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## **APPENDIX 2-2b**

**COMMUNITY REPORT PART 2**

# Appendix E

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## LACKAREAGH WIND FARM PUBLIC EXHIBITION

# Welcome and Project Overview

Thank you for visiting our exhibition today. We are delighted that you have taken the time to join us for this latest round of public consultation for the proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm.

The project was launched in February 2022, and we would like to take this opportunity to update local residents on how the project is progressing, and get your feedback on the project and our plans.

The proposed wind farm site is located to the east of the village of Kilbane, in the townlands of Kilbane, Killeagy (Goonan), Shannaknock, Killeagy (Ryan), Killeagy (Stritch), Magherareagh, Lackareagh Beg, Lackareagh More, Ballynavin and Ballymoloney. This area has been identified as 'Open for Consideration' under the current Clare County Development Plan Wind Energy Strategy. Based on our site investigations, we believe the project can accommodate up to seven wind turbines, with a tip height of up to 180m. The proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm will generate enough low-carbon electricity to power the equivalent of c.35,000 homes across Ireland.

The project will also include access tracks, an onsite 38kV substation and battery storage compound, a temporary construction compound, a permanent meteorological mast, a temporary storage area, a borrow pit, underground cabling and a 38kV grid connection which links the wind farm to the national electricity grid.

EDF Renewables is currently in discussions with Coillte about the inclusion of sections of Coillte property in the proposal in addition to other third party lands. If you have any Coillte-related queries about the proposal, please contact [lsinfo@coillte.ie](mailto:lsinfo@coillte.ie)

## Key Stats:

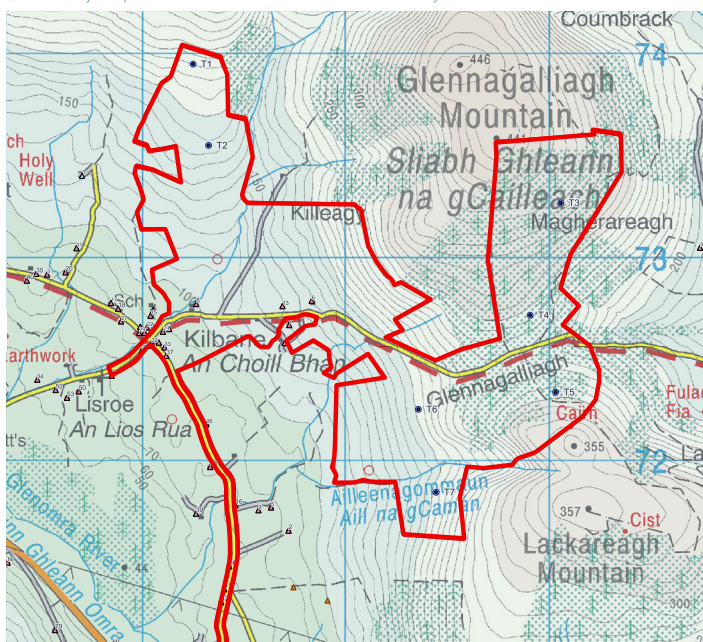
Up to **seven turbines**,  
up to 180m in height

Generating capacity of  
**c.50MW**

Will power **c.35,000**  
**homes** across Ireland<sup>1</sup>

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1. SEAI Energy in Ireland Report, December 2020, Section 7.3.1, Table 3.3  
— Site study area



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## About EDF Renewables Ireland

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by over 400 colleagues in the UK.

## About MKO

MKO is a Galway-based Planning and Environmental consultancy with significant expertise and experience as lead planning and environmental consultant, over the last 20 years, on projects in the renewable energy industry and public infrastructure projects. MKO has led the environmental assessments throughout all project stages and is preparing the planning permission applications and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the Proposed Development on behalf of EDF Renewables Ireland Ltd.

## Meet the Project Team



### Jenny Howard

Head of Development

Jenny has over 15 years' experience in renewable energy, with a focus on onshore wind. She has previously worked on a number of large-scale onshore wind farms across the island of Ireland, with additional expertise in budget and programme management. A chartered engineer, she also holds an MSc in Renewable Energy Systems.



### Declan Collins

Community Liaison Officer

Declan has 16 years' experience in various aspects of wind energy development, including stakeholder engagement, public consultation and the development of community-owned projects. He holds a degree in Business Studies and is a strong advocate for working closely with rural communities.



### John Conaghan

Project Manager

John is a chartered engineer with over 16 years' experience in the renewables industry in both Ireland & North America. He has led and delivered a range of high-value project development initiatives and has extensive expertise in wind measurement, due diligence and project design and optimisation. He holds a BEng in Environmental Engineering from the University of Ulster, a Project Management Professional (PMP®) certification and is certified in the computational wind flow model WASP.



### Niamh McHugh

EIA Project Manager, MKO

Niamh McHugh is an Environmental Scientist with MKO with over 2 years' experience in private consultancy. Niamh holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Science from the National University of Ireland, Galway. Since joining MKO, Niamh has worked on a wide range of projects, and has specialised in large-scale onshore wind energy projects. Niamh works as part of a large, multi-disciplinary team as a project manager, leading and coordinating teams including internal MKO teams, such as Ecology, Planning, Ornithology, Landscape and Visual, and external subcontractors, on large-scale projects in the preparation and production of Environmental Impacts Assessment Reports.

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## Benefits of Wind Energy

- **Wind helps lower electricity prices** - wind energy is now one of the cheapest forms of electricity, is quick to build and keeps money in Ireland, supporting local jobs and communities.
- **Wind cuts CO2 emissions** - wind energy saves millions of tonnes of CO2 emissions each year;<sup>2</sup> and this will increase steadily as new onshore and offshore wind farms provide electricity to the grid.
- **Wind powers Ireland** - Wind energy is consistently generating approximately a third of our electricity.<sup>3</sup> Generating 50% or more of Ireland's electricity will be a regular occurrence as more onshore wind farms connect to the grid and we begin to build offshore wind farms. The Irish Government is aiming to generate 80% of Ireland's electricity from renewable energy by 2030.
- **Wind is good for the environment** - while CO2 is emitted in the manufacture and installation of a turbine, the CO2 savings delivered by the turbine pay this back in between six months to two years.<sup>4</sup> A wind farm is only given permission to build if the planning authority is satisfied with environmental impact reports.

