The planning application

The planning application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála because it is deemed Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). You will be able to view the full planning application at www.carrownagowangridplanning.ie and on An Bord Pleanála's website.

Next steps

- Our project CLOs will continue to share updated information with relevant stakeholders, the local community and landowners and receive feedback. Feedback received will be considered in the preparation of a planning application, including the proposed outline traffic management plan.
- MWP will prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to determine the suitability and inform the design of the proposed grid route as part of the planning application process.
- The FuturEnergy Ireland team will liaise with Clare County Council and other statutory agencies on the scope of the proposed planning application, including future traffic management requirements.
- It is intended that the application for the grid route will be submitted for planning approval in Q1 2023. The planning application and accompanying EIAR will be uploaded to the dedicated planning website www.carrownagowangridplanning.ie.

Meet the team

Charlie Langley
Project Manager

Civil engineer Charlie worked in the construction industry before moving into the renewables sector 12 years ago. He is passionate about helping Ireland to become a more sustainable country and decarbonising our energy system.

Michael McNamara
Community Liaison Officer

Michael spent 20 years in the pharmaceutical industry before joining Coillte in 1999. He has been working as a Community Liaison Officer since 2017. Michael enjoys the sociable aspect of his role, especially discussing renewable energy with local stakeholders.

Kevin Donnellan
Community Liaison Officer

Kevin has 43 years' experience in forestry management. Highlights include working on Coillte's dual FSC/PEFC certification and on biodiversity programmes. Kevin has a keen interest in forest recreation and is looking forward to building a strong relationship with the local community.

Contact Us

Your questions and feedback are important to us. We encourage you to contact our local Community Liaison Officers Michael McNamara and Kevin Donnellan to discuss the project.

Contact us by email:
carrownagowan@futurenergyireland.ie

Call Michael: 086 667 4281 or Kevin: 087 431 5976

Keep up to date on developments:
www.carrownagowanwindfarm.ie

Address:
FuturEnergy Carrownagowan DAC
FuturEnergy Ireland
The Rubicon Centre
Bishopstown
Cork, T12 Y275

FuturEnergy Ireland

A Coillte and ESB joint venture company

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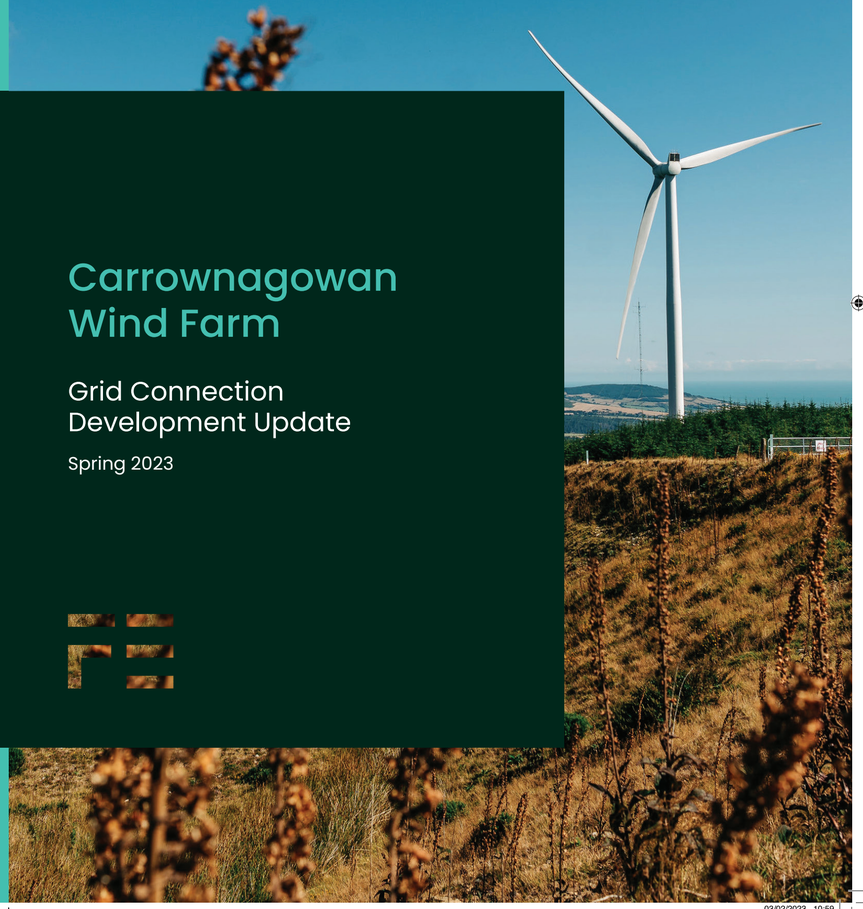
FuturEnergy Ireland

Carrownagowan Wind Farm

Grid Connection Development Update

Spring 2023



Carrownagowan Wind Farm has been in development since 2017. A planning application was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in November 2020 and a request for Further Information was responded to in December 2021. The project received a positive grant of planning from An Bord Pleanála in September 2022.

The next stage of development is for FuturEnergy Ireland to prepare a planning application for the associated underground grid cable connection to link the project to the ESB Networks substation at Ardnacrusha, Co. Clare. It is intended that this project will be submitted by FuturEnergy Carrownagowan DAC to An Bord Pleanála.

As we prepare the grid planning application, we wish to keep all homeowners, stakeholders and communities located along the potential route and within the surrounds of the project up to date.

This newsletter provides information on further planned development activities and we are sharing details of our project team, which includes two dedicated Community Liaison Officers who are your day-to-day point of contact for all queries and feedback.

