Appendix 1F

ORSTED'S COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT REPORT

Community Engagement Report

for the Proposed Brittas Wind Farm

Prepared by Ørsted
September 2024

Contents

Appendix

1. Introduction

1.1 Context to Community Report

Brittas Wind Farm Limited ('the Applicant') is a subsidiary of Ørsted Onshore Ireland Midco Limited. The Description of the Proposed Development can be found in Chapter 2 of this EIAR.

While it is not a mandatory requirement to undertake active consultation with communities prior to submitting a planning application, it is strongly recommended. Brittas Wind Farm Limited has carried out extensive consultation in relation to the proposed development with members of the public, including local residents, elected representatives and sought to support local groups during the development process. The objective of these consultations is to ensure that the views and concerns of all are taken into account in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

All of this activity has been carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement (2016)[1] and the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019)[2].

This report outlines the consultation and community engagement initiatives taken by Brittas Wind Farm prior to the planning application and the main issues identified during this process. It also specifies how the final proposal reflects community consultation, and the steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned.

1.2 Background to Brittas Wind Farm Community Engagement

Having initially introduced the project to the community in June 2022, constraints were identified through desk study, site survey and analysis. Feedback from the community was also taken into consideration during the iterative design process. As a result of this process, the Applicant has revised the design of the scheme to the current, optimised proposal forming this Planning Application.

The public engagement has been undertaken with the intention of providing the local community with opportunities to view, discuss in detail and comment on the proposals. The Applicant has offered direct developer communication with community residents and provided opportunities to engage with the project at various stages of the development process.

[1] https://assets.gov.ie/109110/b419a104-e6df-4a3e-a7ef-172166932bee.pdf
[2] https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/9d0f66-draft-revised-wind-energy-development-guidelines-december-2019/

2. Consultation activities

The following sets out the consultation activities organised consecutively from the beginning of the planning and design process up to planning submission.

2.1 Appointment of Community Liaison Officers

In accordance with the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement, Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) were appointed to represent the project in the local community, ensure that queries were responded to, and ensure regular liaison with the community as the project progressed through various design iterations.

The main CLO was appointed prior to the initial introduction of the project to the community in early 2022. A second CLO was introduced to the project in January 2023 to assist with project communications. In addition, Ørsted's project manager was also available throughout the engagement process to discuss the project with the local community.

Community Liaison Officer – Aidan Stakelum
Aidan is the lead CLO for the Brittas Wind Farm Project. Aidan has significant experience in dealing with a wide range of stakeholders for the development of renewable energy projects. He has been appointed CLO on a wide range of projects and sites throughout Ireland and has a depth of knowledge on the renewable energy sector as well as agriculture and forestry activities. Aidan lives in the wider locality of the Brittas Wind Farm Site and was available throughout the planning and assessment process, within and outside of regular working hours, to discuss the project with members of the local community.

Assistant Community Liaison Officer – Alan Barry
Alan is the assistant CLO on the Brittas Project. Alan has consultancy and developer experience in community consultation and land negotiation. Alan joined Ørsted during the planning and assessment process for the Brittas Project and immediately began work on communications and consulting with members of the public at the Brittas site, in coordination with Aidan.

Project Manager – Eamon Hutton
Eamon Hutton is Ørsted's project manager for the Brittas Wind Farm project. Eamon has worked across a range of renewable energy projects over the past decade with consultancy and developers, focused on wind energy development. Eamon has worked as CLO on previous projects and has extensive experience in preparation and coordination of community events, communication materials and has significant experience of on-the-ground consultation. Eamon also has wide experience in planning and environmental assessment for similar wind energy projects.

2.2 Project Newsletters

The CLOs and Project Manager have visited homes within 1.5km of the proposed development on a number of occasions to ensure they are informed about the project, as summarised below and outlined further in this community report:

- June 2022 - To provide residents with a copy of the initial project newsletter to inform the public that a potential wind energy project was being investigated. This was carried out by MKO consultants.
- April 2023 - To provide residents with a project update and a map of the potential developable area of the project, as well as to invite local residents to the initial community information event held in Thurles Sarsfields in April 2023. This was carried out by the project CLOs and Ørsted's Project Manager.
- October 2023 - To provide residents with a copy of the third project newsletter which presented the initial turbine layout and also invited the community members to the second community information event which was held in Thurles Sarsfields and Loughmore GAA Club in October 2023. This was carried out by the project CLOs and Ørsted's Project Manager.
- June 2024 - To provide residents with a copy of the fourth project newsletter and invite community members to the third community information event at Rahealty Community Hall. This was carried out by the project CLOs and Ørsted's Project Manager.

2.3 Newsletter 1 - Introduction of the project to the local community

In advance of engagement in the local community prior to the design or environmental assessment commencing, the Applicant prepared a newsletter containing information outlining Ørsted's intention to investigate the possibility of a wind energy development at the Brittas Site. This was distributed to the immediate population whose properties are within 1.5km of the boundary of the proposed development site.

The newsletter was delivered in early June 2022, and completed by a consultant contracted by the applicant. The purpose of the newsletter was to introduce the project to the community and provide contact details for the CLO should any community members have any queries. It contained the following information:

- Introduction to the Ørsted organisation (who at the time were new to the Irish Market), an outline of the company's experience and Irish presence.
- A description of Ørsted's intent to explore the opportunity for a potential wind farm project in the area.
- Outline of potential community benefits.
- An outline of the environmental assessment of a typical wind farm project.
- An introduction to Ørsted's Project Manager.
- An introduction to the Project's CLO.
- Contact details for the CLO.

A copy of Newsletter 1 can be found in Appendix B.

2.4 Newsletter 2 – Commencement of Environmental Assessment

To mark the initial advancement of the project towards planning and environmental assessment, a second newsletter was distributed to the local community in April 2023. Newsletter 2 was distributed to all residences within 1.5km of the boundary of the proposed development site. The newsletter identified the developable area of the Brittas Wind Farm site which was the subject of detailed environmental assessment which would likely be the area where turbines could be located, taking into account initial environmental constraints.

The newsletter was delivered by the project CLOs and the project manager via door knocks in order to get the opportunity to converse with locals regarding the project. The Newsletter provided information about an upcoming community event that would take place in Thurles Sarsfields Gaelic Athletic Associated Clubhouse, Townparks, Thurles on Monday the 17th of April 2023. Members of the community were encouraged to attend the event for further discussion of the proposal.

The newsletter also contained information on the following:

- Information on the Developer, Ørsted.
- Outline of the project principles.
- Project overview including elements of the project, the constraints led approach to identify the developable area and a map of the initial developable area.
- Outline of the initial intended timeline for planning.
- Information on a potential community benefit fund in line with the Renewable Energy Support Scheme.
- Introduction to the environmental assessment and the consultants carrying out the assessment.
- Contact details of the CLOs, contact phone numbers, email and website

A copy of Newsletter 2 can be found in Appendix B.

2.5 Public Consultation Session 1 – Introduction to the Project

The first community consultation event for the proposed Brittas Wind Farm was held in Thurles Sarsfields GAA club on the 17th of April 2023 from 4pm to 8pm. The event was hosted by Ørsted's project CLOs, Project Manager and a member of to Ørsted's development team. The intention of the event was to introduce attendees to the project, discuss the planning, engineering and environmental assessment of the project and present the developable area.

Knowledge of the local area was welcomed and the potential effects and benefits of wind farm projects were discussed with community members. A range of queries and concerns were raised including potential shadow flicker effects, noise, water management, effects on property values and potential effects on agricultural practices. The key issues raised by visitors to the event were visual effects and concerns of ecological effects on the broadleaf woodland within Brittas Castle Demesne, known locally as Knox Wood.