2. Climate change and wind energy (windenergyireland.com)  
3. Your wind energy questions answered (windenergyireland.com)  
4. Your wind energy questions answered (windenergyireland.com)





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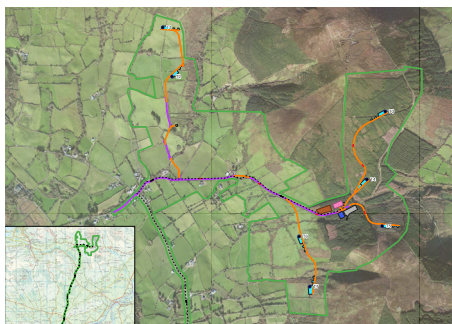
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## Design Development and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

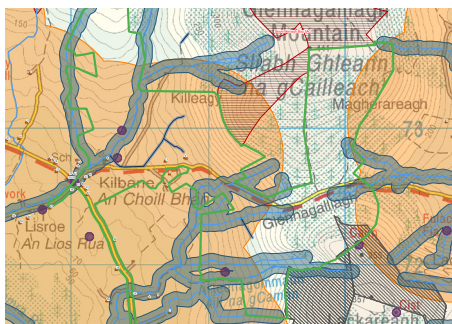


Proposed Development Layout

### Site Constraints:

The constraints map for the site has been produced following a desk study of all site constraints. The constraints study encompasses the following constraints and associated buffers specifically in relation to the wind turbines:

- Natura 2000 and Designated sites plus 100m buffer;
- Dwellings plus typically 720 metre buffer (meeting the requirement for a 4 x tip height separation distance)
- Telecommunications links plus operator-specific buffer
- Watercourses plus 50 metre buffer
- National Inventory of Archaeological Heritage (NIAH) and National Monument plus 50 metre buffer



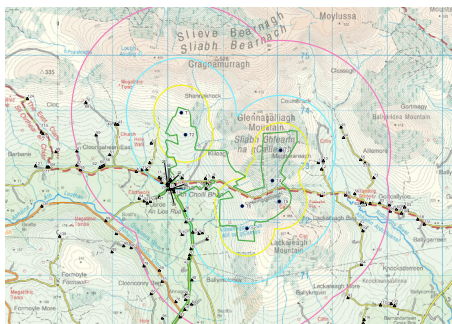
Constraints map

### Development Design:

A turbine layout was then developed to take account of all the constraints as mentioned above and their associated buffer zones and the separation distance required between the turbines. The overall objective is to design a scheme that has the least impact on people living locally and the environment, while also optimising the renewable energy generation of the site.

In addition to the above, the locations of the proposed wind turbines, and all other proposed infrastructure locations have been informed by rigorous site investigations and assessments carried out over a two-year period including:

- Ecological Surveys
- Ornithological Surveys
- Hydrological and Geological Surveys
- Archaeological Surveys
- Shadow Flicker Modelling
- Noise Modelling
- Landscape and Visual Assessment



Dwellings map

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## Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

### Scoping and Consultation:

Scoping is the process of identifying significant issues which should be addressed by the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

MKO prepared a Scoping Document, which was circulated to statutory and non-statutory consultees, in December 2022, to provide them with an opportunity to comment and to inform the development design and assessment process.

The purpose of the EIAR is to determine the current state of the environment on and in the vicinity of the site and to quantify the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development on the environment. The EIAR presents an examination that identifies, describes and assesses the direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the following:

- 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)

The planning application for the Proposed Development will be accompanied by an EIAR. This will be publicly accessible and will address the following headings:

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 and Geology
9. Water
10. Air Quality
11. Climate
12. Noise and Vibration
13. Landscape and Visual
14. Cultural Heritage
15. Material Assets (includes Traffic and Transportation, Telecommunications, and Aviation)
16. Interaction of the Foregoing
17. Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
18. Schedule of Mitigation

MKO are compiling the EIAR with the input of several other specialist consultants:

- Hydro-Environmental Services
- Afry
- Tobar Archaeological Services
- TNEI
- Alan Lipscombe Traffic and Transport Consultants

The overall objective is to design a scheme that has the least impact on people living locally and the environment, while optimising the renewable energy generation of the site. Detailed environmental studies are continuing across the site including ecology, hydrology and landscape and visual assessments. These studies will be compiled into an EIAR to accompany the planning application, and we are aiming to submit these to Clare County Council by the end of Q1 2024.

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## Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

### Transport and Site Access Community

It is proposed to access the Lackareagh Wind Farm via 4 no. separate entrances off the existing 'Gap Road', the L7080 local road, which bisects the site. 1 no. of these entrances is existing, and will be widened to facilitate the delivery of the construction materials and turbine components. The site entrances will be subject to detailed traffic and transport autotracking assessment.

It is proposed that large wind turbine components will be delivered to the Lackareagh Wind Farm via Shannon Foynes Port.

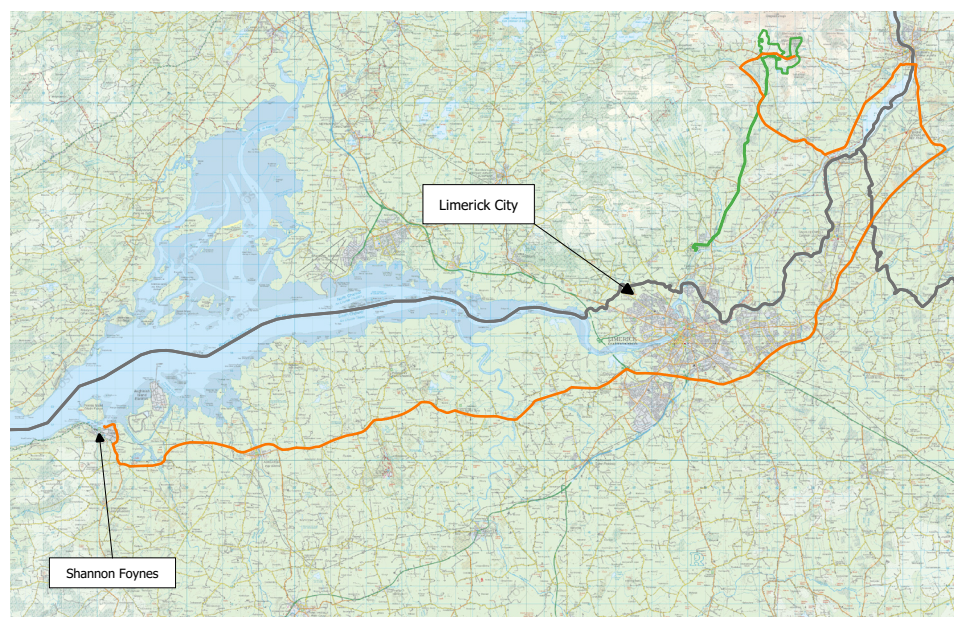
### Grid Connection

It is proposed to connect the proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm to the national grid, via the provision of an onsite 38kV substation and 38kV connection cabling to the existing Ardnacrusha 110kV substation. The grid connection cabling route will be approximately 14.8km in length and located within the public road corridor.

