professional judgements. The sensitivity of the environment will also be described.



### Potential Impacts

In this section, individual specialists predict how the receiving environment will interact with the proposed development. The full extent of the proposed development's effects and emissions before the proposed mitigation measures are introduced is outlined. Impacts from both the construction and operation phases of the proposed development are outlined. Interactions and cumulative impacts with other environmental topics are also included in this evaluation.

The evaluation of the significance of the impact is also undertaken. Where possible, pre-existing standardised criteria for the significance of impacts will be used in accordance with the guidelines set out in the EPA (2017) Draft Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements. Such criteria can include Irish legislation, international standards, European Commission and EPA guidelines or good practice guidelines. Where appropriate criteria do not exist the assessment methodology section states the criteria used to evaluate the significance.

### Mitigation Measures

If significant impacts are anticipated, mitigation measures will be devised to minimise impacts on the environment. Mitigation measures by avoidance, by reduction and by remedy can be outlined.

### Residual Impacts

The assessment identifies the likely impact that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been put in place. These impacts are described in detail and assessment of their significance undertaken.

### 3.2.3 EIA Report Structure

The structure proposed for the EIA is as follows:

- Volume 1 - Non-Technical summary
- Volume 2 - Main EIA
- Volume 3 - Appendices for the EIA
- Volume 4 – Photomontages and Visual Maps





## 4. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

### 4.1 Introduction

The EPA Advice Notes provide guidance on the topics which would usually be addressed when preparing an EIAR for different classes of development. The Advice Notes highlight typical issues, which would arise for each development class. Project Type 33 is 'installations for harnessing wind power for energy production (wind farms)'. The scope of the EIAR will have regard to the guidance provided on the issues to be addressed for a Project Type 33.

The EIAR will summarise International, European, National and Local Energy and Planning Policy, the challenges associated with Climate Change and the related need for the proposed development.

### 4.2 Alternatives Considered

The alternatives, which were considered, when developing the overall configuration of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm will be described and the technology options for the project will be outlined in Chapter 2 Need for the Development & Alternatives Considered.

The principal alternatives studied with respect to the Fahy Beg Wind Farm will be outlined under the following headings:

- Locations – This will include a discussion of the overall project site selection process for the Fahy Beg Wind Farm on a national, regional and local scale. It will include details of project site selection which will outline the criteria used to determine project site suitability for wind energy development including:
  - Wind resource;
  - Proximity to residential dwellings;
  - Land Zoning in County Development Plans;
  - Established and Future Land-Use;
  - Ecological Conservation Designations;
  - Landscape Designations; and
  - Ease of Access etc.
- Access – Details of the criteria used to select the network of access tracks that will provide access from the public road network to the project site (and to each turbine within the site) in addition to those that will provide internal connections (as an alternative to using public roads) between turbines will be outlined. This will include information on the availability of existing track, suitable ground conditions, terrain, local road infrastructure etc.
- Connection to the National Grid – Details of the criteria used to select the proposed grid connection route will be provided. This will include an assessment of alternative grid connection route options.

The reasons, including environmental and plan-led considerations will be explained.



## 4.3 Scheme of Description

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

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

In a judgement in 2014, *O’Grianna v. An Bord Pleanála*, Cork County Council and Framore Limited, it was ruled that all planning permission should not be granted for a wind farm project requiring a grid connection unless the grid connection details are provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Arising from this it is essential that the details of this project and its proposed grid connection should be provided in the EIA process, this will be set out in the Description of Development in detail in Chapter 3, while Chapter 2 will provide a detailed assessment of alternatives considered in relation to the preferred grid connection route.

The operating procedures and hours, staffing, monitoring, maintenance requirements, and the provision for decommissioning of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm will also be outlined.

If planning consent is secured for the proposed development, tree felling, site preparation works, upgrading of existing access tracks and the provision of new access tracks will precede all other activities. Drainage infrastructure will be constructed in parallel with the track construction.



This will be followed by the construction of the turbine foundations and the provision of the hardstanding areas. In parallel with these works the on-site electrical works; sub-station and internal cable network; will be completed. The cable from the wind farm to the proposed grid connection point will then be laid underground, primarily along public roads. Any works required to the public road network to facilitate turbine delivery will also be carried out.

## 4.4 Construction Activities

The Fahy Beg Wind Farm will have a defined planning boundary to include not only the turbines but all ancillary infrastructure such as transformers and crane hardstanding areas at each turbine, new and upgraded access tracks, on-site underground cabling, on-site substation and construction compounds. Details on all of these elements will be provided within the EIAR.

Information will be provided on the following aspects of the construction of the Fahy Beg Wind Farm:

- Construction programme
- Construction sequence and methodology
- Drainage control measures
- Temporary site facilities
- Site preparation works
- Access road construction and upgrade
- Borrow pits and reinstatement works
- Cable installation on site
- Turbine foundation and associated hardstanding area construction
- Turbine delivery and installation
- Commissioning

The control measures that will be implemented to manage the risk of soil and water pollution, emissions of dust and noise, construction waste management and traffic impacts will be explained.

## 4.5 Consultation Program

Over the course of the final design and preparation of the EIAR, consultation will continue with the community, stakeholders and consultees. As part of the EIAR, full details of all consultation will be documented and assessed.

### 4.5.1 COVID-19

Consultation with the community, stakeholders and the Local Authority will be undertaken in line with the latest HSE guidance, in order to minimise the risk of COVID-19 infection.





## 5. ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS

### 5.1 Population, Human Health & Material Assets

#### 5.1.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The Population and Human Health Chapter of the EIAR will assess the likely significant effects of the proposed development on population and human health and safety with a particular reference to the topics of population, human health, socio-economic activity, land-use and recreation, amenity and tourism.

##### Population

The potential impacts of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm on population trends and statistics (density, growth) will be addressed in this chapter.

##### Human Health

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

##### Health and Safety

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

##### Socio-economic Activity

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

##### Land-use

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

##### Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm on residential amenity, recreational facilities and activities and tourism of the region.

##### Material Assets

The assessment will address the potential impact of the project on material assets including utility infrastructure and renewable and non-renewable resources in proximity to the project.



## Vulnerability of the Project to Major Accidents and Natural Disasters

EU Directive 2014/52/EU which amends Directive 2011/92/EU states the following in relation to vulnerability of a project to natural disaster:

In order to ensure a high level of protection of the environment, precautionary actions need to be taken for certain projects which, because of their vulnerability to major accidents, and/or natural disasters (such as flooding, sea level rise, or earthquakes) are likely to have significant adverse effects on the environment. For such projects, it is important to consider their vulnerability (exposure and resilience) to major accidents and/or disasters, the risk of those accidents and/or disasters occurring and the implications for the likelihood of significant adverse effects on the environment.

This section of the EIAR will examine the proposed project's vulnerability to major accidents and natural disasters, potential adverse impacts on human health and the environment, the magnitude of potential impacts, the likelihood of potential impacts and considers the preparedness of the project in case of accident, disaster or emergency.

### 5.1.2 Assessment Methodology

#### Population

With the purpose of analysing population trends and statistics on the proposed area, population data from the Central Statistics Office will be obtained for the study area defined by electoral division, including the area of the grid route corridor. The statistics of this data is compared against county and state trends and density.

#### Human Health

The assessment will contain a desk study review of the potential impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of renewable energy developments on human health using published and verified sources of information.

#### Health and Safety

The assessment will contain a desk study review of the impacts of the construction, operation and decommissioning of renewable energy developments on health and safety using published and verified sources of information.

#### Socio-economic Activity

Data from the Central Statistics Office will be used to define the socio-economic baseline. Desktop research and consultation will provide an indication of economic activity in the study area. The potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed wind farm on employment and economic activity both directly and indirectly, will be assessed.

#### Land-use

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



### Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

All areas of scenic beauty in addition to heritage, culture and leisure facilities and activities in the study area will be identified. A review of the main recreational activities in the area likely to be affected will be conducted. Residential amenities and recreational facilities, such as forestry in public ownership, walking paths, sports facilities, will be recorded and potential impacts assessed.

An assessment will then be conducted for each element of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm to ascertain any potential impacts that may arise which could directly or indirectly affect recreational activity or an amenity. This assessment will be prepared giving cognisance to other disciplines such as cultural heritage and archaeology, hydrology and ecology.

A review will be conducted of a number of published studies and surveys which have been conducted both in Ireland by Fáilte Ireland and in the UK on the attitude of tourists to wind farms. A study of the potential impacts that the proposed development may have on the tourism of the region will be carried out by reviewing Fáilte Ireland surveys, appraising the existing patterns of the tourism within the county and appraising the impacts that wind farms have on tourism in other counties and countries

### Material Assets

A desktop study will be carried out of all potential impacts to renewable and non-renewable resources in the area including potential impact to stone, sand and gravel and potential impact to forestry resources. Desktop research will be conducted to identify utility infrastructure in proximity to the project site and grid route. Consultation with utility companies will also be undertaken to identify potential impact to assets.

### Vulnerability of the Project to Major Accidents and Natural Disasters

This study will examine the potential susceptibility of the proposed project to accidents or natural disasters. This will include examination of potential flooding, fire, major accidents involving dangerous substances and potential for slope failure.

#### 5.1.3 Receiving Environment

The project is located in south east County Clare, ca 7km south west of Killaloe. The closest settlement to the proposed development is the Village of Bridgetown, ca. 1.5km south of the proposed project. Due to the rural nature of the immediate area, it is considered sparsely populated with a greater concentration of dwellings along local roads.

Landcover includes forestry, agricultural lands and transitional woodland-shrub. The greater area is characterised by agricultural lands and parcels of forestry. There are no significant tourist attractions located in the immediate area. The River Shannon, located approximately 4km east/south east is the most prominent amenity in the area and is a popular resource for tourism for boating, angling and walking. The Lough Derg Way and East Clare Way are two marked walking trails located to the east and north of the site respectively.

Material assets in the receiving environment include a significant Coillte forested area to the north of the site. A 400kV powerline passes the site directly to the north. There are two quarries located in proximity to the site.



#### 5.1.4 Potential Impacts

##### Population

The potential impacts arising from the proposed development on population during construction are likely to be slight positive, given the enhanced employment opportunities associated with the proposed development. During operational phase these impacts would likely be reduced to imperceptible. The assessment will consider the potential impacts during all phases of the proposed development.

##### Human Health

The potential affects arising from the proposed development which can impact on human health during construction, operational and decommissioning will be considered in this chapter. Once operational, turbines contribute to the production of renewable energy and for this reason, it is thought that the operational phase will deliver positive impacts to human health through the reduction of the required burning of fossil fuels.

##### Health and Safety

If not properly designed and constructed, there is the potential for construction and operational activities associated with the proposed development to impact on the health and safety of employees associated with the development as well as the public. Best practice construction and environmental management measures will be employed to prevent the potential for accidents. The EIAR will be accompanied by a comprehensive Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) which will include detailed health and safety requirements during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm. With the implementation of measures outlined in the EIAR and CEMP, it is anticipated that the proposed development is not likely to have a potential significant impact on human health and safety (pending a full environmental impact assessment).

##### Socio-Economics

The proposed development will have significant long and short term benefits for the local economy including job creation, landowner payments, local authority commercial rate payments and a Community Benefit Scheme. These will be developed in full and considered in the EIAR.

##### Land Use

The proposed development will require land take for the access tracks, wind turbines bases and adjacent hard-standings and sub-station footprints. The current land uses will continue other than within the proposed land take of the wind farm. Full details will be contained in this chapter of the EIAR.

##### Recreation, Amenity and Tourism

Potential construction impacts from the grid connection cables include full or partial closure of roads used within the area, while the cables are being installed. There may be temporary disruption to access routes and walking paths, however any disruption will be mitigated where possible by maintaining access where required, and where this is not possible, in minimising the impact, clearly communicating the timing and scope of works to the local community. Possibilities for improvements to recreation facilities in the area will be considered.

Potential visual impact on recreation, amenity and tourism facilities will also be examined as part of the landscape and visual assessment and will be considered as part of the impact assessment on recreation, amenity and tourism.





## 5.2 Environmental Aspect: Shadow Flicker

### 5.2.1 Aspects to be addressed

This chapter will address the potential effects on human beings from shadow flicker, i.e. the moving shadows cast by the turbine blades in times of direct sunlight.

### 5.2.2 Assessment Methodology

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

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

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

Cumulative impacts of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm and other third-party schemes will be assessed. IWEA Best Practice Guidelines (2012, Section 6.3.4) states that "any such wind farm developments within 2 km of the proposed development should be considered in a separate cumulative shadow flicker assessment. Potential cumulative impacts of shadow flicker between the proposed development and nearby wind turbines will be considered.

### 5.2.3 Receiving Environment

The general receiving environment is rural. The majority of buildings in the vicinity of the proposed development are residential or agricultural buildings with isolated commercial premises located in the greater area.

### 5.2.4 Potential Impacts

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



## 5.3 Environmental Aspect: Noise and Vibration

### 5.3.1 Aspects to Address

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

### 5.3.2 Assessment Methodology

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

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

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

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

Construction/decommissioning noise predictions will be carried out to determine the noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive locations. Noise prediction will be carried out using British Standard BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014, Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise. Predicted construction noise levels will be compared against noise levels in BS 5228:2009+A1:2014 Part 1. Where the impact significance identifies a requirement for mitigation, mitigation measures will be outlined.

### 5.3.3 Receiving Environment

All dwellings in proximity to turbines have been identified. A minimum setback distance of 680m between turbines and occupied dwellings is expected to be implemented as part of the design process.

### 5.3.4 Potential Impacts

Potential impacts of noise nuisance will be addressed at the design stage by locating turbines at sufficient separation distances or by employing reduced turbine noise modes to comply with the noise limits in force at the time of application.



## 5.4 Environmental Aspect: Traffic and Transportation

### 5.4.1 Aspects to be Addressed

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

### 5.4.2 Assessment Methodology

A traffic impact assessment will be conducted in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) Guidelines, May 2014. Data collected from road traffic surveys along the delivery route will be used in the assessment.

A route survey will be carried out by a specialist transport consultant between the port of entry options and proposed project entrance locations. This survey will identify potential pinch points and locations that may require off site temporary upgrades to facilitate the safe transport of the turbines to the development area.

Auto Track vehicle swept path analysis (SPA) will be conducted for all internal tracks to ensure that they are adequate to allow delivery of turbine components while also minimising the required land take where feasible. SPA will also be carried out on pinch points identified in the transport route survey report.

The methodology for the traffic impact assessment will include a review of the traffic volumes and impacts which will be generated by the construction, operation and decommissioning of the wind farm. The traffic generated by the construction workforce, by the transport of materials and equipment as well as future maintenance-related activities will be predicted. The traffic distribution pattern on the local road network during construction will be examined and impacts determined. The potential disruption to the road network during the installation of the cables and the availability of alternative routes will be assessed, where required. Recommendations will be made to mitigate any potential traffic impacts on the road network.

### 5.4.3 Receiving Environment

The site is currently accessed by a local road to the south and south west of the site which runs from Bridgetown to Kilbane. The R466 regional route is located south and west of the site. The R463 regional route is located east of the site adjacent the River Shannon. The most proximate national primary route is the M7 motorway located approx. 8km south east of the site.

### 5.4.4 Potential Impacts

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

The traffic impact assessment will be conducted in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) Guidelines, May 2014.



Data collected from road traffic surveys along the delivery route will be used in the assessment. The impact assessment will include a review of the traffic volumes and impacts which will be generated by the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm. The traffic generated by the construction workforce, by the transport of materials and equipment as well as future maintenance-related activities will be predicted. The traffic distribution pattern on the local road network during construction will be examined and impacts determined. The potential disruption to the road network during the installation of the cables and the availability of alternative routes will be assessed, where required. Recommendations will be made to mitigate any potential traffic impacts on the road network.

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

The turbines will be delivered to the proposed project area in separate parts, typically comprising of loads for each of the towers, the rotor blades, the nacelle, the rotor hub, the turbine base and the electrical components. The delivery route from the port into which the components are shipped, to the proposed wind farm will use the national primary route network as much as possible. Modifications may be required to the existing local road network to cater for the delivery of the oversized loads.

Stone aggregate will be required for the upgrading of existing tracks and construction of new roads as well as the construction of turbine bases and hardstands. All of these activities have the potential to generate significant local traffic numbers.

There will be an increase in local traffic during the construction of the wind farm; staff, including plant operators, electricians, engineers and trades people, will be commuting to and from the proposed project area each morning and evening. In addition, there is likely to be an increase in local traffic due to onlookers as the turbines are erected.

There will also be temporary traffic impacts from cable laying works on the public roads. These impacts will be managed to reduce the nuisance being caused to local road users.

## 5.5 Environmental Aspect: Air Quality and Climate

### 5.5.1 [Aspects to be Addressed](#)

The assessment will address the potential impacts on air quality due to construction and decommissioning equipment and activities and to emissions from traffic associated with the construction process. The potential impacts on air quality in the operational phase will also be addressed.

The climate in the immediate local area of a proposed development is known as the micro-climate whereas the climate of a large geographical area (global) is the macro-climate. The potential impacts of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm on micro-climate and macro-climate will be addressed. The project will also be assessed for compliance with the Climate Action Plan 2019.

### 5.5.2 [Assessment Methodology](#)

Air quality monitoring conducted by the EPA at a number of locations in the vicinity of the project will be reviewed and levels compared with the air quality standards.



To assess the impacts of construction dust emissions, the approach and assessment criteria outline in the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (2011) will be used.

For the purposes of assessing the impact on air quality of emissions generated by construction traffic, the methodology described in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) (Volume 11, Section 3 Air Quality, May 2007) will be used. Parameters to be assessed will include oxides of nitrogen, particulates PM10 and PM2.5, carbon monoxide and benzene.

The potential micro-climatic impacts of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm will be assessed in relation to the micro-climatic baseline, the scale of the elements of the project and the nature of use of the surrounding environment. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation, which will not be required should the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm become operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

### 5.5.3 Receiving Environment

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

The macro-climatic baseline is the future emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases, which would be produced by fossil fuel power generation in the country, in the absence of the proposed wind farm.

### 5.5.4 Potential Impacts

The assessment will address the potential impacts on air quality due to construction equipment and activities and to emissions from traffic associated with the construction process. The potential impacts on air quality in the operational phase will also be addressed.

The construction phase of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm has the potential to generate dust emissions, which could give rise to nuisance for local residents. To assess the impacts of construction dust emissions, the approach and assessment criteria outlined in the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2011) will be used.

Construction plant and equipment, and the traffic generated by the construction process, have the potential to give rise to emissions of oxides of nitrogen, benzene and particulates, which could impact on local air quality. The operation of the proposed wind farm is not expected to have a negative impact on air quality.

The proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm is expected to have a positive impact on emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation, which would not be required when the wind farm is operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

It is expected that the proposed development will have a positive impact on Air Quality including NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>x</sub>, a calculation of same will be included in the EIAR.



## 5.6 Environmental Aspect: Biodiversity

### 5.6.1 Aspects to be Addressed

This chapter of the EIAR will address the terrestrial and freshwater aquatic habitats and species, including those of conservation concern within and in close proximity to the proposed wind farm; including along and in close proximity to the on-site cable routes; on and in close proximity to the proposed substation, tree felling and any required replanting. It will also address the potential impacts on ecology from the proposed underground cable between the wind farm and the grid connection as well as any proposed alterations to the public road network required for the delivery of turbine components.

In particular, the assessment will focus on:

- Natura 2000 sites i.e. Special Areas of Conservation designated under the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas designated under the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147 EC), within 15km of the proposed project and routes.
- Other designated sites such as Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Refuges for Fauna or Flora
- Habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive
- Birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive
- The impact on any flight paths of bird and bat species
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts
- Protected flora under the Flora Protection Order (2015)
- Habitats that can be considered as corridors for the purposes of article 10 of the Habitats Directive
- Red data book species
- And biodiversity in general.

### 5.6.2 Assessment Methodology

Desk studies will be undertaken in which ecological databases, such as those of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), EPA and NBDC will be consulted. The NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the main environmental non-governmental organisations have been or will be consulted.

Bird survey methods have been selected following a review of best practice guidelines, including guidance available from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), and following consultation with NPWS and other bodies such as BirdWatch Ireland. Bird surveys commenced in 2017 and are ongoing at the project site.

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

Habitats shall be appraised and evaluated according to their occurrence as protected habitats under Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and for their capacity to support rare, threatened and endangered species.





The methodology used to assess the impact on habitats is based on NRA guidelines (2009<sup>1</sup>), CIEEM guidelines and EPA guidelines. The habitat mapping exercise had regard to the 'Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping' (Smith et al., 2011<sup>2</sup>) published by the Heritage Council.

In addition to habitat identification, each habitat will be assessed for its ecological significance, based on the National Roads Authority (NRA) Site Evaluation Scheme (NRA, 2009).

Bat surveys will be undertaken in accordance with Bats and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation (Scottish Natural Heritage, 2019<sup>3</sup>). Winter and breeding roost surveys will be required. Activity surveys will also be required during the bat activity season April to September as per Bat Conservation Ireland and Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines.

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

### 5.6.3 Potential Impacts

This chapter of the EIAR will address the nationally designated sites, terrestrial and freshwater (aquatic) habitats and species, including those of conservation concern on and in close proximity to the proposed wind farm and including along and in close proximity to the proposed cable route and proposed haul route.

The ecological evaluation of the project area and its' Biodiversity will be assessed according to NRA (2009). Once the value of the identified ecological receptors (features and resources) is determined, the next step will be to assess the potential impact and resulting effect of the proposed development on the identified key ecological receptors.

This will be carried out with regard to the criteria outlined in various impact assessment guidelines (NRA, 2009; CIEEM, 2016). The impacts will be assessed under a number of parameters such as magnitude, extent, timing, frequency, duration and reversibility. The impact significance criteria detailed in the Draft EPA guidelines (EPA, 2017) will be used where applicable.

Potential impacts of the wind farm on Biodiversity include:

- Direct loss of habitat due to the footprint of the area;
- Damage to adjacent habitats during construction which could potentially be affected by construction activity;
- Impacts during construction on the hydrology of water dependant habitats

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

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

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



- Impacts on water quality both at a local level and regional level due to pollution run-off whether during or post construction;
- Impacts on downstream aquatic species during construction or due to pollution events etc.;
- Disturbance to local wildlife, including loss of habitat, disturbance and displacement;
- The potential collision risk to birds and bats;
- Damage to or habitat loss of important wildlife corridors or stepping stones during construction. Fragmentation of same at a larger more regional level as a result of habitat loss;
- The introduction of alien invasive species during construction;
- Displacement of bird species from limited breeding areas;
- Displacement or disturbance to breeding waders from areas within the proposed wind turbine envelope;
- Barrier effect on migrating birds, whereby individual species' dispersal or migration routes are affected by the placement of turbines which effectively cause a barrier;
- Impacts on the conservation status or constituent parts of designated sites.
- Potential impacts associated with tree felling and any required replanting on designated sites, habitats, Biodiversity.

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

#### 5.6.4 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and if required a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared in respect of the proposed development, so as to enable the competent authorities to carry out an Appropriate Assessment as required by Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC ("the Habitats Directive") and section 177U of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ("the Planning Act"). The potential impact to European sites due to tree felling and any proposed replanting shall also be considered.

In compliance with the aforementioned provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and section 177U of the Planning Act, a Screening Appropriate Assessment of an application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority or authorities to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Where negative impacts on a Natura 2000 site cannot be discounted during Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment, the Assessment must proceed to Stage 2 and a Natura Impact Statement prepared at which point a detailed, targeted assessment of the nature and potential significance of direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed project must be completed and an assessment as to whether the integrity of the Natura 2000 site would be adversely affected.

European sites, as defined in the Planning Act, comprise both Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and other species, and are designated by Member States pursuant to the requirements of Council Directive 79/409/EEC, now Directive 2009/147/EU, on the conservation of wild birds ("the Birds Directive") and the Habitats Directive, respectively.





Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive envisages a two-stage assessment process, which is implemented into Irish law (with some additional requirements) by the provisions of sections 177U and 177V of the Planning Act. Screening for AA in accordance with section 177U is the first stage of the AA process (“Stage One”), in which the possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site is considered. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a European site are thereby excluded, or “screened out”, at this stage of the process. Where, however, the competent authority’s screening assessment concludes that there is potential for significant effects, then it is necessary to carry out an Appropriate Assessment (AA) (“Stage Two”) for the purposes of Article 6(3), and a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) is prepared and submitted to the competent authority.

The first step in the screening process is to develop a list of European sites which may have the potential to be affected by the proposed development. Each relevant European site is reviewed to establish whether or not the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the European site. The development area of the proposed Fahy Wind Farm is not located within a designated nature conservation site, however the site drains to the Lower River Shannon SAC (Site Code: 002165).

The potential for significant effects and effects on site integrity will need to be assessed as part of a Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening and it is likely that a Natura Impact Statement will be required.

Also in proximity to the site is the Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC (Site Code 002312) and the Glenomra Wood SAC (Site Code 001013).