Benefits of the project were queried and representatives of local groups were in attendance with queries in relation to the Renewable Energy Support Scheme's Community Benefit Fund.

Large maps showing the developable area of the project were presented and local residents were able to identify their dwellings in relation to the site. The event was attended by approximately 60 individuals from the local community.

Following this event, correspondence was received via the project email address: info@brittaswindfarm.com

Phone calls were also received by the CLO and follow up correspondence and house visits were issued and organised respectively.

2.6 Project website

A project website was set up www.brittaswindfarm.com to allow members of the public to view project updates as well as access the latest project newsletters and contact info. The website includes general information about the project including location and potential capacity, latest project updates, information about Ørsted in Ireland, information on the local community benefits in line with the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS), an indicative project timeline and frequently asked questions on wind energy development.

Figure 1: Screenshot from the Brittas Wind Farm Website

Screenshots of the project website are included in Appendix D. The website also includes a link to the virtual online exhibition.

2.6.1 Virtual Consultation Room

A virtual exhibition room was prepared for the project which allows anyone to view the latest project information online. The exhibition room includes interactive material and was kept up to date throughout the environmental impact assessment and design process. The information presented on the exhibition room includes the following:

- Introduction page explaining the exhibition, providing contact information and introducing the Community Liaison Officers and Project Manager.
- An outline of the proposed project, site selection and the background for the need for the project.
- A map of the proposed project (updated over the design process).
- Outline of the Environemtnal Impact Assessment process.
- Information on the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.
- An interactive Photomontage Viewer where a selection of the latest photomontages of the proposed project can be viewed from 360 degrees.
- Information on the noise and ecology assessments.
- An outline of the provisions for the community benefit fund in line with the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS).
- Information outlining the planning process and expected programme for submission.
- A collection of all of the previous Project Newsletters available for download.

The exhibition room went live on the 11th of October 2023, ahead of the second community engagement event, as detailed in Section 2.8. It was subsequently updated with the latest project details prior to the final community engagement event of June 2024, as detailed in Section 2.11.

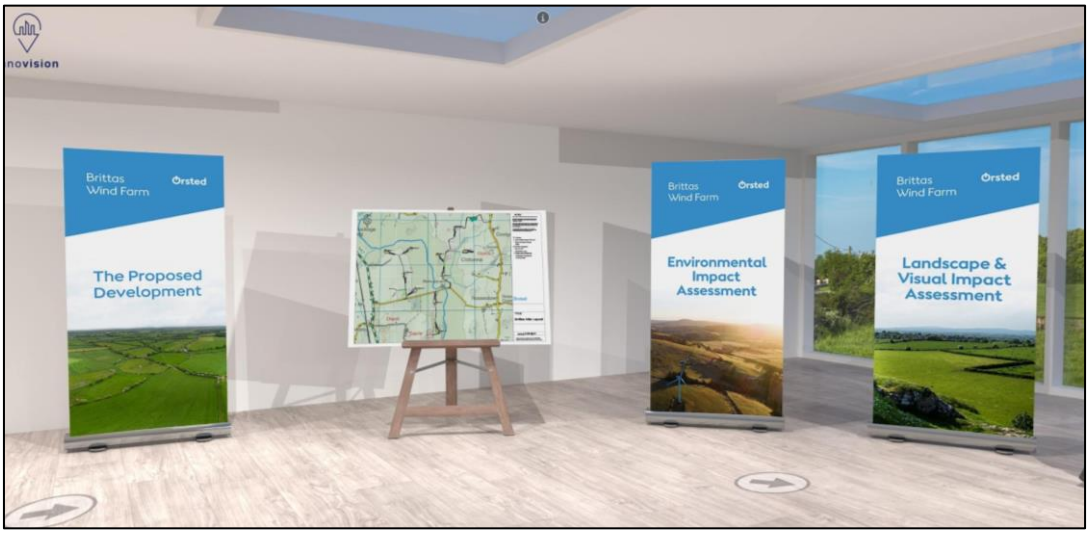


Figure 2: Screenshot from the Brittas Online Exhibition Room

Figure 3: Screenshot from the Photomontage Viewer on the Online Exhibition Room

Copies of the exhibition materials on display in the June 2024 virtual consultation room are included in Appendix C and Screenshots of the exhibition room are included in Appendix E.

2.7 Newsletter 3 – Initial Turbine Layout

Following the identification of on-site constraints, a preliminary design was produced showing the first design iteration of the turbine layout of the proposed Brittas Wind Farm. This consisted of an 11-turbine layout. A third project newsletter was then prepared to distribute to all houses within 1.5km of the proposed project site. The main focus of this newsletter was to inform the local community of the initial layout.

The third newsletter included a map of the initial layout and a map of the proposed turbine delivery route for transport of the turbine components to the site. The newsletter also included the following details:

- Landscape and visual assessment and introduction to photomontages;
- An outline of ecology assessment taking place for the project;
- Protection of residential amenity and setback distances to be applied from proposed turbines to nearby dwellings;
- Community benefit details;
- Details on the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning process;
- An indicative project timeline for planning submission; and
- Contact details for the project CLOs.

Newsletter 3 also included details of two upcoming community events where information would be presented to members of the public for discussion. The events were advertised to take place on the 10th and 11th of October, the first at Thurles Sarsfields GAA Club and the Second at Loughmore Castleiney GAA Club.

The newsletter was distributed by the project CLOs and the Project Manager to all dwellings within 1.5km of the site via a door-knock which took place on the 2nd of October 2023. The updates for the project were discussed with members of the public who were encouraged to attend the upcoming events.

A copy of Newsletter 3 can be found in Appendix B.

2.8 Public Consultation Session 2 – Initial Turbine Layout

Two community events were organised in October 2023 to provide members of the community at the proposed wind farm an opportunity to view the initial turbine layout and discuss the latest project updates with the project team. The events were held in Thurles Sarsfields GAA Club on Tuesday 10th of October and Loughmore Castleiney GAA Club on Wednesday 11th of October. The venues were chosen in order to encourage the wider community to attend, with one venue located south of the site and the second venue located north of the site.

The event was hosted by Ørsted's project CLOs, Project Manager and a member of lead EIAR consultants team from Malachy Walsh and Partners. The following information was presented at the events:

- Maps showing the initial turbine layout consisting of an 11-tubine wind farm;
- Information on various environmental assessment methodologies including:
    - Ecology Assessments
    - Landscape and Visual Assessments
    - Nosie Assessments
- Photomontages showing computer generated images of the proposed wind turbines; and
- Details of the SID planning process and an indicative project timeline for planning submission.

Both events were well attended with over 40 members of the public visiting each event. Main concerns raised by members of the public included the following:

- Concerns around noise and visual impact and the potential negative effects this would have on property values.
- Concerns around potential health impacts from living near wind turbines.
- Concerns around shadow flicker effects on immediate neighbouring properties.
- Concerns around traffic impacts during the construction phase.
- Concerns that benefits of the project would not be seen by locals in proximity to the project.

The concerns raised at the events were addressed by the project team and where requested, further information was forwarded to members of the public following the event.

Some members of the public were concerned around the visual effects seen from their homes. Two separate members of the public requested a photomontage from their property to better understand what the project would look like from their point of view. These photomontages were commissioned and presented to the households following the second community event.