EDF Renewables is committed to delivering local benefits and working in partnership with local communities. If the project receives planning permission and is constructed, we will establish a Community Benefit Fund as part of our long-term commitment to the local area. The Community Benefit Fund will see funds from the project go towards supporting positive local initiatives and activities.

The fund will be set up once the project is energised, and we will appoint an administrator to implement the funding strategy and decisions and ensure good governance in the funding administration.

A volunteer committee, drawn from the local community, will be set up to decide on applications made to the Community Benefit Fund by local groups or individuals for funding.





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## Other Considerations

### Distance to nearest homes

The layout has been designed with a minimum setback distance of 720m to the nearest dwelling from each turbine, in accordance with the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, which propose a setback distance of four times the tip height of the turbines.

### Noise

The blades of wind turbines make a sound as they pass through the air. Every effort is made to reduce this as much as possible. Currently, the guidelines for wind turbine sound levels in Ireland are set between 35 and 45 decibels depending on the time of day and the level of background noise. These are among the strictest limits in Europe today. To put this in context the fridge in your kitchen would typically generate a sound level of around 50 decibels while 40 decibels would be the noise in a quiet office.<sup>5</sup>

### Property Devaluation

There is no research that we have seen which shows that wind farms affect property prices in Ireland. A major recent study in Scotland, a country of a similar size and a similar scale wind industry to Ireland, found no evidence of a negative impact on property prices.<sup>6</sup>

### Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker is the name given to the flickering effect caused when the sun is in certain positions in the sky and shines through the rotating turbine blades. Under the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019, no shadow flicker is permitted for future wind farms in Ireland. The turbine blades of Lackareagh Wind Farm will therefore be turned off at the appropriate times to ensure no flicker effect is created.

<sup>5</sup> Myths about wind energy (windenergyireland.com)

<sup>6</sup> Myths about wind energy (windenergyireland.com)





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## Next steps

- Detailed environmental studies are continuing across the site including ecology, hydrology, noise, shadow flicker and landscape and visual assessments. These studies will be compiled into an EIAR which will accompany the planning application.
- The results of these studies, along with feedback gathered through consultation with local communities and stakeholders, will be used to determine the final turbine and infrastructure layout.
- Consultations with Clare County Council as part of pre-planning meetings.
- We are aiming to submit a planning application for the project and the EIAR by the end of Q1 2024
- Subject to planning permission, the wind farm could be constructed and operational in 2027.

## Contact details

Please visit our project website which we are keeping updated as the project progresses:  
[www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh](http://www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh)

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project, John Conaghan (087 134 4002) or Declan Collins (087 254 1416).

Alternatively, you can email the project team at [lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re.ie](mailto:lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re.ie)





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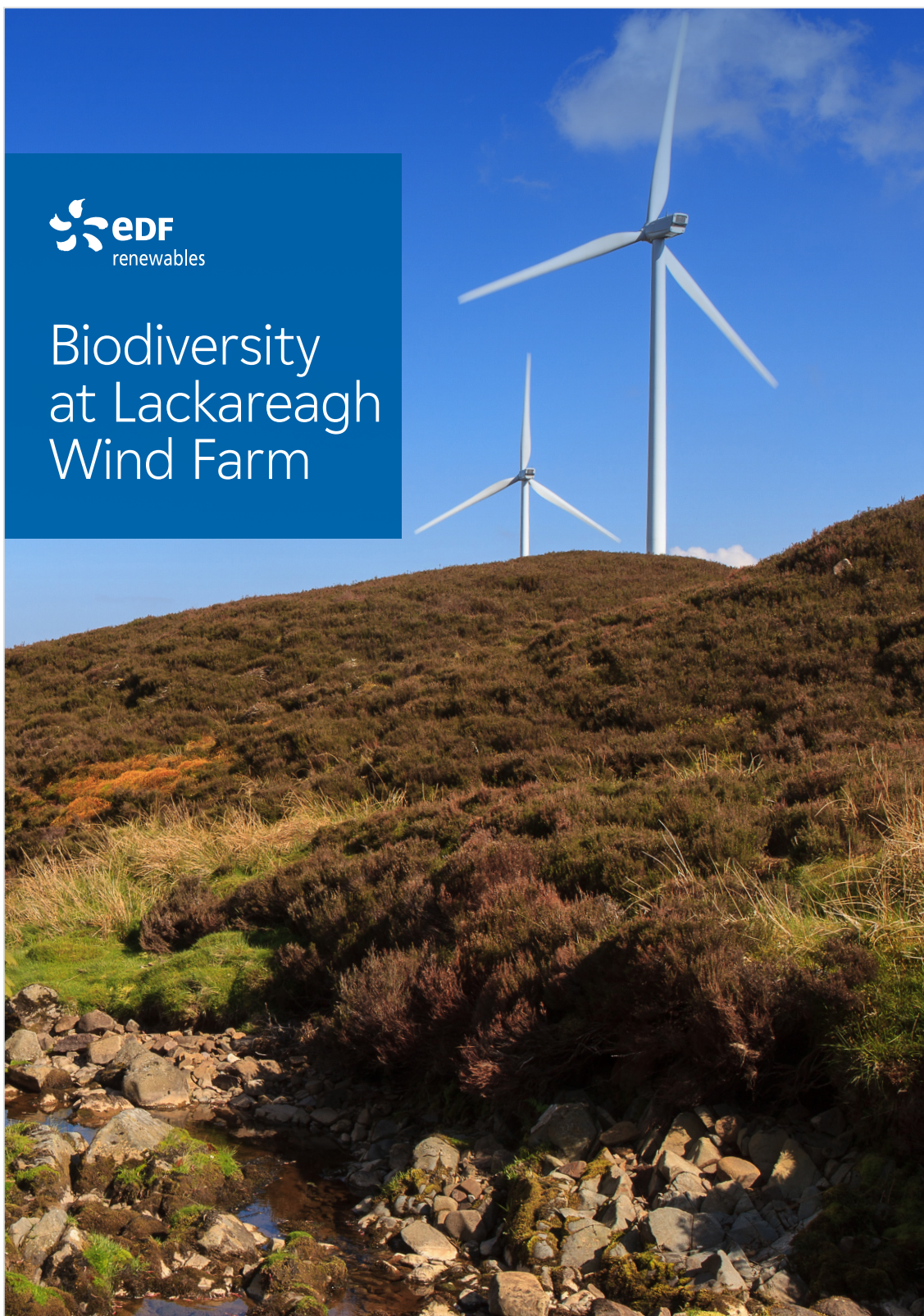
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## Biodiversity at Lackareagh Wind Farm



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The site of the proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm development is located to the east of the village of Kilbane, Co. Clare. The landscape of the immediate and surrounding areas of the site consists predominantly of agricultural grasslands and private forestry, with surrounding streams feeding into the Clooncontry beg and Broadford Rivers. Other land use types within the surrounding area include upland bog and low-density residential areas of nearby villages and associated roadways. The area is host to a variety of species and habitats.



