APPENDIX 2-1

COMMUNITY REPORT

Planning and Environmental Consultants

Appendix 2-1 – Community Report

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development Community Report

APPENDIX 2-1 Community Report

Client:	**Laurclavagh Ltd.**
Project Title:	**Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development Community Report**
Project Number:	**210627**
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Prepared By:	**MKO** **Tuam Road** **Galway** **Ireland** **H91 VW84**

Planning and Environmental Consultants

Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved By
01	Draft	12/01/2024	NG	WOC
02	Final	26/02/2024	NG	WOC

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared to record the consultation carried out with the local community in respect of the proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development. Laurclavagh Ltd, is an associate company of Enerco Energy, which has been created exclusively for the Proposed Project. Enerco Energy Ltd. has led the community consultation process in relation to the Proposed Project with local residents and interested parties in the wider community. The objective of the consultations was to ensure that the views and concerns of all were considered as part of the Proposed Project design and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

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

The Guidelines state that:

> *"While it is not a mandatory requirement, it is strongly recommended that developers of a wind energy project should engage in active consultation and dialogue with the local community at an early stage in the planning process, ideally prior to submitting a planning application".*

This was further addressed in the Preferred Draft Approach to Wind Energy Development in Ireland[1] (June 2017) which stated the following with respect to planning applications for wind farms:

> *"Planning applications must contain a Community Report prepared by the applicant which will specify how the final proposal reflects community consultation. The Community Report must also outline steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned".*

The Draft Guidelines has retained this position stating the following:

> *"In order to promote the observance of best practice, planning authorities should require applicants to prepare and submit a Community Report with their planning application and a condition on any subsequent planning permission should require developers to carry out the development in accordance with the approved Community Report".*

This report outlines the consultation and community engagement initiatives undertaken by the Applicant prior to the submission of the planning application. It also outlines the main issues identified during this process, how the final proposal reflects community consultation and the steps taken to ensure that the Proposed Project will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned.

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

2. CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

2.1 Notification of the Local Community

To inform local residents about the Proposed Project, a project Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed and an introductory information pack was delivered via door-door consultation to all householders within a c.2km radius of the area of the site, in November 2022. The information distributed to each household consisted of:

- A company brochure, which provided an overview on Enerco Energy and some general information about wind energy;
- A site location map;
- An overview map which divided the properties surrounding the site into 3 zones;
- A map highlighting the potential developable area which was under review at that time and the properties within each zone;
- Dedicated contact details (name, phone and email) for the community liaison officer (CLO) in relation to the project, along with a web address for the dedicated project website.
- All of the information sent to the local community was also made available for pubic viewing on the project information website.

The community consultation effort was led by Enerco Energy Ltd on behalf of Laurclavagh Ltd. which is a project specific company.

2.1.1 Community Interactions

Following the initial notification of the proposal to the local community, the CLO liaised with interested parties in helping them to understand the proposal and respond to any queries or concerns raised. As more project information became available, further consultations were organised, with the CLO attending in-person meetings with individuals to answer queries relating to the Proposed Project.

The following paragraphs provide an outline of the consultation effort, with further detail provided in the following sections below:

In January 2023 an updated information pack on the project was circulated. This included a letter, a biodiversity brochure, and a draft 9 no. wind turbine layout which was circulated to the original mailing list, updated accordingly following the initial consultation with the community, and updated throughout the entire consultation period. At this stage the CLO also offered face-to-face meetings to discuss the proposal with any interested parties.

In March 2023, a project update letter was circulated to the original mailing list, this provided some clarity on the proposed turbine dimensions and explained that the project would likely be submitted directly to ABP as a Strategic Infrastructure Development as it was envisaged that the development would have a generating capacity of greater than 50MW.

In April 2023 correspondence was circulated, notifying the community about the dates and times of the first Public Information Exhibition to be held May 04th, in the Claregalway Hotel.

In November 2023 correspondence was circulated, notifying the community about the dates and times of the second Public Information Exhibition to be held November 29th, in the Claregalway Hotel.

Throughout the lengthy consultation period the CLO has continued to liaise with any interested parties and answer any questions as promptly as possible. A further round of correspondence will be issued to

the usual mailing list informing them about the imminent planning application and reminding them that the CLO continues to be available to address any concerns throughout the application process. This correspondence will be issued in the week prior to lodging the planning application.

2.1.1.1 November 2022

The first round of consultation was by a letter from the appointed CLO to houses identified within c.2km of the site that was identified with potential for wind turbine development. Introductions were made and an information pack was given to the householders which contained a brochure with some information about Enerco Energy and some general information about wind energy, along with a map highlighting the identified site area with the potential for wind development.

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

This correspondence was hand delivered by the CLO (assisted by colleagues), in the event that nobody was home throughout this period, the letter and information pack was left in the post box with the CLO's contact details inside. A number of calls were received by the CLO from householders that were not home during the visits and many queries were answered over the phone. Meetings were arranged for dates and times that suited those residents who were unavailable at the time of calling, or who wished for other family members to be present for the discussion.

The full pack of information that was sent to the neighbouring houses was also made available for public viewing on a dedicated project information website, www.laurclavaghinfo.com and this website has been continuously updated to ensure that all community correspondence remains available for public viewing.

2.1.1.2 January 2023

A second round of consultation was carried out with comprised a project update letter accompanied with an information pack sent to the updated mailing list from the initial round of consultation. The pack included a biodiversity brochure and a draft wind turbine layout. The biodiversity brochure provided some findings from the ecological surveys which had been carried out along with some of the species of interest identified on the site. The turbine layout presented in January 2023 included the provision of 9 no. wind turbines. The correspondence outlined that surveys were on-going at the site and further updates would be provided as new information became available.

2.1.1.3 March 2023

The letter issued to usual mailing list in March 2023 provided a further update on the project status. It was outlined that environmental surveys and assessments were still being carried out on the site. This letter addressed queries relating to the turbine dimensions and the site investigation works which would see increase activity in the area for a short period.

Further information was contained in this letter relating to project timelines and the planning process. This letter outlined that the Proposed Project was envisaged to have a generating capacity of greater than 50 megawatts (MW), and that it was therefore necessary to consult with An Bord Pleanála, as the project could be considered to constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). A commitment was made within this letter that the Applicant would hold a Public Information Exhibition (PIE) once sufficient information had been obtained. `

2.1.2 Public Information Exhibition

2.1.2.1 PIE Advertisement

On April 21st, 2023, a letter was circulated to the usual mailing list notifying them of the upcoming PIE being held in the Claregalway hotel in Claregalway on May 5th, 2023. An advert was also placed in the Tuam herald on April 26th to notify the wider community of the upcoming PIE.