The project's Virtual Consultation Room, as detailed in Section 2.6.1, went live following these events. Members of the public were informed about this during the event, where the photomontages presented would be available in a 360-degree online viewer, along with a map of the initial turbine layout and various other project and environmental details as described in Section 2.6.1.

One key issue raised by members of the public during the event was the permitting of a new house near the project. This was important local information which the project team were not aware of at the time. Therefore, following the community event, the permitted dwelling location was investigated and the design of the project was reconsidered to allow for appropriate setbacks to all dwellings.

Following the second event, correspondence was received via the project email address, info@brittaswindfarm.com, phone calls were received by the CLOs and follow up correspondence and house visits were organised for members of the public unable to attend the events.

Figure 4: Photograph from Event no. 2 at Thurles Sarsfields GAA

Figure 5: Photograph from Event no. 2 at Loughmore Castleiney GAA

2.9 Newsletter 4 – The Proposed Project

The final newsletter prior to planning submission for the Brittas Wind Farm Project was distributed to all dwellings within 1.5km of the project site on the 4th of June 2024. The newsletter was delivered door-to-door by the project CLOs and the Project manager.

The main purpose of Newsletter 4 was to present the layout that would be the subject of the planning application for the proposed project. This included a reduced footprint of the proposal with a final 10-turbine layout, the substation location, lidar unit location and borrow pit location. The newsletter outlined the considerations that were taken into account in the design process including avoidance of ecological sensitivities setback from dwellings to maintain residential amenity, and considerations of noise, flood risk and archaeology.

The newsletter presented a map of the finalised grid connection route from the site to the existing Thurles 110kV substation and a map of the turbine delivery route. Also presented was an updated timeline for planning which had changed from the previous newsletter due to delays in the design process as a result of the newly consented dwelling identified by members of the community, as mentioned in Section 2.8 above.

The newsletter provided an invitation to the upcoming community information event which was to take place in Rahealty Community Hall on the 12th of June 2024. Community members who were met at during the door-to-door newsletter drop were encouraged to attend the event where design material and environmental materials would be presented.

A copy of Newsletter 4 is included in Appendix B.

2.10 Public Consultation Session 3 – The Final Project Layout

The third and final community consultation event for the proposed Brittas Wind Farm was held in Rahealty Community Hall on Wednesday the 12th of June 2024. The venue was chosen following a request from local residents who highlighted this venue as appropriate as it is in proximity to the eastern section of the Brittas Site where a cluster of dwellings are located. The event was hosted by Ørsted's project CLOs, Project Manager and two member of the EIAR consultants team from Malachy Walsh and Partners.

Materials presented at the event include the finalised layout of the project which would be the subject of a planning application to An Bord Pleanála. Large maps of the proposed grid route and turbine delivery were presented as well as environmental information including:

- Information on the noise assessment and a noise contour map of the proposed wind farm.
- Information on the ecological assessment and a habitat sensitivity map.
- Updated project timeline and information on the application process.
- Results of the shadow flicker assessment were also available and members of the public could identify their dwelling and see what potential shadow flicker effect could occur at their property.

- The finalised photomontage booklet (Volume 4 of this EIAR) was presented at the event so members of the public could view the proposed turbines from various view points across the site and wider area. Personalised photomontages for community members who requested them were also presented to the individuals.

Some of the main concerns raised by the attendees in relation to the finalised wind farm layout and environmental information presented include the following:

- Visual effects on individuals' properties.
- Flood risk effects on site and potential displacement of flood water and ground water.
- Potential effects on local wells.
- Potential nuisance effects from construction activities.
- Potential noise and traffic issues along the proposed grid route as a result of construction works.
- Concerns that a community benefit fund would not benefit the community directly in proximity to the project.

The concerns raised by community members at the event were addressed by the project team. Project Newsletter 4 was available for any attendees who did not receive one and the maps presented at the event were given to attendees on request. Over 60 members of the public attended the event.

The event also coincided with an 'Open Day' at the nearby operational Lisheen Wind Farm where members of the public could visit the wind farm to understand the benefits and potential effects. A shuttle bus regularly stopped outside the venue throughout the day where members of the public could travel to and from the Open Day for free.

Follow up queries were received by email and the CLOs received phone calls from members of the public who were unable to attend the event, in order to follow up with project information.

The material presented at the Event is included in Appendix C of this report.

Figure 6: Photograph from Event np. 3 at Rahealty Community Hall

Figure 7: Photograph from Event no. 3 at Rahealty Community Hall

2.11 Project Website and Virtual Consultation Room - Update

To allow maximum opportunity for interested parties to view, discuss, and comment on the proposals, the exhibition materials on display at the exhibition events were replicated in a virtual consultation room displaying the final project design for planning.

The updates to the project website and virtual consultation room went 'live' on 24th of June 2024 following the final community event. All photomontages on the online viewer were update with the optimised layout, the wind farm layout map was updated and environemtnal information replaced with the latest information.

2.12 Direct Correspondence and Meetings

Throughout the pre-planning stage the Brittas Wind Farm team continued to engage with the community on an ongoing basis though written communications (via the dedicated project email address), discussions over the phone (via the CLOs).

At the request of individuals, the Applicant also facilitated a number of meetings with individual residents to discuss the proposed project and their queries.

Representatives from Brittas Wind Farm have met with and maintained an open dialogue with local groups, organisations and clubs throughout the pre-planning process.

2.13 Dedicated Contact Details

Since the project was first introduced to the community in June 2022, the Applicant has provided dedicated contact details for the proposed project, including a dedicated phone number, email address and postal address and dedicated CLO phone numbers. All enquiries fielded through these contact streams have been addressed by the dedicated CLOs and/or another member of the Brittas Wind Farm project team.

2.14 Engagement with Community Groups

As recommended in the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019), in addition to circulating information pertaining to the proposal to the immediate population nearby to the wind farm site, the developer should also circulate information to community groups within approx. 10km radius.

As such, Brittas Wind Farm contacted groups and organisations in the area to raise awareness of the project and who may benefit from a future project with regard to the Renewable Energy Support Scheme's community benefit fund. These groups and organisations have been communicated with via email and phone calls from the project CLOs as well as direct engagement at the organised community events.

Those groups and organisations are listed as follows:

- Thurles Sarsfields GAA Club, Thurles
- Loughmore Castleiny GAA Club, Loughmore
- Loughmore Ladies Walking Club, Loughmore
- Thurles Crokes Athletic Club, Thurles
- Thurles Sarsfield Camogie Club, Thurles
- Christian Brothers Secondary School, Thurles
- Rahealty Community Centre, Rahealty

3. Impact of community engagement on the proposed project

3.1 Number of turbines and setback distance

Further to the initial series of public consultation in 2023, the feedback received was that the proximity of turbines to local residents was a cause for concern.

The initial layout of the proposed development was revised from 11 to 10 turbines following the first series of public consultation and identification of additional residential receptors from members of the community. A number of changes were also made to turbine placement at this stage to maximise setback from dwellings, while maintaining an optimised layout for wind energy generation on the site.

3.2 Environmental Concerns

Other actions were also taken to reduce visual effects at this stage. This included the replacement of a permanent met mast with a Lidar unit which would reduce visual effects of the proposed development across the greater area.

Following the initial round of public consultation where important ecological features were identified by members of the community and flood risk was also cited as a concern, greater emphasis on the protection of broadleaf forestry at the south of the site was committed to and a detailed flood risk assessment was prepared to assure major elements of the project were placed outside of areas prone to flooding.

4. Enduring Economic Benefit

The Applicant recognises that the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement (2016) and the Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019) stipulate that wind farm developers should identify enduring economic benefit to the communities

concerned from the proposed development, and should also highlight short term economic benefits to the communities concerned.