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

- Direct impacts refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development or agricultural purposes. Direct impacts can arise as a result of a change in land use or management, such as the elimination of agricultural practices that prevent scrub encroachment.
- Indirect and secondary may arise, for example, when a development alters the hydrology of a catchment area, which in turn affects the movement of groundwater to a site, and the qualifying interests that rely on the maintenance of water levels. Deterioration in water quality could occur as both an indirect and direct consequence of a particular development, which in turn changes the aquatic environment and reduces its capacity to support certain plants and animals. The introduction of invasive species can also be defined as an indirect impact, which results in increased movement of vectors (humans, fauna, surface water), and consequently the transfer of alien species from one area to another.
- Disturbance to fauna can arise directly through the loss of habitat (e.g. otter holts) or indirectly through noise, vibration and increased activity associated with construction and operation.

In the event that significant effects cannot be ruled out during the Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment, the process proceeds to Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment and a Natura Impact Statement is prepared. During Stage 2 AA, the effect of the project on the integrity of the European site(s), as defined by its structure and function, and its conservation objectives is appraised. Potential impacts on species or habitats will be evaluated with respect to the scale, extent and nature of the impact, for example the area of habitat affected, changes in hydrodynamics, the percentage reduction in species density, potential changes in species distribution. The duration of the impact will be determined in terms of the duration of the works and also the amount of time required for the species and / or habitat to be replaced or to recover from the impacts.



Information on the main alternatives studied by the developer and why they were excluded will also be provided within the AA process.

During Stage 2 of the AA process, mitigation measures can be developed to minimise effects on European Sites.

Mitigation measures will follow the mitigation hierarchy:

- Avoidance
- Reduction
- Remedy

For each mitigation measure the following will be provided:

- Details of how the mitigation will be secured and implemented
- Evidence of the degree of confidence in their likely success
- A timescale of when they will be implemented
- Details of how the mitigation measures will be monitored and how any mitigation failure will be addressed where practical.

## 5.7 Environmental Aspect: Land, Soils, Geology and Slope Stability

### 5.7.1 Aspects to be addressed

The assessment will address soils, bedrock and groundwater underlying the wind farm.

### 5.7.2 Assessment Methodology

The methodology for the soils and geology assessment will be in accordance with the guidelines published by the Institute of Geologists of Ireland in 2013, 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Environmental Impact Statements'.

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

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



The data gathered will be used to inform the final location of all turbines and associated infrastructure. An earthworks balance calculation will be prepared for the overall development to assess where excavated material can be beneficially re-used. In addition, an assessment of the volumes of raw material will be made which will in turn be used to determine the number and size of borrow pits required.

### 5.7.3 Receiving Environment

The geology of the site can be summarised as consisting of till derived from Lower Palaeozoic sandstones and shales overlying the Old Red Sandstone formation across the majority of the site and the Broadford Formation across the northwest of the site. There are several locations with bedrock outcrop or sub-crop across the north of the site. An east-west striking fault transects the north of the site.

The soils within the region are well-drained acidic soils with an exception to the poorly drained soils with some peaty topsoil in the north-western section of the site. Groundwater vulnerability is high to the extreme within this region and along the western-most stream within the site. The Lough Graney and Tulle-Newmarket on Fergus Groundwater Bodies reside within the site. Both are dominated by fracture flow and have low porosity and storability. Groundwater within the Old Red Sandstone formation may be isolated in regions with deep static water levels.

### 5.7.4 Potential Impacts

The potential impacts of the development of the wind farm on the geology, hydrogeology and slope stability are:

- The excavation and removal of soil and rock and interference with any existing drainage is a potential direct permanent effect that, without mitigation, could alter the existing hydrogeological balance;
- The construction of the turbines, hardstanding areas, access tracks, borrow pits and cable trenches has the potential to cause hydrogeological impacts by modifying the natural groundwater levels adjacent to the excavation. This in turn may deprive ditches and streams of their natural supply of water which may lead to reduced base flow and recharge to the bedrock aquifer;
- Areas which are underlain by peat deposits are susceptible to slope stability issues, including peat slides and bursts, when changes are made to topography, hydrogeology and hydrology of the area.
- The use of granular fill and other materials for the construction of the access tracks has the potential to have a permanent impact on the source quarries;
- Excavations have the potential to increase erosion and sediment release that could also have additional impacts on water quality due to sedimentation of water courses;
- Soil compaction may occur due to movement of construction and maintenance traffic;
- Removal of sub soils may result in the exposure of the underlying rock to sources of contamination and may increase the vulnerability of the aquifer, whether or not the rock is exposed;
- Chemical pollution may occur as a result of an accidental spillage or leakage of chemicals, runoff from vehicle washing facilities, unset concrete, storage of fuels or refuelling activities, etc. Chemical pollutants may enter the groundwater and have implications for ecology and any wells in the area, particularly those located down-gradient of the project; and
- Sanitary waste arising from temporary construction compounds could lead to contamination of groundwater.



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

## 5.8 Environmental Aspect: Water Quality and Hydrology

### 5.8.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The assessment will address impacts on hydrology and water quality. The aspects of the hydrological environment that could be affected by the activities associated with the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm will also be addressed.

### 5.8.2 Assessment Methodology

The assessment will consist of a review of existing baseline data including water quality data from the EPA, River Basin Management Plans and flood risk data from the Office of Public Works (OPW). The objectives of the relevant River Basin Management Plans in relation to water quality will be considered.

The review will include the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and consideration of the policies and objectives of the Plan in relation to surface water and flooding. The assessment will be prepared in accordance with the EPA and OPW guidance. Any concerns expressed by consultees such as Inland Fisheries Ireland and relevant local authorities, relating to hydrology and drainage, will be addressed.

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

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

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

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

Where parts of the development are located on areas encroaching on floodplains, this may require additional drainage measures and further measures required to mitigate flood risk.



Mitigation, such as attenuation of surface water run-off from the project, will be proposed where increases in flood risk are deemed to be significant.

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

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

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

- Identify potential impacts of the proposed development on hydrology (hydrodynamics and flooding).
- Identify potential cumulative hydrological impacts of the proposed development with any neighbouring wind farms or significant projects.
- Consider potential drainage into sensitive catchments.
- Drainage investigation will involve identification of drainage sub-catchments, studying the requirement(s) of cross-drainage works, if any, exploring the infiltration potential of the soils in the area, etc.
- Identification of mitigation measures for flooding and pollution of receiving waters.
- Identification of residual impacts.

### 5.8.3 Receiving Environment

The site is split between two river catchments. The eastern side of the site area is located in the Lower River Shannon catchment and the western side is located in the Shannon Estuary North catchment. The eastern part of the site is located in the Shannon (lower) sub-catchment and the western part is located in the Owenogarney sub-catchment.

There are two streams running through the site from north to south. These streams are the Black (O'Briensbridge) stream and the Fahy (Clare) stream. Both streams flow in a south-easterly direction and flow into the River Shannon which is designated as a Special Area of Conservation (Lower River Shannon SAC – Site Code: 002165).

The Broadford Stream is located to the west of the site and is hydrologically connected to the Doon Lough Natural Heritage Area.

The site is not located within a flood zone. No historical flooding data is recorded on the site. However, considering the poorly-drained and peaty topsoil located in the north-eastern and north-western extent of the site also low porosity of the bedrock aquifer below, there is a risk of pluvial flooding that is not listed on the Flood Info map viewer.

### 5.8.4 Potential Impacts

The main potential impact from the construction of typical wind farm developments is the sedimentation of watercourses. Rainfall run-off containing silt could potentially lead to siltation and consequent physical effects on Biodiversity in aquatic habitats.



Sediment has the potential to arise from:

- Temporary spoil heaps from the excavations for the turbine bases; if left exposed, the spoil heaps could lead to an increase in silt-laden run-off.
- Haulage roads passing close to watercourses could allow the migration of silt-laden run-off into watercourses (crushable stone in access roads could lead to heavy vehicles creating fines in the stone with a subsequent loss of sediment in the surface water run-off).
- Silt carried on the wheels of vehicles leaving the project area could be carried onto the public road.
- Tree felling could lead to an increase in sediment in the surface water run-off.
- While the cable trench is open adjacent to a watercourse and at stream crossings, this could lead to an increase in the concentration of suspended solids in the watercourse.

In addition, possible impacts on water quality during construction activity include:

- Concrete operations could contaminate receiving waters.
- Runoff from vehicle washing facilities could lead to contamination of receiving waters.
- Refuelling activities could result in fuel spillages.

The potential impacts on hydrology and drainage that may arise from the proposed development of the wind farm project include impacts on localised flooding patterns and downstream structures as well as cumulative hydrological impacts with neighbouring developments.

At the temporary compound, the potential impacts are the pollution of surface water from an oil or fuel spillage during construction.

During the operational phase of the wind farm, potential impacts on water quality may arise from the use of lubricants, coolants and hydrocarbons in the operations of the turbine transformers as well as routine maintenance of all plant and equipment.

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





## 5.9 Environmental Aspect: Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

### 5.9.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The assessment will address features and sites of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance. The purpose of the study will be to assess the significance of the receiving cultural heritage environment and to identify and evaluate the magnitude of the impact of the proposed wind farm on the sensitivity of each cultural heritage feature within this environment and on the broader historic character of the landscape. Measures will be proposed to mitigate effects (where possible) so as to allow a fully informed decision to be made by the adjudicating authority.

### 5.9.2 Assessment Methodology

The assessment will comprise a desk study and field walkover survey and will be based on EPA guidelines and relevant national and international best practice guidelines.

#### Desk Study

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

- A review and collation of information obtained from public and statutory consultees, for example nationwide surveys such as the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) (including National Monuments in State Care, NIAH, RPS and landscape characterisation;
- A review of designated archaeological landscapes;
- A review of the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023;
- A review of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) building survey sites, NIAH historic gardens and designed landscapes survey sites;
- A review of artefactual material held in the National Museum of Ireland Archives National Museum of Ireland;
- A literature review of published and key references appropriate to the wind farm project including material from local interest groups and historical and archaeological societies;
- Collation of information from similar or other infrastructure projects in proximity to the proposed wind farms, for example EIARs, SEAs, conservation plans, archaeological test assessments and excavations (including the Database of Irish Excavations) Cartographic sources;
- A review of place names folklore/traditions and Gaeltacht areas;
- Other documentary sources;
- A review and interpretation of aerial photographs and LiDAR imagery to be used in combination with historic mapping to map potential cultural heritage assets; and
- A review of existing guidelines and best practice approach will be undertaken.



### Field survey

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

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

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

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

### Setting

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

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

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

### Interactions and consultation

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





### 5.9.3 Receiving Environment

There are two recorded archaeological sites located within the boundary of the proposed development site comprising of two enclosures located close to the east boundary with the southern example sited within a greenfield area (CL044-64----) and the northern example within a clearing in a forestry plantation (CL044-067--).

Archaeological enclosures comprise areas defined by an enclosing element (e.g. bank, wall, fosse, scarp), or indicated as such cartographically, and they can occur in a variety of shapes and sizes. They often possess no diagnostic features which would allow classification within another monument category and may conceivably date to any period from prehistory onwards although many comprise unclassified ringforts dating to the early medieval period (c. 400–1169 AD).

There are a further nine recorded archaeological sites located within the surrounding 1km study area, of which seven are identified as enclosures. One of the enclosures (CL044-073---) located to the west of the proposed development site is listed as a redundant record by the ASI as it has been removed by quarrying and it is not scheduled for inclusion in the next revision of the RMP.

A bullaun stone (CL045-052002-) located in an area of Kilroughil townland c.330m to the east of the proposed development site likely dates to the early medieval period.

### 5.9.4 Potential Impacts

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

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

The potential impacts are briefly described as follows:

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



- Cumulative Impacts – An assessment will be made on the cumulative impact where necessary, depending on the scale, density and proximity of the turbines within the wind farm and to other wind farms. This will include the consideration of the setting of heritage assets.
- Residual Impacts – these relate to the setting impacts from turbines and associated infrastructure during the lifetime of the wind farm development.

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

## 5.10 Environmental Aspect: Aviation and Telecommunications

### 5.10.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The rotating blades of a wind turbine can occasionally cause interference to electro-magnetically-propagated signals. Such interference could, in theory, affect all forms of electromagnetic communications including:

- Satellite communications
- RADAR
- Cellular radio communications
- Aircraft instrument landing systems
- Air traffic control
- Terrestrial microwave links
- Television broadcasts

In addition, it is possible that houses in the immediate vicinity of the turbines could require some remedial measures in relation to television reception.

The EIAR will include an assessment of any such potential impacts.

### 5.10.2 Assessment Methodology

An evaluation of the possible effects that the proposed development could have on aviation and existing telecommunications networks will be conducted. A study will be undertaken to analyse the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operator's point-to-point microwave radio links.

This evaluation will include the generation of GIS based telecommunications constraints mapping for the areas affected. The purpose of this mapping is to identify potential negative impacts on the telecommunications network and facilitate the selection of optimum sites and turbine locations by avoiding telecommunication links where possible, and thereby limiting any potential negative impacts on service providers in the area.



The proposed assessment methodology will include:

- Consultation with Irish Aviation Authority, Department of Defence, Commission for Energy Regulation, emergency services;
- Consultation with telecommunications operators to gather the necessary data;
- Preparation of constraint mapping;
- Analyses of the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operators' point-to-point microwave radio links and apply appropriate buffer distances around links and masts where required;
- Discussions with telecommunications operators identifying potential clashes. Operators to provide feedback on initial assessment and to provide information on the importance of the links identified;
- Further specialist investigations will be carried out if the telecommunications operators identify potential impacts; and
- Where necessary, mitigation measures to be agreed with operators including:
  - Turbine relocation
  - Telecommunications link relocation
  - Underground fibre optic cables to replace microwave link
  - Submission of final detailed layout to telecoms operators.
  - Agree any layout alterations following final detailed assessment by telecoms operators or agree suitable mitigation measures if necessary.

Impacts on aviation will be addressed following detailed discussions with the Irish Aviation Authority.

In relation to the cables, mapping of telecommunications cables, which could potentially be affected by the installation of the cables associated with the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm, will be obtained and potential impacts assessed.

### 5.10.3 Receiving Environment

An initial desktop study has been conducted to identify telecommunication infrastructure in the area of the proposed project. The Comreg site viewer<sup>4</sup> identifies a number of telecom masts in the surrounding proximities of the project.

The most proximate mast site is located approximately 1km north of the subject site. Further telecom mast are located approx. 6km south west of the site at Briarfield and 6km north east at Killaloe.

In order to identify potential impact to links for the various telecommunications masts in the area, telecommunications providers will be consulted. Should an operator raise concerns, and the impact cannot be avoided by amending the layout of the wind farm, we will engage directly with the operator to quantify the interference impacts of the wind farm development and identify a likely telecommunications mitigation solution. This approach is proving successful on similar wind farm projects.

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



#### 5.10.4 Potential Impacts

An evaluation of the possible effects that the proposed development could have on aviation and existing telecommunications networks will be conducted. A study will be undertaken to analyse the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operator's point-to-point microwave radio links.

This evaluation will include the generation of GIS based telecommunications constraints mapping for the areas affected. The purpose of this mapping is to identify potential negative impacts on the telecommunications network and facilitate the selection of optimum sites and turbine locations by avoiding telecommunication links where possible, and thereby limiting any potential negative impacts on service providers in the area.

The Irish Wind Energy Association 2012 guidelines, "Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry", indicate that wind turbines within 20 km of a radio navigation aid have the potential to cause electro-magnetic interference with these signals. It is possible that houses in the immediate vicinity of the turbines could require some remedial measures in relation to television reception.

In practice, such measures are not difficult to implement, are relatively inexpensive and if necessary, will be undertaken by the developer in conjunction with the provider.

### 5.11 Environmental Aspect: Landscape and Visual Impact

#### 5.11.1 Aspects to be Addressed

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

- ✓ Receiving environment, covering details on:
  - Wider landscape context
  - Localised site context.
  - Landform, landcover, land use patterns and trends
  - Key/unique landscape elements and features
  - Defining attributes of the wider landscape
- ✓ Landscape character, covering details on:
  - Character as outlined in CDP
  - Associated landscape values
  - Sensitivity levels within the landscape
  - Statutory designations
  - Landscape designations
  - Scenic/amenity routes
  - Views and prospects
  - Features of natural and built heritage



- ✓ Landscape Policy Context
  - Relevant policy objectives within Clare CDP and adjacent local authority CDPs
  - Relevant policy objectives within neighbouring counties within the 30km Study Area.
- ✓ Visual context
  - Zone of Theoretical Visibility
  - Viewshed Reference Points.
  - Route Screening Assessment.

Assessment of these aspects will ultimately inform potential landscape, visual and amenity aspects, residual impacts, and in turn appropriate mitigation measures to ensure impacts are not significant.

### 5.11.2 [Assessment Methodology](#)

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

- Desktop study of the project area in relation to its overall wider context;
- Visit to the project area and its environs;
- Visit to assess potential residential amenity impacts;
- Visit to assess route screening;
- Defining the baseline general landscape character, setting, and condition in relation to the position of the proposed development;
- Engagement with relevant landscape and amenity planning designations with the study area as outlined in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and any relevant policy within neighbouring county Limerick & Tipperary which fall within the 30km study area;
- Identification of quality and types of views in the areas;
- Establishing the extent of the visual envelope, i.e. the potential area of visibility of the project area in the surrounding landscape;
- Identification and evaluation of key components of the proposed development;
- Assessment of potential landscape and visual impacts, and residual impacts;
- Assessment of potential cumulative impacts with proposed/existing developments in the area;
- Preparation of Zone of Theoretical Visibility Maps (ZTVs) to a radial distance of c.30km from the project area; and
- Consideration of mitigation and enhancement measures.

The LVIA methodology is guided by the following guidance:

- Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government 2006, Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities.



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

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

#### 5.11.3 [Receiving Environment](#)

The site is split between two landscape character areas including Landscape Character Type 26 'Upland Hills' at the east of the site and LCT 12 'Glacial Valley' at the west of the site. No overall sensitivity rating is assigned to the LCTs in the Clare CDP.

The county is also divided into broader Landscape Character Areas (LCA) which can encompass one or more LCTs. The entire site occurs within LCA 8 - 'Slieve Bernagh Uplands'. No overall sensitivity rating is assigned to the LCAs in the Clare CDP.

In terms of landscape sensitivity designations, there are three high level categories in County Clare. The site occurs within the 'Settled Landscape' which would be considered less sensitive than the 'Heritage Landscape' but more sensitive than the 'Working Landscape'

The site is located within an area identified as 'Open for Consideration'. According to the Clare Wind Energy Strategy. The preliminary layout of the proposed project consisting of an eight turbine layout is considered 'medium' sized development as it has fewer than 11 turbines but more than 5 turbines.

#### 5.11.4 [Potential Impacts](#)

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





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

The proposed wind turbines will be large structures with the potential to have significant landscape and visual impacts. The development of wind farms, including associated infrastructure such as tracks and ancillary buildings, may have a major impact on the surrounding landscape.

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

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

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

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

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





## 6. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, INDIRECT AND INTERACTION OF EFFECTS

### 6.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The cumulative impact of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm with other projects which are either existing, permitted or pending planning permission, or for which there is information in the public domain, at a sufficient level of detail to allow assessment, will be addressed. An example of a project within the public domain can be projects that are listed in the County Development Plan or National Development Plan. Indirect effects and effects in different environmental media will be addressed.

The cumulative effects from the construction of the wind turbines, cabling and haul route alterations will also be assessed.

### 6.2 Cumulative Assessment Methodology

The assessment methodology will be based on the EPA guidance and the EU guidelines, 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions', published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in May 1999.

As part of scoping the studies required to assess the impacts of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm in the different environmental media, the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions will be examined and any such potential impacts will be identified. Where the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions is identified, such impacts and interaction of impacts will be included in the scope and addressed in the baseline and impact assessment studies for each of the relevant environmental media and aspects of the project. The cumulative and indirect impacts and interaction of impacts will be presented in the chapters of the EIAR which address the most relevant environmental media.

The matrix and expert opinion approaches, as outlined in the EU Guidelines, will be used in the identification of the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions. A matrix of potential interactions will be prepared. Modelling and carrying capacity analyses will be used to evaluate impacts.

### 6.3 Receiving Environment

The nearest wind energy development is 'Loughaun North II', a 24 MW scheme located approximately 25km to the northwest. Potential cumulative visual impacts will be examined with the existing wind farm in combination with the proposed project. Other planned, permitted or constructed projects in the area will be considered for potential cumulative impact. Furthermore, significant projects within the region will also be considered for potential cumulative impact, such as future road projects or other infrastructure projects.



## 6.4 Potential Impacts

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

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

## Conclusion

The scoping report has set out a description of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm Development in South East County Clare. The methodology and contents of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) has been detailed and different elements of the report have been set out. It is intended that consultees consider the proposed project from their relevant area of expertise. We hope that all consultees will submit comments and inform the EIAR process. If you have comments you would like to share with the EIAR team regarding the assessment of the Fahy Beg Wind Farm project, please forward them to the email address provided below, or by post to Fehily Timoney & Company (address below).

Please send all responses to: [fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)

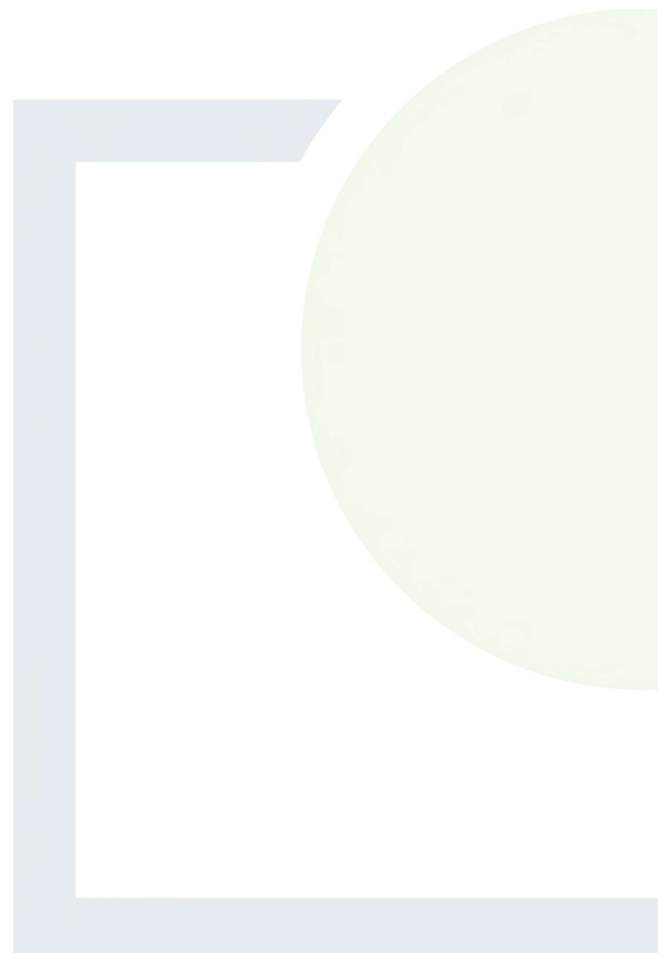
or respond by post to:  
**Fehily Timoney & Company,**  
**Core House,**  
**Pouladuff Road,**  
**County Cork**



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
& PLANNING

# APPENDIX 1

LIST OF CONSULTEES







## **Government Departments**

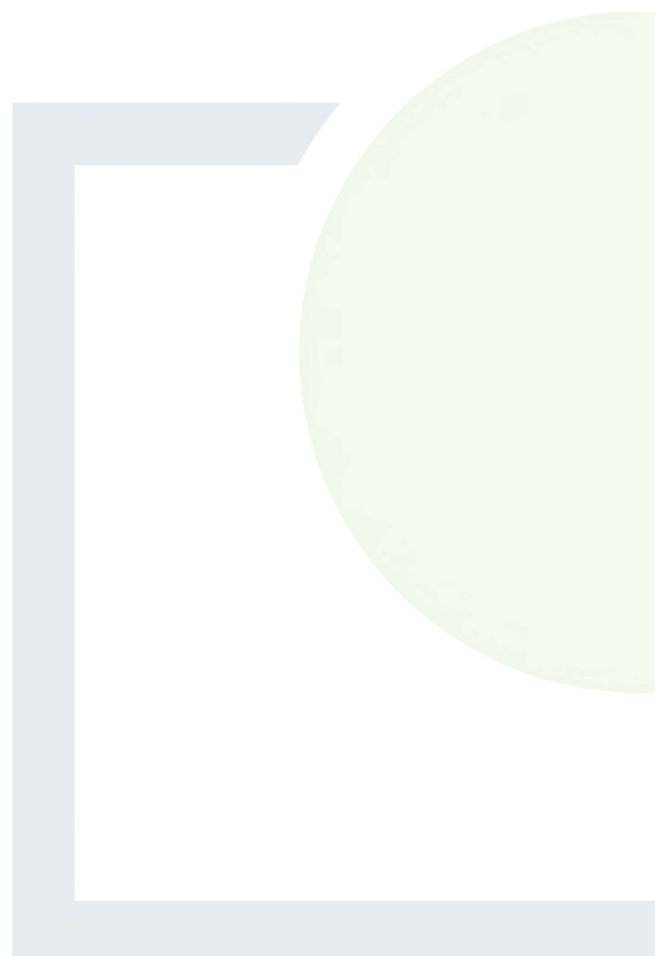
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government  
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAU)  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment  
Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport  
Department of Defence