Similarly, on November 13th, 2023, a letter was circulated to detailing the upcoming PIE being held in the Claregalway hotel in Claregalway on November 29th, 2023. An advert was also placed in the Tuam herald on November 15th to notify the wider community of the upcoming PIE.

2.1.2.2 PIE Details

- Claregalway Hotel, Claregalway (04/05/2023) (approx. 100 attendees)
- Claregalway Hotel, Claregalway (29/11/2023) (approx. 40 attendees)

The Public Information Exhibitions were attended primarily by people who live in the locality of the Proposed Wind Farm. The exhibitions comprised several graphic and information boards positioned for the public to read. Members of the project team including the prospective Applicant were in attendance to answer any queries and discuss the project details. The information presented included:

- Detail on the wind farm and grid connection sites
- Consultation undertaken
- Application process
- Site constraints
- Development design
- The chapters to be included in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report
- Environmental benefits
- Community benefits
- Next steps and how to get in touch
- Selection of photomontages

Members of the public were invited to submit comment, concerns, and opinions regarding the Proposed Project through a feedback form at the event. The project website address, www.laurclavaghinfo.com, and the contact details of CLO were on display for the attendees.

All information that was displayed at the Public Information Exhibitions was made publicly available for interested parties to view in their own time, and the website includes a contact page which facilitates any feedback or queries from the community.

2.1.2.3 PIE Feedback

The main queries raised during the Public Information Exhibitions, were:

1. *Proximity of houses;*
2. *Community Gain Scheme;*
3. *Number of turbines;*
4. *Near Neighbour benefit Scheme;*
5. *Potential impacts on telecoms services (incl. broadband)*
6. *Noise and Vibration;*
7. *Height of turbines;*
8. *Visual Impact;*
9. *Wind Farm Amenities;*
10. *Impact on Biodiversity.*

11. *Geological Impacts;*
12. *Shadow flicker;*
13. *Traffic management*
14. *Impact on Group Water Schemes*
15. *Planning process*

Following the Public Information Exhibitions, the CLO followed up with any queries raised at the events. Feedback received at and since the public information evenings has been noted by the CLO and relayed to the design team. The feedback has continued to inform all refinements to the project design and all concerns have been fully addressed in the EIAR and NIS that accompany this planning application.

2.2 Dedicated Contact Details

Since the project was first introduced to the community in November 2022, dedicated contact details for the Proposed Project have been provided to the community, including a dedicated phone number and email address. To date, these channels have facilitated several enquiries about the Proposed Project.

2.3 Project Website

In November 2022, a dedicated project website was launched, www.laurclavaghinfo.com. The website is an additional communication channel to keep members of the public informed about the Proposed Project. All information that was made available to the community has been uploaded to the website throughout the consultation period.

Following subsequent site layout amendments, the information hosted on the website was updated in line with the various rounds of consultation. This allowed members of the public to access the latest information at all times. It is intended to continue to update the website as any new information becomes available.

2.4 Community Liaison Officer

In September 2022, a dedicated Community Liaison Officer (CLO) was appointed for the Proposed Project to facilitate on the ground engagement with the local community. As part of this consultation, the CLO introduced the Proposed Project to the local community in November 2022, as outlined in detail above. Throughout the community consultation process the CLO has remained available to liaise with all interested parties in the community to address any concerns raised. To date, having a single point of contact for the community has proved successful in addressing any concerns raised. The CLO will continue to be available to address any queries or concerns that may be raised by the community in relation to the Proposed Project.

3. ENDURING ECONOMIC BENEFIT

3.1 Economic Benefits – Community Benefit Fund

Throughout the public consultation process, residents were informed about the availability of a community benefit fund, in the event of a grant of planning for the Proposed Project. Examples were given of how this fund could be utilised to help provide a loose framework of what it can contribute to the community. It was highlighted that this fund could be used, for example, as funding for a range of youth, sport and community facilities, schools, educational and training initiatives, and wider amenity, heritage, and environmental projects.

Initial local suggestions for use of the fund included grants for the local Corofin GAA club, Castlehackett National School, local enterprise schemes, energy retro-fitting of houses (PV, Heat Pumps, Triple Glazing etc.) and contributions to electrical bills.

3.2 Short Term Economic Benefits

During the construction phase, it is estimated that at peak construction approximately 100 jobs will be created. This in turn will have a knock-on effect of the local economy through the supply of services to the workforce. While at a regional level additional employment will be created in the region through the supply of services and materials (such as stone and concrete) to the Proposed Project.

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

3.3 Long Term Economic Benefits

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

3.3.1 Employment

It is estimated that approximately 100 jobs will be created during the construction, operational and maintenance phases of the Proposed Project.

3.3.2 Rates

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

3.3.3 Community Benefit Fund

Based on the current Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) guidelines it is expected that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €2 into a community fund for the first 15 years of operation of the Proposed Project. If this commitment is changed in upcoming Government Policy, the fund would be adjusted accordingly.

Should the Proposed Project be developed under the current RESS T&C's, as a 56MW development it would attract a community contribution in the region of almost €345,000/year for the local community (estimated based on an average energy yield). The value of this fund would be directly proportional to the electricity generated by the wind farm. Under the current RESS T&Cs, the following is the recommended breakdown of the fund:

- **Direct payments** – to those living closest to the Proposed Wind Farm. A minimum €1,000 payment per annum for houses within 1km of the Proposed Project.
- **Energy Efficiency** – A minimum of 40% per year would be available for the development of energy initiatives to benefit people living in the local area.
- **Administration costs** – a maximum of 10% per year will be made available for the administration and governance costs of the fund.
- **Support for local groups** – The remaining balance of this community benefit fund would be available for local groups, clubs and not for profit organisations that provide services in the local

area. This would include services for the elderly, local community buildings, and the development of sporting facilities such as all-weather playing pitches etc.

The Community Benefit Fund belongs to the local community. The premise of the fund is that it should be used to bring about, significant, positive change in the local area. To make this happen, the first task will be to form a benefit fund development working group that clearly represents both the close neighbours to the project as well as nearby communities. The group will then work on designing the governance and structure of a community entity that would administer the Community Benefit Fund.

Should the Proposed Project not be developed under RESS, the Applicant is committing that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €1 into a community fund for the entire operational life of the Proposed Project. This would equate to an estimated annual fund of approximately €170,000 (using the same formula as above), which across the 30-year operational lifespan would result in funding in the order of €5.1 million to the local community which is a substantial contribution.