Project developer

FuturEnergy Ireland is a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB that launched in November 2021.

Our ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and to make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

An urgent need for renewable energy

The climate change crisis is driving Ireland's need for resilience and security in our energy system. Building renewable energy projects and connecting them to our national grid is one way to do this. Recent extreme weather events, from floods and wildfires to heatwaves and hurricanes, have provided a stark warning that climate disruption is inevitable, irreversible and will deeply affect us all.

Carrownagowan Wind Farm has the potential to make a significant contribution towards local county, regional and national renewable energy targets. The 19-turbine development will generate up to 91.2 MW of renewable electricity, which is enough to supply approximately 70,000 homes per annum. This would save 159,754 tonnes of carbon over the lifetime of the wind farm compared with traditional electricity generation.

In addition to the climate emergency, the electricity network is under increased stress to meet supply needs, highlighted by the conflict in Ukraine. Green energy projects such as Carrownagowan Wind Farm have never been more important.

The grid route

The Carrownagowan Wind Farm development site is located within forested lands on the northern slopes of Slieve Bernagh, approximately 4km northeast of Broadford, 7km northwest of Killaloe and 2.5km south of Bodyke.

To ensure the power generated by the wind farm feeds into the national grid, a physical connection is required between the wind farm substation and the existing ESB Networks Ardnacrusha 110kV/220kV substation, located in the townland of Parkroe, approximately 24km south of the wind farm development, at its closest point.

The connection method involves a 110kV underground cable that primarily runs underneath the roadways for the majority of its approximate 24km length, diverting from the road when there are technical merits to do so.

The planning application will incorporate an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and apply the requirements of the European Habitats Directive to determine the suitability of the route and inform its design. This is being prepared by planning and environmental consultancy Malachy Walsh & Partners (MWP).

Connecting to the grid

The proposed underground cable for the wind farm is being designed and constructed to meet ESB Networks standards. A duct surrounded by concrete will be laid approximately 1.25 metres below road level and will be approximately 0.6 to 0.8 metres wide. The cable will be installed in a similar manner to existing utilities in the area, such as other high voltage cabling and water mains.

The underground cable will exit the Carrownagowan Wind Farm Substation located beside Turbine 10 in the north of the site and travel to the ESB Networks substation at Ardnacrusha, as per Figure 1 (right).

What this means for you

An essential part of the grid route design process involves engaging with the local community and communicating with you at each step along the way.

In the event of a successful planning grant for the grid connection, the project team will work closely with Clare County Council to ensure compliance with any proposed development conditions so that any disruption is kept to a minimum.

A comprehensive traffic management plan will also be put in place, the details of which would be finalised and circulated well in advance of work commencing. Local access would be maintained at all times for residents and regular road users.

If you have any feedback or requirements to share on traffic management, please get in contact with our Community Liaison Officers.

Community benefits

Carrownagowan Wind Farm will make a significant contribution to the local economy in Co Clare via rates contributions.

The project will also establish a Community Benefit Fund that includes annual funding for wider community initiatives and a near neighbour scheme. This fund would deliver more than €500,000 annually to community projects for the first 15 years of operation and a further €250,000 annually for the remaining lifetime of the project.

This would bring an estimated overall Community Benefit Fund of up to €11 million to local communities over its 30 years in operation.

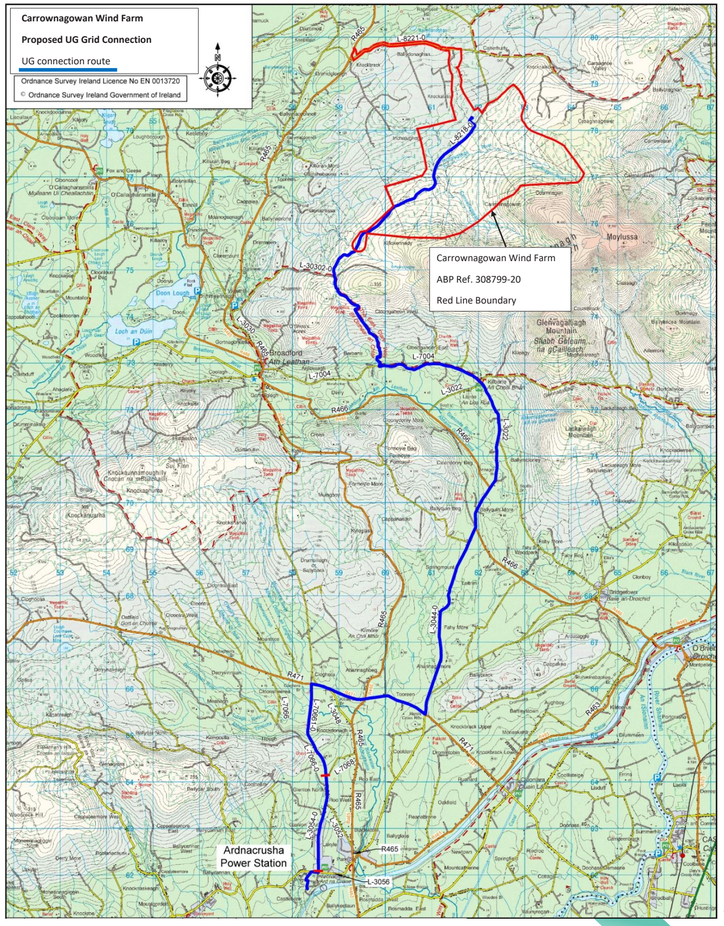


Figure 1 Proposed Underground Grid Connection Route