4.1 Short Term Economic Benefits

It is estimated that at peak construction approximately 60 jobs will be created. This in turn will have a knock-on effect on the local economy through the supply of services to the workforce. This will be in addition to regional-level procurement of services and materials for the wind farm construction.

Additionally, the payment of a development contribution to Tipperary County Council in respect of public infrastructure and facilities will provide benefits to the local community (such as refurbishment, upgrading, enlargement or replacement of roads, car parks, sewers, waste water facilities, drains or water mains, the provision of open spaces, parks, community facilities and amenities and landscaping works in the county.

4.2 Long Term Economic Benefits

The proposed project will provide many long-term benefits to the communities surrounding the proposed development.

4.2.1 Community Benefit Fund

In accordance with the government-led Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), the project will deliver a substantial and long-term community benefit fund throughout the period that Brittas Wind Farm is operational.

This fund is expected to be approximately €250,000 for the first 15 years of the project, depending on final turbine specification, and will include a near neighbour scheme, in line with the conditions of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme.

Throughout the pre-planning consultation the Applicant has confirmed that it will enable and empower the community to decide how any future community benefit fund will be distributed, and that the Applicant will provide whatever support is required to ensure the community is able to direct the fund towards local needs, amenities and priorities.

5. Conclusion

This community report has provided an account of the pre-planning consultation undertaken by the Applicant for the proposed Brittas Wind Farm.

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 has ultimately shaped the final project proposal.

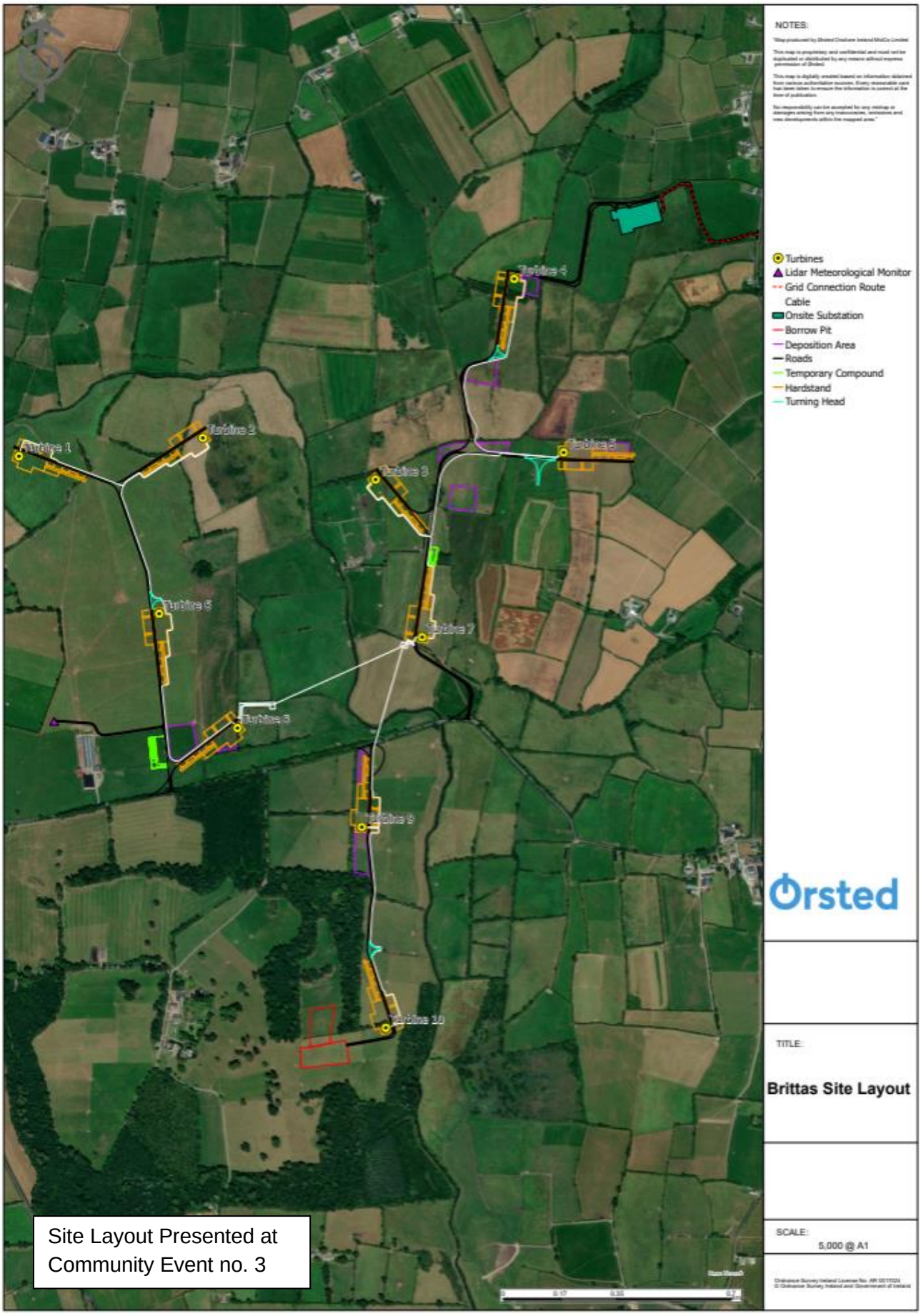
The Applicant has committed to active engagement, consultation and dialogue with the local community from an early stage and is committed to continuing with this throughout the planning, construction and operational process for the proposed Brittas Wind Farm Project.

Appendices

Appendix A - Site Layout Maps
Appendix B - Project Newsletters
Appendix C – Exhibition Materials for Consultation Events
Appendix D – Screenshots from Project Website
Appendix E – Screenshots from the Online Exhibition

Appendix A - Site Layout Maps

Site Layout Presented at Community Event no. 2



Site Layout Presented at Community Event no. 3

Appendix B – Project Newsletters

Project Newsletter 1 – June 2022

Brittas Wind Farm Project

ABOUT ØRSTED

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy

Ørsted develops, constructs, and operates offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants. Moreover, Ørsted own and operate 19 wind farms across Ireland providing 327MW to the national grid.

Ørsted is the only energy company in the world with a science-based net-zero emissions target as validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Ørsted ranks as the world's most sustainable energy company in Corporate Knights' 2022 index of the Global 100 most sustainable corporations in the world and is recognised on the CDP Climate Change A-List as a global leader on climate action.

Ørsted

WHAT WE HOPE TO DO

Ørsted are exploring the potential for developing a wind farm in the townlands of Brittas, Rossestown and Clobanna Co. Tipperary.

Detailed environmental studies are underway to understand whether this area might be suitable for the submission of a planning application for a wind farm development. These environmental studies, along with feedback from the local community and other stakeholders, will be used to inform the design of the project.

Our wish is to carry out inclusive engagement with the local community throughout the lifetime of this proposed project and your collaboration on what a future Brittas Wind Farm project could look like is very much encouraged.

The Irish Government also recently published 'Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2018 – 2027', which outlines the need for an additional 3,000 - 4,500 MW of renewable energy as an investment priority. The climate action plan 2021 aims to have ~8 GW of onshore wind energy to the national grid by 2030 and a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. The further development of renewable energy projects is a vital component of Ireland's strategy to tackle the challenges of combating climate change and ensuring a secure supply of our future energy needs. The proposed Wind Farm project is being explored, in part, as a response to these challenges and we feel it has the potential to contribute greatly to this national and indeed, global cause.