02

## Biodiversity Study 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 Lackareagh Wind Farm by MKO, with the project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors. The 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, fox, as well as several bat and bird species. The biodiversity study area for the proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm development is illustrated in Figure 1.

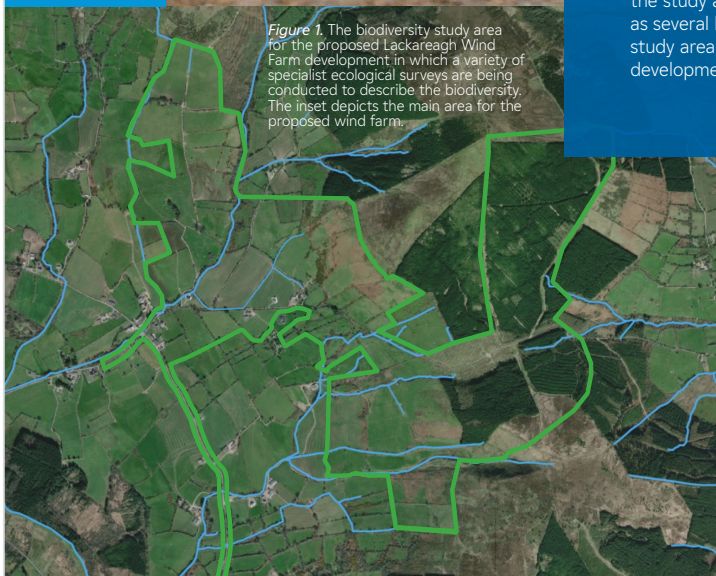


Figure 1. The biodiversity study area for the proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm development in which a variety of specialist ecological surveys are being conducted to describe the biodiversity. The inset depicts the main area for the proposed wind farm.



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Badgers  
(Meles meles)

## Birds

A wide variety of bird species typical of conifer and grassland habitats have been recorded within the general study area. Bird species occurring within and around the biodiversity study area include buzzard, kestrel, sparrowhawk, common snipe. These species are highlighted below.

**Common Snipe** (*Gallinago gallinago*) is a ground nesting species which typically utilizes open wet grassy areas such as wet grassland, marshes, and moorlands. While it is a relatively common bird species in Ireland, it is also elusive and rarely seen unless it is startled from its place in the vegetation. Common snipe feeds on invertebrates, such as insect larvae, as well as seeds and other plant material.

**Kestrel** (*Falco tinnunculus*) is a widespread resident species in Ireland, easily distinguished by their characteristic hovering behaviour as they search the ground for prey, such as small mammals and invertebrates. The kestrel uses a wide range of open habitat types including farmland and wetlands.

**Buzzard** (*Buteo buteo*) are a species of bird belonging to the raptor family who are widely dispersed throughout the country. Buzzards are a medium sized bird of prey with broad wings, a compact body, short neck and medium-length tail. Buzzards have a short, hooked bill well suited to eating meat. Buzzards primarily prey on small mammals, smaller birds, rabbits, insects, earthworms and amphibians.

## Mammals

Mammals including badger and several bat species have been recorded during ongoing ecological surveys of the area.

### Badger

Badgers (*Meles meles*) live in social groups with family members and make their home by digging extensive tunnels and chambers in the ground, known as setts. Badgers belong to the mustelidae family along with pine martens and otters. The distinct coloration of their dark grey to black bodies, and white heads with broad black stripes from the ears to the snout, passing over their eyes, make recognising a badger unmistakable. The badger is also the largest terrestrial carnivore in Ireland.

### Bats

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, Leisler's bat, Myotis species, brown long-eared bat and the lesser horseshoe bat. Ireland's smallest bat is the soprano pipistrelle and weighs as little as a €1 coin. An individual bat can eat over 3000 midges in a single night. Ireland's largest bat, Leisler's bat, has also been recorded.



Kestrel  
(Falco tinnunculus)



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Common Pipistrelle  
(Pipistrellus pipistrellus)



Common snipe  
(Gallinago gallinago)

### **Sparrowhawk** (*Accipiter nisus*)

is a species of bird belonging to the raptor family of birds. The sparrowhawk is a small bird of prey with broad wings with blunt wing tips and a long tail. They have a small hooked bill suitable for eating meat. The sexes are different in size, with the female being larger than the male. The diet of the sparrowhawk usually comprises birds which are taken when perched or in flight, sometimes after a long chase. Sparrowhawk will use woodland edges, rides as well as any covers, especially cover that adjoins woodland. Sparrowhawk are thought to be the most common bird of prey in Ireland.



Buzzard  
(Buteo buteo)

## Invertebrates

Many species of invertebrates can be observed in commercial forestry and grassland habitats. Insects are a group of invertebrates which occur within these types of habitats and include butterflies.

Sparrowhawk  
(Accipiter nisus)



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## Habitats

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Several of the habitat types found within this study area, and which may be of interest to the local community, are highlighted below.

### River Waterbodies

Several small streams and rivers flow in the northern, eastern and southern areas of the Lackareagh Wind Farm proposed development site. The Kilbane stream and Cloonconry beg river flow south through the proposed development site where they both merge with the Broadford river, the Broadford river flows west where it enters Lough Doon. Further south along the proposed grid connection route, the Blackwater [Clare] river crosses the route and flows south where it discharges into the lower river Shannon. The lower river Shannon is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), which is known to support salmon, lamprey species, common bottlenose dolphin, freshwater pearl mussel, otter as well as other plant and animal species. Aquatic invertebrates, such as mayfly, caddisfly, and black fly, along with aquatic vegetation also form part of the river ecosystem and provide an important food and habitat source for the diversity of species that occur within these rivers. Further downstream, lies the river Shannon and river Fergus estuaries Special Protection Area (SPA) which hosts several birds such as the curlew, redshank, cormorant and whooper swan along with many others.

### Conifer Plantation

Several areas of conifer plantation habitat are located within the biodiversity study area. This habitat is often relatively low in biodiversity value due to the density of trees planted and the monoculture nature of the species composition. Nevertheless, a variety of species can be found utilising its shelter including badger and bird species.