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

3.3.3.1 Community Gain Examples

- **Support for local groups**
  - Astroturf pitches;
  - Walking/running tracks;
  - Floodlighting;
  - Upgrade of clubhouse facilities;
  - Improved accessibility of local community facilities
  - Provision of ramps
  - Disabled parking spaces;
- **Energy Efficiency**
  - Installation of heat pumps
  - Retrofitting of insulation
  - Fitting of triple-glazed windows
  - Retrofitting of boilers
  - Fitting of advanced ventilation
  - Fitting of Solar PV panels
  - Monetary contribution towards energy bills

4. CONCLUSION

Active engagement and consultation with the local community has taken place from an early stage during the pre-application phase of the Proposed Project. The consultation process has been an extremely valuable exercise and has provided a detailed, and enhanced understanding of the key issues and concerns of the local community, which have ultimately shaped the final project proposal. There is currently on-going consultation with the local community, and it is the intention of the applicant to continue with the consultation for the entire lifespan of the Proposed Project.

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

APPENDIX 2.3.1

NOVEMBER 2022 - INFORMATION

01st November 2022

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well. Based on available information you are the owner of the property marked HXXX, on the enclosed dicsussion map, Zone X. If this information is incorrect, please let me know.

I am writing as a representative of Enerco Energy, an Irish-owned renewable energy developer, based in Lissarda, near Macroom Co. Cork. We are exploring the potential of a renewable energy development site in the area of Laurclavagh and adjacent townlands. The site has been identified as being a potentially suitable location for a development of approximately 9 no. wind turbines.

We are making initial contact with all dwellings identified within approximately 2km of the proposed site. This letter is intended to inform you about the proposed project and introduce you to the company.

Along with this letter, you will also find a map and company brochure enclosed. The map illustrates the area which has been identified as being potentially suitable for turbine development, while the brochure provides an overview on Enerco Energy, with some general information about wind energy. Furthermore, a dedicated project website (www.laurclavaghinfo.com) has been set providing information about the proposed project. A copy of this correspondence and all future updates will be publicly available on the project website.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 086-1427399, by email at clo@laurclavaghinfo.com, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Kyne

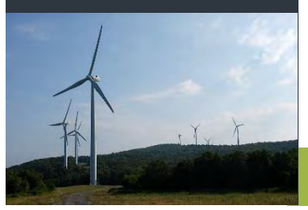
Enerco Energy Ltd
clo@laurclavaghinfo.com
086-1427399

Decommissioning

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

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

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



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. 1. Why are the turbines so big?

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

Q. 2. Are wind turbines noisy?

A. Wind turbines do emit noise. However, as the distance from the turbine increases, the noise reduces. The planning application will be accompanied by an EIAR, which will assess the potential impact associated with noise emanating from the proposed development, to ensure that the development can operate in accordance with the appropriate guidelines.

Q. 3. What is shadow flicker?

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

Q. 4. Does the community benefit from the wind farm?

A. During construction phase there will be employment opportunities for local contractors and machinery operators and indirect benefits for local shops, B&Bs, and hotels. A community benefit scheme will be set up to provide yearly funding for community and volunteer groups in the locality of the wind farm.

Q. 5. Can the land around the wind farm be used for farming?

A. The wind farm infrastructure takes up relatively little ground. The surrounding land can continue to be used for farming as normal.

Q. 6. What carbon dioxide savings from wind farms?

A. Using the wind resource to produce Irelands electricity reduces our need to burn fossil fuels such as coal or gas. In 2019, Irish wind energy led to avoiding 3.9 million tonnes of carbon emissions. Producing our own electricity helps to reduce the countries dependence on imported fuels. €248 million was saved on fossil fuel imports in 2019 due to wind energy**

***Source: SEAI - Energy in Ireland 2020 Report (12/2020)*

Q. 7. Who can I contact?

A. Enerco Offices: +353 (0) 217336034

Kieran Kyne Mob: +353 (0) 86 1427399 clo@laurclavaghinfo.com

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

Renewable Energy Project
Wind Information Leaflet

Contents

Who We Are Enerco Energy

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

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

To date Enerco and its associated companies have been responsible for the installation of a renewable electricity generating capacity of approximately 624 MW, with 195 MW under construction and a further 400 MW in the planning process or already permitted.

Climate Action Plan 2021

Introduction

In November 2021 the Irish government published the Climate Action Plan to build net zero carbon energy systems and create a sustainable country.

Current situation

- Ireland missed the target set for 2013-2020 of reducing emissions by 20% (relative to 2005 Levels) by one eight and more worrying it is expected that recent growth in emissions will put the country on a trajectory to be 25% off target for the 2021-2030 period if we don't implement a new strategy.

Targets for 2030 and beyond

- Increase percentage of electricity generated from renewables to 80% by 2030.
- 51% greenhouse gas reduction by 2030 and establish a trajectory which leads to Ireland being net zero carbon by 2050.

Road map to achieve Targets

To meet the required level of emissions reduction by 2030 the Climate Action Plans includes:

- Adding 5 gigawatts of offshore wind.
- 1 million EV's in private transport fleet by 2030.
- Ending coal burning in ESB's Moneypoint by 2025 and Bord na Mona transitioning away from peat by 2028.

Source: Climate Action Plan 2021 (05/11/2021)

Wind in Ireland

During 2019 Ireland's installed wind capacity was raised by 461 MW to 4,137 MW. Wind energy accounted for 85% of normalised renewable electricity in 2018 and was one of the largest sources of electricity, second only to natural gas.

Source: SEAI – Renewable Energy in Ireland 2020 Report (04/2020)

On 18th December 2019, wind energy generated in Ireland produced enough electricity to potentially power over 1.9 million houses, and it accounted for approximately 72% of the electricity demand that day. As more wind farms are being built this record will continue to be broken and wind energy will fulfil more and more of our energy demand.

Source: www.eirgridgroup.com

In 2019 alone wind energy cut our carbon dioxide emissions by 3.9 million tonnes and saved the Irish economy more than €248 million in fossil fuel imports. Wind energy helps reduce both our reliance on imported fossil fuels and our carbon emissions whilst contributing towards a downward pressure on the price of electricity.

Source: SEAI - Energy in Ireland 2020 Report (12/2020)

Solar in Ireland

Solar energy currently has low penetration in Ireland, this contrasts with other Northern European countries such as Germany and the UK, which have successfully deployed solar power at a rapid pace over the last decade. Solar has become a much more viable energy source, thanks to both the consistently falling costs and the increasing generational capacities of solar modules.

What is an EIAR?