## **Other Interested Bodies**

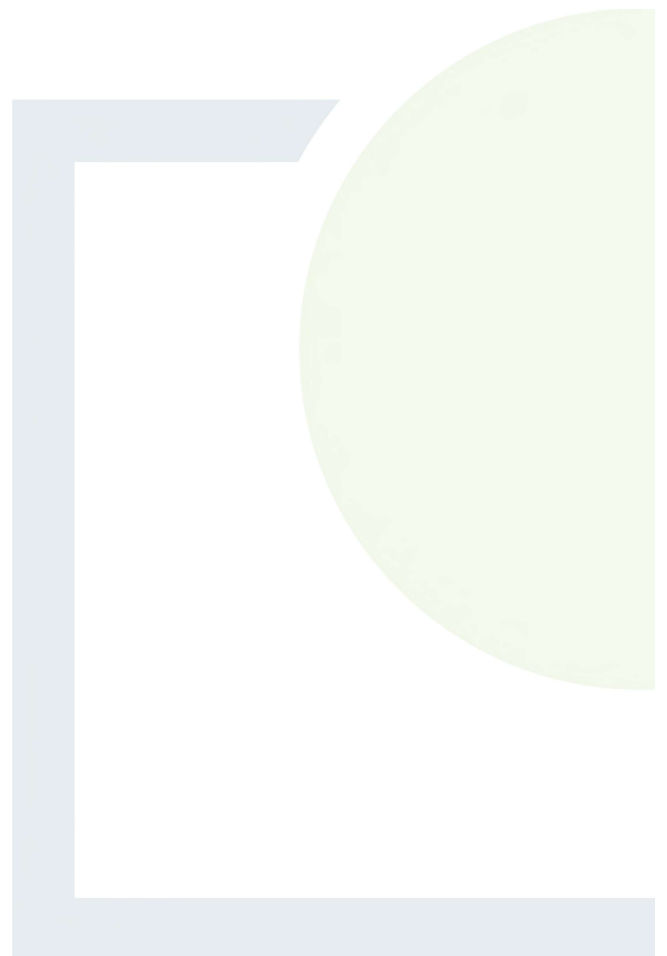
Clare County Council  
Limerick County Council  
Tipperary County Council  
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)  
The Heritage Council  
An Taisce  
An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Arts Council)  
Failte Ireland  
Health and Safety Authority  
Irish Water  
Commission for Regulation of Utilities  
National Roads Authority  
Office of Public Works  
Health Service Executive (HSE)  
Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)  
Southern Regional Assembly  
Biodiversity Ireland  
Irish Wildlife Trust  
Butterfly Conservation Ireland  
Birdwatch Ireland  
National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)  
Irish Raptor Study Group  
Irish Environmental Network  
Teagasc  
Gas Networks Ireland  
The Irish Meteorological Service (Met Eireann)  
Eirgrid  
ESB Networks  
Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland  
National Transport Authority  
Irish Wind Energy Association  
Geographical Society of Ireland  
An Garda Síochána – Killaloe  
Forestry Service  
Angling Council of Ireland  
National Monuments Service

## **Telecommunications and Aviation**

Irish Aviation Authority  
Shannon Airport  
Coonagh Airfield



Ajisko Ltd  
Eircom Ltd  
Electricity Supply Board  
Enet Telecommunications Networks Limited  
Imagine Networks Services Ltd  
Meteor Mobile Communications Limited  
Ripple Communications Ltd  
RTE Transmission Network Ltd  
Three Ireland (Hutchison) Ltd  
Treaty Radio Ltd  
Viatel Ireland Ltd  
Virgin Media Ireland Ltd (PP)  
Vodafone Ireland Ltd





**CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
& PLANNING**

**[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)**

---

**CORK OFFICE**

Core House  
Pouladuff Road,  
Cork, T12 D773,  
Ireland  
**+353 21 496 4133**

**Dublin Office**

J5 Plaza,  
North Park Business Park,  
North Road, Dublin 11, D11 PXT0,  
Ireland  
**+353 1 658 3500**

**Carlow Office**

Unit 6,  
Bagenalstown Industrial Park,  
Royal Oak Road, Muine Bheag,  
Co. Carlow, R21 XA00,  
Ireland  
**+353 59 972 3800**



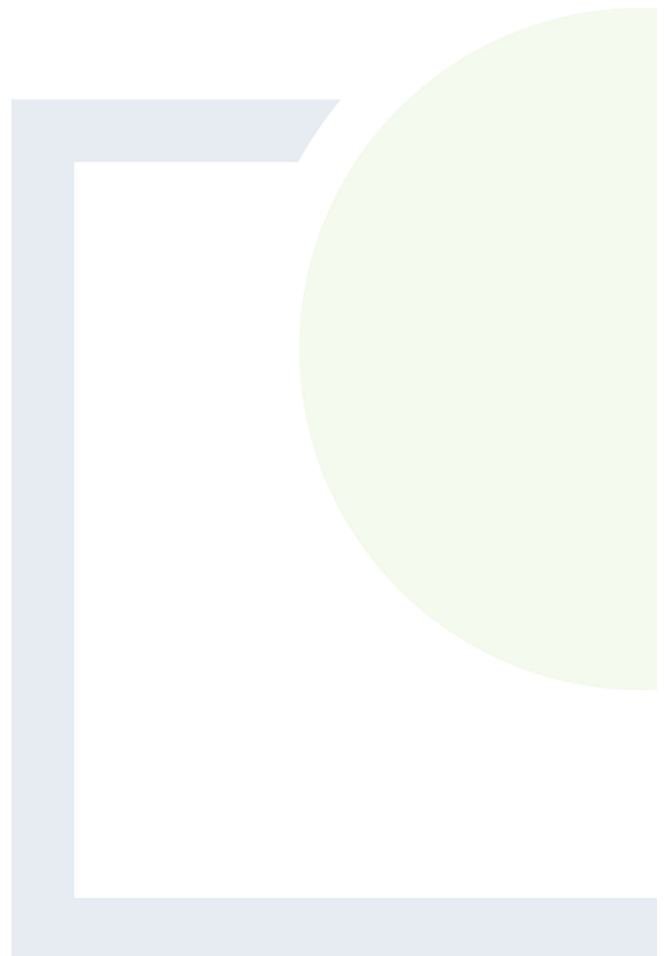




CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
& PLANNING

## APPENDIX 5.2

Responses to EIAR  
Scoping Report









COMHAIRLE | CLARE  
CONTAE AN CHLÁIR | COUNTY COUNCIL

**RWE Renewables**  
**c/o Fehily Timoney and Company**  
**Core House**  
**Pouladuff Road**  
**Cork**  
**T12 D773**

**25<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Distribution *EH*  
25 MAR 2021  
Job No: /  
Correspondence No:  
Comment:

**Re: Scope 1/2021**  
**Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm Project**  
**in the townland of Fahy Beg and adjacent townlands, Bridgetown,**  
**Co. Clare**

A Chara,

### **Introduction**

I refer to the Scoping request and EIA Scoping Document received on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021. In accordance with the requirements of Article 95 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, please see the following response.

### **Nature and Extent of Development**

It is noted from your submission, and in accordance with the provisions of Section 173 of Part X of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the subject scoping report pertains to an area on which the applicants intend to install up to 8 no. wind turbines, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, an on-site substation and compound including control buildings and associated electrical equipment, underground electrical and communication cabling, drainage and sediment controls, temporary construction compounds and tree felling.

### **Information to be contained in the Environment Impact Assessment Report, as set out under Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended**

Section 171A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, states that environmental impact assessment 'means a process —

An Roinn Pleanála  
An Stiúrthóireacht Forbairt Gheilleagrach  
Áras Contae an Chláir, Bóthar Nua, Inis, Co. an Chláir, V95 DXP2

Planning Department  
Economic Development Directorate  
Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare, V95 DXP2



( a ) consisting of —

(i) the preparation of an environmental impact assessment report by the applicant in accordance with this Act and regulations made thereunder,

(ii) the carrying out of consultations in accordance with this Act and regulations made thereunder,

(iii) the examination by the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, of —

(I) the information contained in the environmental impact assessment report,

(II) any supplementary information provided, where necessary, by the applicant in accordance with *section 172(1D)* and *(1E)* , and

(III) any relevant information received through the consultations carried out pursuant to *subparagraph (ii)* ,

(iv) the reasoned conclusion by the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, on the significant effects on the environment of the proposed development, taking into account the results of the examination carried out pursuant to *subparagraph (iii)* and, where appropriate, its own supplementary examination, and

(v) the integration of the reasoned conclusion of the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, into the decision on the proposed development, and

( b ) which includes —

(i) an examination, analysis and evaluation, carried out by the planning authority or the Board, as the case may be, in accordance with this Part and regulations made thereunder, that identifies, describes and assesses, in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of the proposed development on the following:

(I) population and human health;

(II) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive;

(III) land, soil, water, air and climate;

(IV) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape;

(V) the interaction between the factors mentioned in *clauses (I) to (IV)* , and

(ii) as regards the factors mentioned in *subparagraph (i)(I) to (V)* , such examination, analysis and evaluation of the expected direct and indirect significant effects on the environment derived from the vulnerability of the proposed development to risks of major accidents or disasters, or both major accidents and disasters, that are relevant to that development;

The Environmental Impact Statement for the project must contain the information specified in Paragraph 1 of Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended and the additional information specified in Paragraph 2 of Schedule 6 by way of explanation or amplification of the information referred to in paragraph 1. The Planning Authority advises that the following information is considered in the preparation of the EIAR:

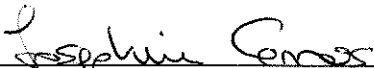
- The proposed windfarm is partially within the Lower River Shannon catchment and partially within the Shannon Estuary North catchment. As such the EIAR should take into consideration the potential for impacts on water quality in the wider catchment;
- All stages of the development should be considered in compiling information regarding the interactions of the development with surface water and groundwater. Impacts on downstream receptors shall be identified;
- With respect to the proximity to sensitive receptors the EIAR should take into account permitted dwellings that may not as yet be constructed;
- Should the presence of peat be confirmed on the site, a peat stability assessment and landslide susceptibility modelling are recommended. The model should show areas at risk of landslide based on peat depth, slope, altitude, aspect and curvature.
- The landslide susceptibility modelling in the peat stability assessment should feed into an assessment of the risk of major accidents and disasters. The EIAR must include the expected effects from the vulnerability of the project to risks of major accidents and/or disasters that are relevant to the project.
- The site area as currently outlined contains a variety of habitat types including wet grassland (GS4), conifer plantation (WD4), broadleaf woodland (WD1) and dry siliceous heath (HH1). Of particular note:

- There is a habitat identified as being of local importance within the site boundary (GS2). Target Note ID No. 101 relates and is attached for reference.
- There is habitat of national importance southwest of the delineated site area. This habitat is downstream of the proposal site. Target Note ID No. 112 relates and is attached for reference.

The EIAR must fully assess the impact of the proposal on habitats within and surrounding the site.

- Acoustics and Vibration should be considered in relation to noise and vibration arising from the proposed development. Noise should be assessed in the context of site preparation, ongoing operation and any restoration required. Baseline readings at all noise-sensitive locations (e.g. houses, schools etc) should be obtained.
- The visual impact of the windfarm must be assessed, with particular emphasis on views towards the site from the R466 and the R463 both of which are designated Scenic Routes and from Lough Derg / the River Shannon.
- The cumulative impact of the proposal and the current Carrownagowan Wind Farm application (Strategic Infrastructure Development) must be assessed.

Mise, le meas,

  
**Josephine Connors**  
**Staff Officer**  
**Planning Department**  
**Economic Development Directorate**

**From:** [plandev](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report - Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 14:02:20  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Dear Jennifer,

What planning reference does this relate to?

Kind Regards,  
Alyson

Planning & Environmental Services,  
Limerick City & County Council.

Tel: 061-556556

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 2, 2021 1:52 PM  
**To:** [plandev](#) <[planning@limerick.ie](mailto:planning@limerick.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report - Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the Organisation. Do not follow guidance, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)



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[Limerick City & County Council Disclaimer](#)





**From:** [Customer Service Desk](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** Customer Service Desk: Scoping Report - Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm : Case No: T-150695-L6V0  
CRM:051802133  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 14:02:29

---

Dear Jennifer

Thank you for your e-mail regarding "**Scoping Report - Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm**"

I have forwarded your e-mail to the Planning Section for their attention and direct reply to you. Should you wish to follow up on this case, please contact Customer Service Desk quoting reference number **T-150695-L6V0**

Regards,  
Customer Service Desk,  
Tipperary County Council,  
Civic Offices, Clonmel / Civic Offices, Nenagh,  
Co. Tipperary.

Phone: 0761 06 5000

E-mail: [customerservice@tipperarycoco.ie](mailto:customerservice@tipperarycoco.ie)

**Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann**

**Tipperary County Council**

[www.tipperarycoco.ie](http://www.tipperarycoco.ie)

[Tipperary County Council Disclaimer](#)



**From:** [Housing Euplanningregulation](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report - Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.  
**Date:** Thursday 4 March 2021 13:09:05  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[Minister for Housing, Planning & Local Government.pdf](#)  
[Fahy Beg Scoping Report.pdf](#)

---

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence attached, requesting feedback for a proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping & Consultation.

Under section 30 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage is specifically precluded from exercising power or control in relation to any particular case with which a planning authority or An Bord Pleanála is or may be concerned. As a consequence, the Department will not be making any comments in relation to this matter.

Please note that pending the transfer of remaining heritage functions to this Department, the Development Application's Unit under the remit of the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media are a prescribed consultee in respect of certain heritage matters e.g. protected structures, nature conservation etc. under the Planning and Development Regulations 2001. Their email address is [Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie](mailto:Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie)

Kind regards,

Margaret Killeen  
EU and International Planning Regulation Unit

**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**  
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 13:59  
**To:** Housing Minister <[MINISTER@housing.gov.ie](mailto:MINISTER@housing.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report - Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Dear Sir,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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**From:** [natureconservation](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 16:26:32  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[National Parks and Wildlife Service \(NPWS\).pdf](#)  
[Fahy Beg Scoping Report.pdf](#)

---

Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for contacting the National Parks and Wildlife Service.  
I have passed your email to the Development Applications Unit for information.

Yours sincerely

**Alison Joyce**

*Higher Executive Officer*

**Aonad Ainmniúchán, Seirbhís Páirceanna Náisiúnta 7 Fiadhúlra**

Designations Unit, National Parks & Wildlife Service

**An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtas Áitiúil agus Oidreacht**

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

**90 Sráid an Rí Thuaidh, Margadh na Feirme, Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 N7CV**

90 King Street North, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV

T +353 (0)1 888 3216

[www.npws.ie](http://www.npws.ie)

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm [mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 16:08  
**To:** natureconservation <natureconservation@chg.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
**Administrator**

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573

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---

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo faoi rún, chomh maith le gach comhad atá ceangailte leis, agus i gcomhair úsáid an duine nó an chórais a bhfuil sé dírithe air amháin. Má fhaigheann tú an ríomhphost seo trí bhotún, cuir scéal chugainn ag [webmaster@chg.gov.ie](mailto:webmaster@chg.gov.ie). Tá an ríomhphost seo arna sheiceáil ag scanóir víreas agus dealramh air go bhfuil sé glan.

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**From:** [Manager DAU](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Monday 19 April 2021 17:23:40  
**Attachments:** [G Pre00064-2021 Fahy Beg Wind Farm.pdf](#)

---

A Chara,

Please find attached Nature Conservation recommendations for the above mentioned planning application.

Regards  
Diarmuid

**Diarmuid Buttimer**  
*Executive Officer*

—  
**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**  
*Development Applications Unit*  
**Oifigí an Rialtais**  
*Government Offices*

**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman Y35 AP90**  
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford Y35 AP90

—  
[Diarmuid.Buttimer@housing.gov.ie](mailto:Diarmuid.Buttimer@housing.gov.ie)

\*\*\*\*\*

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

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

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**From:** [Hewitt, Cathy](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Friday 9 April 2021 11:28:17

---

Dear Eamon

The following are the comments from the Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Tel: 076-1064459, Web <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/>. A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

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

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

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

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices for 2020 are published online at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessmenteiapublicconsultationforafforestationforestroadconstructionandfellinglicences2020/>

3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 28 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decisions for 2020 are published online at:

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forestservice/publicconsultation/environmentalimpactassessment-2020registerofdecisions/>

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

- a. subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
- b. subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and

- c. the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;

and

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

Kind regards

**Cathy Hewitt**

*Executive Officer*

**An tAonad um Chomhordú Timpeallachta, An Rannóg um Athrú Aeráide agus Beartas Bithfhuinnimh,**

*Environmental Co-ordination Unit | Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy Division |*

**An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara**

*Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*

**Pailliún A, Páirc Gnó Grattan, Bóthar Átha Cliath, Port Laoise, Co Laoise, R32 K857**

Pavilion A, Grattan Business Park, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co Laois, R32 K857

T +353 (0)57 868 9915 [environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie)

[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolais san ríomhphost seo, agus in aon ceanglái leis, faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún agus le h-aghaidh an seoláí amháin. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an seoladh seo bheith faoi phribhléid profisiúnta nó dlíthiúil. Mura tusa an seoláí a bhí beartaithe leis an ríomhphost seo a fháil, tá cosc air, nó aon chuid de, a úsáid, a chóipeál, nó a scaoileadh. Má tháinig sé

chugat de bharr dearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scrios an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil.

**From:** [Jane Gilleran](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** Consultation submission  
**Date:** Tuesday 16 March 2021 11:32:45  
**Attachments:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm Consultation 12.03.2021.pdf](#)

---

Dear Jennifer,

Please find attached the submission of IFI in relation to the EIAR scoping document for the proposed Fahy Beg windfarm.

Best regards,

Jane

Jane Gilleran  
Fisheries Environmental Officer  
Inland Fisheries Ireland - Limerick

-----  
Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland

Tel (061) 300238  
Email [jane.gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:jane.gilleran@fisheriesireland.ie)  
Web [www.fisheriesireland.ie](http://www.fisheriesireland.ie)

Ashbourne Business Park, Dock Rd. Limerick. V94 NPE0

---

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D'fhéadfaí go bhfuil an ríomhphost seo agus ceangaltáin ar bith atá in éineacht leis faoi rún agus iad beartaithe d'úsáid an duine a bhfuil a s(h)eoladh air amháin. Dearcthaí nó tuairimí ar bith atá curtha in iúl ann, baineann siad leis an údar amháin, agus ní chaithfidh go n-aontaíonn Iascaigh Intíre Éireann leo. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphoist seo, ná déan rud ar bith mar gheall ar an méid atá ann, ná é a chóipeáil ná é a thaispeáint do dhuine ar bith eile. Déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir, le do thoil, má chreideann tú go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid.

---

**From:** [INFO](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Thursday 18 March 2021 16:40:42  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)

---

**Dear Ms. O'Hanlon,**

I refer to your email of 2 March 2021 regarding the above.

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

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

With respect to EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

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

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes in the vicinity of the subject development site,
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the existing national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development,
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads,
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the areas concerned. The developer should in particular have regard to any potential cumulative impacts,
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works),
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes (National Roads Authority, 2006),
- The EIAR should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes (1st Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)),



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

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

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Alban Mills**

**Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive**

**Ref No. TII21-112679**



**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 14:16  
**To:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of TII. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and are sure that the content is safe.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie) 

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**From:** [Manager DAU](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report - Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 15:09:55  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

**Our Ref: G Pre00064/2021 (Please quote in all related correspondence)**

A Chara

I acknowledge receipt of your recent consultation.

In the event of observations, you will receive a co-ordinated heritage-related response by email from Development Applications Unit (DAU).

Kind Regards

**Simon Dolan**  
**Executive Officer**

---

**An tAonad um Chosaint Suíomhanna, NPWS, Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Y35 AP90.**  
Development Applications Unit, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90

---

+353 (0)53 911 7572

[www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie) [simon.dolan@chg.gov.ie](mailto:simon.dolan@chg.gov.ie)

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm [<mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 14:01  
**To:** Manager DAU <[Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie](mailto:Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report - Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

Dear Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
**Administrator**

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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**From:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**To:** [Eamon Hutton](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 12:55:46  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)

---

Dear Mr. Hutton,

Thank you for your email and the attached Environmental Impact Assessment Report – Scoping & Consultation Request for the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm in County Clare. It is the observation of the Safety Regulation Division – Aerodromes, that even at this pre-planning stage, the applicant / their consultants should engage as soon as practicable with Shannon Airport and the IAA's Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) to undertake a preliminary screening assessment to consider whether the proposed wind farm and the associated cranes that would be utilised during its construction should be fully assessed for potential impact on instrument flight procedures, communication and navigation aids or flight checking at Shannon Airport.

Subject to the foregoing and provided no negative impacts are anticipated on Shannon Airport or any Irish Aviation Authority en-route communication, navigation and surveillance equipment, during the formal planning process, the Safety Regulation Division – Aerodromes will likely make the following general observation:

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

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

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

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

Kind Regards

Audrey Rafferty  
Corporate Affairs  
Irish Aviation Authority  
11-12 Dolier Street  
Dublin 2  
01 603 1103

=====

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The Times Building  
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Dublin 2, D02 T449,  
Ireland

Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann  
Foirgneamh na hAmanna  
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www.iaa.ie



FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Distribution **EH**

15 MAR 2021

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

Job No: **4**  
Correspondence No:  
Comment:

**Development:** RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Fahy Beg Wind Farm, located in South East County Clare, near Bridgetown. The proposed project includes lands contained within the following townlands: Fahy Beg, Fahy More North, Ballymoloney, Ballyknavin and Ballyquin More at Fahy Beg, Fahy More North, Ballymoloney, Ballyknavin and Ballyquin More. Ref: P20003LETTEHJO

Dear Eamon

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

It is the observation of the Irish Aviation Authority **Engineering Department** that Fahy Bag Wind Farm in South East Clare is within SHA ILS 24 (LOC 24) coverage area and might have an impact on ILS 24 flight check profiles.

We recommend FCSL to complete an assessment.

FCSL

Peter McSweeney [peter.mcsweeney@flight-cal.com](mailto:peter.mcsweeney@flight-cal.com)  
David Bartlett [david@flight-cal.com](mailto:david@flight-cal.com)

FCSL,  
Typhoon Business Centre,  
Oakcroft Road,  
Chessington,  
Surrey, KT9 1RH,  
United Kingdom  
Tel. +44 (0)20 8391 6880 | Fax +44 (0)20 8391 3391  
[www.flight-cal.com](http://www.flight-cal.com)

Yours sincerely

Deirdre Forrest  
Corporate Affairs

**Bord Stiúrthóirí/Board of Directors**  
Rose Hynes (Cathaoirleach/Chairman),  
Peter Kearney (Príomhfheidhmeannach/Chief Executive)  
Cian Blackwell, Marie Bradley, Ernie Donnelly,  
Gerry Lumsden, Joan McGrath, Diarmuid Ó Conghaile,  
Eimer O'Rourke

**Oifig Chláraithe:**  
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**From:** [RAFFERTY Audrey](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 23 March 2021 09:15:01  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

---

Hi Eamon

These are observation from two different IAA departments one is from our Aerodromes Department and the other is observations made by our Engineering department. This means both department have observations on this planning application and have asked for these to be sent to you.

Kind Regards

Audrey

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** 22 March 2021 16:39  
**To:** RAFFERTY Audrey <[audrey.afferty@iaa.ie](mailto:audrey.afferty@iaa.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm

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Hi Audrey,

Many thanks for your response. I have a request for clarification.

We received another response from Deirdre Forest of IAA by post (see attached letter). We are hoping to clary what IAA's preferred approach is in this instance?

Many thanks  
Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 4133  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

---

**From:** RAFFERTY Audrey <[audrey.afferty@iaa.ie](mailto:audrey.afferty@iaa.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 8 March 2021 17:44  
**To:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** Fahy Beg Wind Farm

Dear Mr. Hutton,  
Thank you for your email and the attached Environmental Impact Assessment Report –

Scoping & Consultation Request for the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm in County Clare. It is the observation of the Safety Regulation Division – Aerodromes, that even at this pre-planning stage, the applicant / their consultants should engage as soon as practicable with Shannon Airport and the IAA's Air Navigation Service Provider (ANSP) to undertake a preliminary screening assessment to consider whether the proposed wind farm and the associated cranes that would be utilised during its construction should be fully assessed for potential impact on instrument flight procedures, communication and navigation aids or flight checking at Shannon Airport.

Subject to the foregoing and provided no negative impacts are anticipated on Shannon Airport or any Irish Aviation Authority en-route communication, navigation and surveillance equipment, during the formal planning process, the Safety Regulation Division – Aerodromes will likely make the following general observation:

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

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

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

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

Kind Regards

Audrey Rafferty  
Corporate Affairs  
Irish Aviation Authority  
11-12 Dolier Street  
Dublin 2  
01 603 1103

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**From:** [Kieran O'Regan](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Ali Robinson](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 13 April 2021 15:29:52  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[IrishWaterResponse\\_EIAR\\_Fahy Beg\\_Clare.pdf](#)

---

Dear Mr Hutton,

Please find attached Irish Waters response to your EIAR scoping request for the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm Development in Co. Clare.