### Improved Agricultural Grassland

Improved agricultural grassland is the most abundant habitat located within the biodiversity study area. Agricultural grasslands are highly managed areas of vegetation maintained for the production of silage and/or for grazing by animals. Reseeding and fertilisation are typical rotational practices in the maintenance of improved agricultural grasslands. In contrast to permanent grassland, improved agricultural grassland tend to be species-poor and the quality of the grassland dependent upon several factors such as soil type, drainage, and management practices. Despite a low variety of plant species, improved grasslands provide habitat for a range of fauna such as foxes, birds and invertebrate species.

### Wet heath

Wet heath is a natural habitat of which a small area occurs within the biodiversity study area. Wet heath is described a habitat which is dominated by dwarf

shrubs such as heathers including ling heather, bell heather and cross leaved heather, on peaty soils which can have high cover of mosses and lichens in areas of undamaged habitat. In addition, grass species such as purple moor-grass and deergrass are also present as well as a variety of bird, and insect and other invertebrate species.

### Upland Blanket bog

Upland blanket bog forms a mosaic with the wet heath habitat within the biodiversity study area. The vegetation in this area is dominated by grasses such as deergrass and cotton grass along with dwarf shrubs such as ling heather, cross leaved heather and bilberry. Mosses such as sphagnum can be high in undamaged areas, these habitats provide for a variety of bird, and insect and other invertebrate species. The Slieve Bernagh Bog SAC lies north of the proposed development site and contains habitats such as blanket bog, European dry heaths and Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix.

### Hedgerows

Several hedgerows are present throughout the biodiversity study area. These typically form agricultural field boundaries, many of which originate from planting and occur on raised banks of earth derived from the excavation of drainage ditches. Typical species composition of this habitat included hawthorn, blackthorn, dog-rose and gorse. Many of these hedgerows offer cover for prey animals such as rabbits and hares. These linear features are also used by more nocturnal animals for commuting such as bats and badgers. Hedgerows are utilised by birds for nesting and foraging.

### Scrub

Patches of scrub are present throughout the biodiversity study area. These occur in mosaics with unmanaged hedgerows and where there are large areas of shrubs and brambles along marginal farmlands. Typical species composition of this habitat included hawthorn, bramble, and gorse. Scrub habitat offers cover for prey animals such as rabbits and hares. Scrub habitats are utilised by birds for nesting and foraging.

### Trees

Some standalone trees and treelines are present throughout the biodiversity study area. Treelines are narrow rows or singular lines of trees which typically occur along a field boundary. Typically comprised of oak, hazel and beech. Trees and treelines are utilised by birds and bats for commuting, shelter, and foraging.

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contact us:

**[www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/  
lackareagh](http://www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh)**

Or contact Declan Collins,  
Community Liaison Officer

**087 254 1416**

Alternatively, you can email the project team at  
**[lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re-ie](mailto:lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re-ie)**



[www.edf-re.com](http://www.edf-re.com)

EDF Renewables Ireland  
Unit B, Ground Floor, Portview House, Thorncastle Street, Dublin 4, D04 V9Y9, Ireland

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## Lackareagh Wind Farm Public Exhibition



**Up to 7 Turbines**  
with tip heights of  
up to 180m



**c.50 MW**  
A generating capacity of  
c.50MW, powering more  
than 35,000 homes



**Dear local resident,**

As you may be aware, EDF Renewables Ireland intends to apply for planning permission for a wind farm to the east of the village of Kilbane, in the townlands of Kilbane, Killeaghy (Goonan), Shannaknock, Killeaghy (Ryan), Killeaghy (Stritch), Magherareagh, Lackareagh Beg, Lackareagh More, Ballynavin and Ballymoloney.

As part of our commitment to engaging with the local community, we are holding a public exhibition to share more detailed plans with you and other local residents.

We hope you are available to attend our exhibition and give us your views on our proposals.

**Date and time of event**

Date: **Tuesday 21 November 2023**  
Time: 3pm - 8pm  
Venue: Lakeside Hotel and Leisure Centre, Cullenagh,  
Kilaloe, Co. Clare, V94 E2D6

## What happens next

At the exhibition we will explain the findings of the various studies carried out as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment and show the newly revised layout of the proposed wind farm with accompanying photomontages to help you assess visual impact. There will also be a virtual exhibition where you can view these materials online.

If you would prefer to speak to somebody personally, please get in touch.

We expect to submit a planning application for the wind farm to Clare County Council in Q1 2024.

## Find out more about the proposed Lackareagh wind farm

The proposed project consists of up to seven turbines, up to 180m tall. This c.50MW wind farm would generate enough electricity to meet the annual domestic needs of c.35,000 homes each year.

## Who we are

EDF Renewables Ireland is part of one of the world's largest electricity companies and our investment and innovation in renewable energy projects is reducing costs for consumers and bringing significant benefits to communities.

EDF Renewables Ireland's team has a wealth of experience in bringing complex development projects to fruition, across onshore and offshore wind, solar PV and battery storage technology, and is supported by over 400 colleagues in the UK.

## Contact Us

Please visit our project website which we will keep updated as the project progresses:  
[www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh](http://www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh)

We welcome your feedback on our proposals and encourage you to contact us with any questions, concerns or comments through our dedicated Community Liaison Officers for the project, John Conaghan (087 134 4002) or Declan Collins (087 254 1416).

Alternatively, you can email the project team at [lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re.ie](mailto:lackareaghwindfarm@edf-re.ie)

\* SEAI Energy in Ireland Report, December 2020, Section 7.3.1, Table 3.3



# Appendix H

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RECEIVED: 29/08/2024

THE CLARE CHAMPION  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023

NEWS 9

## Cratloe student engineer gets professional backing

ALANNAH O'Connell from Galway has been named as one of the winners of Kirby Group Engineering's third level bursary programme.

The programme provides opportunities for women to gain experience in the wider engineering industry.

Alanah is in third year studying Renewable and Electrical Engineering at Technological University (TU) Shannon.

The bursary programme was open to females studying Electrical, Mechanical or Building Services Engineering at third level institutions in Ireland. This year's winners were chosen following a thorough selection process by Kirby senior management. The recipients will receive a full scholarship to cover the academic year 2023/24, as well as paid professional placements on Kirby's exciting engineering projects. The students will also benefit from professional mentorship from highly experienced senior engineers.

Commenting on the launch of the 2023 bursary programme, Amy Lane, Electrical Engineering Manager at Kirby said: "Following the huge success of our programme last year, we are thrilled to, once again, work with a talented group of female engineering students from third level institutions across the country, who will gain invaluable experience through their placement on this programme. At Kirby, we invest in people as they begin their career journeys, and there have never been more opportunities for women in engineering. We're proud to be part of that movement."

Kirby is a leading mechanical and engineering contractor operating across Ireland, the UK, mainland Europe and South Africa. It directly employs over 1400 people and works to actively promote diversity and inclusion at each of its sites.