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

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

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

1. Introduction
2. Background to the Proposed Development
3. Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives
4. Description of the Proposed Development
5. Population & Human Beings
6. Biodiversity
7. Birds
8. Land, Soils & Geology
9. Water
10. Air and Climate
11. Noise and Vibration
12. Landscape and Visual
13. Cultural Heritage
14. Material Assists
15. Interaction of Foregoing
16. Vulnerability to Accidents & Natural Disasters
17. Schedule of Mitigation

Knocknagoum Wind Farm 44.5MW

LGLP Wind Farm 40.9MW

Wind Resource in Ireland

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

How Wind Turbines Work

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

Environmental Benefits

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

Knocknagoum Wind Farm

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

Economic Benefits

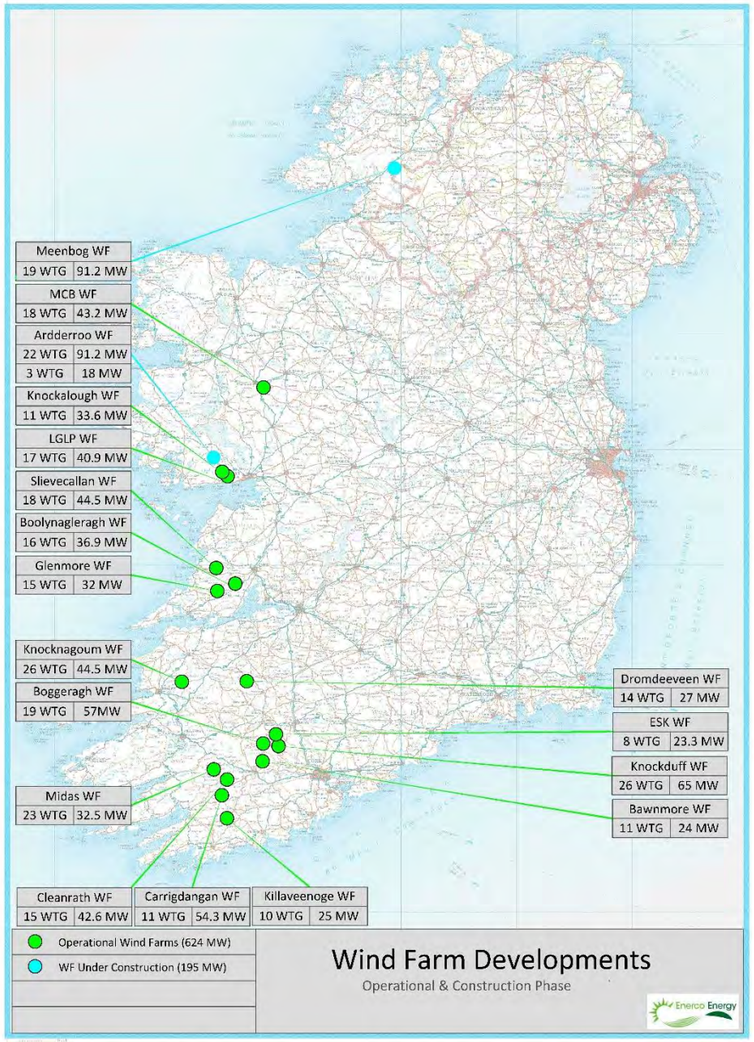
Wind farm developments have several long-term and short-term benefits for the local economy. The developments can represent an investment of several million euro in the locality of the development, with a large percentage of the total cost relating to on-site works, which would be relying heavily on local contractors and suppliers. The project will create many local jobs during the construction stage, which generally lasts in the region of 18 months. The construction phase will see employment opportunities for:

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

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

Security of Energy Supply

Ireland imported 67% of its energy requirement in 2018, one of the highest ratios in Europe. The more of its own energy Ireland can produce, the less vulnerable it would be to foreign policy and conflict interrupting gas, oil, and electricity supply lines. There is an opportunity to continue developing a strong indigenous wind industry, that will take advantage of Ireland's excellent wind resource, reducing our import dependency.



Benefits of Wind Turbines

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

Community Involvement

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

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Site Location - 28/10/2022

Tuam

Headford

Laurclavagh

Corofin

Castlequarter

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map Overview - Aerial Imagery - 28/10/2022