Kind regards,

Kieran

**Kieran O'Regan** *B.A, MPlan*  
*Development Management Planning*

**Uisce Éireann**

Teach na hAbhann Móire, Páirc Ghnó Mhala, Mala, Contae Chorcaí, Éire  
**Irish Water**  
Blackwater House, Mallow Business Park, Mallow, County Cork, Ireland

**P:** [+353 22 52285](tel:+3532252285)  
**E:** [koregan@water.ie](mailto:koregan@water.ie)  
[www.water.ie](http://www.water.ie)

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 15:55  
**To:** Planning <[Planning@water.ie](mailto:Planning@water.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573

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Thank you for your attention.

Tá an fhaisnéis á seachadadh dírithe ar an duine nó ar an eintiteas chuig a bhfuil sí seolta amháin agus féadfar ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid de. Tá aon athsheachadadh nó scaipeadh den fhaisnéis, aon athbhreithniú ar nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó aon ghníomh a dhéantar ag brath ar an bhfaisnéis seo ag daoine nó ag eintitis nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis seo, toirimiscthe agus féadfar é a bheith neamhdhleathach. Níl Uisce Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Ní ghlacann Uisce Éireann le haon dliteanas faoi ghnímh nó faoi iarmhairtí bunaithe ar úsáid thoirimiscthe na faisnéise seo. Níl Uisce Éireann faoi dhliteanas maidir le seachadadh ceart agus iomlán na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo nó maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann léi. Má fuair tú an teachtaireacht seo in earráid, más é do thoil é, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scrios an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. Féadfar ríomhphost a bheith soghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasaithe neamhúdaráithe. Ní ghlacann Uisce Éireann le haon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo i ndiaidh é a sheoladh nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí

déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin. Más é do thoil é, tabhair faoi deara chomh maith go bhféadfar monatóireacht a dhéanamh ar theachtairreachtaí chuig nó ó Uisce Éireann chun comhlíonadh le polasaithe agus le caighdeáin Uisce Éireann a chinntiú agus chun ár ngnó a chosaint. Fochuideachta gníomhaíochta de chuid Eirvia is ea Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, de bhun fhorálacha an tAcht um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2013, a bhfuil a bpríomh ionad gnó ag 24-26 Teach Colvill, Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

**From:** [Defence Property Management Planning](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Gareth O'Flaherty \(Defence\)](#); [Sarah Zacharia \(Defence\)](#)  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.  
**Date:** Thursday 4 March 2021 10:19:46  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[Minister for Defence.pdf](#)  
[Fahy Beg Scoping Report.pdf](#)

---

Dear Ms. O'Hanlon,

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail and attached documentation.

We will consult with our Military colleagues and revert in due course.

Best regards

Don

**Don Watchorn**

*Property Management Branch*

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

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

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

T +353 (0)45 492199

E-mail [don.watchorn@defence.ie](mailto:don.watchorn@defence.ie)

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 17:09

**To:** Defence Info <[info@defence.ie](mailto:info@defence.ie)>

**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Dear Sir,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon

for Eamon Hutton

**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
**Administrator**

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  





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**From:** [Defence Property Management Planning](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Gareth O'Flaherty \(Defence\)](#); [Sarah Zacharia \(Defence\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.  
**Date:** Monday 22 March 2021 14:45:27  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)

---

Dear Ms. O'Hanlon,

Following consultations with our Air Corps colleagues at Casement Aerodrome, The Department of Defence would like to make the following observations on the proposed Fahy Beg Windfarm in Co. Clare:

- 1. All turbines or tall structures, should be illuminated by high intensity obstacle lights that will allow the hazard be identified and avoided by aircraft in flight.*
- 2. Obstruction lights used should be incandescent or of a type visible to Night Vision Equipment. Obstruction lighting fitted to obstacles must emit light at the near Infra-Red (IR) range of the electromagnetic spectrum specifically at or near 850nanometres (nm) of wavelength. Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light.*
- 3. Due to the nature of flight operations by the Irish Air Corps the above mentioned are separate to ICAO and IAA lighting requirements.*

Please contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Best regards

Don  
**Don Watchorn**

*Property Management Branch*

**An Roinn Cosanta**  
*Department of Defence*

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

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

T +353 (0)45 492199

E-mail [don.watchorn@defence.ie](mailto:don.watchorn@defence.ie)

---

**From:** Defence Property Management Planning  
**Sent:** Thursday 4 March 2021 10:18  
**To:** 'fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie' <fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>  
**Cc:** Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence) <Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie>; Sarah Zacharia (Defence) <Sarah.Zacharia@defence.ie>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Dear Ms. O'Hanlon,

We wish to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail and attached documentation.

We will consult with our Military colleagues and revert in due course.

Best regards

Don

**Don Watchorn**

*Property Management Branch*

**An Roinn Cosanta**

*Department of Defence*

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

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

T +353 (0)45 492199

E-mail [don.watchorn@defence.ie](mailto:don.watchorn@defence.ie)

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 17:09

**To:** Defence Info <[info@defence.ie](mailto:info@defence.ie)>

**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Dear Sir,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
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**From:** [Planning CRU](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Planning CRU](#)  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Wednesday 3 March 2021 08:05:54  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[Commission for Regulation of Utilities.pdf](#)  
[Fahy Beg Scoping Report.pdf](#)

---

Good morning,

We would like to confirm receipt of your correspondence regarding the Fahy Bag Wind Farm scoping report.

Please note we have a new email address for receiving planning/EIA notifications which is: [planning@cru.ie](mailto:planning@cru.ie). Can you please update your records accordingly.

Kind regards,  
Natasha



### Commission for Regulation of Utilities

p: +353 (0)1 4000800

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

w: [www.cru.ie](http://www.cru.ie) e: [planning@cru.ie](mailto:planning@cru.ie)

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**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** 02 March 2021 15:57  
**To:** Info CRU <[info@cru.ie](mailto:info@cru.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

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---

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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**From:** [Trish Smullen](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Clare Glanville](#); [John Butler](#)  
**Subject:** Re: EIS 21/62 - Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Co Clare  
**Date:** Friday 12 March 2021 10:21:13  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[21\\_62 Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm Co. Clare.pdf](#)

---

Dear Eamonn,

With reference to your letter dated 01 March 2021, regarding the Environmental Scoping Report for the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Co. Clare, please find attached response from Geological Survey Ireland.?

We are carrying out a review of our responses and would welcome your feedback (by direct email to [clare.glanville@gsi.ie](mailto:clare.glanville@gsi.ie)). Please take a moment to answer the three short questions below:

Did this response address your query?  
Was the content easily understandable?  
Was there anything new to you in the content?

Your responses will be used for internal information purposes only.???

If you have any further queries or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me ([Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie](mailto:Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie)), or my colleague Clare Glanville ([Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie](mailto:Clare.Glanville@gsi.ie)).

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen  
Geological Survey Ireland???  
?

---

**From:** John Butler  
**Sent:** 03 March 2021 10:08  
**To:** Clare Glanville; Sophie O'Connor; Brian McConnell; Monica Lee; Taly Hunter Williams; Sean Cullen; Charise McKeon; Jim Hodgson; Eoin McGrath; Trish Smullen  
**Subject:** EIS 21/62 - Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Co Clare

[EIS 21/62](#)

[Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Co Clare. Request for observations by Fehily Timoney & Company. Letter and report is enclosed.](#)

Regards,



John

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 17:08  
**To:** Clare Glanville <Clare.Glanville@decc.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

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Dear Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

**From:** [Alice Byrne Kelly](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.  
**Date:** Wednesday 3 March 2021 08:00:27  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[Southern Regional Assembly.pdf](#)  
[Fahy Beg Scoping Report.pdf](#)

---

Good morning,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the below correspondence.

This correspondence has been forwarded to the planning division for review,

Le meas,

**Alice Byrne Kelly**  
**Clerical Officer**  
**Corporate & Planning**  
**Southern Regional Assembly**

☎ **Phone:** +353 51 860700/701  
✉ **Post:** Assembly House, O'Connell Street, Waterford, X91F8PC  
💻 **eMail:** [abyrnekelly@southernassembly.ie](mailto:abyrnekelly@southernassembly.ie)  
**Website:** [www.southernassembly.ie](http://www.southernassembly.ie)



---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 16:02  
**To:** info <[info@southernassembly.ie](mailto:info@southernassembly.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon

for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 9573

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**From:** [info](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 16:32:36  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Hi Jennifer,

Thanks for your email. The National Biodiversity Data Centre do not have the capacity to provide feedback on projects such as these.

All the best,  
Niamh.

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 16:04  
**To:** info <[info@biodiversityireland.ie](mailto:info@biodiversityireland.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
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**From:** [esbnetworks@esb.ie](mailto:esbnetworks@esb.ie)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm [#171324]  
**Date:** Thursday 4 March 2021 14:39:10  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)

---



Good Afternoon Jennifer

Thank you for your email.

I have forwarded this to the relevant office in Roscrea for follow up,

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

Kind regards,

Jacqui

**ESB Networks Customer Care | T: 1800372757 | +353 21 2386555 | F: +353 21 4844261 |**  
[www.esbnetworks.ie](http://www.esbnetworks.ie)

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From: fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie  
Date: 02/03/2021 04:21 PM  
To: esbnetworks@esb.ie  
Subject: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

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Dear Sir or Madam,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon

for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 9573

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\* \* \* \* \*

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon chomhad a ghabhann leis rúnda agus ceaptha le haghaidh úsáide an té nó an aonáin ar seoladh chuige iad agus na húsáide sin amháin. Is tuairimí nó dearcthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearcthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearcthaí ESB.  
Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí carráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir. Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

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\* \* \* \* \*

**From:** [Paul Hennessy](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Cathal MacCristail -IAA](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [External] Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Monday 8 March 2021 13:01:46  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

---

Hi Eamon,

Please see a list of general comments from Shannon Airport Authority in respect of the proposed Fahy beg Wind Farm, Bridgetown, Co. Clare

- The siting of wind turbines at this location may have implications for the operations of the communication, navigation and surveillance systems used by Air Traffic Control for the separation and safety of aircraft. The geographical siting of these turbines may also have implications for the flight paths of aircraft.
- Regard must be had by the applicant to the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) *Obstacles to Aircraft in Flight Order, 2005 (S.I. No. 215 of 2005)*, as amended, which specifies the criteria used to determine whether any object anywhere in the State is deemed to be an obstacle affecting aircraft operations. Also, in order to assure the safety and efficiency of aircraft operations in the vicinity of airports, the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) has defined a volume of air space above which new objects are not permitted to interfere.
- Shannon Airport Authority DAC has specific responsibility to define the airspace around its aerodrome which must be maintained free from obstacles to permit the intended aircraft operations at the aerodrome to be conducted safely and to prevent the aerodrome from becoming unusable by the growth of obstacles around it. This is achieved by establishing a series of obstacle limitation surfaces (OLS) that define the limits to which objects (temporary or permanent) may project into the airspace. These surfaces may extend many kilometres outwards from the active runway strip at the aerodrome.

The potential effects of the 8 no. wind turbine locations (based on GPS data for individual turbine locations plus Above Mean Sea Level (AMSL) data and stated turbine design heights (180M)) on the OLS will have to be assessed by SAA once an application is made in order to indicate any potential effects on the Airport OLS.
- The applicant should consider the inclusion of a – *Nav Aids Impact Assessment* in the EIAR and any conclusions arising. The NAVAIDS ATM dept. within the IAA have stated to us that during the flight checking of Nav aids which are completed on their behalf by a company called FCSL, that the flight checkers fly unusual profiles and FCSL have their own specific rules regarding obstacle clearance for flight checking.

For this reason, the IAA have stated that FCSL are the only approved company who can complete a Nav aids impact assessment. FCSL- Flight



Calibration Service Ltd.: <http://www.flight-cal.com/>

The question to ask essentially is whether in their opinion, the proposed development affects their flight calibration/ IFP procedure validation activity.

- The PAN OPS dept. within the IAA are concerned with airspace and instrument flight procedure (IFP) matters and they may have concerns that due to the multiple site elevations (8 no.) associated with the project, which when combined with turbine elevations of 180M blade tip heights may infringe the maximum elevation allowed. On this basis, their position will be that as a minimum an IFP opinion is required, from an approved IFPD provider (e.g. ASAP, Cyrrus, Osprey), which in turn may require a full IFP assessment.
- Finally, the applicant if successful must apply the following standard: *Chapter Q (Visual Aids for Denoting Obstacles)* of the Certification Specifications contained within the *EASA Easy Access Rules for Aerodromes CS ADR-DSN.Q.851 Marking and Lighting of wind turbines* (Regulation (EU) No. 139/2014) to the wind turbine development.

We note that the IAA are included as a consultee within the scoping document and we will support their concerns also.

If you require any additional feedback please do not hesitate to contact me.

Brgds,

Paul

**Paul Hennessy**

**Safety Compliance & Environment Manager**

**T** +353 (0) 61 712471

**M** +353 (0) 87 2382453

**E** [paul.hennessy@shannonairport.ie](mailto:paul.hennessy@shannonairport.ie)

**W** [shannonairport.ie](http://shannonairport.ie)

Shannon Airport,  
Co. Clare, Ireland.  
V14 EEO6

**shannon** AIRPORT

PART OF **shannon** GROUP



---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** 02 March 2021 17:11  
**To:** Pat Foley <pat.foley@shannonairport.ie>; Paul Hennessy  
<paul.hennessy@shannonairport.ie>; feedback@shannonairport.com  
**Subject:** [External] Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

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Dear Sirs,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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Shannon Airport Authority DAC. Registered office: Shannon Airport, County Clare, Registered Number: 391054 Ireland, V14 EE06 CGA Údarás Aerfort na Sionainne. Oifig Chláraithe: Aerfort na Sionainne, Contae

an Chláir, Uimhir Chláraithe: 391054 Eire, V14 EE06 DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this email and in any attachment(s) is confidential and may contain legally privileged material. It is intended solely for the attention and use of the intended Recipient(s). If you are not the intended recipient(s) of this email any review, retransmission, disclosure, dissemination or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it or its attachment(s) is prohibited and may be unlawful. If you believe that you have received this email in error, please contact the sender and remove the email from your computer system. Unless expressly stated, this email is not intended to create any contractual relationship. If this email is not sent in the course of the senders employment or fulfilment of his/her duties to Shannon Airport Authority, Shannon Airport Authority accepts no liability whatsoever for the content of this message or any attachment(s). Please refer any queries to [infosec@shannonairport.ie](mailto:infosec@shannonairport.ie) SÉANADH: Is eolas faoi rún gach eolas atá sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon cheangaltán/cheangaltáin a bheadh leis agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar a bheadh faoi phribhléid dlí a bheith mar chuid de. Is don té chuig a seoltar an ríomhphost atá an ríomhphost seo beartaithe agus d'úsáid an té sin amháin. Tá cosc ar dhuine ar bith seachas an té chuig a raibh sé beartaithe, an ríomhphost seo a athbheithniú, a athsheoladh, a scaipeadh nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as, nó gníomh a ghlacadh bunaithe air nó ar an gceangaltán/na ceangaltáin agus d'fhéadfadh sin a bheith in aghaidh an dlí. Más dóigh leat go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le do thoil leis an té a sheol é agus scrios an ríomhphost de do chóras ríomhaireachta. Mura bhfuil sé ráite go sonrach, ní ionann an ríomhphost seo agus aon ghaol conarthach. Mura seoltar an ríomhphost seo mar chuid d'fhostaíocht an tseoltóra nó dá chuid dualgas i leith Údarás Aerfort na Sionainne, ní ghlacann Údarás Aerfort na Sionainne aon fhreagracht maidir le hábhar na teachtaireachta ná aon cheangaltán/cheangaltáin. Seol fiosruithe ar bith chuig [infosec@shannonairport.ie](mailto:infosec@shannonairport.ie)

**From:** [Denis Ahern](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 17:08:31  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Hi Jennifer,

Nothing of concern for Ajisko Ltd. (IMS) here.

Thanks,  
Denis

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 17:07  
**To:** Denis Ahern <denis.ahern@imedia.ie>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

Dear Sir,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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**From:** [Denis Ahern](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 17:08:31  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi Jennifer,

Nothing of concern for Ajisko Ltd. (IMS) here.

Thanks,  
Denis

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 17:07  
**To:** Denis Ahern <denis.ahern@imedia.ie>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

Dear Sir,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

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**From:** [Peter O'Brien](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Friday 5 March 2021 11:26:40  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Hi Eamon,

This won't affect our current network,

Regards,  
Peter

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday, March 5, 2021 10:50 AM  
**To:** Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

Greetings,

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development in south east County Clare consisting of 8 no. wind turbines. As part of the telecommunications impact assessment we have been prompted to contact telecommunications companies operating in the area of the project site.

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with telecommunications and broadband services if built in proximity to or between links. I have listed the coordinates (ITM) of the turbines below and I have attached a KMZ file which can be opened in google earth.

I would appreciate it if you would review the turbine locations and notify us if there are any foreseeable impacts in relation to your company's infrastructure.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates			
	X	Y	Latitude	Longitude
T1	562986	670604	52.78518089978231	-8.548700580599327
T2	563203	670292	52.78239166984966	-8.545448838848365
T3	563773	669993	52.77974297701307	-8.5369669527551
T4	563811	669603	52.77624044007123	-8.536360642313054
T5	563936	670549	52.784750875574964	-8.534612269824708
T6	564235	670101	52.78074440719779	-8.530131172733055
T7	564565	670620	52.78543062232799	-8.525296097375115
T8	564669	670260	52.782201970978896	-8.5237156030248

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

---

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

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**From:** [Paul Brunel](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Ronnie O'Neill](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.  
**Date:** Wednesday 3 March 2021 11:38:46  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Hi Jennifer,  
Imagine Group acknowledge receipt of this scoping report.

Kind Regards,

Paul Brunel.  
Transmission Planning.  
Imagine Group.  
Ph: 086 388 1962  
**imagine**

**t.** +353 1 437 5000

**m.** +353 863832470

**w.** [imagine.ie](http://imagine.ie)

Imagine  
Sandyford Business Centre

Blackthorn Road, Sandyford, D18 AW89



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**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 2 March 2021 17:02  
**To:** Ronnie O'Neill <[Ronnie.ONeill@imaginegroup.ie](mailto:Ronnie.ONeill@imaginegroup.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Dear Sir,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.



Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
**Administrator**

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
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**From:** [Paul Marron](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#); [John Bagnall](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Friday 5 March 2021 12:22:22  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[426d12e7-483a-404d-a0fb-9ababfa2d1f3.png](#)  
[e1f9314b-818f-44bb-a649-70e2493ead85.png](#)  
[a5075b8e-9c47-440b-8080-d0e557dfb781.png](#)  
[ba74a99a-ebf8-4a8f-8935-0fe86cb1d36f.png](#)  
[0a10f1f1-fe79-461a-844d-dc5a67557d4b.png](#)  
[Fahy Beg Wind Farm Preliminary Layout.kmz](#)

---

Hi Eamon,

I'm going to forward your request to my colleague John Bagnall (copied) who looks after wind farm analysis for eir mobile.

Thanks,

Paul

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fahy Beg Windfarm** <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>

Date: Fri, 5 Mar 2021 at 10:51

Subject: FW: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

To: [Paul.Marron@eir.ie](mailto:Paul.Marron@eir.ie) <[Paul.Marron@eir.ie](mailto:Paul.Marron@eir.ie)>

Greetings,

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development in south east County Clare consisting of 8 no. wind turbines. As part of the telecommunications impact assessment we have been prompted to contact telecommunications companies operating in the area of the project site.

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with telecommunications and broadband services if built in proximity to or between links. I have listed the coordinates (ITM) of the turbines below and I have attached a KMZ file which can be opened in google earth.

I would appreciate it if you would review the turbine locations and notify us if there are any foreseeable impacts in relation to your company's infrastructure.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates			
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T2	563203	670292	52.78239166984966	-8.545448838848365
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T4	563811	669603	52.77624044007123	-8.536360642313054

T5	563936	670549	52.784750875574964	-8.534612269824708
T6	564235	670101	52.78074440719779	-8.530131172733055
T7	564565	670620	52.78543062232799	-8.525296097375115
T8	564669	670260	52.782201970978896	-8.5237156030248

Kind regards,

Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

**Fehily Timoney and Company**

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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--

**Paul Marron**

Transmission Engineer

Eir Mobile Networks

2022 Bianconi Ave, Citywest, Dublin 24.

[www.eir.ie](http://www.eir.ie)

**Mobile:** 0876548499 | **Email:** [paul.marron@eir.ie](mailto:paul.marron@eir.ie)

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---

**From:** [John Bagnall](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Mobile Networks TXN](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Friday 5 March 2021 09:37:46  
**Attachments:** [image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[image.png](#)

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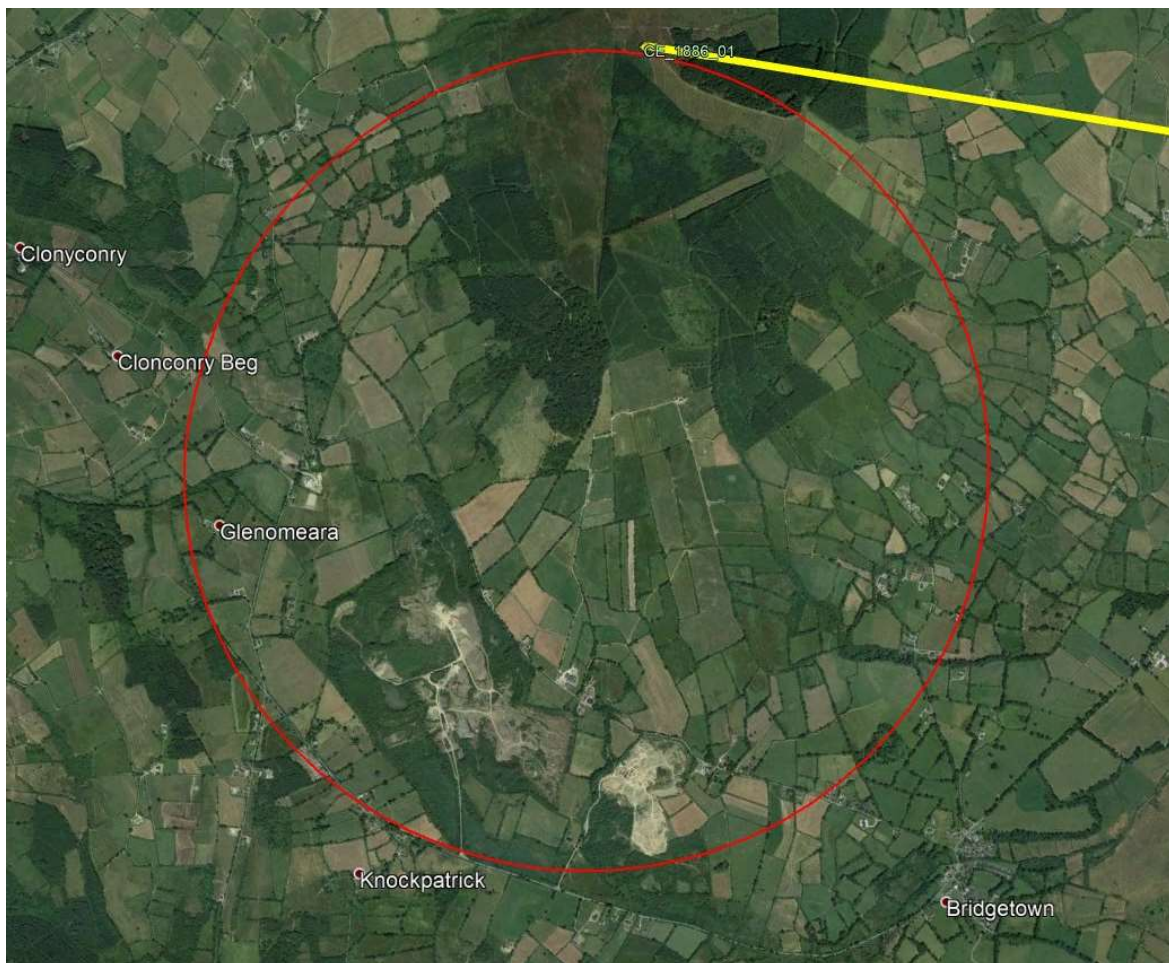
Hi Jennifer,

We have one transmission site just outside your site boundary but it shouldn't be at risk with your current turbine placement, if this changes please send on for re analysis

Please keep sending future windfarm development analysis and large infrastructure project requests to [MobileNetworksTXN@eir.ie](mailto:MobileNetworksTXN@eir.ie) for Eir Mobile (formerly Meteor) network analysis.