Ciaira McMillan, a student of Electrical Engineering at SETU; Alannah O'Connell who is studying Renewable and Electrical Engineering at TU Shannon; Anna Carr, a student of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Galway and Leah McEneaney who is studying Mechanical Engineering at ATU Sligo, at Kirby's Headquarters in Limerick.

## Benefits ahead for new home owners

Jessica Quinn

PLANS for affordable accommodation in Ennis could see house seekers benefit from discounts of between 5% to 20% on properties, a meeting of councillors has been told.

According to Mayor of Ennis Councillor Pat Daly these are "exciting times" for the county capital with the possibility of affordable housing schemes on the horizon. The Clare Champion recently reported future development at Frances Street, which had been earmarked for a temporary car park is now expected to be the first Affordable Housing Scheme to be submitted by Clare's local authority for approval.

At the monthly meeting of the Ennis Municipal District, Councillor Daly raised the possibility of affordable houses and apartments coming on board for Ennis, asking for details on how potential purchasers can qualify and what discounts will be made available.

Padraig McCormac, acting senior executive officer, outlined potential purchasers that need to firstly meet First Time Buyer/Fresh Start criteria and

be residents in Ireland. Income will further decide eligibility and generally where a household income is approximately 2% or less of the market value a household may qualify. He pointed out the Housing Agency have a very useful calculator available on [affordablehomes.ie/buy/eligibility-indicator/](http://affordablehomes.ie/buy/eligibility-indicator/)

He continued: "Each proposed scheme for County Clare will need to be submitted along with a business case to the Department of Housing for approval. Upon approval and when properties are at an advanced stage of development Clare County Council will advertise same, along with proposed costs, discount ranges, and eligible income ranges. As each scheme is unique and every household circumstance differ it is not possible in advance of a scheme being launched to give a figure for a discount per house. However it is expected equity per property, depending on household circumstances, may range from minimum 5% to approx. 20%."

Mr McCormac confirmed if there is an over-subscription that 30% of the available housing would be earmarked for local applicants.

## Vandals target life-saving road signage

Jessica Quinn

ROAD signs installed to help protect lives on Clare roads have become a target for criminals in an act described as "shocking", a meeting of Ennis councillors has been told.

VMS signs put on Ennis Municipal District roadworks to deter speeding are being vandalised resulting in their batteries and solar panels being stolen. Out of 26 VMS road signs in the Ennis Municipal District approximately 10 are out of action at the moment, with much of this attributed to vandals.

The issue was highlighted at a meeting of the Ennis Municipal District as

Councillor Clare Collieran Molloy who pointed out the need for an examination of the VMS sign in Doora as it was not working.

Patrick Tierman, acting senior executive officer, confirmed the Ennis Municipal District have recently carried out a survey of all VMS boards throughout the district.

A significant quantity of solar powered VMS boards has been either damaged or vandalised. We are currently preparing a tender for the repair/ replacement of the VMS boards and this includes the ones on both approaches to Doora Village," he said.

He said vandalism is a "problem" with people stealing batteries and solar

panels at the top which is unfortunate". While he did not have official details, he estimated 50% of the damage is down to vandalism and the rest minor vehicle collisions.

He said it could cost between €800 to €1,500 to repair the damaged machines "It is a considerable amount of money when it is added up". Funds for discretionary maintenance may be used to carry out the necessary works, he said.

Councillor Collieran Molloy commented, "It is shocking behaviour to think people are climbing up VMS to take the batteries, it's incredible".

The councillor also sought an update on the footpath project for Doora village. Mr Tierman replied, "Earlier

this summer Ennis MD arranged for a topographical survey of the village in order to inform the design of footpaths in the village. Design work has now commenced and is expected to be complete in the new year. Ennis MD will continue to explore all available options to secure a funding source for this project."

Councillor Collieran Molloy asked if there is a clearly defined source of funding for footpaths. Mr Tierman confirmed there is no specific funding source for footpaths, adding the IPB have some funding but that is only for the maintenance of existing infrastructure. He said for Active Travel funding the National Transport Authority favour urban centric projects which can result in difficulty for areas like Doora. He confirmed an application for funding for Doora had been lodged with the NTA last year which was not successful, but another application will be made this year.

Councillor Johnny Flynn pointed out residents of Doora have been calling for footpaths and traffic calming for a number of years. Councillor Mary Howard said residents are concerned the area is being used "as a rat run". Councillor Paul Murphy lamented the vandalism of the VMS signs saying "they work as a deterrent" to speeders. Councillor Tom O'Callaghan stated Doora residents are "very frustrated". Mayor of Ennis Councillor Pat Daly said the VMS signs need to be repaired and replaced.



## LACKAREAGH WIND FARM PUBLIC EXHIBITION

EDF Renewables Ireland will hold a public exhibition on its proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm from 3pm to 8pm on Tuesday 21 November, at The Lakeside Hotel and Leisure Centre, Killaloe.

Members of the public are encouraged to attend to meet with the project team and learn more about the project.

The proposed development includes parts of the Lackareagh Colliette property in addition to other third-party lands. Colliette representatives will also be present at the event to discuss any Colliette specific queries.

For more information please contact our Community Liaison Officers  
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or see [www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh](http://www.edf-re.ie/our-sites/lackareagh)



## HOPE IN A CHANGING CLIMATE

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with speakers

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Young Adult  
Climate Author

Grace O'Sullivan  
Member of the  
European Parliament

Róisín Garvey  
Senator

and Chaired by

Bridget Ginnity  
Green Party Ennis  
Representative

[grace.osullivan@europarl.europa.eu](mailto:grace.osullivan@europarl.europa.eu)



THE GREENS/EFA  
in the European Parliament

THE CLARE CHAMPION  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2023

NEWS 9

## Growing tributes to Dev at annual ceremony

Dan Danaher

IRELAND'S independence "truly caught fire" when Eamon de Valera won the East Clare By-Election in July 1917, according to MEP Billy Kelleher (FF).

Speaking before laying a wreath at the De Valera Annual Commemoration in Ennis on Sunday, Billy Kelleher paid a glowing tribute to the former President of Ireland's contribution to Irish politics.

The crowd was also addressed by Chairman of Clare Fianna Fáil, Michael Enright. The 1916 Proclamation was read by Rita McInerney, and the National Anthem was sung by Michael Tighe.

Thanks to the initiative of Councillor Clare Collieran Molloy (FF), and Clare County Council, the de Valera Monument recently had a facelift, the first in 43 years.

The attendance at the commemoration, which was organised by Clare Fianna Fáil included Deputy Cathal Crowe, Senator Timmy Dooley, Ennis Mayor Pat Daly and county councillors.