Zone 1

Zone 2

Zone 3

2km

1km

1km

1km

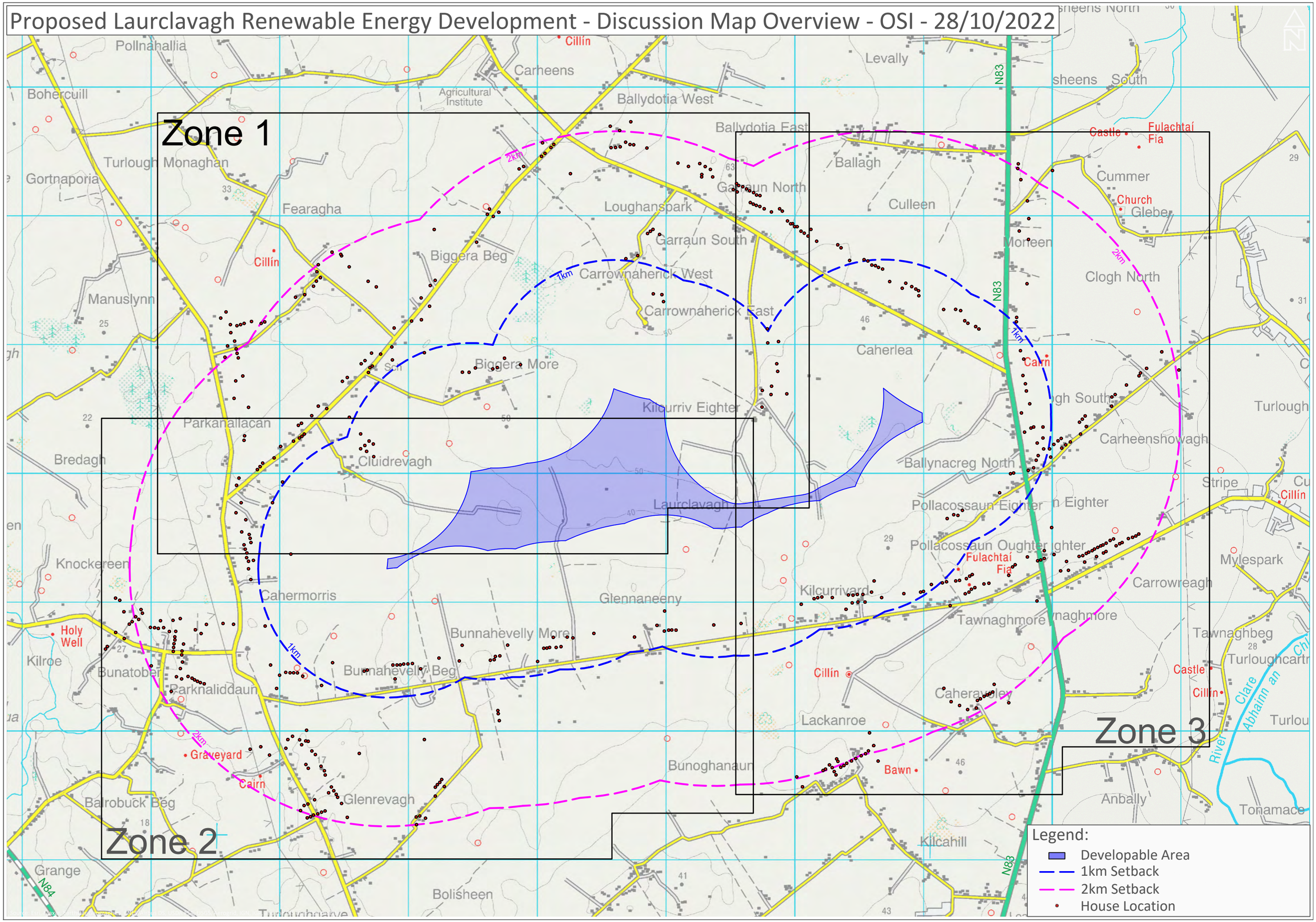
2km

N

Legend:

- Developable Area
- 1km Setback
- 2km Setback
- House Location

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map Overview - OSI - 28/10/2022



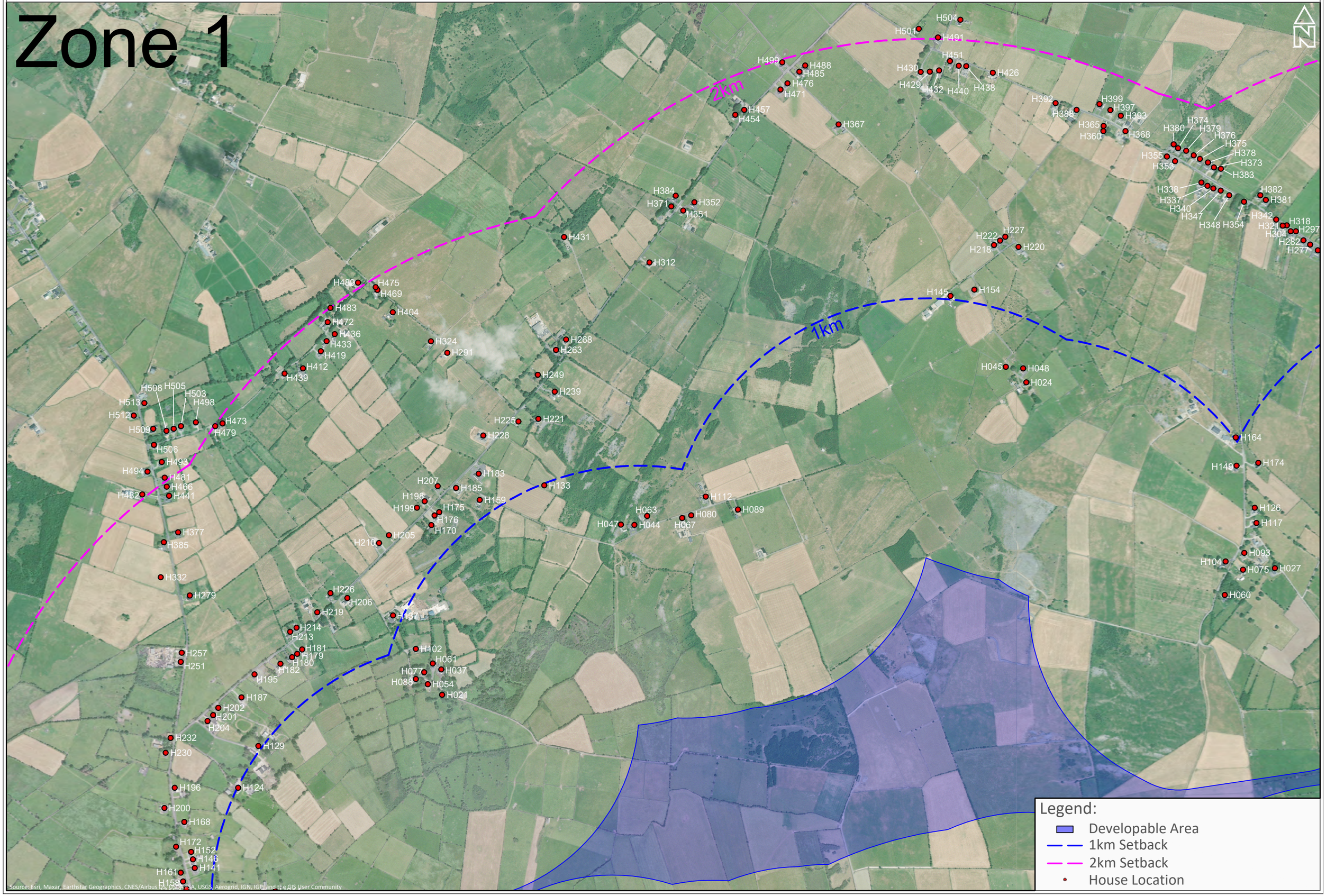
Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map - Zone 1 - 28/10/2022