Kind regards,

 **John Bagnall**  
Transmission Design & Engineering  
M: +353 85 1053746  
E: [john.bagnall@eir.ie](mailto:john.bagnall@eir.ie)  
Address: EirCode - D24 HX03



On Tue, 2 Mar 2021 at 17:09, Paul Marron <[paul.marron@eir.ie](mailto:paul.marron@eir.ie)> wrote:

Hi Jennifer,  
I'm going to forward your request to my colleague John Bagnall who performs the wind farm analysis for eir mobile transmission.  
Regards,  
Paul

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fahy Beg Windfarm** <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
Date: Tue, 2 Mar 2021 at 17:01  
Subject: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
To: [Paul.Marron@eir.ie](mailto:Paul.Marron@eir.ie) <[Paul.Marron@eir.ie](mailto:Paul.Marron@eir.ie)>

Dear Sir,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 9573

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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--

**Paul Marron**

Transmission Engineer

Eir Mobile Networks

2022 Bianconi Ave, Citywest, Dublin 24.

[www.eir.ie](http://www.eir.ie)

Mobile: 0876548499 | Email: [paul.marron@eir.ie](mailto:paul.marron@eir.ie)

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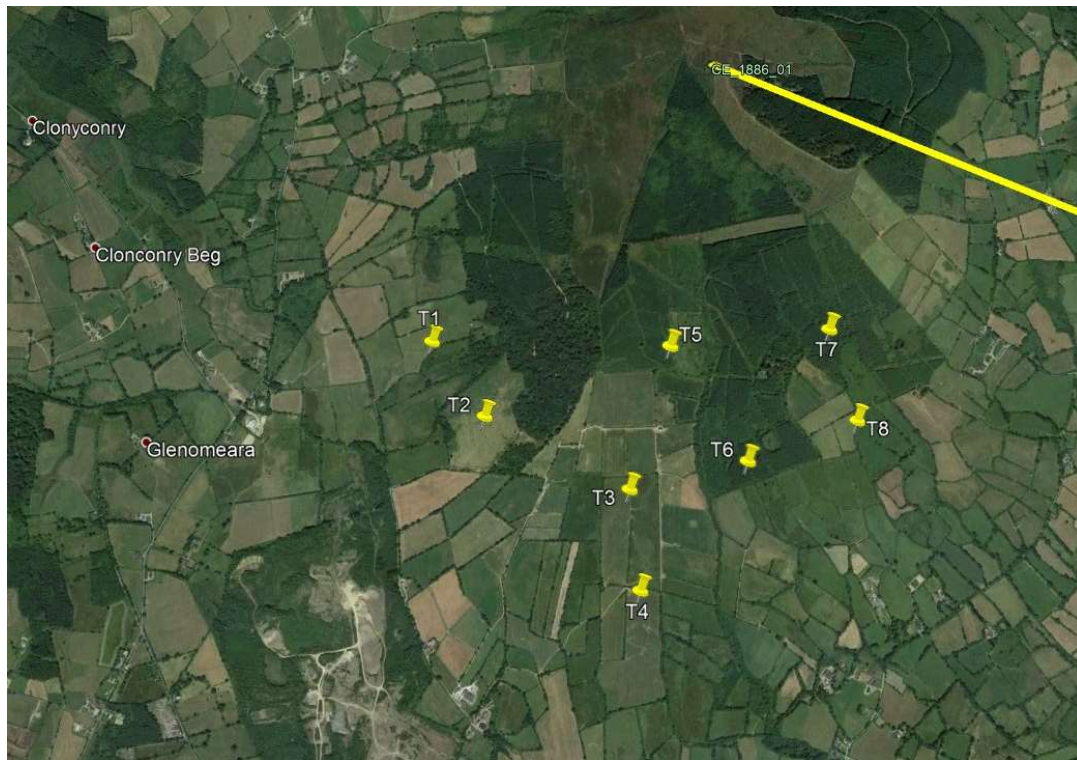
**From:** [John Bagnall](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Mobile Networks TXN](#)  
**Subject:** Re: FW: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Friday 19 March 2021 08:35:42  
**Attachments:** [image004.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[426d12e7-483a-404d-a0fb-9ababfa2d1f3.png](#)  
[e1f9314b-818f-44bb-a649-70e2493ead85.png](#)  
[a5075b8e-9c47-440b-8080-d0e557dfb781.png](#)  
[ba74a99a-ebf8-4a8f-8935-0fe86cb1d36f.png](#)  
[0a10f1f1-fe79-461a-844d-dc5a67557d4b.png](#)  
[image.png](#)

---

Hi Eamon,

We have no transmission services that will be affected by this proposed wind farm study area.

Please keep sending future windfarm development analysis and large infrastructure project requests to [MobileNetworksTXN@eir.ie](mailto:MobileNetworksTXN@eir.ie) for Eir Mobile (formerly Meteor) network analysis.



Kind regards,



**John Bagnall**  
Transmission Design & Engineering

**M:** +353 85 1053746

**E:** [john.bagnall@eir.ie](mailto:john.bagnall@eir.ie)

Address: EirCode - D24 HX03

On Fri, 5 Mar 2021 at 12:22, Paul Marron <[paul.marron@eir.ie](mailto:paul.marron@eir.ie)> wrote:

Hi Eamon,

I'm going to forward your request to my colleague John Bagnall (copied) who looks after wind farm analysis for eir mobile.

Thanks,

Paul

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Fahy Beg Windfarm** <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>

Date: Fri, 5 Mar 2021 at 10:51

Subject: FW: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

To: [Paul.Marron@eir.ie](mailto:Paul.Marron@eir.ie) <[Paul.Marron@eir.ie](mailto:Paul.Marron@eir.ie)>

Greetings,

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development in south east County Clare consisting of 8 no. wind turbines. As part of the telecommunications impact assessment we have been prompted to contact telecommunications companies operating in the area of the project site.

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with telecommunications and broadband services if built in proximity to or between links. I have listed the coordinates (ITM) of the turbines below and I have attached a KMZ file which can be opened in google earth.

I would appreciate it if you would review the turbine locations and notify us if there are any foreseeable impacts in relation to your company's infrastructure.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates			
	X	Y	Latitude	Longitude
T1	562986	670604	52.78518089978231	-8.548700580599327
T2	563203	670292	52.78239166984966	-8.545448838848365
T3	563773	669993	52.77974297701307	-8.5369669527551
T4	563811	669603	52.77624044007123	-8.536360642313054
T5	563936	670549	52.784750875574964	-8.534612269824708
T6	564235	670101	52.78074440719779	-8.530131172733055
T7	564565	670620	52.78543062232799	-8.525296097375115
T8	564669	670260	52.782201970978896	-8.5237156030248

Kind regards,

Eamon Hutton

**Eamon Hutton**





## Project Planner

---

### Fehily Timoney and Company

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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--

**Paul Marron**

Transmission Engineer

Eir Mobile Networks

2022 Bianconi Ave, Citywest, Dublin 24.

[www.eir.ie](http://www.eir.ie)

Mobile: 0876548499 | Email: [paul.marron@eir.ie](mailto:paul.marron@eir.ie)

---

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---

**From:** [Matthew Craig](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [windfarms@rte.ie](mailto:windfarms@rte.ie); [Johnny Evans](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
**Date:** Wednesday 3 March 2021 14:30:08  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Hi Jennifer,

The proposed windfarm at Fahy Beg will not have any impact in our fixed linking as the nearest path is 3km away from T7.

There is however a risk of interference to DTT viewers receiving from our site at Woodcock Hill. We would therefore ask that a protocol be signed between 2rn and the developer should the site go ahead.

Regards

**Matthew Craig**

Project Engineer

Projects and Coverage Planning

2RN

Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland

D24 WK28

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261

Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

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**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** 02 March 2021 16:58  
**To:** Johnny Evans <[Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie](mailto:Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie)>  
**Subject:** Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

Dear Sir,

Please find Scoping Report regarding the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Yours sincerely,

Jennifer O'Hanlon  
for Eamon Hutton



**Jennifer O'Hanlon**  
Administrator

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9573

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**From:** [Eamon Hutton](#)  
**To:** [Alister Cole](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 10:41:46  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[46e0a718-92e5-48e0-b4ba-10da28aa3212.png](#)

Hi Alister,

I have added coordinates to the table in the email below including Irish Transverse Mercator. The proposed turbines will be up to 180m in height.

I believe Kevin from AI bridges was in touch this morning. He will be continuing the assessment and consultation.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

---

**From:** Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 09:49  
**To:** Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

Hi Eamon,

Would you please be able to supply the turbine coordinates in Irish grid?, also could you please advise on the structure height and rotor diameter.

Best regards,

Alister



Alister Cole  
Transmission Engineer

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

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** 05 March 2021 10:53  
**To:** Alister Cole <Alister.Cole1@three.ie>  
**Subject:** Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

**CAUTION!** External Email.

Greetings,

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development in south east County Clare consisting of 8 no. wind turbines. As part of the telecommunications impact assessment we have been prompted to contact telecommunications companies operating in the area of the project site.

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with telecommunications and broadband services if built in proximity to or between links. I have listed the coordinates (ITM) of the turbines below and I have attached a KMZ file which can be opened in Google Earth.

I would appreciate it if you would review the turbine locations and notify us if there are any foreseeable impacts in relation to your company's infrastructure.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates						Grid ref.
	X	Y	Latitude	Longitude	X (eastings)	Y (northings)	
T1	562986	670604	52.78518089978231	-8.548700580599327	163032	170573	R 63032 70573
T2	563203	670292	52.78239166984966	-8.545448838848365	163249	170261	R 63249 70261
T3	563773	669993	52.77974297701307	-8.5369669527551	163819	169962	R 63819 69962
T4	563811	669603	52.77624044007123	-8.536360642313054	163857	169572	R 63857 69572
T5	563936	670549	52.784750875574964	-8.534612269824708	163982	170518	R 63982 70518
T6	564235	670101	52.78074440719779	-8.530131172733055	164281	170070	R 64281 70070
T7	564565	670620	52.78543062232799	-8.525296097375115	164611	170589	R 64611 70589
T8	564669	670260	52.782201970978896	-8.5237156030248	164715	170229	R 64715 70229

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner  
Fehily Timoney and Company



Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 4133  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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**From:** [Kevin Hayes](#)  
**To:** [Alister.Cole1@three.ie](mailto:Alister.Cole1@three.ie)  
**Cc:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#); [AI Bridges - Engineering](#); [David McGrath](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 09:53:56  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)

---

Hello Alister,

I am following up in relation to the email below that was sent to you last week.

We are currently working with Fehilly Timoney & Co on assessing the potential impacts of the proposed wind farm development on the Three Ireland network.

We have already conducted an initial EMI analysis with yourselves last year, see below. We are now in a position to conduct a detailed 3D analysis of the potential impacts based on turbine locations provided below

We hope to revert to you today with the results of our analysis.

Three Ireland provided the following email response to consultations.

*"I've reviewed the proposed Fahybeg Windfarm development on behalf of the 3 Transmission network. We have 1 link that traverses the development area ...*

Site A	X	Y	Site B	X	Y	Band	Dish Height A	Dish Height B
Ardnacrusha Replacement	158643	161530	VF Lackareagh (Glenagall)	164162	171670	18	30	30



Best Regards,  
Kevin Hayes,

Ai Bridges Ltd.,  
...Total Communications Solutions...  
UNIT 9, BLOCK B,  
Quin Rd. Business Park,  
Ennis, Co. Clare,

Ireland.

Tel : [+353 65 6848768](tel:+353656848768)

Mob : [+353 86 1084703](tel:+353861084703)

FAX : [+353 65 6848769](tel:+353656848769)

Email : [khayes@aibridges.ie](mailto:khayes@aibridges.ie)

Web : [www.aibridges.ie](http://www.aibridges.ie)

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm [mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 05 March 2021 10:53  
**To:** Alister.Cole1@three.ie  
**Subject:** Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

Greetings,

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development in south east County Clare consisting of 8 no. wind turbines. As part of the telecommunications impact assessment we have been prompted to contact telecommunications companies operating in the area of the project site.

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with telecommunications and broadband services if built in proximity to or between links. I have listed the coordinates (ITM) of the turbines below and I have attached a KMZ file which can be opened in google earth.

I would appreciate it if you would review the turbine locations and notify us if there are any foreseeable impacts in relation to your company's infrastructure.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates		Latitude	Longitude
	X	Y		
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T7	564565	670620	52.78543062232799	-8.525296097375115
T8	564669	670260	52.782201970978896	-8.5237156030248

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 4133  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  



**From:** [Alister Cole](#)  
**To:** [Kevin Hayes](#); [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Sean Kelly](#); [AIBridges - Engineering](#); [David McGrath](#); [DL Estates ROI](#)  
**Subject:** RE: P20-003 - Fahy Beg Scoping  
**Date:** Thursday 11 March 2021 12:29:02

---

Hi Kevin,

I have reviewed your analysis and can confirm that 55m clearance is acceptable to 3Ireland.

Best regards,

Alister



Alister Cole  
Transmission Engineer

**Mobile:** 086 6024556  
**Email:** [Alister.Cole1@three.ie](mailto:Alister.Cole1@three.ie)

---

**From:** Kevin Hayes <[khayes@aibridges.ie](mailto:khayes@aibridges.ie)>  
**Sent:** 11 March 2021 11:22  
**To:** Alister Cole <[Alister.Cole1@three.ie](mailto:Alister.Cole1@three.ie)>; Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Cc:** AIBridges - Engineering <[engineering@aibridges.ie](mailto:engineering@aibridges.ie)>; David McGrath <[dmcgrath@aibridges.ie](mailto:dmcgrath@aibridges.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: P20-003 - Fahy Beg Scoping

**CAUTION!** External Email.

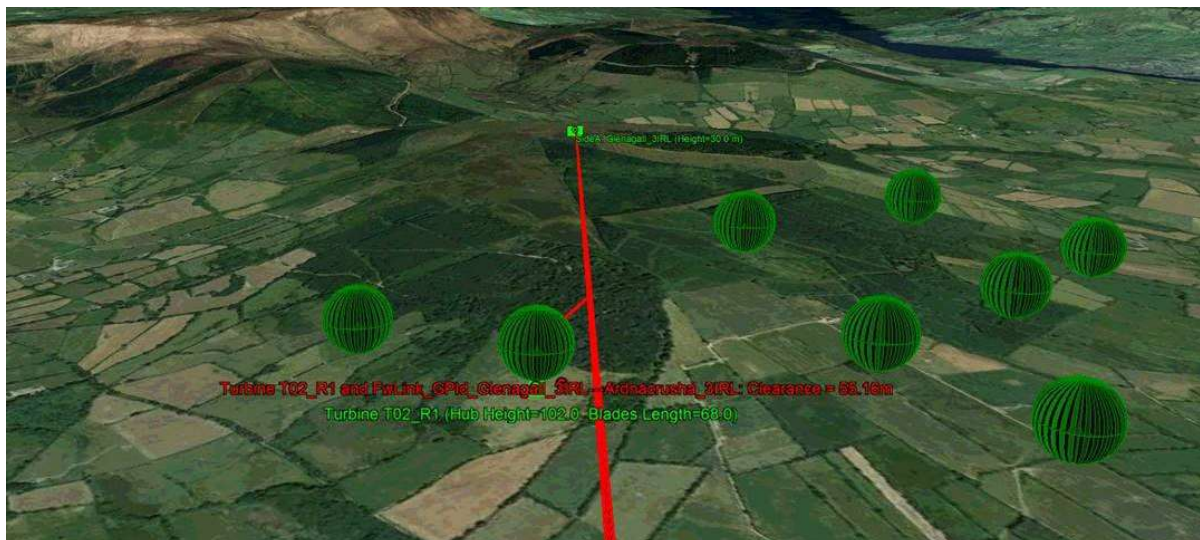
Hello Alister,

I am following up with you in relation to the proposed Fahybeg Wind Farm development . Our engineers have completed their 3D analysis of the potential impacts on the Three Ireland network.

Turbine T02 is the nearest of the proposed turbines to the Three Ireland 18GHz Radio Link between Glenagall and Ardnacrusha.

From our analysis we are seeing that there is 55m Clearance between the blade-tip of T02 and the 1st Fresnel Zone of the radio link.

We would be grateful if you could review our analysis and confirm if you are satisfied that this clearance of 55m from T2 is acceptable to Three Ireland.



Best Regards,  
Kevin Hayes,

Ai Bridges Ltd.,  
...Total Communications Solutions...  
UNIT 9, BLOCK B,  
Quin Rd. Business Park,  
Ennis, Co. Clare,  
Ireland.

Tel : [+353 65 6848768](tel:+353656848768)  
Mob : [+353 86 1084703](tel:+353861084703)  
FAX : [+353 65 6848769](tel:+353656848769)  
Email : [khayes@aibridges.ie](mailto:khayes@aibridges.ie)  
Web : [www.aibridges.ie](http://www.aibridges.ie)





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**From:** [Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone Ireland \(External\)](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#)  
**Cc:** [Lyons, Sean, Vodafone Ireland \(External\)](#); [Neill o", Shane, Vodafone Ireland](#); [Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 08:19:59  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)

---

Hi Eamon,

Can you please confirm the rotor diameter of the proposed turbines in this wind farm?

Thanks,

*Kind Regards,*



**Fiona Byrne**

Transmission Engineer

Technology- NET

+353879938050

[fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com](mailto:fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com)

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

[vodafone.ie](http://vodafone.ie)

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C2 General

**From:** Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)>

**Sent:** Tuesday 9 March 2021 17:22

**To:** Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone Ireland (External) <[fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com](mailto:fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com)>

**Cc:** Lyons, Sean, Vodafone Ireland (External) <[sean.lyons@vodafone.com](mailto:sean.lyons@vodafone.com)>; Neill o', Shane, Vodafone Ireland <[shane.oneill2@vodafone.com](mailto:shane.oneill2@vodafone.com)>

**Subject:** FW: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

Fiona,

Can you take a look at this or pass it onto one of the team to look at if too busy?



**Gavin Byrne**

TX Planning & Design Engineer

Converged Transmission

+353876448159

[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)

Vodafone Ireland Limited, Registered Office:  
MountainView, Leopardstown, Dublin 18,

Registered in Ireland: No. 326967

[vodafone.ie](http://vodafone.ie)

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**Ready?**

C2 General

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Friday 5 March 2021 10:54

**To:** Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)>

**Subject:** Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

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Greetings,

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If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

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T3	563773	669993	52.77974297701307	-8.5369669527551
T4	563811	669603	52.77624044007123	-8.536360642313054
T5	563936	670549	52.784750875574964	-8.534612269824708
T6	564235	670101	52.78074440719779	-8.530131172733055
T7	564565	670620	52.78543062232799	-8.525296097375115
T8	564669	670260	52.782201970978896	-8.5237156030248

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner



**Fehily Timoney and Company**

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 4133

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)



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**From:** [Kevin Hayes](#)  
**To:** [gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)  
**Cc:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#); [AiBridges - Engineering](#); [David McGrath](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 09:45:28  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image014.png](#)

---

Hello Gavin,

I am following up in relation to the email below that was sent to you last week.

We are currently working with Fehilly Timoney & Co on assessing the potential impacts of the proposed wind farm development on the Vodafone network.

We have already conducted an initial EMI analysis with yourselves last year, see below. We are now in a position to conduct a detailed 3D analysis of the potential impacts based on turbine locations provided below

We hope to revert to you today with the results of our analysis.

Vodafone Ireland provided the following email response to consultations.

*"As can be seen from the screen grab below, the proposed windfarm would interfere with multiple links.*

CE010 Glenagal (Lat: 52.795226354, Lon: -8.631914245) - LK001 Castleconnell Exchange (Lat: 52.713836187, Lon: -8.490533572)  
CE010 Glenagal - LK003 Ballysimon ESB (Lat: 52.639627182, Lon: -8.647291704)  
CE010 Glenagal - CE064 Coolerry (Lat: 52.7374040345641, Lon: -8.65290526490925)

*This link is also in the area, but not crossed by plotted areas.*  
CE010 Glenagal - TY001 Ballycane (Lat: 52.776761435, Lon: -8.331246776)<sup>9</sup>.



Best Regards,  
Kevin Hayes,

Ai Bridges Ltd.,  
...Total Communications Solutions...  
UNIT 9, BLOCK B,  
Quin Rd. Business Park,

Ennis, Co. Clare,  
Ireland.

Tel : [+353 65 6848768](tel:+353656848768)  
Mob : [+353 86 1084703](tel:+353861084703)  
FAX : [+353 65 6848769](tel:+353656848769)  
Email : [khayes@aibridges.ie](mailto:khayes@aibridges.ie)  
Web : [www.aibridges.ie](http://www.aibridges.ie)

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm [mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 05 March 2021 10:54  
**To:** gavin.byrne@vodafone.com  
**Subject:** Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

Greetings,

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development in south east County Clare consisting of 8 no. wind turbines. As part of the telecommunications impact assessment we have been prompted to contact telecommunications companies operating in the area of the project site.

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with telecommunications and broadband services if built in proximity to or between links. I have listed the coordinates (ITM) of the turbines below and I have attached a KMZ file which can be opened in google earth.

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If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

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	X	Y		
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T3	563773	669993	52.77974297701307	-8.5369669527551
T4	563811	669603	52.77624044007123	-8.536360642313054
T5	563936	670549	52.784750875574964	-8.534612269824708
T6	564235	670101	52.78074440719779	-8.530131172733055
T7	564565	670620	52.78543062232799	-8.525296097375115
T8	564669	670260	52.782201970978896	-8.5237156030248

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

---

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



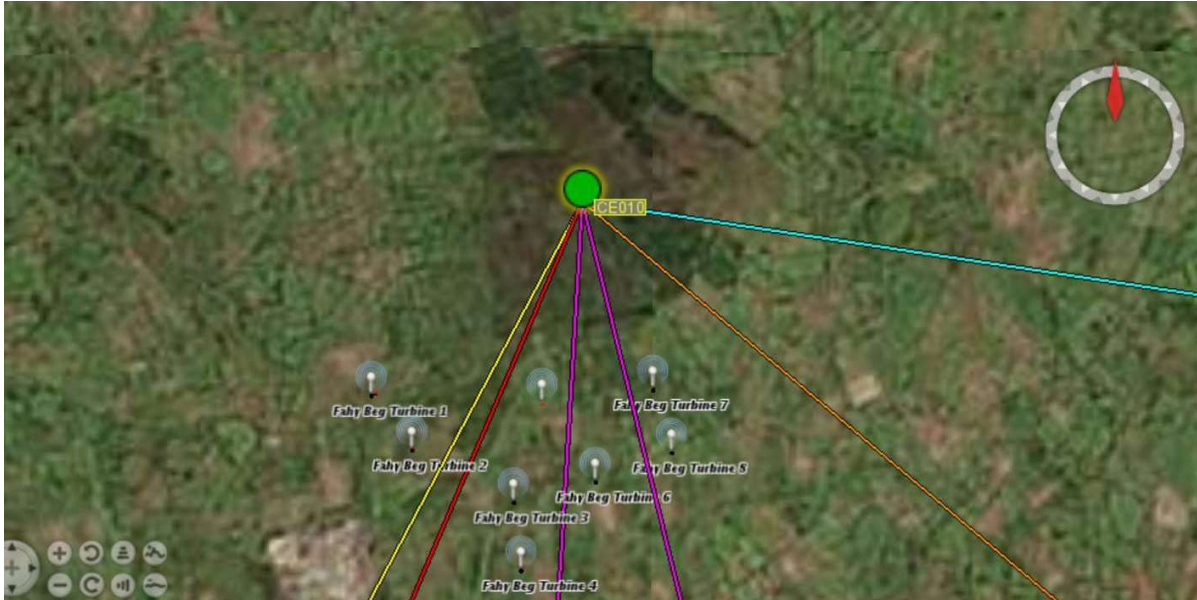
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)



**From:** [Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland](#)  
**To:** [Kevin Hayes](#)  
**Cc:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#); [AIbridges - Engineering](#); [David McGrath](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 10:24:37  
**Attachments:** [image016.png](#)  
[image017.png](#)  
[image019.png](#)  
[image020.png](#)  
[Fahy Beg Windfarm Impacted Microwave Links 10-03-2021.xlsx](#)

Hi Kevin,

This topology is now out of date. Please see updated topology attached. Note, the microwave link highlighted in the spreadsheet, is not in use, but still installed. It is intended to decommission this microwave.



Any questions, let me know.



**Gavin Byrne**

TX Planning & Design Engineer  
Converged Transmission  
+353876448159  
[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)

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Registered in Ireland: No. 326967

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C2 General

**From:** Kevin Hayes <[khayes@aibridges.ie](mailto:khayes@aibridges.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 09:45  
**To:** Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)>  
**Cc:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>; AIbridges - Engineering <[engineering@aibridges.ie](mailto:engineering@aibridges.ie)>; David McGrath <[dmcgrath@aibridges.ie](mailto:dmcgrath@aibridges.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

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

Hello Gavin,

I am following up in relation to the email below that was sent to you last week.

We are currently working with Fehilly Timoney & Co on assessing the potential impacts of the proposed wind farm development on the Vodafone network.

We have already conducted an initial EMI analysis with yourselves last year, see below. We are now in a position to conduct a detailed 3D analysis of the potential impacts based on turbine locations provided below

We hope to revert to you today with the results of our analysis.



Vodafone Ireland provided the following email response to consultations.

*"As can be seen from the screen grab below, the proposed windfarm would interfere with multiple links.*

CE010 Glenagal (Lat: 52.766226354, Lon: -8.631914248) - LKCOL Castleconnell Exchange (Lat: 52.713636187, Lon: -8.490533572)  
CE010 Glenagal - LK053 Ballysimon ESB (Lat: 52.836827182, Lon: -8.647201704)  
CE010 Glenagal - CE064 Coolerry (Lat: 52.73740434641, Lon: -8.68290526490926)

This link is also in the area, but not crossed by plotted areas.  
CE010 Glenagal - TV001 Ballycane (Lat: 52.776761436, Lon: -8.331246776)¹.



Best Regards,  
Kevin Hayes,

Ai Bridges Ltd.,  
...Total Communications Solutions...  
UNIT 9, BLOCK B,  
Quin Rd. Business Park,  
Ennis, Co. Clare,  
Ireland.