Mr Kelleher said it was a real privilege to remember and commemorate one of the most consequential Irish people ever to have lived - former President, Taoiseach and Uachtarán Fianna Fáil, Eamon de Valera.

In a wide-ranging oration, MEP Kelleher contended that Ireland's independence "truly got fire" when Eamon de Valera won the East Clare By-Election in July 1917.

Despite a massive campaign of intimidation against him, and his republican comrades, De Valera won a seat in the British House of Commons, and set in train a political career that would span seven decades, he said.

"No person since has commanded the same respect and loyalty from the Irish people in the way De Valera did."

"Moreover, it is likely that no one ever will again. Unlike most nationalist revolutionary leaders of the time, De Valera was determined to build a democratic nation out of our struggle for freedom. He craved democratic oversight. This



Members of Fianna Fáil at the annual De Valera Commemoration in Ennis last Sunday.

is something he does not get nearly enough credit for today.

"Too many people, especially some revisionist academics, have attempted to use Eamon de Valera to symbolise all that was wrong in Ireland in the first few decades after the 26 counties got their independence.

"That is manifestly unfair and refuses to acknowledge the realities of the time. It attempts to place the difficulties of that era on the shoulders of one man."

One area where this really infuriates MEP Kelleher is the criticism about

De Valera and his "Comely Maides" speech, or to give it its correct title, the 1943 St. Patrick's Day Address. "The Ireland that we dreamed of."

As Fianna Fáilers, they are all well versed in what detractors of De Valera, say - that De Valera actively sought to create an Ireland was that miserable, grey, Catholic, conservative, and agrarian.

"De Valera never said 'comely maides' dancing at the crossroads," this is a lie that has been spread for over 80 years, and we all must call it out for what

it is. It is completely unfair to attempt to read that speech with the benefit of hindsight. It is all too easy to look back into the past and criticise.

Fianna Fáil, under De Valera's leadership, has built a cohesive Irish society. Central to that was a strong social contract between the people and the Irish State.

Through initiatives such as the Land Commission, massive investment in public housing, and a focus on public education that continues to this very day.

"De Valera was neither elite nor privileged. He came from a marginalised background, and rose up to achieve great things for our country through hard work and determination."

The fact that he rose to be in command at Boland's Mill in 1916 is testament to his abilities as a leader and as an organiser. These qualities sustained his entire political life.

He stressed that De Valera, Lemass, MacKee and the many other patriots who freed our country would be proud of the modern, open and prosperous republic Ireland has become.

## Mass to remember 'those we have lost'

ENNIS Hospital is hosting its annual remembrance service in St. Joseph's Church, Lifford Road, Ennis, this Friday, November 17, at 7pm, in memory of all patients who died in the hospital in the past year.

This is the first Ennis Hospital Remembrance Service to be held in person since prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, and also the first time the ceremony has been held off-site, at St. Joseph's Church.

The hospital's End of Life Committee is inviting bereaved relatives and loved ones to attend, reflect, and find solace, strength and comfort in their loss.

The service includes readings and poems, and performances by Ennis Hospital Choir with their musical director, Michael O'Neill.

For those unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed on [ennisparish.com](http://ennisparish.com). To access the stream click the 'St. Joseph's Church Webcam button', on the right of the Ennis parish screen.

**LACKAREAGH WIND FARM PUBLIC EXHIBITION**

EDF Renewables Ireland will hold a public exhibition on its proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm from **3pm to 8pm on Tuesday 21 November**, at the **Lakeside Hotel and Leisure Centre, Killaloe**.

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## 'Patriot, activist and War of Independence veteran' to be remembered at Ennis event

Jessica Quinn

A GIANT of Clare politics will be remembered in Ennis this month when the Clare Labour Party host their second Paddy Hogan seminar. The event will take place at the Old Ground Hotel on November 24 from 7.30pm and will include guest speakers including former SPTU boss Jack O'Connor, former Labour Minister and TD, Ian O'Sullivan and author and SPTU divisional organiser Adrian Kane.

Hogan became the first Labour TD elected in Clare, subsequently becoming a Senator and eventually a long-serving Ceannt Comhairle, most famously presiding over American President John F. Kennedy's address to the Oireachtas in June 1963.

Clare Labour Party chairman Denis Vaughan commented, "Son of Clare, patriot, prominent union activist and veteran of the Irish War of Independence, Paddy was a principled and tireless worker on behalf of Clare's under-class."

"He dedicated his life to career to fighting for the marginalised. Having endured prison at the hands of the British, Paddy went on to become an accomplished poet, author and politician. In addition to being a respected TD who served as Ceannt Comhairle with distinction, he chaired Clare County Council



Paddy Hogan.

Active in Conradh na Gaeilge and the Irish Volunteers, he had embraced all aspects of the cultural revival and struggle for self-determination."

and was active in Ennis Urban District Council. Paddy Hogan was one of the most influential Irish political figures in the twentieth century.

Born on October 10, 1885, he was the only son of Patrick Hogan, a labourer, and Bridget O'Connor of Cullen, Kilmaley.

In the 1901 Census, he was listed as a house-to-house potman. By 1911, living in Mitchelstown, Hogan was entered as Pádraig Ó hEagáin and as Odean Gaedhlig, a teacher of Irish.

Active in Conradh na Gaeilge and the Irish Volunteers, he had embraced all aspects of the cultural revival and struggle for self-determination.

Active in Limerick in 1916, he was de-

ported and imprisoned in Wandsworth and Reading jails before returning to fight in the War of Independence. In 1921, he was elected to a Military Court for levying war against the King.

He had begun writing poetry, prose and plays and was a regular contributor - in English and Irish - to the Irish Transport & General Workers' Union (ITGWU) newspaper, the Irish Worker and Workers' Republic, often under the pseudonym 'Seán Clárín Dubh'.

Hogan became active in the ITGWU and served as Ennis Branch Secretary and as an officer of Ennis United Trades Council.

He was dissuaded from contesting the 1922 Dáil election by Anti-Treaty elements but won a seat in 1923 to begin, effectively, a lifetime of service in the Oireachtas. He was a Senator, 1938-1943.

He was elected Ceannt Comhairle from 1951-1967, most famously presiding over American President John F. Kennedy's address to the chamber in June 1963.

Hogan was called to the Bar in 1936, his legal practice informing his constituency and trade union work.

He died in office on January 24, 1969 and is buried in Drumcliffe Cemetery. Pre-deceased by his wife Anne Mackey who died in 1940, he had two sons, Brian and Patrick, and a daughter Una.

## Calls for a memorial to honour the 'huge contribution' to Ennis of the late Val Bredin

Jessica Quinn

THE "huge contribution" to Ennis made by the late Val Bredin should be remembered with the installation of a memorial in the Summerhill and Lower Parnell Street area of the town.