Zone 1

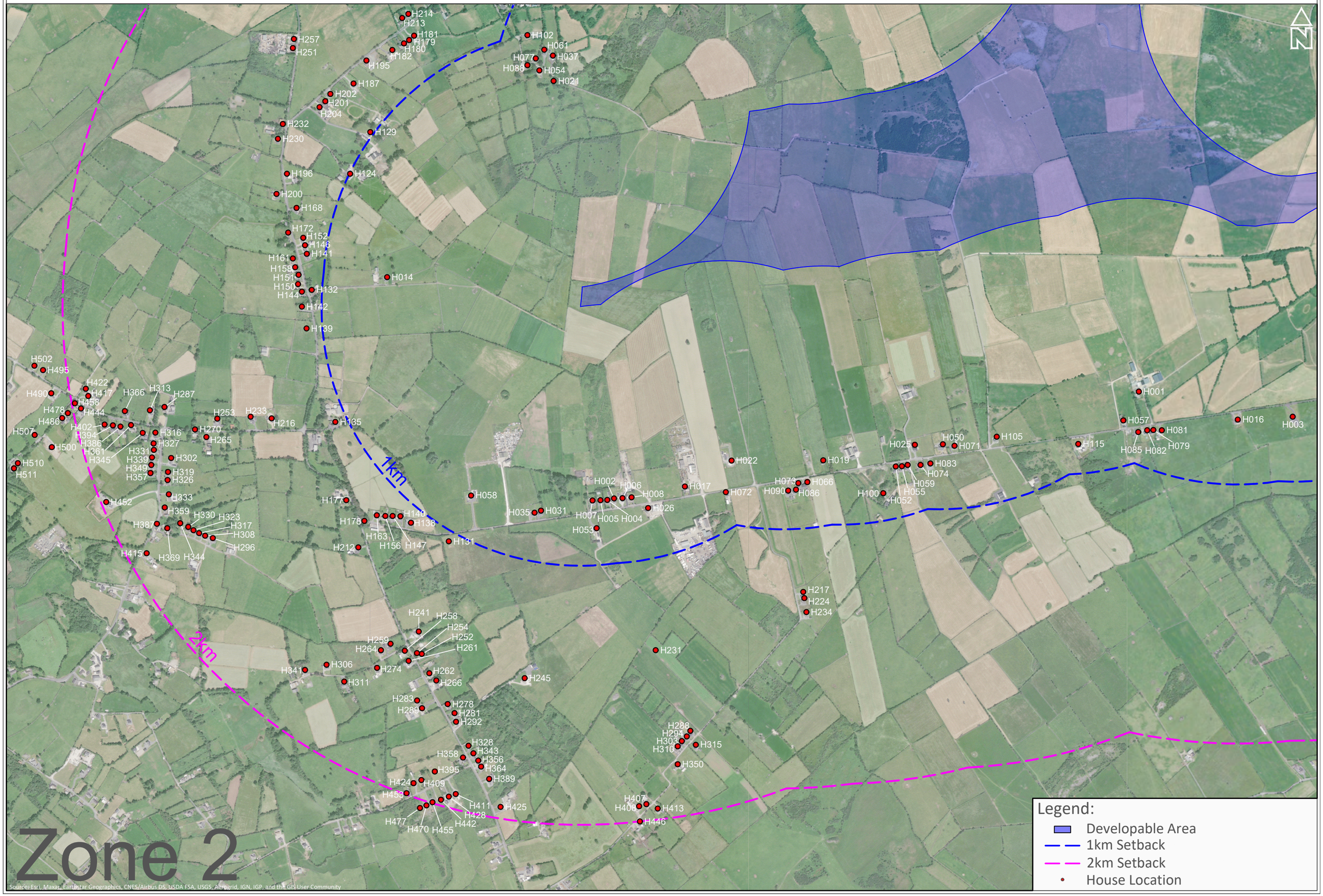
2km

1km

H504 H501 H491 H451 H499 H488 H485 H476 H471 H430 H429 H432 H440 H438 H426 H457 H454 H367 H392 H388 H399 H397 H393 H365 H360 H368 H380 H374 H379 H376 H375 H378 H373 H383 H355 H358 H384 H371 H352 H351 H338 H337 H340 H347 H348 H354 H382 H381 H342 H318 H321 H304 H297 H282 H277 H431 H227 H222 H218 H220 H312 H145 H154 H480 H475 H469 H483 H404 H472 H436 H433 H419 H324 H291 H268 H263 H412 H439 H249 H239 H045 H048 H024 H508 H505 H503 H513 H498 H512 H473 H509 H479 H225 H221 H228 H164 H506 H493 H494 H481 H466 H482 H441 H183 H207 H185 H133 H198 H159 H199 H175 H176 H170 H112 H063 H080 H089 H047 H044 H067 H149 H174 H126 H117 H377 H385 H210 H205 H093 H104 H075 H027 H332 H279 H226 H206 H219 H214 H213 H181 H179 H180 H182 H257 H251 H195 H102 H061 H077 H037 H088 H054 H021 H187 H202 H201 H204 H232 H230 H129 H060 H196 H124 H200 H168 H172 H152 H146 H141 H161 H158



Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map - Zone 2 - 28/10/2022



Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map - Zone 3 - 28/10/2022

APPENDIX 2.3.2

JANUARY 2023 - INFORMATION

13th January 2023

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear XXX,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Since our initial correspondence in November 2022, we have continued our consideration of the proposed Laurclavagh site, and it remains viable for potential development. MKO are the lead Planning and Environmental consultant on the project. MKO, a Galway based consultancy with extensive experience in leading environmental assessments for large scale infrastructure projects, will be responsible for the preparation of the planning application for the Proposed Development.

Various surveys continue to be gathered on-site including ecological, meteorological, and hydrological, these surveys and others will continue until MKO are confident that sufficient information has been collected to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) that will accompany the planning application.

Please find enclosed a biodiversity brochure, which you may find of interest, presenting some information regarding the biodiversity of the area where the site is located. Also enclosed are updated maps illustrating the initial turbine positions and the intended site access route.

Based on the information collected to-date from the on-going site surveys, an initial 9 turbine layout has been designed within the developable area, it is intended to access the site from the N83 located immediately east of the site. The site access will require the upgrading of a short section of the L61461 local road. For convenience, the enclosed maps build on the previous maps provided, your house is marked HXXX.

Work is on-going to progress the design of the propsoed development and we will continue to update you with more information as it becomes available. As always should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 086-1427399, by email at clo@laurclavaghinfo.com, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website, www.laurclavaghinfo.com.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Kyne

Enerco Energy Ltd
clo@laurclavaghinfo.com
086-1427399

Mammals

A number of mammals including badger, Irish Stoat and Irish Hare have been recorded in the area. Badgers live in social groups with family members and can live within complex tunnelling systems known as setts. Irish Stoat and Irish Hare are subspecies which are endemic to Ireland and are therefore of particular conservation interest.


Irish Hare
(credit: The Vincent Wildlife Trust)


Irish Stoat
(Credit: Irelandswildlife.com)

There are nine bat species in Ireland, and a number of these species have been recorded foraging within the study area, including Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Myotis species., Leisler's bat, Nathusius' pipistrelle, Brown long-eared bat, and Lesser horseshoe bat.

Lesser Horseshoe Bat are highly restricted in their range in Ireland, being found only within the western counties from Cork to Mayo. They have a characteristic horseshoe-shaped 'nose leaf' on their nose which helps them to echolocate.

Ireland's smallest bat is the soprano pipistrelle which weighs as little as a €1 coin. Each bat can eat over 3000 midges in one night! Ireland's largest bat, Leisler's bat, has also been recorded.


Pipistrelle
(credit: Bat Conservation Ireland)

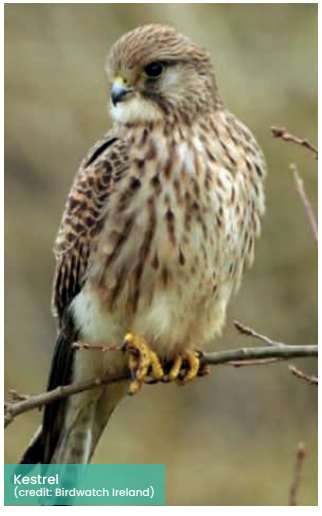
Bird species

A wide variety of common and widespread bird species typical of farmland habitats have been recorded in the study area. Of particular note are Buzzard and Kestrel.