- Ørsted develops energy systems that are green, independent, and
- One of the world's largest green electricity producers
- Global no. 1 in offshore
- Global top 10 in onshore
- A globally recognised sustainability leader
- Strong presence in the United States and Europe
- Develop, own and operate, onshore wind, solar PV and storage projects
- Ambition to reach ~17.5 GW installed capacity globally by 2030

COMMUNITY BENEFIT

We seek to be good neighbours in the communities in which we develop and operate projects. Engagement with the local community will be a key activity for the Project Team.

The Project Team will be meeting with the local community to ensure that information is made available and that queries are responded to in a transparent and efficient manner.

We are committed to ensuring that local communities share in the economic opportunity that this potential project can bring and will offer a community benefit fund to support community development, in line with government policy and guidelines, should the development become an operational wind farm.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Wind Energy Development Projects undergo rigorous environmental analysis under a series of headings:

- Population and Human Health
- Biodiversity
- Land
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Climate
- Material Assets
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape

Ørsted will work with an experienced and dedicated environmental consultant to ensure a robust assessment is carried out.

Meet the team

Eamon Hutton

- Eamon is a planning and environmental specialist with Ørsted. Eamon is the project manager who will be leading the development of the proposed Brittas Wind Farm.
- Eamon has significant experience in the planning and environmental assessment of wind energy projects.

Aidan Stakelum

- Aidan is responsible for leading the teams on the ground community engagement processes through consultation with key stakeholders in the community
- Aidan is responsible for developing community engagement strategies and stakeholder management plans to engage with new communities on Greenfield projects
- Draft communications material with the project development teams including drafting of leaflets, booklets, websites, social media etc. including communications updates a projects progress

CONTACT US

We welcome all engagement and interaction on all aspects of the proposed Brittas Wind Farm Project.

You can contact us by email: **astak@orsted.com**

Or call a member of the project team on: **0861037437**

Or write to us at: **Floor 5, City Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork City, Ireland**

www.Orsted.ie

Ørsted

Project Newsletter 2 – April 2023

Newsletter update April 2023

Brittas Wind Farm Project

ABOUT ØRSTED

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy

Ørsted is a renewable energy company taking action to create a world that runs entirely on green energy. We develop, construct, own and operate onshore and offshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants. Ørsted is ranked the world's most sustainable electricity utility company in Corporate Knights Global 100 index for 2023.

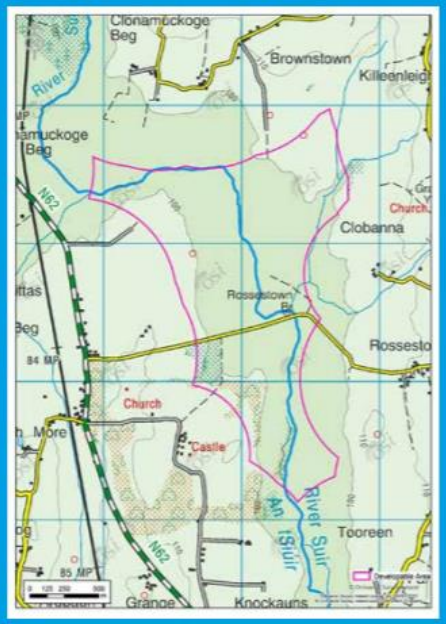
Ørsted owns and operates 19 wind farms across Ireland providing 327MW of electricity to the national grid, with additional renewable projects in the construction and planning phases. It is our ambition to grow our capacity significantly over the next decade to support the Irish Government's emission reduction targets. To achieve this, we aim to develop new onshore assets, repower existing assets, and grow our presence in Ireland's nascent energy storage market.

WHAT WE HOPE TO DO

As outlined in our last newsletter, we are exploring the potential to develop a wind energy project in the townlands of Brittas, Rossestown and Clobanna, near Thurles, Co. Tipperary. We are aiming to complete environmental surveys, prepare the project design and to submit a planning application in December 2023. The project aims to supply clean and sustainable electricity to the national grid, supporting Ireland's objective to achieve 80% renewable electricity by 2030.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The project will consist of a wind farm of between 9 and 11 wind turbine generators. The turbines will be linked by new and upgraded access tracks. The project will include a new onsite electricity substation and a grid connection connecting the project to the national electricity grid. The project will also include a turbine delivery route which is the route chosen to transport large turbine components from the port of entry to the project site.



The project is currently at its initial design stage. We have identified environmental constraints across the site and are currently designing a first draft layout of the project. This process involves the examination and mapping of a range of sensitive environmental constraints along with requirements set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines. This process will result in the mapping of a developable area where wind turbines can be located. The current developable area being considered for the project is illustrated in this newsletter.

Constraints considered at this stage included the following:

- Setback from residential dwellings.
- Setback from rivers and streams.
- Setback from public roads.
- Setback from registered archaeological monuments.
- Avoidance of sensitive ecological habitat.

COMMUNITY

Ørsted is committed to engaging inclusively with the whole community and developing a responsible project that is good for society and for our neighbours. As part of the project, we want to help bring forward sustainable, long-term community initiatives that meet local priorities, needs and objectives.

In accordance with the government-led Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS), the project, if consented, will deliver a substantial and long-term community benefit fund during the operational period of the Wind Farm. In line with government guidance, this fund is expected to provide €2 per MW hour for the first 15 years of the project and will include a near neighbour scheme. For a 50MW project, the community benefit fund could amount to €280,000 per annum.

The community benefit fund must be used for the wider economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the local community. The distribution of the fund will ultimately be for the community living in proximity to the project to decide in partnership with the Ørsted team. Details of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme and community benefit can be found on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's website.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENT

Ørsted's Brittas Wind Farm development team will be hosting an information event in Thurles Sarsfields Gaelic Athletic Association Clubhouse, Townspark, Thurles on Monday the 17th of April 2023. The purpose of the event is to invite members of the local community to view the progress of the proposed project and to speak to the project team. The event will take place between 4pm and 8pm. If you cannot attend the event, please contact our team and will send you an information pack.

ENVIRONMENT

Environmental studies are underway at the site. Ecology studies began in 2021 and are being conducted by Woodrow Sustainable Solutions. Ecology studies include bird surveys, habitat surveys and aquatic ecology surveys.

Malachy Walsh and Partners have begun the environmental impact assessment of the site. This will include detailed assessments of noise, shadow flicker, traffic, hydrology, soils and geology and landscape and visuals. These studies, along with feedback from the local community and other stakeholders, will be used to inform the design of the project.

Meet the team

Eamon Hutton

Eamon is Ørsted's project manager for the Brittas Wind Farm project. Eamon is responsible for bringing renewable energy projects from initial conception, through the Environmental Impact Assessment and planning process to consent.

Aidan Stakelum and Alan Barry

Aidan and Alan are the community liaison representatives for the project. They are responsible for developing community engagement strategies and stakeholder management plans to engage with communities on Greenfield projects. Aidan and Alan are available to discuss the proposed project with the local community.

Ørsted

CONTACT US

We welcome all engagement and interaction on all aspects of the proposed Brittas Wind Farm Project.

You can contact us by email: info@brittaswindfarm.com

Or call a member of the project team on:

Aidan: 0861037437, Alan: 0861030464

Or write to us at: **Brittas Wind Farm, Floor 5, City Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork City, Ireland.**

Visit the project website at: www.brittaswindfarm.ie

Project Newsletter 3 – October 2023

Newsletter update October 2023

Brittas Wind Farm Project

ABOUT ØRSTED

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy

Ørsted is a renewable energy company taking action to create a world that runs entirely on green energy. We develop, construct, own and operate onshore and offshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants.