Councillor Murphy urged the local authority to engage with the Bredin family as a fitting tribute to the late Mr Bredin. He pointed to the contribution made in generating the Barrack Street Summerhill and Lower Parnell Street areas of Ennis.

Mr Bredin was a native of Ennis, born in 1946 and educated in Ennis CBS. He emigrated to Canada in the mid 1960s and on returning to Ennis he set up business in Barrack Street in 1978.

With the cooperation and support of the Ennis UDCC he applied and was successful in obtaining a licence for the renewal and re-

generation of the Barrack Street area, developing an extensive mix of properties, including a restaurant, offices, town houses and residential apartments. He followed this with a similar model of development in the Summerhill and Lower Parnell Street area of the town.

Such expression of appreciation could be the erection of a suitable plaque in the Barrack Street area in memory of Val and could be tied in with Public Realm Works that are currently in progress."

Such expression of appreciation could be the erection of a suitable plaque in the Barrack Street area in memory of Val and could be tied in with Public Realm Works that are currently in progress," he suggested.

Councillor Murphy stated that he has received a number of representations from members of the public who believe a suitable memorial in the town should be put in place.

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Such expression of appreciation could be the erection of a suitable plaque in the Barrack Street area in memory of Val and could be tied in with Public Realm Works that are currently in progress," he suggested.

Councillor Murphy stated that he has received a number of representations from members of the public who believe a suitable memorial in the town should be put in place.

utive Officer, responded to the motion outlining, "Any person or group with an interest in the erection of a plaque or memorial is required to put an application directly to the Clare County Council Memorial Committee. The application process sets out guidelines and requirements and all applications are given due consideration by this committee."

Councillor Murphy urged the Ennis Municipal District to bring the suggestion forward to the memorial committee.

"Given the spirit of co-operation that existed at the time between Mr Bredin and the local authority I believe it would be appropriate that the Ennis Municipal District acknowledge this by engaging with the Bredin family with a view to recognizing the work."

Councillor Mary Howard (FG) gave her backing to the proposal

saying, "It is very important that we recognize Val. He was a man with a vision, only for him that whole area of town could have been different. 100% support here."

Councillor Clara Collieran Molloy (FF) also acknowledged his work in progressing the town saying, "Because of the work done then we will see further investment in the public realm on Barrack Street." Mayor of Ennis Councillor Pat Daly (FF) recalled, "Val regenerated Barrack Street and the Summer Hill area. I remember him talking about it many years before he did and he did a great job."

Councillor Johny Flynn (FG) stated, "He brought in living accommodation into areas that were derelict and he brought back commercial activity." The motion was supported by Councillor Ann Norton (Ind).

**THE ADAPTIVE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY STUDY IN STROKE (TAPAS)**

The Adaptive Physical Activity study in Stroke (TAPAS) is a trial being run by Associate Professor Sara Hayes in the School of Allied Health at the University of Limerick (UL).

Stroke researchers and clinicians at UL and University Hospital Limerick, in collaboration with the Health Research Board, have developed a new smartphone application that aims to increase physical activity levels in people with stroke. People aged over 18 with stroke who are willing to travel to the University of Limerick for one meeting with our researchers, are independently mobile with or without a walking aid, and have access to a smart device (smartphone or laptop or tablet or computer) are invited to take part.

The study involves a 12-week physical activity programme where participants are given their own Fitbit and are encouraged to increase their daily step counts.

We are enrolling people into this study from October 2023. For more information, contact Dr Aoife Whiston on [Aoife.Whiston@ul.ie](mailto:Aoife.Whiston@ul.ie) or 089 209 6262.



# Appendix J

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RECEIVED: 29/08/2024

## Windfarm plans to go on view with public exhibit

MORE details have been unveiled about a new East Clare wind farm before a public exhibition in a local hotel.

EDF Renewables Ireland has announced new details about its proposed Lackareagh Wind Farm, ahead of a public exhibition in the Lakeside Hotel, Killaloe on November 21.

The project, located to the east of the village of Kilbane, will comprise up to seven turbines with tip heights of up to 180m. Collectively the turbines will have a generating capacity of c.50MW, enough to power the equivalent of c.35,000 homes.

If the project receives planning permission and is constructed, a Community Benefit Fund will be established, to support local initiatives and activities.

The project team is currently gathering wind data and mapping the environmental constraints on site which will be used to create a preliminary wind turbine layout.

Detailed environmental studies will also be carried out at the site, including ecology, noise, landscape and visual assessments. The results of these studies, together with feedback gathered in consultation with local communities, will be used to determine the final wind farm layout and number of turbines.

Environmental surveys underway including birds, bats, mammals, invasive species, aquatic, archaeological, hydrology, grid route and topography surveys.

In addition to a scoping report issued to statutory consultees in December 2022, an aviation and telecommunications study has been completed.

Completed desktop-based constraints analysis including residential, hydrological, ecology, habitats and archaeological factors.

Background noise monitoring commenced in Spring 2023 at a number of properties surrounding the site, which will contribute to a noise assessment report.

Six months of wind speed measurement and mapped environmental constraints have been finalised.

As a number of these studies are ongoing at the site, EDF Renewables now intends to submit a planning application and an Environmental Impact Assessment Report in support of the project to Clare County Council in the first quarter of 2024.

Subject to planning permission, the wind farm is expected to be operational in 2027. The project will also include access tracks, an onsite 38kV substation and battery storage compound, a temporary construction compound, a permanent meteorological mast, a temporary storage area, a borrow pit, underground cabling and a 38kV grid connection, which links the wind farm to the national electricity grid.

Jenny Howard, Head of Development at EDF Renewables Ireland, said the company are looking forward to presenting local residents with detailed information about the project and its progress to date.

"The EDF Renewables team has carried out detailed environmental, geotechnical, and habitat studies, and this is a great opportunity for residents to find out more about the wind farm and provide feedback on our proposals."

"The effects of climate change are becoming increasingly clear every day, and Lackareagh Wind Farm will make an important contribution to decarbonising Ireland's electricity supply and reducing our need for imported fossil fuels. The project will also lead to the creation of a Community Benefit Fund, to help support local initiatives and activities in the local area," she said.

The public exhibition will be held at the Lakeside Hotel on November 21 from 3pm to 8pm. It will feature information about the project and the environmental surveys completed to date, photomontages illustrating the visual impact of the turbines from local viewpoints, details of the project timeline and information on other aspects of wind energy.

There is no need to register in advance and all are welcome to attend.

A virtual exhibition will also be available to view at [www.edf-re.ie](http://www.edf-re.ie).

RECEIVED: 29/08/2024

For more information see:

**[www.edf-re.ie](http://www.edf-re.ie)**