Buzzards are seen and heard soaring above fields. Kestrels are easily distinguished by their trademark hovering behaviour as they search the ground for prey. The song of the Skylark, a distinctive continuous stream of warbling notes, can be heard throughout the site in spring and summer.


Buzzard
(credit: Birdwatch Ireland)


Skylark
(credit: Birdwatch Ireland)


Kestrel
(credit: Birdwatch Ireland)

If you would like further information
please contact **info@mkoireland.ie**

Laurclavagh Biodiversity

Information Leaflet

09.01.2023

Enerco Energy

Laurclavagh Biodiversity

Laurclavagh is situated within an agricultural grassland landscape with areas of karst limestone pavement and calcareous grassland. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species recorded during ecological surveys of the area.

What is Biodiversity?

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

A wide variety of specialist ecological surveys are being undertaken at Laurclavagh by MKO, with the project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors.

These surveys have targeted a wide variety of species and habitats with the aim of determining their distribution in the area. Species recorded in the study area to date include Badger, Irish Stoat, Irish Hare and a number of bat and bird species.

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

Habitats

Map 1 illustrates the biodiversity study area. The following habitat types, which may be of interest to the local community, are found within the study area:

Agricultural grasslands – The grassland habitats on the site comprise mainly improved agricultural grassland.
Although agricultural grasslands are often of relatively low biodiversity value, they do provide some supporting habitat for foraging fauna such as Badger.

Limestone pavement – Areas of exposed karst limestone are found within the site. This is a rare and protected habitat type found in the west of Ireland. The porous nature of the limestone has resulted in a lack of surface water/rivers within the site. Unusual wildflowers and plants can be found growing between the cracks of the limestone which provide a valuable microclimate.

Calcareous meadow – The limestone nature of the site has resulted in some areas developing into species-rich calcareous grasslands. A high number of unusual wildflowers, including orchids, can be found on these grasslands which provide a valuable food source for pollinators and other invertebrates. Some of the butterflies recorded at the site include Common Blue, Meadow Brown, and Tortoiseshell.

Hedgerows and stone walls – The agricultural fields across the site are often bordered by hedgerows which consist of hawthorn, hazel, blackthorn and bramble. These species provide vital sources of food for insects in spring and summer and berries in autumn for birds and mammals. Hedgerows and stone walls as linear features provide vital habitat links and shelter for mammals, particularly bats which depend on these features for commuting, foraging and roosting.

Scrub and woodland – Small areas of scrub and immature woodland are found around the site and are often dominated by hazel, a species typical of limestone areas. These areas provide shelter and foraging opportunities for fauna.

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map Overview - Aerial Imagery - 09/01/2023

Zone 1

Zone 2

Zone 3

2km

1km

1km

2km

1km

2km

T01

T02

T03

T04

T05

T06

T07

T08

T09

N83

N83

N83

Legend:

- Potential Turbine Location
- Developable Area
- Potential Site Access Route
- 1km Setback
- 2km Setback
- House Location

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map - Zone 1 - 09/01/2023

Zone 1

2km

1km

T02

T03

T04

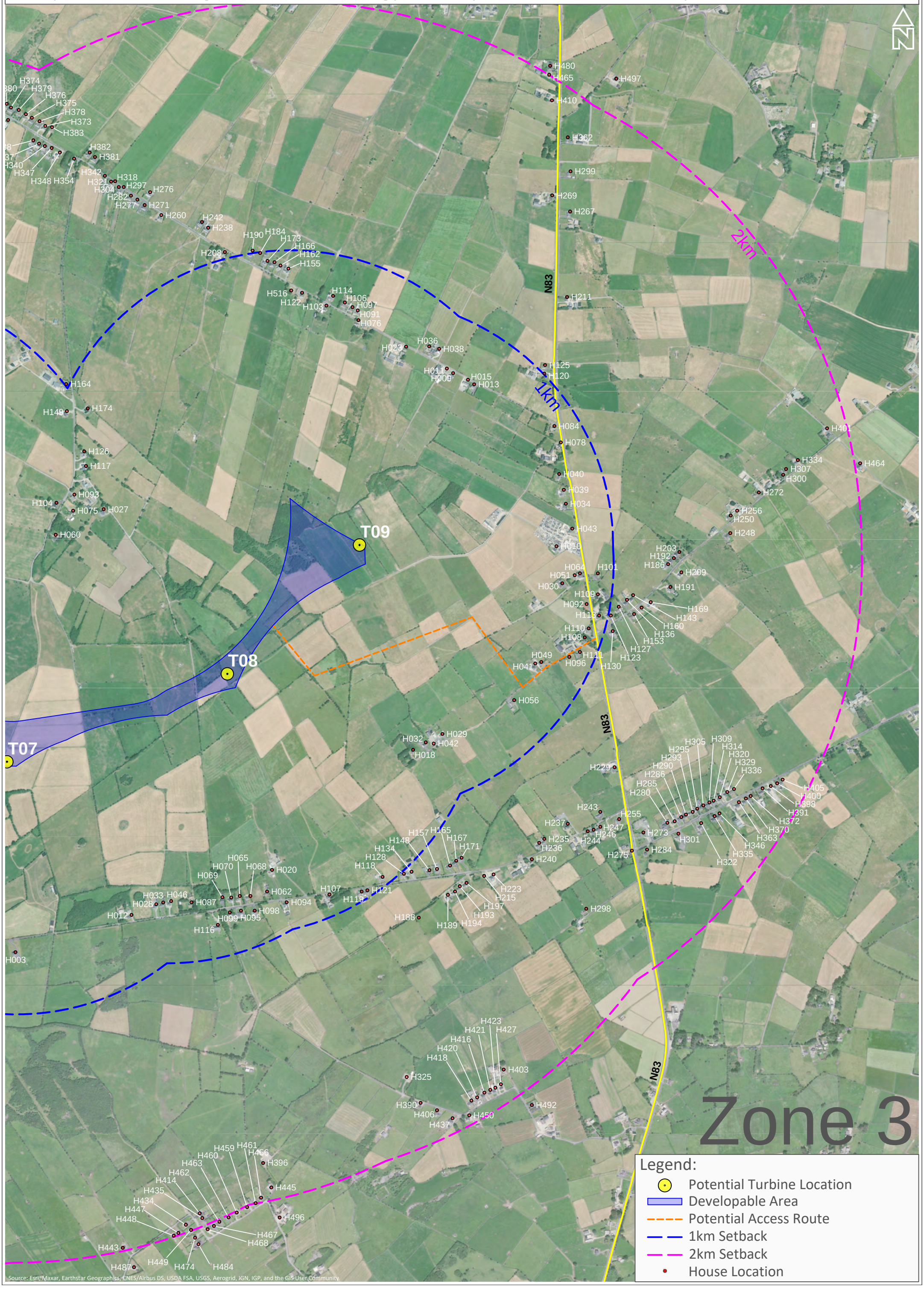
T05

Legend:

- Potential Turbine Location
- Developable Area
- 1km Setback
- 2km Setback
- House Location

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map - Zone 2 - 09/01/2023

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map - Zone 3 - 09/01/2023



APPENDIX 2.3.3

MARCH 2023 - INFORMATION

09th March 2023

Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear XXX,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wish to update you on the proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development. MKO, the project lead consultant, continue to carry out various surveys and assessments on the proposed Laurclavagh site. We have received some queries regarding the proposed turbine size, the detail of the supporting infrastructure and the timing of the planning application.