Ørsted owns and operates 20 wind farms across Ireland providing 360MW of electricity to the national grid, with additional renewable projects in the construction and planning phases. It is our ambition to grow our capacity significantly over the next decade to support the Irish Government's emission reduction targets. To achieve this, we aim to develop new onshore assets, repower existing assets, and grow our presence in Ireland's nascent energy storage market.

Ørsted

Introduction

As outlined in our last newsletter, we are exploring the potential to develop a wind energy project in the townlands of Brittas, Rossestown and Clobanna, near Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Since our last project update was distributed, we have progressed the initial design of the wind farm and are continuing the environmental assessment of the project.

In putting together this design we have considered your feedback from the previous community consultation event, and that of the planning and statutory consultees including Tipperary County Council, An Bord Pleanála and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Project Overview

The proposed project design currently consists of an 11-turbine wind farm. The turbines will have a tip height of up to 180m. The turbines will be linked by new access tracks. The project will include a new onsite electricity substation and a grid connection connecting the project to the national electricity grid. The project will also include a turbine delivery route which is the route chosen to transport large turbine components from the port of entry to the project site.

The initial turbine layout has considered various environmental factors and sensitivities and aims to comply with the Government's Wind Energy Development Guidelines. The design has considered the following:

Landscape and visual

Landscape and visual impacts have been considered throughout the design process. Initial layout designs were modelled by the landscape consultants Innovision, who modelled the theoretic visibility of the wind farm throughout the wider landscape. The consultant has also produced some visual representations of what the proposed wind farm will look like from various representative viewpoints. A landscape and visual assessment of the final design layout will be included in the planning application, accompanied by a series of visualisations known as photomontages. These will present the wind farm against the existing landscape, allowing the reader and decision makers to fully understand how the wind farm will look within the landscape.

Ecology

Ecological data has been collected through a variety of surveys, including:

- Terrestrial and aquatic habitat surveys
- Bat surveys
- Bird surveys
- Mammal surveys

Data collected from these surveys strongly influenced the wind farm design. Some areas of sensitive habitat were detected within the site boundary. Careful consideration has been taken to limit or avoid any impacts on these areas, and instead improving the overall quality of habitats within the area as part of the Habitat Management Plan. Care was taken with the siting of the current infrastructure layout to protect the flora and fauna on site.

Residential Amenity

The turbine locations have been positioned to maintain a setback from nearby houses of at least 720m. This is in line with the requirements set out in the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines which requires a setback of 4x the tip height of the proposed turbines. This aims to reduce potential impacts from visuals, noise and shadow flicker.

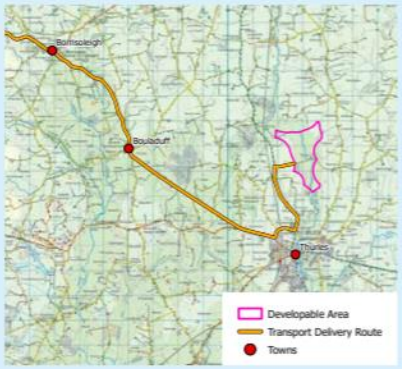
Other design considerations

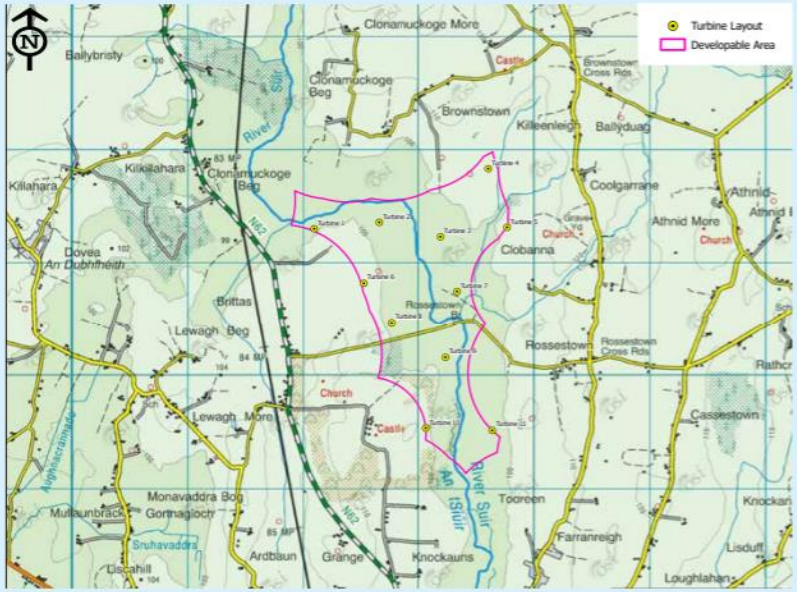
There were many other topics considered during the design of the wind farm including:

- Setback from rivers and streams to avoid siltation during construction.
- Setback from public roads.
- Setback from registered archaeological monuments.

Turbine Delivery and Site Access

The site is accessed from the L8017 local road, 'The Dark Road' which connects to the N62. It is proposed to deliver turbine components to the site from the Port of Foynes, County Limerick. The components will be transported from the port via the M7 to Nenagh, where the route turns onto the R498 regional road southeast to Thurles passing through Borrisoleigh. The route will cross the outskirts of Thurles before turning north on the N62 towards the site. The delivery route has been designed to reduce disruption to local roads and traffic.





Benefits to the Local Community

The Brittas Wind Farm Project will offer a number of benefits to the local community

Community benefit fund

The current government guidelines for the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) requires that a community benefit fund is put in place for all renewable energy projects contracted through RESS. The community benefit fund is valued at €2/MWH per year from the first year of operation of the new wind farm. This means that for every megawatt hour the wind farm produces, €2 is contributed to the fund. This would result in a substantial benefit fund being made available. For example, a 50MW project would provide approximately €280,000 per annum to the community benefit fund.

When qualifying for RESS, a projects community benefit fund is usually managed by an independent organisation, who set up a local committee which decides on how and to whom the funds are distributed.

Job and Contracting/ Supply Chain Opportunities

The construction and operation of the wind farm will create jobs and contracting opportunities. As part of the tender for the wind farm construction, successful bidders will have to commit to holding a "Meet the Suppliers" event for local businesses and contractors, informing them of how they can bid to provide goods and services for the construction and operation of the wind farm.

Habitat Conservation and Management

As part of the planning application, Ørsted will submit information outlining our plans to protect and restore important habitats around the wind farm and our measures to enhance biodiversity. At Ørsted, we avoid, mitigate and address our impact on biodiversity to build and operate in harmony with nature. Our ambition is to deliver a net positive biodiversity impact from new projects commissioned from 2030.

The Planning Process

We are currently on schedule to submit the planning application in December of this year, provided we don't encounter any delays outside of our control. This application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application. An Bord Pleanála is the national body that makes a decision to grant permission or refuse permission for major infrastructure projects that are important to either Ireland, the region or the local area. Examples include motorways, hospitals and wind farms with an output greater than 50MW. SID applications
are made for developments which:

- Contribute significantly to meeting any of the objectives of the National Planning Framework, or
- Contribute significantly to meeting any regional spatial and economic strategy for an area, or
- Have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

Once the application is lodged, members of the public will be free to submit observations to the planning authority, which will be considered as a part of the decision-making process. The application documents will be available online, and physical copies will be available at the offices of An Bord Pleanála and Tipperary County Council.