Tel : [+353 65 6848768](tel:+353656848768)  
Mob : [+353 86 1084703](tel:+353861084703)  
FAX : [+353 65 6848769](tel:+353656848769)  
Email : [khayes@aibridges.ie](mailto:khayes@aibridges.ie)  
Web : [www.aibridges.ie](http://www.aibridges.ie)

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm [<mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>]  
**Sent:** 05 March 2021 10:54  
**To:** [gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)  
**Subject:** Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

Greetings,

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development in south east County Clare consisting of 8 no. wind turbines. As part of the telecommunications impact assessment we have been prompted to contact telecommunications companies operating in the area of the project site.

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with telecommunications and broadband services if built in proximity to or between links. I have listed the coordinates (ITM) of the turbines below and I have attached a KMZ file which can be opened in google earth.

I would appreciate it if you would review the turbine locations and notify us if there are any foreseeable impacts in relation to your company's infrastructure.

If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates			
	X	Y	Latitude	Longitude
T1	562986	670604	52.78518089978231	-8.548700580599327
T2	563203	670292	52.78239166984966	-8.545448838848365
T3	563773	669993	52.77974297701307	-8.5369669527551
T4	563811	669603	52.77624044007123	-8.536360642313054
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T7	564565	670620	52.78543062232799	-8.525296097375115
T8	564669	670260	52.782201970978896	-8.5237156030248

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner



**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 4133  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

**From:** [Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone Ireland \(External\)](#)  
**To:** [Fahy Beg Windfarm](#); [Kevin Hayes](#)  
**Cc:** [Lyons, Sean, Vodafone Ireland \(External\)](#); [Neill o", Shane, Vodafone Ireland](#); [Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment  
**Date:** Thursday 11 March 2021 10:48:03  
**Attachments:** [image017.png](#)  
[image018.png](#)  
[image019.png](#)  
[image021.png](#)  
[image022.png](#)  
[Fahy Beg Windfarm TX Impact 11-03-2021.xlsx](#)

---

Hi Kevin/Eamon,

Based on the below coordinates provided for the Turbines, I can confirm our link from CE010 Glenagal to LK083 Killonan will be affected by Turbine 5. Turbine 5 currently has only approx. 26m clearance from the tip of the rotor blade to the 1<sup>st</sup> Fresnel zone of this link. The minimum clearance needs to be 30m. Attached are details of this TX link.

All other Turbines have >30m clearance from our TX links but this analysis is dependent on the accuracy of the coordinates provided. If any changes are made to the turbine locations please let us know.

Thanks,

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates			
	X	Y	Latitude	Longitude
T1	562986	670604	52.78518	-8.5487
T2	563203	670292	52.78239	-8.54545
T3	563773	669993	52.77974	-8.53697
T4	563811	669603	52.77624	-8.53636
T5	563936	670549	52.78475	-8.53461
T6	564235	670101	52.78074	-8.53013
T7	564565	670620	52.78543	-8.5253
T8	564669	670260	52.7822	-8.52372

Kind Regards,



**Fiona Byrne**  
Transmission Engineer  
Technology- NET  
+353879938050  
[fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com](mailto:fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com)

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

[vodafone.ie](http://vodafone.ie)

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C2 General

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie>

**Sent:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 12:48

**To:** Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone Ireland (External) <fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com>

**Cc:** Lyons, Sean, Vodafone Ireland (External) <sean.lyons@vodafone.com>; Neill o', Shane, Vodafone Ireland <shane.oneill2@vodafone.com>; Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>

**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

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

Hi Fiona,

The proposed rotor diameter is expected to be 150m. I note that Kevin Hayes from AI Bridges sent correspondence to your colleague Gavin this morning further to my email (see attached). He will be continuing the telecommunications assessment and consultation from here on.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 4133  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

**From:** Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone Ireland (External) <[fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com](mailto:fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com)>

**Sent:** Wednesday 10 March 2021 08:20

**To:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Lyons, Sean, Vodafone Ireland (External) <[sean.lyons@vodafone.com](mailto:sean.lyons@vodafone.com)>; Neill o', Shane, Vodafone Ireland <[shane.oneill2@vodafone.com](mailto:shane.oneill2@vodafone.com)>; Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)>

**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

Hi Eamon,

Can you please confirm the rotor diameter of the proposed turbines in this wind farm?

Thanks,

Kind Regards,



**Fiona Byrne**  
Transmission Engineer

Technology- NET  
+353879938050  
[fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com](mailto:fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com)

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Registered in Ireland: No. 326967

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C2 General

---

**From:** Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 9 March 2021 17:22  
**To:** Byrne, Fiona, Vodafone Ireland (External) <[fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com](mailto:fiona.byrne2@vodafone.com)>  
**Cc:** Lyons, Sean, Vodafone Ireland (External) <[sean.lyons@vodafone.com](mailto:sean.lyons@vodafone.com)>; Neill o', Shane, Vodafone Ireland <[shane.oneill2@vodafone.com](mailto:shane.oneill2@vodafone.com)>  
**Subject:** FW: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

Fiona,

Can you take a look at this or pass it onto one of the team to look at if too busy?



**Gavin Byrne**  
TX Planning & Design Engineer  
Converged Transmission  
+353876448159  
[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)

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Registered in Ireland: No. 326967

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**Ready?**

C2 General

---

**From:** Fahy Beg Windfarm <[fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie](mailto:fahybegwindfarm@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Friday 5 March 2021 10:54  
**To:** Byrne, Gavin, Vodafone Ireland <[gavin.byrne@vodafone.com](mailto:gavin.byrne@vodafone.com)>  
**Subject:** Fahy Beg Wind Farm - Telecommunications Assessment

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Greetings,

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Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
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t: +353 21 496 4133

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From: Kevin Hayes  
To: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@fco.ie>; George Tottenham@rwe.com; sophie.nash@rwe.com  
Cc: Trevor Byrne <trevor.byrne@fco.ie>; AlBridges - Engineering; David McGrath  
Subject: RE: P20-003 - Fahy Beg Scoping  
Date: Tuesday 16 March 2021 11:42:45  
Attachments: image001.png  
image002.png  
image003.png  
image004.png

Hello Eamon,

Response back from Vodafone confirming that they have accepted our analysis and clearance calculations for Fahybeg.

Hi Kevin,

Thanks for the analysis. This is acceptable clearance.

Best Regards,  
Kevin Hayes,

Al Bridges Ltd.,  
...Total Communications Solutions...  
UNIT 9, BLOCK B,  
Quin Rd. Business Park,  
Ennis, Co. Clare,  
Ireland.

Tel : +353 65 6848768  
Mob : +353 86 1084703  
FAX : +353 65 6848769  
Email : khayes@albridges.ie  
Web : www.albridges.ie

From: Kevin Hayes  
Sent: 10 March 2021 17:09  
To: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@fco.ie>; George Tottenham@rwe.com; sophie.nash@rwe.com  
Cc: Trevor Byrne <trevor.byrne@fco.ie>; AlBridges - Engineering <engineering@albridges.ie>; David McGrath <dmcgrath@albridges.ie>  
Subject: RE: P20-003 - Fahy Beg Scoping

Hello Eamon,

I am following up from our email to Vodafone earlier this morning.

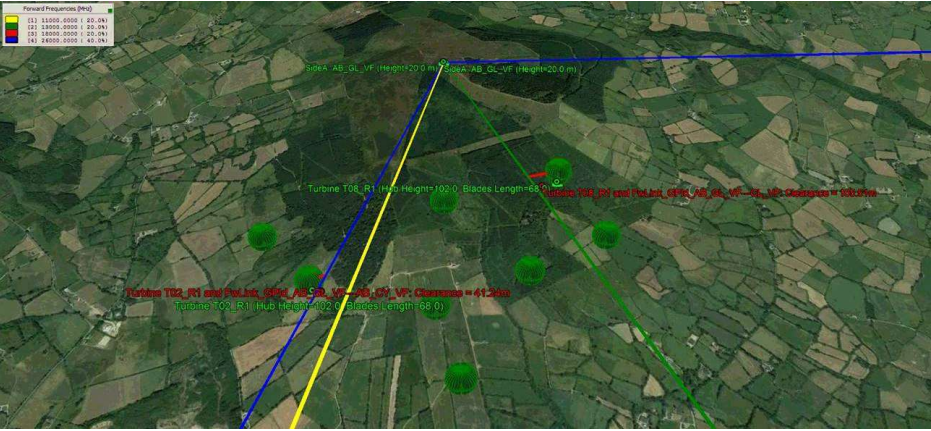
Our engineers have plotted the Vodafone Links in the vicinity of Fahybeg Wind Farm and they have provided the analysis below. The nearest turbine to any of the radio links is T02 which is 41m clear of the 26GHz radio link from Glenagall to Collderry link.

As you can see from the analysis below we have plotted all of the links and the turbines (V136 model) in 3D and our software then calculates the clearance \ interference conditions. The results are then tabulated and we export spreadsheet format

We are now ready to send this to Vodafone showing that there will be no impact on their network.

We will send over the Three Ireland Links analysis shortly

LinkID	Link Type	Radio Config Status	BW = Ref Mod	Freq Band	Max Ethernet Capacity (Mbps)	B-End IDU	B-End HW IDU Type	B-End Latitude	B-End Longitude	B-End Bearing	A-End IDU	A-End HW IDU Type	A-End Latitude	A-End Longitude	A-End Bearing	RAN Site Aggregation	Access RAN Site Dependents	Hop Distance (km)	AB Comment	Nearest Turbine	Clearance Distance from Fresnel Zone to nearest turbine (m)
L4205C2D16_50	RAN	2+0 JPRC	40MHz+128QAM	11 GHz	497	L4207D10	A65-20	52.62266	-8.60337	203.05	CP010705	A65-20	52.79323	-8.53193	23.14	4	CP010/C004/LKCL/TV001	20.86	Glenagall - Houston Hall, Limerick	T02	> 150
CD030CE04_50	RAN	radio 1+0	bu28MHz+16QAM	26 GHz	341	CE010701	AlCplazte	52.79523	-8.53191	28.11	CD054700	AlCplazte	52.7374	-8.58293	208.07	1	CE054	7.29	Glenagall - Codderry (from Kriben)	T02	41.24
CD030KCL3_50	RAN	radio 1+0	bu56MHz+16QAM	13 GHz	341	CE010704	AlCplazte	52.79523	-8.53191	166.15	LKCL1700	AlCplazte	52.71359	-8.49869	346.18	1	LKCL	9.35	Glenagall - Castecornel	T08	105.51



Best Regards,  
Kevin Hayes,

Al Bridges Ltd.,  
...Total Communications Solutions...  
UNIT 9, BLOCK B,  
Quin Rd. Business Park,  
Ennis, Co. Clare,  
Ireland.

Tel : +353 65 6848768  
Mob : +353 86 1084703  
FAX : +353 65 6848769  
Email : khayes@albridges.ie  
Web : www.albridges.ie

From: Eamon Hutton [mailto:eamon.hutton@fco.ie]  
Sent: 09 March 2021 16:17  
To: Kevin Hayes <khayes@albridges.ie>; George Tottenham@rwe.com; sophie.nash@rwe.com  
Cc: Trevor Byrne <trevor.byrne@fco.ie>; AlBridges - Engineering <engineering@albridges.ie>; David McGrath <dmcgrath@albridges.ie>  
Subject: RE: P20-003 - Fahy Beg Scoping

Hi Kevin,

Many thanks for taking the call earlier. As discussed, please find attached correspondence sent to Three and Vodafone last week.

I'll keep you up to date with any further responses of note.

If you require anything else, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

From: Kevin Hayes <khayes@albridges.ie>  
Sent: Tuesday 9 March 2021 16:02  
To: Eamon Hutton <eamon.hutton@fco.ie>; George Tottenham@rwe.com; sophie.nash@rwe.com  
Cc: Trevor Byrne <trevor.byrne@fco.ie>; AlBridges - Engineering <engineering@albridges.ie>; David McGrath <dmcgrath@albridges.ie>  
Subject: RE: P20-003 - Fahy Beg Scoping

Hello Eamon,



We can respond back to the Three and Vodafone points of contacts on your correspondences and include you on all correspondences

Three Ireland	Yes	Concern regarding the PTP microwave radio link
Virgin Media	Yes	No issue
Vodafone	Yes	Concern regarding three PTP microwave radio links

*"I've reviewed the proposed Fahybeg Windfarm development on behalf of the 3 Transmission network. We have 1 link that traverses the development area ..."*

*"I've reviewed the proposed Fahybeg Windfarm development on behalf of the 3 Transmission network. We have 1 link that traverses the development area ...*

*"I've reviewed the proposed Fahybeg Windfarm development on behalf of the 3 Transmission network. We have 1 link that traverses the development area ...*

Site A	X	Y	Site B	X	Y	Band	Dish Height A	Dish Height B
Anthriscus Replacement	158643	161630	VV Lackareagh (Glencarl)	164162	171670	18	30	30



\*As can be seen from the screen grab below, the proposed windfarm would interfere with multiple links.

\*As can be seen from the screen grab below, the proposed windfarm would interfere with multiple links.

CE010 Denagel (Lat: 62.796236354, Lon: -6.831914248) - LKDCU Castlescones Exchange (Lat: 62.713636187, Lon: -6.840313871)  
CE010 Denagel - LK083 Ballymorn CDB (Lat: 62.836627192, Lon: -6.847391704)  
CE010 Denagel - CE064 Cooberly (Lat: 62.73740404664, Lon: -6.6630052640020)  
  
This line is also in the area, but not crossed by pinned areas.  
CE010 Denagel - TY001 Ballycarane (Lat: 62.776791436, Lon: -6.331246776).



Tel: [+353 65 6848768](tel:+353656848768)  
Mob: [+353 86 1084703](tel:+353861084703)  
FAX: [+353 65 6848769](tel:+353656848769)  
Email: [khayes@airbridges.ie](mailto:khayes@airbridges.ie)  
Web: [www.airbridges.ie](http://www.airbridges.ie)

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

George

M: +353 (0)87 7053658  
T: +353 (0)56 7715782  
E: [george.tottenham@rwe.com](mailto:george.tottenham@rwe.com)  
W: [www.rwe.com/ireland](http://www.rwe.com/ireland)

Registered Offices:  
RWE Renewables Ireland Limited  
Unit 5 Desart House, Lower New Street,  
Kilkenny City  
R95 H488  
Registered in Ireland; Company Number: 589120

FYI, the list of telecoms operators was provided by Comreg.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

---

**From:** [george.tottenham@rwe.com](mailto:george.tottenham@rwe.com) <[george.tottenham@rwe.com](mailto:george.tottenham@rwe.com)>  
**Sent:** Friday 19 February 2021 10:43  
**To:** Eamon Hutton <[eamon.hutton@fco.ie](mailto:eamon.hutton@fco.ie)>  
**Cc:** Trevor Byrne <[trevor.byrne@fco.ie](mailto:trevor.byrne@fco.ie)>; [sophie.nash@rwe.com](mailto:sophie.nash@rwe.com)  
**Subject:** RE: P20-003 - Fahy Beg Scoping

Eamon,

I will revert on the scoping doc today, is it necessary to give a layout on this or just a study area?

I will send the telecoms list to AiBridges to check against their initial report on providers in the area.

Regards

George

---

**From:** Eamon Hutton <[eamon.hutton@fco.ie](mailto:eamon.hutton@fco.ie)>  
**Sent:** 17 February 2021 13:50  
**To:** Tottenham, George <[george.tottenham@rwe.com](mailto:george.tottenham@rwe.com)>  
**Cc:** Trevor Byrne <[trevor.byrne@fco.ie](mailto:trevor.byrne@fco.ie)>; Nash, Sophie <[sophie.nash@rwe.com](mailto:sophie.nash@rwe.com)>  
**Subject:** P20-003 - Fahy Beg Scoping

Hi George,

Gary has completed the figures for the scoping report in line with the amendments requested. Please see attached zipped file for your review.

Have you had a chance to review the scoping report? Please let us know if you have any comments.

Also, I have received a list of telecoms providers who are operating in the area. The list of consultees has been updated and is included in the attached excel file. Please indicate if you have any additions such as local interest groups or if you would like any consultees stricken off the list.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton



Eamon Hutton  
Project Planner

Fehily Timoney and Company  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
T: +353 21 21 496 4139  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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**From:** [Sinead French](#)  
**To:** [Eamon Hutton](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fahy Beg Wind Farm - EIAR Scoping  
**Date:** Tuesday 9 February 2021 17:29:01  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[Fahy Beg Wind Farm - EIAR Scoping.xlsx](#)

---

Hi Eamon,

Please see List of operators within 10km attached,

Regards,  
Sinead

---

**From:** Eamon Hutton <[eamon.hutton@ftco.ie](mailto:eamon.hutton@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 4, 2021 3:37 PM  
**To:** Industry <[industry@comreg.ie](mailto:industry@comreg.ie)>  
**Subject:** [WARNING: UNSCANNABLE EXTRACTION FAILED]Fahy Beg Wind Farm - EIAR Scoping

Good afternoon,

RWE Renewables intend to apply for planning permission for a wind farm development in south east County Clare consisting of 8 no. wind turbines. We have been prompted to contact the Commission for Communications Regulation as part of the EIAR scoping process for the project.

Wind turbines have potential to interfere with telecommunications and broadband services if built in proximity to or between links. As a statutory body, we would like to invite any comments from the Commission for Communications Regulation with respect to telecommunications infrastructure in the area.

I have attached the coordinates (ITM) of the proposed turbines below and a KMZ file which can be viewed in google earth. If you should require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. I can also provide coordinates in an alternative format if required.

Once again, I appreciate you taking the time to review this proposed development.

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates	
	X	Y
T1	562986	670604
T2	563203	670292
T3	563773	669993
T4	563811	669603
T5	563936	670549
T6	564235	670101
T7	564565	670620
T8	564669	670260

Kind regards,

Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

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

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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GDPR information: we have updated our Privacy Notice, which explains what personal information we collect and use about individuals, what we do with it and why. Here is a link to our updated Privacy Notice: <https://www.comreg.ie/privacy/>

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<https://www.comreg.ie/privacy/>

Tá an ríomhphost seo, chomh maith le haon iatáin a bhaineann leis faoi rún agus d'fhéadfadh leis a bheith faoi phribhléid nó cosanta ó aon nochtadh. Is don seolai(aithe) ainmnithe thuas amháin é. Níl sé ceadaithe go mbeidh rochtain ag éinne eile ar an ríomhphost seo. Más rud é nach tusa an faighteoir ainmnithe, ná cló amach, léigh, cóipeáil, nocht d'éinne nó bain úsáid as an eolas sa ríomhphost seo in aon tslí eile, le do thoil. Más rud é go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, dean teagmháil leis an seoltóir láithreach agus scríos an t-ábhar ina iomlán, bíodh sé i gcóip leictreonach nó chrua.

GDPR information: we have updated our Privacy Notice, which explains what personal information we collect and use about individuals, what we do with it and why. Here is a link to our updated Privacy Notice: <https://www.comreg.ie/privacy/>

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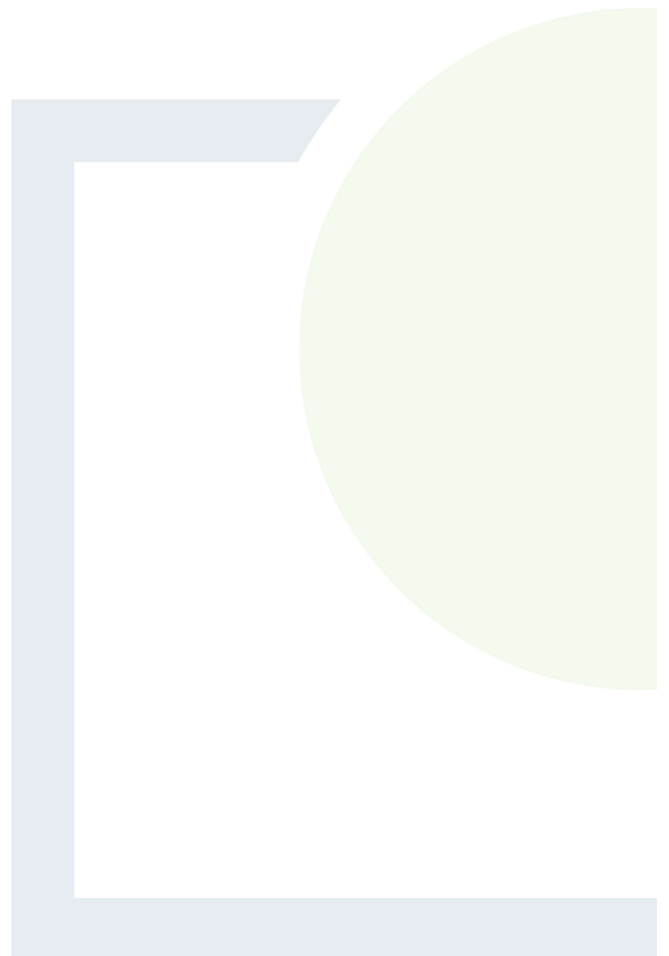
Tá an ríomhphost seo, chomh maith le haon iatáin a bhaineann leis faoi rún agus d'fhéadfadh leis a bheith faoi phribhléid nó cosanta ó aon nochtadh. Is don seolaí(aithe) ainmnithe thuas amháin é. Níl sé ceadaithe go mbeidh rochtain ag éinne eile ar an ríomhphost seo. Más rud é nach tusa an faighteoir ainmnithe, ná cló amach, léigh, cóipeáil, nocht d'éinne nó bain úsáid as an eolas sa ríomhphost seo in aon tslí eile, le do thoil. Más rud é go bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, dean teagmháil leis an seoltóir láithreach agus scrios an t-ábhar ina iomlán, bíodh sé i gcóip leictreonach nó chrua.



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE  
& PLANNING

## APPENDIX 5.3

Community  
Consultation





# **Consultation Report Fahy Beg Wind Farm**

## **Introduction**

The need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by phasing out coal and peat-fired electricity generation and increase renewable electricity, has become imperative.

In 2019 the Government set out a Climate Action Plan to Tackle Climate Breakdown to build net zero carbon energy systems (using renewable energy) and create a sustainable energy system in our country.

In October 2020 the Irish government went further and published the draft text of the [Climate Action and Low Carbon Development \(Amendment\) Bill 2020](#). The Bill will set the country on course to become climate neutral by 2050. It sets out how Ireland will reduce greenhouse gas emissions by at least 7% per annum for the next ten years by setting carbon budgets, providing an annually revised Climate Action Plan and introducing the Irish Climate Target into law.

To achieve these targets Ireland must look at developing more renewable energy projects across the country.

## **Project Background**

RWE is currently developing projects in many areas including one in Fahy Beg, Co. Clare. The proposed wind farm development is in response to local, national, regional and European policy regarding Ireland's transition to a low carbon economy and associated climate change policy objectives.

The proposed Fahy Beg project is critical to helping Ireland meet its EU renewable energy targets by 2030. The proposed development could generate renewable energy for use in the national grid, helping to displace thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. It will lead to cheaper electricity, energy security and help Ireland meet its challenging climate change and decarbonisation targets.

## **What does the Project Involve?**

The proposed project at Fahy Beg will be made up of several structures including turbines, underground cabling from the turbines to an electrical substation, and the substation structure itself. There would also be a network of roads on site linking the turbines and substation together for operations and maintenance of the project.

A windfarm needs to be connected to the electricity grid which can be done by using underground cables to get the renewable energy to a nearby substation. All the electricity generated is fed underground to the substation before being transmitted off-site to the national grid network.



## **Project Consultation**

This Consultation Report outlines the methodology used and any questions, concerns or feedback received from the first public consultation with the residents who live in the surrounding area around the Fahy Beg project.

Those who engaged with RWE as part of this process agreed that there was a universal need for renewable energy in Ireland and they welcomed the opportunity to have their say in this consultation.

In accordance with the Aarhus Convention, public participation is an essential element of the development of any infrastructure project and the RWE Fahy Beg Project Team is committed to facilitating an accessible, meaningful, and accountable consultation process with members of the public.

RWE is grateful to the residents of Fahy Beg and surrounds, all parties, persons and groups who participated in providing feedback via the project information services (mobile, email, postal feedback, door to door and face to face meetings). The feedback given in this report is based on all of the engagement that occurred with the residents around Fahy Beg.

The first consultation period ran for over 11 weeks (Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April to Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June) and continued via door to door visits, phone calls to the project phone and emails to the project email address afterwards.:

Phone                      +353 (0) 87 151 9219

Post                        Fahy Beg Wind Farm  
RWE Renewables Ireland Limited  
Desart House  
Lower New Street  
Kilkenny,  
R95 H488

By email                 [fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com)

## **The Consultation**

### **Information Service**

A dedicated phone line (087 151 9219) and e-mail address ([fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com)) were set up for the first consultation period and remained in place for the duration to enable anyone with queries to get in touch with the Project Team or indeed to ask questions or voice concerns via phone or email.

A project specific webpage ([www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg)) was developed and was updated throughout the consultation period with further information, updated FAQ's and useful documents added over time.