It is currently anticipated that the proposed turbines will have a maximum ground to blade tip height of 185m. In the coming weeks, you will see some activity on the site, where further site investigations will be on-going with the use of machinery. Following the completion of this work on site we hope to be able to provide an updated draft site layout including the turbines and supporting site infrastructure.

Currently it is expected that a planning application for the proposed development will be ready by the middle of this year. As the proposal is likely to have a generating capacity of greater than 50 Mega Watts (MW), it is necessary to query with An Bord Pleanála whether the development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). MKO have engaged with the Board in this regard and the Board will determine whether the application should be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála or to Galway County Council. This query to the Board has been assigned case number PC07.315469, we will inform you of the Board's determination of this matter once it is received.

I will continue to update you with new information as it becomes available. Once sufficient information regarding the proposal has been compiled, public information evenings will be held, where information regarding the project will be on display and members of the project team will be in attendance to answer any queries in relation to the proposal. Details of the public information evenings will be shared with you closer to the time and will be advertised in local media. I would be grateful for any suggestions that you may have regarding appropriate venues for these public information evenings.

As always should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, by phone at 086-1427399, by email at clo@laurclavaghinfo.com, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website, www.laurclavaghinfo.com.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Kyne

Enerco Energy Ltd | clo@laurclavaghinfo.com | (086) 1427399

APPENDIX 2.3.4

PIE – LETTERS TO RESIDENTS

21st April 2023

RE: Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wish to update you on the proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development. The project Environmental Consultants continue their preparation for a planning permission application for the proposed development and as more information becomes available, I will continue to update you.

The site investigation works are continuing following a temporary delay and it will take some time for the contractor to process the results of the fieldwork. In the meantime, we are preparing to hold a public information exhibition to provide an opportunity for public viewing of the information available to date.

This exhibition will be hosted in the Claregalway Hotel, on Thursday 4th May from 3:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Information about the proposed development will be on display and members of the project team along with myself will be present to answer any queries. See overleaf a copy of the advertisement which will appear in the next edition of the Tuam Herald to inform the wider community of this event.

Everyone is welcome to attend, however, there is no obligation. All information made available on the day will also be uploaded to the project website, www.laurclavaghinfo.com. I can prepare an information pack for anyone that may not have access to the website and are not able to attend.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and as always if you have any queries regarding the proposed development, please feel free to contact me by email at clo@laurclavaghinfo.com, by phone 086-1427399, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Kyne

Enerco Energy Ltd.
clo@laurclavaghinfo.com
086-1427399

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development

Laurclavagh Ltd. are holding an information exhibition regarding a proposed renewable energy development, comprising up to 8 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure, in the townlands of Cahermorris, Cluidrevagh, Bunnahevelly More, Laurclavagh, Kilcurriv Eighter and Kilcurrivard, Co. Galway, with underground grid connection cabling following the public road network, connecting to Cloon 110kV Substation near Tuam, Co. Galway. This exhibition will be held in the Claregalway Hotel, Claregalway, as follows.

Claregalway Hotel,
Claregalway,
Co. Galway.
Thursday 04th May
3.30pm – 8.30pm

The exhibition is open to all interested parties and information in relation to the proposal will be on display with project representatives in attendance to answer any questions. For those that cannot attend, all information on display at the exhibition will also be available on the project website, www.laurclavaghinfo.com. If anyone cannot access the website, please contact the project Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Kieran Kyne, to arrange an alternative means of sharing the information.
E-mail: clo@laurclavaghinfo.com or Phone: 086-1427399

13th November 2023

RE: Proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wish to update you on the proposed Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development. The project Environmental Consultants, MKO, continue their preparation for a planning permission application for the proposed development and it is currently envisaged that all necessary documentation will be prepared by late November with submission of the application planned for December. I will continue to update you as the project progresses.

At this stage the site surveys are complete and MKO are preparing the necessary documentation that will accompany the planning application. In the meantime, we are preparing to hold another public information exhibition to provide an opportunity for public viewing of the information available to date.

This exhibition will be hosted in the Claregalway Hotel, on Wednesday 29th November from 4:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Information about the proposed development will be on display and members of the project team along with myself will be present to answer any queries. See overleaf a copy of the advertisement which will appear in the next edition of the Tuam Herald to inform the wider community of this event.

Everyone is welcome to attend, however, there is no obligation. All information made available on the day will also be uploaded to the project website, www.laurclavaghinfo.com. I can prepare an information pack for anyone that may not have access to the website and are not able to attend.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and as always if you have any queries regarding the proposed development, please feel free to contact me by email at clo@laurclavaghinfo.com, by phone 086-1427399, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Kyne

Enerco Energy Ltd.
clo@laurclavaghinfo.com
086-1427399

Laurclavagh Renewable Energy Development

Laurclavagh Ltd. are holding a further information exhibition regarding a proposed renewable energy development, comprising up to 8 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure, in the townlands of Cahermorris, Cluidrevagh, Bunnahevelly More, Laurclavagh, Kilcurriv Eighter and Kilcurrivard, Co. Galway, with underground grid connection cabling following the public road network, connecting to Cloon 110kV Substation near Tuam, Co. Galway. This exhibition will be held in the Claregalway Hotel, Claregalway, as follows.

Claregalway Hotel,
Claregalway,
Co. Galway.
Wednesday 29th November
4.30pm – 8.30pm

The exhibition is open to all interested parties and up to date information in relation to the proposal will be on display with project representatives in attendance to answer any questions. For those that cannot attend, all information on display at the exhibition will also be available on the project website, www.laurclavaghinfo.com. If anyone cannot access the website, please contact the project Community Liaison Officer (CLO), Kieran Kyne, to arrange an alternative means of sharing the information.
E-mail: clo@laurclavaghinfo.com or Phone: 086-1427399

APPENDIX 2.3.5

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITIONS

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITION – 04/05/2023

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITION – 29/11/2023