Further information will be provided to the public prior to the planning submission.

Upcoming Community Event

Ørsted's Brittas Wind Farm development team will be hosting an information event at the following locations:

- Thurles Sarsfields Gaelic Athletic Association Clubhouse, Townspark, Thurles on Tuesday 10th of October 5pm to 8pm.
- Loughmore Castleiney GAA Club, Coogulla on Wednesday 11th of October 5pm to 8pm.

The purpose of the event is to invite members of the local community to view the progress of the proposed project and to speak to the project team. The event will take place between 4pm and 8pm (TBC). If you cannot attend the event, please contact our team and we will send you an information pack.

Project Programme

We are here

Q2 2021
General ecological studies began in the study area.

Q3 2022
MWP consultants appointed to design and assess the project.

Q2 2023
Community consultation starts door-to-door in the surrounding area. Newsletter 2 is issued, and a public information evening is held at Thurles Sarsfields.

Q3 2023
Newsletter 3 is issued and a public information evening is held at Thurles Sarsfields and Loughmore Castleiney GAA.

Q4 2023
Another public information event will be held prior to planning.

Q2 2022
Newsletter 1 was distributed in the locality of the site.

Q4 2022
Detailed environmental and engineering studies began.

Q3 2023
Current wind farm layout proposal is designed.

Q4 2023
Final design of the project will be completed, and the full environmental assessment will be finalised.

Q4 2023
Planning application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Meet the Team

Eamon Hutton

Eamon is Ørsted's project manager for the Lisheen 4 project. Eamon is responsible for bringing renewable energy projects from initial conception, through the Environmental Impact Assessment and planning process to consent.

Aidan Stakelum and Alan Barry

Aidan and Alan are the community liaison representatives for the project. They are responsible for developing community engagement strategies and stakeholder management plans to engage with communities on greenfield projects. Aidan and Alan are available to discuss the proposed project with the local community.

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Contact Us

We welcome all engagement and interaction on all aspects of the proposed Brittas Wind Farm Project.

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Or call a member of the project team on:

Aidan: **0861037437**
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Visit the project website at: **www.brittaswindfarm.ie**

Project Newsletter 4 – June 2024

Newsletter 4, June 2024

Brittas Wind Farm Project

ABOUT ØRSTED

Ørsted is a world leading renewable energy company and our vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy

In Ireland, Ørsted employs over 100 people in our Cork office and across our wind farms nationwide. We have invested over €700m in Ireland to date and operate 21 wind farms powering the equivalent of 250,000 homes. Our development pipeline is multi technology, including onshore and offshore wind, solar, hybrid, repower and storage. As such we offer a balanced, renewable, multi-technology view that we believe will contribute to a resilient energy mix.

Ørsted is recognised on the CDP Climate Change A-List as a global leader on climate action and was the first energy company in the world to have its science-based net-zero emissions target validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Headquartered in Denmark, Ørsted employs approx. 8,000 people globally.

Ørsted

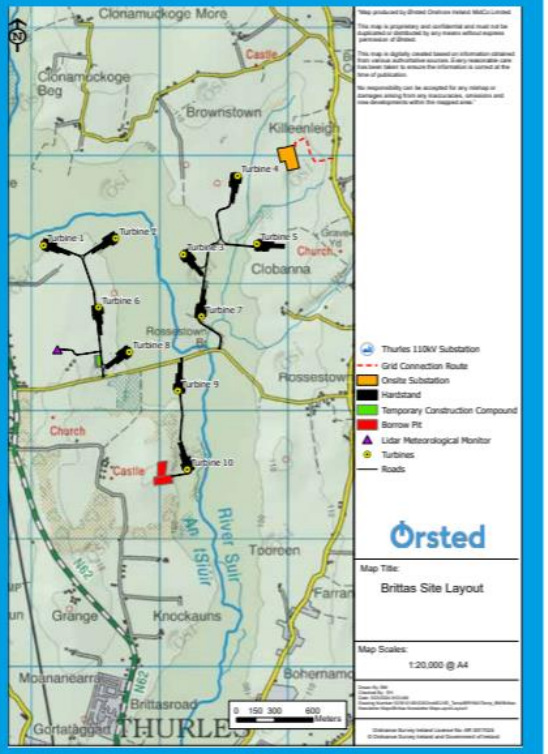
Introduction

As outlined in our last newsletter, we are exploring the potential to develop a wind energy project in the townlands of Brittas, Rossestown, Brownstown and Clobanna, near Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Since our last project update was distributed, we have updated the design of the proposed wind farm, progressed the civil design and completed environmental assessments.

In preparing the updated design we have considered the communities feedback from the previous consultation visits and events, as well as the views and opinions of the planning authority and statutory consultees including Tipperary County Council, An Bord Pleanála and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Project Overview

The proposed project design currently consists of a 10-turbine wind farm. We have removed one turbine from our previous design following feedback from community consultation and revision of environmental constraints. The proposed turbines will have a tip height of up to 180m. The turbines will be linked by new access tracks with 3 new site entrances on the L8017 local road (Dark Road). The project includes a new onsite electricity substation and a grid connection connecting the project to the national electricity grid. The project also includes accommodation works along the turbine delivery route which is the route chosen to transport large turbine components from the port of entry to the project site. The project will produce between 57MW and 65MW of renewable electricity.



Constraint Led Design Approach

A constraints led approach is best practice when designing a wind farm and that is how the Proposed Brittas Wind Farm has been designed. Various environmental sensitivities within the project study area are identified and from that, suitable areas are chosen where turbines and roads may be located. The project's design has considered a wide range of environmental sensitivities and has taken account of provisions of the Government's Wind Energy Development Guidelines. Examination of environmental constraints resulted in the removal of one wind turbine from the previous design of the project.

Residential Amenity

The turbine locations have been positioned to maintain a setback from nearby houses. The Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019) require a setback of 4x the tip height of the proposed turbines. This aims to reduce potential effects from visuals, noise and shadow flicker. A setback of 720m has been applied between nearby houses and turbine locations where possible.

Ecology

Ecological studies have been progressing on the site for the past three years. This has included extensive ornithology (bird) surveys, bat surveys, terrestrial and aquatic ecology surveys and mammal surveys. Extensive site walkovers have taken place, conducted by qualified ecologists, and an assessment of the potential effects on ecology has been prepared. The findings of the ecology surveys had a significant influence on the design of the project where avoidance of sensitive features and habitats was given high priority.

Landscape and visual

Landscape and visual impacts have been considered throughout the design process and each iteration of the design has been closely examined in terms of landscape and visual effects. The early layouts of the project were modelled by the landscape consultants Innovision, who examined the theoretic visibility of the proposed wind farm throughout the wider landscape. The consultant has also produced some visual representations of what the latest proposal for the wind farm will look like from various representative viewpoints.

A landscape and visual assessment of the final design layout will be included in the planning application, accompanied by the series of visualisations known as photomontages. These will present the wind farm against the existing landscape, allowing the reader and decision makers to fully understand how the wind farm will look within the landscape.