### **Project Brochure**

A 12 page Project Brochure (Fahy Beg Proposed Wind Farm) was developed for the project (See Appendix A for Project Brochure). This was delivered to all residents within a 2km radius (210 houses) of the proposed site by All Homes delivery company. It was delivered in an envelope with an RWE label which said:

*Dear Resident.*  
*Enclosed please find important information re*  
*Community Engagement on Proposed Fahy Beg Project*

### **First Residents Letter and Brochure Drop**

The Consultation was rolled out on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

A letter introducing the project and introducing RWE's Stakeholder Engagement / Fahy Beg Community Liaison Officer (CLO) Kieran O'Byrne, was sent to all residents within a 2km radius of the proposed site by courier. Included with the letter was a copy of the Fahy Beg project brochure.

(See Appendix B for Residents Letters 1)

### **Elected Members Engagement**

On the first day of the consultation period (Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021) all local representatives were emailed a letter of introduction to the CLO, a soft copy of the Fahy Beg Wind Farm Proposal brochure and a soft copy of the letter that was sent that day to residents.

Local Representatives who were contacted over the period were:

- Senator Timmy Dooley
- Senator Roisin Garvey
- Senator Martin Conway
- Deputy Joe Carey
- Deputy Cathal Crowe
- Deputy Michael Mc Namara
- Deputy Violet Anne Wynne
- Councillor Tony O'Brien
- Councillor O'Callaghan

- Councillor Patrick Hayes
- Councillor Burke
- Councillor Joe Cooney

After receiving the first letter, Senator Timmy Dooley telephoned the CLO to discuss the project. Councillor Tony O'Brien also contacted the CLO by email and by phone and a meeting was arranged with Cllr O'Brien at his home (socially distanced) on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021.

Over the months between April and June emails were received from the following

- Cathal Crowe TD
- Senator Roisin Garvey

Each local representative also received a soft copy of the second Letter by email on the 29<sup>th</sup> April and the third residents letter by email on the 21<sup>st</sup> June. (See Appendix B – Residents Letters)

### **Second Residents Letter**

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April a second residents letter was sent to all of the homes within a 2km radius (210 houses) by courier, reminding residents that we would be delighted to hear from them. The letter once again gave the project mobile number, email address and postal address for queries or comments. (See Appendix B Residents Letter 2).

The letter outlined that a number of residents were wondering about the positions of the turbines and that at the moment we had very early draft locations. RWE stated that “when we have completed more studies, including bat monitoring and other Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) surveys, we will be able to put together the draft turbine locations. When we have these surveys complete and the proposed locations finalised, we will once again revert to residents looking for their thoughts on the next stage of the project.”

The letter also said that many residents had contacted us already by phone, text and by email and some residents have asked to meet with us in person. RWE also noted in the letter, that we had managed to meet them in their gardens over the last couple of weeks, taking COVID-19 guidelines into consideration. It also stated that RWE would hope to meet with residents on a face to face basis in the future, depending on COVID-19 restrictions.

The letter mentioned that the website ([www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg)) had been updated with answers to people's questions including one on health and one on property prices and that these documents are available to view now.

### **Third Residents Letter**

The third residents letter was sent by courier to all residents (210 homes) on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2021. The letter stated that the team had met with more than 30 residents over the first consultation period (10 weeks) and that residents had asked a number of questions during that time. This letter updated residents on the 18 most asked questions which were outlined and a summary answer given in the letter. (see Appendix B – Residents Letter 3)

The letter also emphasised that while RWE had come to the end of this first consultation, we will not stop engaging with residents and we are still available to answer any questions they might have at any time throughout the process by mobile, email and by post if they wish.

### **Meetings with Stakeholders / Arranged Meetings and House to House**

A number of face to face meetings with stakeholders / residents were organised by the RWE team over the period, at the request of individuals. Any person or group that requested a meeting was met with.

As part of the initial outreach, local residents were informed that the RWE team were more than willing, not only to answer any questions or concerns the residents had, but were also willing to meet with them face to face under COVID-19 guidelines, which at the time was in their gardens, socially distanced. The RWE team did this on four occasions;

- 7<sup>th</sup> April (pre-arranged meetings)
- 14<sup>th</sup> April (pre-arranged meetings)
- 4<sup>th</sup> May (pre-arranged meetings)
- 14<sup>th</sup> May (pre-arranged meetings)

As the COVID- 19 restrictions lifted, the RWE team undertook a series of door to door calls on five days with some pre-arranged meetings

- 27<sup>th</sup> May (door to door and pre-arranged meetings)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> June (door to door and pre-arranged meetings)
- 18<sup>th</sup> June (door to door)
- 1<sup>st</sup> July (door to door)
- 7<sup>th</sup> July (door to door)

The list of people we met / houses we received answers to at the door during this time is listed under Appendix D – Meetings. Those houses that we did not receive an answer from were left an RWE compliment slip and the CLO's business card saying that if they required any further information to contact the CLO. The business card contained the CLO's mobile telephone number, email address and postal address.

Over the course of the period we had face to face meetings with residents from 68 houses around the proposed project site.

### **Feedback from Door to Door Meetings**

The questions that arose from the door to door feedback were covered in the Third Residents Letter (see Appendix B Third Residents Letter). No new questions were aired at the subsequent door to door meetings.

As the stakeholder interaction progressed during April and into May, it became clear that there were three main questions that most people discussed with the RWE team. These were about shadow flicker, noise and visual impact.

RWE also received feedback on the door to door calls about how people would like to be communicated with via a face to face meetings, group meetings etc. We discussed the various options and the majority said that they were in favour of being able to meet with us on a one to one basis / door to door, or in small groups. Some felt intimidated by large groups and felt that their questions and concerns would not be heard in larger groups. We mentioned a “drop in facility” in the school which some residents felt might be appropriate.

While we did meet with almost one third of homes within the 2km radius it was also suggested that we try calling at later times during the day to facilitate those that may be away working during the day.

### **Media Outreach / Interaction**

As part of the public consultation RWE sent a media release to Fiona McGarry of the Clare Champion on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Fiona telephoned the CLO later in the week to discuss the project and the media release. She subsequently published an article on the proposed wind farm with contact details for the CLO included in the publication on April 9<sup>th</sup> (See Appendix C – Media Coverage)

Further media outreach occurred on 29<sup>th</sup> April when the second residents letter was issued and again Fiona McGarry published an article on May 10<sup>th</sup> based on the media release and information received (See Appendix C).

The week before the third residents letter / update on the project was issued, the CLO received a call from Dan Danaher of the Clare Champion on 16<sup>th</sup> June. The CLO sent Dan a copy of the two residents letters, the FAQ's from the consultation and a soft copy of the Fahy Beg Wind Farm Proposal brochure later that afternoon. Subsequent to the interview and receiving the information, Dan published an article on 17<sup>th</sup> June (see Appendix C). Dan was subsequently sent a copy of the Third Residents letter for his information on 21<sup>st</sup> June as was Fiona McGarry.

### **Website / Webpage**

A project webpage was developed and was available to view from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to anyone who wished to find out more. ( [www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg) )

As the project developed, questions and concerns were asked and raised by local residents as part of the stakeholder engagement process. These were answered on the webpage and further relevant information was also published.

By the middle of June the webpage had grown to include three sections dedicated to giving more information and answering questions asked by the residents. They included “Useful Documents”, “More Information”, “Frequently Asked Questions”. These sections included the following information:

- Useful Documents
  - Draft Wind Energy Guidelines
  - Vestas Material Use Brochure
  - Community Benefit Fund
  - RESS 1 Terms and Conditions
  - TD Dismantlement and Disposal
  - Wind Europe Accelerating Wind Turbine Blade Circularity
- More Information
  - Residents Letter1
  - Residents Letter 2
  - Residents Letter 3
  - Fahy Beg Wind Farm Brochure
  - Answer to Question on Health and Noise
  - Levels of Noise
  - Answers to Questions on Property Prices
  - What Happens to Old Turbine Blades
- Frequently Asked Questions (with summary answers on website)
  - Where will the turbines, (substation cable routes etc) be located?
  - Will I experience shadow flicker?
  - Are the turbines noisy? What will the predicted noise levels be at our house?
  - Will Property Prices be Affected?
  - What are the turbines made from and are the turbines recyclable?
  - What is the lifespan of turbines and what happens the turbines at end of the life of the windfarm?
  - Will all correspondence be submitted as part of the planning process?
  - Have the environmental studies (on birds and bats) been completed yet?
  - Will there be flooding risks or risks to groundwater from the turbines?
  - Why was Fahy Beg chosen for a windfarm?
  - What will be the impact on Ballymoloney Wood?
  - Who will manage the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) if the wind farm gets planning permission and will there be real benefits to the community from the fund?
  - Construction noise / traffic disruption during construction ?
  - How much is RWE investing in Fahy Beg windfarm?
  - What is Community Shared Ownership? How does Investing in windfarms work?
  - Will there be an impact on broadband reception in the area?
  - What is the breakdown of turbine materials and what is their scrap value?

# **APPENDIX A**

## **Project Brochure**

**RWE**

**Fahy Beg  
Proposed  
Wind Farm**

[rwe.com](https://www.rwe.com)



# The Need for Wind Farms in Ireland

In 2019 the Irish government published the Climate Action Plan to build a net zero carbon energy system. Increasing renewable energy generation by wind farms is an integral part of this plan.

## Onshore Wind

Onshore wind is fundamental to the decarbonisation of the electricity market in Ireland. It is the lowest cost electricity source and will help us achieve our renewable energy and climate action goals. Onshore wind will also continue to provide investment nationally and locally, particularly to rural communities.



## Why Wind Farms?

- By 2050 our homes, cars, workplaces, shops and schools will be powered by electricity generated in Ireland from a renewable energy source.
  - By 2030 Ireland has targeted that 70% of electricity generated in Ireland is to come from renewables.
  - A wind farm generates clean, renewable, carbon neutral electricity and is Ireland's cheapest electricity resource.
  - Ireland has the second highest wind resource in Europe and wind energy is the largest contributing resource of renewable energy in the country (SEAI).
  - In 2019, 86% of renewable electricity came from wind and wind farms accounted for 33% of all electricity generated, avoiding 3.9 million tonnes of CO2 emissions.
  - Every megawatt (MW) generated is the equivalent of powering approximately 625 homes for a year (SEAI).
  - Ireland has over 250 operational wind farms, which represents an investment of over €7 billion, regularly powering 65% of Ireland's electricity needs.
  - The wind industry supports 4,400 jobs and annually pays more than €30 million in commercial rates to local authorities.
  - In 2019, approximately €501 million in fossil fuel imports were avoided by the use of renewable energy, of which €248 million was saved through onshore wind generation.
-

## What Is Happening Now?

The RWE Development Team has identified the initial study area for the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm of up to 8 turbines with associated internal

roads, an electrical substation, underground cabling and ancillary works. Environmental Impact Studies have commenced within the study area.



## Public Consultation

Together with the local community, RWE is entering into a pre-planning consultation period to answer questions and gather feedback on the proposed project. RWE are conscious of all Government restrictions relating to COVID-19 and the Team is following all necessary guidelines.

We are committed to community consultation and we will endeavour to engage with you considering all restrictions. This may mean initially sending you the information by post or email rather than having face to face meetings, or you

can call us on (087 151 9219) with any queries. We can also facilitate zoom or skype calls.

We will be delighted to accept email correspondence to our dedicated project email address ([fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com)) or by post to our office in Kilkenny at Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Desart House, Lower New Street Co. Kilkenny, R95 H488. We also have a project website which will be updated as the project progresses. Please find it at [www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg)

## Next Steps

All feedback received from this pre-planning consultation and engagement with the local community will help inform the design of the proposed wind farm.

Once we have incorporated your feedback into the proposed project we will reach out to the community once again to update you.

## Project Road Map



# What Benefits are there for the Local Community?



## Community Benefit Fund RESS Scheme

In 2020 the Government launched the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS). A key requirement is that community benefit is at the core of all renewable energy developments.

RESS outlines that for every megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity generated, each wind farm project will contribute €2 to a Community Benefit Fund every year, for 15 years.

Fahy Beg has a proposed installed capacity of 28MW to 48MW which could mean €240,000 to €288,000 per annum is paid into the fund every year, for 15 years. The amount of funding will be dependent on the final capacity and the amount of electricity generated by the wind farm when operational.



## Community Benefit Fund post 15 Years - RWE extra Community Benefit

In addition to this, RWE has committed to maintaining a Community Benefit Fund for the full lifetime of the wind farm in line with best practice and guidelines.

### Administration of the Fund

Each fund needs to be administered transparently

and any administration costs will be paid out of the Community Benefit Fund.

RWE supports the development of a funding process that puts decision making into the hands of local communities. This means that a panel of local community representatives would form a committee to decide how to invest the Community Benefit Fund in a variety of projects that could benefit residents, local businesses and the community, including skills development and creating job opportunities, tourism initiatives and area regeneration projects



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### Community Shared Ownership

A further potential income stream could come via RWE offering the local community the opportunity to participate in a community shared ownership scheme whereby they could invest in the wind farm in return for a share of future revenue.

### Jobs and Supply Chain Opportunities

Up to 70 jobs will be created during the 1.5 – 2 years of construction and then operation of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm. The majority of construction work and materials will be sourced locally where possible, promoting employment in the area.

Once the main civil engineering and turbine contracts have been placed, there will be opportunities for supply chain companies in the region to tender for contracts including traffic management, materials supply, plant hire, fencing, fuel, security, waste management, signing and lighting, telecommunications, drainage and hospitality.

### Business Rates

A significant wider benefit of the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm is the annual business rates contribution paid to Clare County Council (based on the installed capacity of the project) to be paid for the full operational life of the wind farm.

These business rates will significantly benefit the wider local economy and could represent an annual contribution of between €600,000 and €1,000,000 per annum to the County.





## Steps taken to decide on where to place a wind farm

1

A review of the County Development Plan is undertaken to identify those areas which have been zoned strategically for wind development by the County Council / local planning authority.

2

Available lands in the area large enough to accommodate a wind farm, while maintaining an appropriate distance from houses are identified, in line with national guidance and best practice.

3

Any Natura 2000 Sites or national environmentally designated sites in the area are identified and avoided

4

After these initial investigations, a potential area for development is identified and the next step is to identify 'constraints'. A constraint is a limiting factor on selection of a site such as nearby houses, cultural heritage, environmental or technical / physical factors (mountains / rivers / lakes/ geology, etc.).

5

These are then mapped and the remaining parcels of land that could potentially accommodate a wind farm are identified.

## Guidelines

Wind farm design is governed by Governmental and Environmental guidelines including the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006), the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019), the Planning and Development Act and Regulations and the EPA Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Guidelines. These take account of many factors and criteria and RWE will follow the latest guidelines.

As prescribed under EU and National Legislation, proposed wind farm developments with more than

5 turbines or having a total output greater than 50 megawatts must undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and require the preparation and submission of a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) by a prospective planning applicant. Subject to screening for the requirement for an Appropriate Assessment (AA), proposed wind farm developments may also require the preparation of a Natura Impact Statement (NIS) to a prescribed standard. The results of the EIAR, AA screening and/or NIS feeds into the decision process in designing a wind farm.



# Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

The EIAR is a document that describes the proposed development and reports on all issues relating to the potential impact of the proposed wind farm on the environment. It forms part of the planning application which is submitted to the Local Authority or An Bord Pleanála.

The Report includes many detailed chapters including Background to the Proposed Development, Site Selection and what the Alternatives were and a Description of the Project.

The Report looks at the direct and indirect significant effects of a project on the following factors: a) population and human health; b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC; c) land, soil, water, air and climate; d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape; e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d).

## Your Views Matter To Us

We want to hear from the local community and provide you with the opportunity to find out more about the project, enable you to ask any questions and to feed your thoughts and concerns into the design evolution of the project.

More information can be found on the website at [www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg)



Telephone **087 151 9219**  
and a member of our team  
will speak to you



Email us at  
[fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com)



Write to us at  
**Fahy Beg Wind Farm,  
RWE Renewables Ireland Limited,  
Desart House,  
Lower New Street,  
Co. Kilkenny,  
R95 H488**



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## RWE Renewables in Ireland

RWE Renewables Ireland (RWE) ranks among the largest global players in renewable power generation with its technology portfolio covering onshore and offshore wind farm projects, utility-scale photovoltaic (PV) solar power projects and energy storage.

The Company has been in Ireland since 2016 and now has two offices, one in Kilkenny City and one in Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin.

RWE's objective is to be a long-term energy partner for Ireland during the country's energy transition to zero carbon emissions. In line with this, RWE is aiming to further expand its portfolio in Ireland and is actively seeking new opportunities to expand the use of renewable energies with technologies that address the concerns about energy security, energy affordability, and climate change.

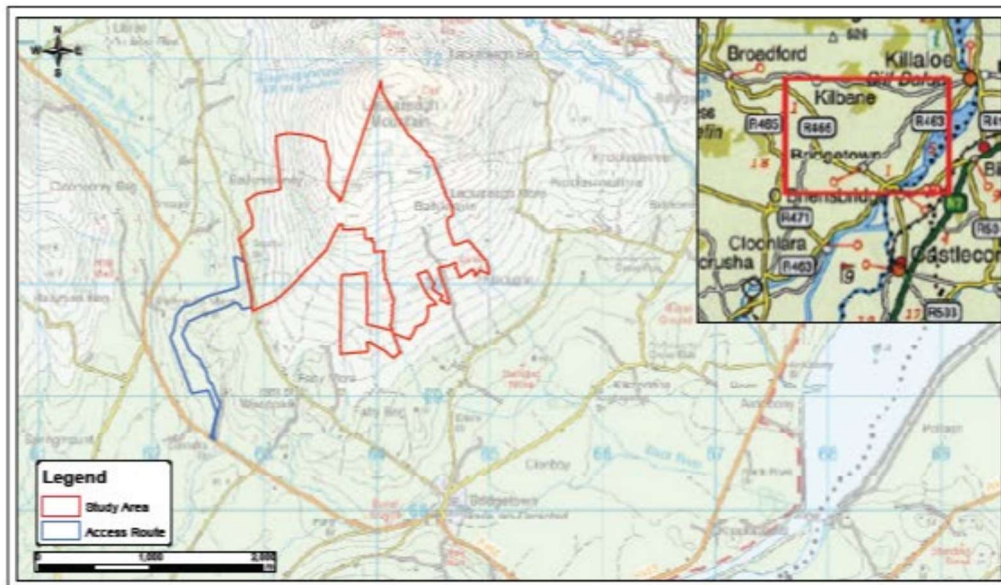


## Fahy Beg Proposed Wind Farm

RWE is currently investigating developing projects in many areas around the country, including Fahy Beg, in Co. Clare. The proposed Fahy Beg wind farm is critical to helping Ireland meet its EU renewable energy target by 2030. The proposed development could generate renewable energy for use in the national grid helping to displace thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. It will lead to cheaper electricity, energy security and help Ireland meet its challenging climate change and decarbonisation targets.







MAP OF STUDY AREA

## Why is Fahy Beg Suitable?

The proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm sits in an area of appropriate wind speeds with suitable available land on which to develop. The land is in an area designated in the Clare County Development Plan, Wind Energy Strategy 2017-2023 as "Open to Consideration" for wind farm development.

The proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm does not contain areas designated as European Protected

Natura 2000 sites, meaning that it is not a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or a Special Protection Area (SPA) and also does not contain any nationally designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA).

The proposed wind farm occupies a sufficient area of land to accommodate a wind farm while keeping an appropriate distance from dwellings in line with government guidelines.

### Facts about the Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm

- The proposed wind farm is located approximately 6km South West of Killaore and 1.5km North of Bridgetown.
- The study area comprises lands at Fahy Beg, Fahy More North, Ballymoloney and Ballyknavin townlands, measuring approximately 320 hectares.
- The study area elevation ranges between 130m to 340m above sea level.
- The majority of the proposed wind farm study area is agricultural and forestry land. These land uses could continue with a wind farm development at the site.
- Based on the results of initial investigations it is considered that the proposed wind farm could accommodate up to 8 turbines.
- Each wind turbine could be up to 180 metres tall (from the turbine base to the top of the turbine blade, when blades are in an upright position).
- Based on current available turbine technology, the capacity of each proposed turbine could be in the range of 3.5 to 6MW, resulting in a total estimated capacity for the site of between 28 and 48MW.
- Investment in the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm and local communities is expected to be in the region of €30 million over its lifetime.



## What makes up a wind farm?

A wind farm is made up of several structures including turbines, underground cabling from the turbines to an electrical substation and the substation structure itself. There would also be a network of roads on site linking the turbines and substation together for staff operations and maintenance.

A wind farm needs to be connected to the electricity grid which can be done either by linking to a suitable overhead powerline nearby or using underground cables to get the renewable energy to a nearby substation.

### Wind Turbines

The wind turbines harness the wind energy and convert it to electricity before transporting it to the national grid for distribution. Generally the larger the turbine, the more energy it can produce. In Ireland, wind farms are increasingly designed with smaller numbers of more powerful turbines to maximise the renewable wind energy from the site.



### Access Roads

A network of access roads are needed to deliver the components to site and facilitate access by the operations team to the turbines for routine maintenance.

We endeavour to use existing tracks and we design roads along field boundaries to reduce potential impact. Landowners have use of these tracks once they are built.



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## Underground Cables

Each wind turbine is connected to the substation via an underground cable, generally running alongside the network of access roads.



## Substation

All the electricity generated by the turbines is fed back through the underground cables to the substation before being transmitted off-site to the national grid network.



## Potential for Benefiting Biodiversity

As part of the construction of a wind farm it is often possible to include improvements to biodiversity within the boundary such as the development of ponds or wetland areas, wildflower meadows, plant native trees, shrubs, butterfly and bird friendly zones and pesticide-free "wild" areas on the site.



RWE  
Renewables Ireland,  
Unit 5 Desert House,  
Lower New Street,  
Kilkenny City,  
R95 H488

**Appendix B**  
**Residents Letters 1, 2 & 3**

## Residents Letter 1



31<sup>st</sup> March 2021

Dear Resident

Email: [kieran.o'byrne@rwe.com](mailto:kieran.o'byrne@rwe.com)

### **Ref: Information on the Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm**

My name is Kieran O'Byrne and I work with RWE Renewables Ireland Limited (RWE). I am writing to you today to let you know that RWE is currently investigating developing projects in many areas around the country including one in Fahy Beg, in Co. Clare.

The proposed Fahy Beg wind farm is critical to helping Ireland meet its EU renewable energy target by 2030. The proposed development could generate renewable energy for use in the national grid helping to displace thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. It will lead to cheaper electricity, energy security and help Ireland meet its challenging climate change and decarbonisation targets. The accompanying brochure should give you an understanding on why wind energy is important to Ireland, details about the proposed project, information about how and why the area around Fahy Beg was considered for a proposed wind farm, and the community benefits that may arise from the wind farm.

RWE is beginning an eight week consultation process with local residents in and around Fahy Beg. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, rather than meeting you all face to face, I am writing to you to give you this information on the project. As soon as COVID-19 restrictions lift, the team and I will be able to meet with you personally to discuss any questions or issues you might have directly. In the meantime I will be working on this project and keeping you informed of updates as the development progresses. If you need to ask any questions about the project at any stage, please feel free to contact me on my mobile **087 151 9219** or by email at [kieran.o'byrne@rwe.com](mailto:kieran.o'byrne@rwe.com).

Please have a look at the information in the brochure enclosed or on the website at [www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg) and if you need any further information please email me or phone me using my contact details above, or you can write to me at RWE Renewables Limited, ~~Desart~~ House, Lower New Street, Co. Kilkenny R95 H488.

Many thanks for your time and I look forward to meeting you in person in the near future.

Kind regards

*Kieran O'Byrne*

**Kieran O'Byrne**  
**Stakeholder Engagement / Communications – Onshore**  
**RWE Renewables Ireland**

RWE Renewables Ireland Limited  
Unit 5, ~~Desart~~ House, Lower New Street Co. Kilkenny Ireland  
Registered Office: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited • Unit 5, ~~Desart~~ House, Lower New Street, Kilkenny, Ireland.  
Registered in Ireland no. 589120

Directors: Cathal Hennessey, George Tottenham, Peter Lefroy, Ben Freeman (British), Martin Andre-Ferreira (British)



## **Residents Letter 2**



30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Email: [kieran.o'byrne@rwe.com](mailto:kieran.o'byrne@rwe.com)

Dear Resident

### **Ref: Information on the Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm**

We sent out documentation in relation to the proposed Fahy Beg wind farm earlier this month and I would like to update you regarding the ongoing consultation. We are half way through this first eight week consultation and we would still love to hear your thoughts on the project and your questions, if you have any.

So far we have been contacted by residents by phone, text and by email and some residents have asked to meet with us in person. We have managed to meet them in their gardens over the last couple of weeks, taking COVID 19 guidelines into consideration.

People are wondering about the positions of the turbines. At the moment we have very early draft locations. When we have completed more studies, including bat monitoring and other Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) surveys, we will be able to put together the draft turbine locations. When we have these surveys complete and the proposed locations finalised, we will once again revert to you looking for your thoughts on this next stage of the project. We would hope to meet with residents on a face to face basis, depending again on COVID 19 restrictions, at that time.

The website ([www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg)) has been updated with answers to people's questions including one on health and one on property prices and these are available to view now.

The proposed Fahy Beg project is critical to help Ireland meet its EU renewable energy target by 2030. The proposed development could generate renewable energy for use in the national grid helping to displace thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. It will lead to cheaper electricity, energy security and help Ireland meet its climate change and decarbonisation targets.

I would be delighted to hear from you as we progress through this process. If you have any questions about the project at any stage, please feel free to contact me on my mobile **087 151 9219** or by email at [fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com) or you can write to me at RWE Renewables Ireland Limited, ~~Desart~~ House, Lower New Street, Co. Kilkenny R95 H488.

Many thanks for your time and I look forward to meeting you in person in the near future.

Kind regards

*Kieran O'Byrne*

**Kieran O'Byrne**  
**Stakeholder Engagement / Communications - Onshore**  
**RWE Renewables Ireland**

RWE Renewables Ireland Limited  
Unit 5, ~~Desart~~ House, Lower New Street Co. Kilkenny Ireland  
Registered Office: RWE Renewables Ireland Limited - Unit 5, ~~Desart~~ House, Lower New Street, Kilkenny, Ireland.  
Registered in Ireland no. 589120

Directors: Cathal Hennessy, George Tottenham, Peter Lefroy, Ben Freeman (British), Martin Andre-Ferreira (British)

## **Residents Letter 3**



21<sup>st</sup> June 2021

Email: [kieran.o'byrne@rwe.com](mailto:kieran.o'byrne@rwe.com)

Dear Resident

### **Re: Information on the Proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm**

As we finish the first eight week consultation period I thought I should update you to let you know what has happened and what will be happening next. Firstly let me say that while we have come to the end of this first consultation, we will not stop engaging with residents and we are still available to talk to you and to answer any questions you might have at any time throughout the process on my mobile, by email and by post if you wish.

Over the last eight weeks we have met with more than 30 local residents (socially distanced), have had numerous emails and telephone calls. During this process we have had a number of questions posed and the questions people are asking are as follows:

- Where will the turbines be located? Where will the substation be located?
- Will I experience shadow flicker?
- Are the turbines noisy? What will the predicted noise levels be at our house?
- Will property prices be effected?
- What are the turbines made from and are the turbines recyclable?
- What is the lifespan of turbines? What happens the turbines at end of the life of the wind farm?
- What is the breakdown of turbine materials and what is their scrap value?
- Will all correspondence be submitted as part of the planning process?
- Have the environmental studies (on birds and bats) been completed yet?
- Will there be flooding risks or risks to groundwater from the turbines?
- Why was Fahy Beg chosen for a windfarm?
- What will be the impact on Ballymoloney Wood?
- Who will manage the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) if the wind farm gets planning permission and will there be real benefits to the community from the fund?
- Construction noise / traffic disruption during construction ?
- How much is RWE investing in Fahy Beg windfarm / how much will it cost to build?
- What is Community Shared Ownership / how does investing in windfarms work?
- Will there be an impact on broadband reception in the area?
- How many acres / hectares of forestry is to be felled to allow the project to proceed?

A summary of these answers is below. For answers in greater detail please see the website [www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg). The frequently asked questions are answered at the bottom of the webpage. We have also included a section called "More Information" and "Useful Documents" which I hope you will find informative.

**RWE Renewables Ireland Limited**

Unit 5, Desert House, Lower New Street Co. Kilkenny Ireland

**Registered Office:** RWE Renewables Ireland Limited · Unit 5, Desert House, Lower New Street, Kilkenny, Ireland.

Registered in Ireland no. 589120

**Directors:** Cathal Hennessy, George Tottenham, Peter Lefroy, Ben Freeman (British), Martin Andre-Ferreira (British)





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The next step in the process is for the team to go through the ecological survey data that will be compiled as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). This will inform the draft turbine locations, substation location and cable routes. When these locations are in draft, we will once again revert to you looking for your thoughts on the next stage of the project hopefully next month, in July.

The website ([www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg)) will be updated regularly with answers to people's questions as we go through the process.

The proposed Fahy Beg project is critical to help Ireland meet its EU renewable energy target by 2030. The proposed development could generate renewable energy for use in the national grid helping to displace thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. It will lead to cheaper electricity, energy security and help Ireland meet its climate change and decarbonisation targets.

I would be delighted to hear from you as we progress through this engagement process. If you have any questions about the project at any stage, please feel free to contact me on my mobile **087 151 9219** or by email at [fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com). You can write to me at RWE Renewables Ireland Limited, Desert House, Lower New Street, Co. Kilkenny R95 H488.

Many thanks for your time and I look forward to meeting you in person in the near future.

Kind regards

*Kieran*

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**Kieran O'Byrne**  
**Stakeholder Engagement / Communications – Onshore**  
**RWE Renewables Ireland**

## **Questions Raised in the first consultation period with summary answers.**

### **Where will the turbines (substation, cable routes, etc) be located?**

The ongoing ecological surveys will inform the proposed locations of the turbines. When these surveys are finalised and the locations known, we will once again reach out to the community and engage on this next step of the ongoing consultation –we hope this will be in July of this year.

### **Will I experience shadow flicker?**

No, as shadow flicker is no longer allowed under the new Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines December 2019.

Under the new Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines December 2019 (section 7.16) “no existing dwelling or other affected property (e.g. existing work places or schools) should experience shadow flicker.” “The relevant planning authority or An Bord Pleanála should require that the applicant shall provide evidence as part of the planning application that shadow flicker control mechanisms will be in place for the operational duration of the wind energy development project.”

“The planning authority or An Bord Pleanála should impose condition(s) to ensure that no existing dwelling or other affected property will experience shadow flicker as a result of the wind energy development subject of the planning application and the wind energy development shall be installed and operated in accordance with the shadow flicker study submitted to accompany the planning application, including any mitigation measures required.”

### **Are the turbines noisy? What will the predicted noise levels be at our house?**

We have had noise monitoring stations at various locations around the proposed site measuring background noise. The background noise data will inform the proposed location of the turbines.

According to the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines December 2019 (Section 5.7.4) “the ... proposed noise restriction limits consistent with World Health Organisation Guidelines, proposing a relative rated noise limit of 5dB(A) above existing background noise within the range of 35 to 43dB(A), with 43dB(A) being the maximum noise limit permitted, day or night. The noise limits will apply to outdoor locations at any residential or noise sensitive properties.”

### **Will property prices be effected?**

There have been studies undertaken around the world where wind farms are located which show little or some negative effect on property prices. ( see website for these studies [www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg) ). There has not been any peer reviewed study done in Ireland so far about the effect of a wind farm on property prices.

### **What are the turbines made from and are the turbines recyclable?**

90% of the turbine is made of metal (steel, aluminium, copper and alloys) all of which are very recyclable and valuable at end of life. Electronics and electrics are recyclable and the fluids and lubricants used are disposed of according to relevant disposal guidance for each fluid.

The blades themselves are made primarily from fibre glass ( 5.8% of the remainder of the turbine) and these can be repurposed or recycled in a number of ways. The blades can be reused / repurposed in sections, such as in civil engineering projects as part of powerline structures or towers,

or roofs for emergency or affordable housing. Blade sections can be used to make bicycle sheds and playgrounds.

The fibreglass itself can be recycled too by being crushed and ground up and could be used again to make fibreglass materials. Crushed fibreglass can be used as "feedstock" that is mixed with other components to form a new material such as composite manhole covers, which are made from the reclaimed fibreglass mixed with gravel and filler, added to concrete instead of sand, or used in the production of waterproof panels as a wood substitute as flooring material, warehouse pallets, picnic tables, fencing, even sea walls and parking bollards.

#### **What is the lifespan of turbines and what happens the turbines at end of the life of the wind farm?**

Turbines have a life span of 30 to 35 years. At the end of life, the turbines have value as they are primarily made from metals and they will be recycled as scrap metal. As part of planning conditions, Clare Co. Co. will also hold a bond from RWE to ensure the finances are in place to have them decommissioned / removed.

#### **What is the breakdown of turbine materials and what is their scrap value\*?**

Turbine manufacturer Vestas gives a breakdown of the components of a Vestas V136 on their [website](#). The turbine weighs 566 tonnes and the amount of materials in each based on the percentages above is as follows:

- steel and iron about 504 tonnes, ([UK value average today](#) about £100 per tonne = £50,400)
- aluminium and alloys about 7.3 tonnes ([UK value average today](#) for cast aluminium £900 per tonne = £6,500)
- copper and alloys would be 3.3 tonnes ([UK value average today](#) for No 2 copper wire £5,800 per tonne = £19,000)
- electronics / electrics would be about 3.3 tonnes ([UK value average today](#)) about £300 per tonne = £990)

Estimated scrap value of each turbine from the websites quoted above is approximately £76,800 sterling.

(\*Scrap value taken from two UK scrap websites. Prices are from June 2021)

#### **Will all correspondence be submitted as part of the planning process**

As part of the community engagement process we will be summarising the results of communications with the local community and the team. Questions asked, meetings held, correspondence received and replied to will be part of the submission.

#### **Have the environmental studies (on birds and bats) been completed yet?**

The ecological studies including studies on birds and bats has not yet been completed and should be completed in the coming months. 24 months of birds surveys is required before we can complete the EIAR. This will inform the placement of the turbines, substation, etc.

#### **Will there be flooding risks or risks to groundwater from the turbines?**

As part of the EIAR, flood risks will be assessed and taken into consideration and will be used in the next stage of the process.

## **Why was Fahy Beg chosen for a wind farm?**

The area was chosen for a number of reasons. The land is in an area designated in the Clare Co. Development Plan Wind Energy Strategy as "open to consideration". The study area does not contain areas designated as European Protected Natura 2000 sites – it is not a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or a Special Protection Area (SPA) and does not contain any nationally designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA). It has available lands to accommodate a wind farm while keeping an appropriate distance from houses in line with Government guidelines and has good wind speeds.

## **What will be the impact on ~~Ballymoloney~~ Wood?**

The environmental studies and the EIAR will outline what potential effects the proposed wind farm may have on ~~Ballymoloney~~ Wood which should be minimal and we will inform residents in the next consultation phase as to what, if any, are the effects.

## **Who will manage the Community Benefit Fund (CBF) if the wind farm gets planning permission and will there be real benefits to the community from the fund?**

The handbook for Community Benefit funds – "Renewable Energy Scheme Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit Funds" <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/995be-public-consultation-on-good-practice-principles-for-community-benefit-funds-under-the-renewable-electricity-support-scheme/> gives guidance for developers and communities about how the CBF should be organised and run. RWE will advocate the use of a third party to administer the fund and the Government has appointed the SEAI as the Funds Support, Oversight and Compliance body and as such has a key role in supporting the successful delivery of Funds.

"Under Section 3.3 of the Guidelines; How the Fund is to be Divided: (Categories a-d) The RESS-1 T&C as published are very specific in how each Fund is divided (section 7.2.6). These are replicated as follows:

- a) in respect of Onshore Wind RESS-1 Projects, a minimum of €1,000 shall be paid to each household located within a distance of a 1 kilometre radius from the RESS 1 Project;
- b) a minimum of 40% of the funds shall be paid to not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 4, 7, 11 and 13, including education, energy efficiency, sustainable energy and climate action initiatives;
- c) a maximum of 10% of the funds may be spent on administration. This is to ensure successful outcomes and good governance of the Community Benefit Fund. The Generator may supplement this spend on administration from its own funds should it be deemed necessary to do so; and
- d) the balance of the funds shall be spent on initiatives successful in the annual application process, as proposed by clubs and societies and similar not-for-profit entities, and in respect of Onshore Wind RESS 1 Projects, on "near neighbour payments" for households located outside a distance of 1 kilometre from the RESS 1 Project but within a distance of 2 kilometres from such RESS 1 Project."

These guidelines are out for consultation at the moment and could change as we go from RESS1 and RESS 2 and any renewable energy support schemes going forward.





**Construction noise / traffic disruption during construction.**

It takes approximately 18 months to construct a wind farm and during this time RWE will ensure that construction operations will take place as per the planning conditions, RWE will provide more details on the potential traffic movements during the construction period.

**How much is RWE investing in Fahy Beg wind farm?**

Investment in the proposed wind farm and local communities is expected to be in the region of €30 million over the lifetime of the windfarm.

**What is Community Shared Ownership? How does Investing in wind farms work?**

We understand the Government are at present exploring how community investment in windfarms might work as part of the next Renewable Energy Support Scheme auction. Until the investment process is clarified we do not know how investment will be organised or who will be responsible. We await clarification from Government on how investment in windfarms might work under the RESS scheme. RWE is very keen to be involved in a community investment scheme once the regulations are developed by Government

**Will there be an impact on broadband reception in the area?**

Under the planning regulations the addition of structures in any area should not interfere with broadband reception in the area. RWE is also investigating whether broadband could be improved in the area and is undergoing studies to see if the service could be improved using the proposed new structures on site.

**How many acres / hectares of forestry is to be felled to allow the project to proceed?**

We estimate that we will need approximately 8ha of commercial forestry felled, mostly commercially grown Sitka spruce and some broadleaves. This will be in line with the Scottish Natural Heritage guidelines in relation to turbine locations in conjunction with bat habitat and foraging areas. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in their submission, has stated that "as this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands", which we will take into consideration under the planning requirements.

**Appendix C**  
**MEDIA COVERAGE**

Media Coverage 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021

# The Clare Champion

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## Consultation begins on proposed South East Clare windfarm

April 9, 2021 972 Views

PRE-PLANNING consultation has begun in South East Clare as a German renewable energy company prepares to lodge an application for an eight-turbine windfarm, early next year.

RWE Renewables Ireland Limited (RWE), which describes itself as one of the world's leading renewable energy companies, launched an eight-week pre-planning consultation exercise at the start of this month. It says that feedback received from residents and stakeholders – whom it aims to meet virtually while Level 5 restrictions continue – will inform the design of the windfarm, proposed for a 320-hectare site 6km south west of Killaloe and 1.5km north of Bridgetown.

As a mandatory element of windfarm projects, RWE will administer a community fund in the event of securing planning permission from Clare County Council, a figure which could range from €168,000 to €288,000 per annum for 15 years. A brochure on the project also outlines the potential for community shared ownership. It details the creation of up to 70 jobs during the construction of the 180m high turbines. Rates income for Clare could run to €1m annually.



Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) have begun within the area at Fahy Beg, Fahy More North, Ballymoloney and Ballyknavin townlands.

"We are hoping that when Covid restrictions ease we'll be able to meet people face-to-face," a company spokesperson told *The Champion*. "We are at the very early stages of pre-planning consultation and we're looking for ideas on what people would like to see. Steps could be taken to encourage rewilding or pollinator areas. We've already had an inquiry about the possibility of creating a bridle path. All of this is open for discussion."

The spokesperson also said the proposed facility, which will have a 28 to 48MW generation capacity, will meet the requirements of new draft guidelines on wind energy development. "We will be working to the new guidelines, even though they're not yet set in stone," the spokesperson said. "We'll be eliminating things like shadow flicker and have technology to switch off a turbine at certain times of day to prevent it. It can be done automatically in a matter of seconds. We're also in the process of noise monitoring at the moment with levels set to be around 40db, the equivalent of a domestic fridge."

Currently, an information booklet is being distributed locally. The RWE team will facilitate Skype or other online calls where required. The dedicated Fahy Beg Project phone number is 087-1519219, the email address is fahybeg@rwe.com and the postal address is Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Desert House, Lower New Street, Kilkenny, R95 H488. The website is [Rwe.com/fahybeg](https://www.rwe.com/fahybeg).

# The Clare Champion



## Fahybeg windfarm updates furnished

May 10, 2021 678 Views

THE developers of a windfarm in South East Clare have made updated information available in response to public queries over the potential impact on health and property prices.

RWE Renewables Ireland Limited, which describes itself as one of the world's leading renewable energy companies, said it is half-way through an eight-week pre-planning consultation process and keen to engage with the community living close to the 320-hectare site which is 6km south west of Killaloe and 1.5km north of Bridgetown.

The German company also said that, to date, the exact locations of the eight proposed turbines in the Fahybeg Windfarm have not been pinned down and that studies to determine these are underway.

"So far we have been contacted by residents by phone, text and by email and some residents have asked to meet with us in person," said a letter issued by the company. We have managed to meet them in their gardens over the last couple of weeks, taking Covid-19 guidelines into consideration."

The correspondence sent in recent days noted that: "People are wondering about the positions of the turbines. At the moment we have very early draft locations. When we have completed more studies, including bat monitoring and other Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) surveys, we will be able to put together the draft turbine locations.

"When we have these surveys complete and the proposed locations finalised, we will once again revert to you looking for your thoughts on this next stage of the project. We would hope to meet with residents on a face to face basis, depending again on Covid-19 restrictions, at that time."

The letter stated that the website [Rwe.com/fahybeg](https://www.rwe.com/fahybeg) has been updated with answers to people's

questions including one on health and one on property prices.

As a mandatory element of windfarm projects, RWE will administer a community fund in the event of securing planning permission, a figure which could range from €168,000 to €288,000 per annum for 15 years.

A brochure on the project also outlines the potential for community shared ownership. It details the creation of up to 70 jobs during the construction of the 180m high turbines. Rates income for Clare could run to €1m annually. The developers have said the windfarm is "critical to help Ireland meet its EU renewable energy target by 2030".

RWE also contends that renewable energy generated by the development could displace thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime and lead to cheaper electricity and improved energy security.

The dedicated Fahy Beg Project phone number is 087-1519219, the email address is [fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com) and the postal address is Fahy Beg Wind Farm, Desert House, Lower New Street, Kilkenny, R95 H488.

Environmental Impact Studies (EIS) have begun within the area at Fahy Beg, Fahy More North, Ballymoloney and Ballyknavin townlands. A planning application is expected to be lodged early next year.

Media Coverage 17<sup>th</sup> June 2021

# The Clare Champion

[Home](#) » [Breaking News](#) » Planning set to go in for east windfarm



## Planning set to go in for east windfarm

June 17, 2021 545 Views

A PLANNING application for the development of eight 180 metre wind turbines in South-East Clare will be lodged to Clare County Council next February.

RWE Renewables has unveiled plans for the development of the wind turbines at Fahy Beg, Fahy More North, Ballymoloney and Ballyknavin in Bridgetown.

RWE Renewables spokesman, Kieran O'Byrne, has also confirmed the next stage of the process is the completion of the Environmental Impact Statement.

In an interview with The Clare Champion, he said the company has sent out two information letters to residents in April and was planning to circulate a third one this Friday or next Monday.

He confirmed a company representative has met about 30 residents, some of those living less than one kilometre away are positive, some of the households living more than two kilometres away are negative, and it is also receiving questions from people living further away.

He said the company is happy to talk to any resident and hoped to host an information workshop next July when the precise location of the wind turbines will become known following the completion of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Asked why the company hadn't officially engaged with people living outside two kilometres in view of the fact these turbines will be seen from Birdhill and Ballina, he said this will be done during the next stage of their consultation with the local community when the precise location of turbines is decided.

Its brochure states investment in the proposed Fahy Beg Wind farm and local communities is expected to be "in the region of 30 million over its lifetime".

Fahybeg Wind Farm Biodiversity and Conservation Group is a new group that has held two meetings with a view to informing the wider community about the tourism and environmental impact of the company's plans.

It is planning further consultations with the local community and may host a meeting next month subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

A number of group members who spoke to The Clare Champion expressed concern the company is not willing to meet them as a community and only seems interested in one-to-one meetings to discuss this project.

While residents are not opposed to wind farms and support the development of renewable energy, they believe the area is not a suitable location for the proposed Fahy Beg Wind Farm.

Resident, James Skehan said these turbines will not only be seen from Bridgetown, they will easily be viewed from vantage points in Ballina and Birdhill.

"This will impact people in Limerick and Tipperary. There will be a lot more people affected by these turbines than people living in Bridgetown."

Resident, Sean Conway questioned the timing and effectiveness of public consultation at this stage as the company has already signed an agreement with 12 local land owners to proceed with this development, pending planning permission.

He believes the proposed development will proceed to planning, regardless of what views are expressed during the company's "public consultation" process.

He said the company are not willing to meet the group in a town hall public meeting and will only meet a few members in small groups.

"We are not against wind turbines but there is a place for them and it is not Fahy Beg. The ESB are proposing 1.5 gigawatts of electricity offshore with its Moneypoint development. Fahy Beg will only produce about 28 megawatts, which is about 2.5% of this and is miniscule.

One resident said the company had told him it couldn't agree to a town hall meeting because they had experienced problems with previous similar large gatherings that required the assistance of security.

Another resident expressed concern that information is only being provided in "drips and drabs", which was in stark contrast to well published notification of work being conducted by Coillte near Killaloe.

The company told The Champion that it hopes to hold group meetings over a week long period in the local school hall, subject to Covid-19 regulations.

According to the company, the capacity of each proposed turbine could be in the range of three and a half to six megawatts, resulting in a total estimated capacity for the site of between 28 and 48 megawatts.

The majority of the proposed wind farm study area is agricultural and forestry land. The company believes these land uses could continue with a wind farm development at the site.

The land is in an area designated in the Clare County Development Plan Wind Energy Strategy 2017 to 2023 as "open to consideration" for wind farm development.

The wind farm doesn't contain areas designated as European Protected Natura 2000 sites, meaning it

is not a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection (SPA) and doesn't contain any nationally designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHA).

Anyone who would like to contact the group or become a member can email [Fahybeg@gmail.com](mailto:Fahybeg@gmail.com).

**by Dan Danaher**

# APPENDIX D

## Stakeholder Engagement Meetings & Correspondence

### We have met with the following

- Councillor Tony O'Brien
- House No. 3
- House No. 5
- House No. 12
- House No. 13
- House No. 22
- House No. (site beside No 25)
- House No. 25
- House No. 26
- House No. 29
- House No. 33
- House No. 35
- House No. 37
- House No. 41
- House No. 44
- House No. 45
- House No. 46
- House No. 49
- House No. 60
- House No. 61
- House No. 65
- House No. 68
- House No. 75
- House No. 80
- House No. 87
- House No. 88
- House No. 91
- House No. 94
- House No. 99
- House No. 101
- House No. 103
- House No. 104
- House No. 105
- House No. 108
- House No. 113
- House No. 116
- House No. 118
- House No. 119
- House No. 121
- House No. 122
- House No. 124



- House No. 126
- House No. 130
- House No. 136
- House No. 141
- House No. 142
- House No. 145
- House No. 148
- House No. 151
- House No. 156
- House No. 160
- House No. 162
- House No. 165
- House No. 171
- House No. 172
- House No. 175
- House No. 176
- House No. 178
- House No. 183
- House No. 185
- House No. 188
- House No. 189
- House No. 194
- House No. 195
- House No. 197
- House No. 202
- House No. 203
- House No. 213
- House No. 209
- Bridgetown National School Principal

#### **Emails from**

- House No. 5
- House No. 12
- House No. 22
- House No. 25
- House No. 35
- House No. 34
- House No. 37
- House No. 41
- House No. 44
- House No. 45
- House No. 68
- House No. 74
- House No. 75
- House No. 148
- House No. 158
- House No. 213
- Local business outside 2km House No. Martin Ryan

- Local resident outside 2km

**Phone Calls from**

- House No. 123

**Post From**

- Resident from Limerick



1st July 2022

**Re: Update on the Proposed Fahybeg Wind Farm**

Dear Resident

During the last round of consultation, I said that we would be back to you when we had more information about the project. The team has undertaken the ecological surveys and engineering studies that form part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application for the proposal. These surveys and studies have informed the proposed draft site layout.

Please find attached a map of the proposed locations of the 8 turbines, proposed location of the substation and associated onsite infrastructure and proposed access routes to and from the site.

Next week, we plan on visiting each home in the area to meet with as many people as we can, face to face. We also intend to hold drop-in clinics in Bridgetown National School on the week of the 18<sup>th</sup> July for those that we do not get to meet in the coming weeks. The clinics will be drop-in, by appointment only and we ask those who wish to meet with the team to contact me on my mobile **087 151 9219** or by email at [fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com) so that we can arrange suitable times to brief you.

Our plan is to submit a planning application to Clare County Council by the end of the Summer and we will again be in touch to let you know when we have submitted the planning application.

The proposed Fahybeg Wind Farm will help Ireland meet our Climate Action Plan 2021 (CAP21) targets and generate renewable energy, displace thousands of tonnes of carbon dioxide over its lifetime and lead to cheaper electricity and energy security. Among the measures proposed in CAP 21 is the plan to increase the proportion of renewable electricity, to up to 80% by 2030. This will require a doubling of the amount of onshore wind currently built in Ireland. While offshore wind will play a part, onshore wind is still fundamental to the decarbonisation of the electricity market in Ireland.

The project webpage [www.rwe.com/fahybeg](http://www.rwe.com/fahybeg) has been updated with more information in response to the queries raised during the consultation process thus far. It also has sections with useful documents and more information about turbines, wind farms and other aspects of wind farm developments.

As ever, I would be delighted to hear from you as we progress through this engagement process. If you have any questions about the project at any stage, please feel free to contact me on my mobile **087 151 9219** or by email at [fahybeg@rwe.com](mailto:fahybeg@rwe.com). You can write to me at RWE Renewables Ireland Limited, Desart House, Lower New Street, Co. Kilkenny R95 H488.

Many thanks for your time and I look forward to meeting you in person in the near future.

Kind regards

*Kieran*

**Kieran O'Byrne**  
**Stakeholder Engagement / Communications – (Wind, Solar & Storage) Ireland**  
**RWE Renewables Ireland Limited**

**RWE Renewables Ireland Limited**

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