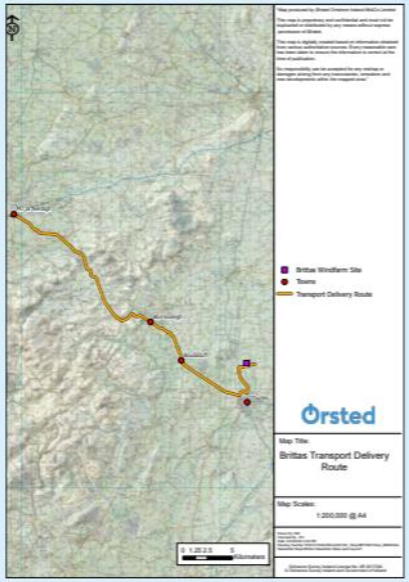
Other design considerations

There were many other topics considered during the design of the wind farm including:

- Noise surveys and assessments
- Setback from public roads and safe access to public roads
- Setback from rivers and streams to protect water quality
- Flood risk assessment
- Avoidance of impacts on registered archaeological monuments where possible

Turbine Delivery and Site Access

The site is accessed from the L8017 local road, 'The Dark Road' where three new site entrance are proposed. This road connects directly to the N62 to the west of the site. It is proposed to deliver turbine components to the site from the Port of Foynes, County Limerick. The components will be transported from the port via the M7 to Nenagh, where the route turns onto the R498 regional road southeast to Thurles passing through Borrisoleigh. The route will cross the outskirts of Thurles before turning north on the N62 towards the site. The delivery route has been designed to reduce disruption to local roads and traffic. Temporary accommodation works will be required along the route at various points prior to delivery.



Grid Route

It is proposed to connect the project to the national grid via an underground cable located within the public road. This is the preferred option as set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines and avoids any additional overhead lines. The proposed point of connection is the Thurles 110kV substation in the townland of Ballygammane. The grid route measures approximately 7km from the site entrance to the Thurles 110kV substation. The grid route and point of connection are subject to agreement with the system operator EirGrid.

Benefits to the Local Community

The Brittas Wind Farm Project will offer a number of benefits to the local community

Community Benefit Fund

The current government guidelines for the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) requires that a community benefit fund is put in place for all renewable energy projects contracted through RESS. The community benefit fund is valued at €2/MWH per year from the first year of operation of the new wind farm. This means that for every megawatt hour the wind farm produces, €2 is contributed to the fund. This would result in a substantial benefit fund being made available. The proposed project will produce between 57MW and 65MW, therefore an approximate community benefit fund of between €290,000 and €340,000 could be made available annually.

When qualifying for RESS, a projects community benefit fund is overseen by a fund committee consisting of volunteer community representatives, a representative of the project developer and an administrator. The primary decisions on fund spending is in the hands of the local community.

If the project does not enter into or qualify under a future RESS process, Ørsted remain fully committed to facilitating an annual Community Benefit Fund.

Jobs and Contracting/Supply Chain Opportunities

The construction and operation of the wind farm will create jobs and contracting opportunities. As part of the tender for the wind farm construction, successful bidders will have to commit to holding a "Meet the Suppliers" event for local businesses and contractors, informing them of how they can bid to provide goods and services for the construction and operation of the wind farm.

Habitat Conservation and Management

As part of the planning application, Ørsted will submit information outlining our plans to protect and restore important habitats around the proposed wind farm site and our measures to enhance biodiversity. At Ørsted, we avoid, mitigate and address our impact on biodiversity to build and operate in harmony with nature. Our ambition is to deliver a net positive biodiversity impact from new projects commissioned from 2030.

The Planning Process

Since our last project update was issued, the project team experienced some delays in finalising the design and environmental assessment. We are currently on track to submit planning permission in the coming month. The project was recently issued Strategic Infrastructure Development status by An Bord Pleanála as the project is considered to consist of development which is of strategic economic or social importance to Ireland, the region or the local area.

Therefore, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála who are the national body that makes a decision to grant permission or refuse permission for major infrastructure projects. Once the application is lodged, members of the public will be able to view the full proposal, drawings and environmental assessments online or view a physical copy at the offices of An Bord Pleanála and Tipperary County Council. Once the planning application is submitted, members of the public are free to submit observations to the planning authority, which will be considered as a part of the decision-making process.

Upcoming Community Event

Ørsted's Brittas Wind Farm development team will be hosting an information event at the following location on Wednesday the 12th of June:

- Rahealty Community Centre, Rahealty, E41 DE62 on the 12th of June, 4pm to 8pm

The purpose of the event is to invite members of the local community to view the proposed project and to speak to the project team. The event will take place between 4pm and 8pm. If you cannot attend the event, please contact our team and we will send you an information pack or organise a visit.

Project Programme

Q2 2021
General ecological studies began in the study area.

Q3 2022
MWP consultants appointed to design and assess the project.

Q2 2023
Community consultation starts door-to-door in the surrounding area. Newsletter 2 is issued, and a public information evening is held at Thurles Sarsfields.

Q3 2023
Newsletter 3 is issued door-to-door in the local area and public information evenings are held at Thurles Sarsfields and Loughmore GAA.

Q2 2024
SID status is issued by An Bord Pleanála.

We are here

Q2 2024
Planning application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Q2 2022
Newsletter 1 was distributed in the locality of the site.

Q4 2022
Detailed environmental and engineering studies began.

Q3 2023
Initial wind farm layout is designed.

Q1 2024
Redesign of the project following community feedback and environmental assessment.

Q2 2024
Newsletter 4 is issue to local residents and a public event is organised at Rahealty Community Centre.

Meet the Team

Eamon Hutton

Eamon is Ørsted's project manager for the Brittas Wind Farm project. Eamon is responsible for bringing renewable energy projects from initial conception, through the Environmental Impact Assessment and planning process to consent.

Aidan Stakelum and Alan Barry

Aidan and Alan are the community liaison representatives for the project. They are responsible for developing community engagement strategies and stakeholder management plans to engage with communities on renewable energy projects. Aidan and Alan are available to discuss the proposed project with the local community.

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Visit the project website at: **www.brittaswindfarm.ie**

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Appendix C – Exhibition Materials for Consultation Events

Brittas Wind Farm

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The Proposed Wind Farm

Ørsted is developing this project to supply renewable electricity to the National Grid in line with Government Targets to decarbonise our energy supply and increase energy security and independence on the island of Ireland. The proposed wind farm is located in the townlands of Brittas, Rossestown, Clobanna, Brownstown, Tooreen and Killeenleigh, approximately 2km north of Thurles. The project currently consists of 10 wind turbines. We are proposing a maximum height of 180m from the ground to the highest tip of the turbine blades.

The layout design process commenced after initial environmental studies were completed. We identified constraints such as sensitive habitats and designed the layout to avoid these sensitivities. We also took on board feedback received from the community at previous events, door to door visits in the area of the site and through phone calls and emails. The design process was iterative with important inputs from environmental studies, engineering studies, landscape considerations, planning policy considerations, commercial studies and engagement with local communities and stakeholders. The design of the project is presented with the proposed turbine locations, hardstanding areas and road layout. The latest design of the project has reduced the number of turbines from 11 to 10 following community consultation and further environmental studies.

Why have we selected this site?

We have a history of operating renewable energy projects in County Tipperary including the Lisheen Wind Farm and Garracummer Wind Farm which have been operational since 2009 and 2013 respectively. Ørsted are continually reviewing sites for potential new renewable energy projects across Ireland. The Site at Brittas was identified due to its broad area with a large setback from houses, good wind resource, and wind energy policy which is open for consideration for new wind energy development.

Once identified, we then began ecology surveys to confirm the ecological sensitivities and we have completed water quality surveys, drainage surveys, ground condition surveys and archaeological surveys across the site. Survey information gathered has been used to inform best practice measures to protect existing habitats, species and important features throughout the site.

The project will allow the good wind resource on-site to contributing towards renewable energy targets with the benefit of an increased overall generating capacity and output, contributing to the local economy while adhering to all planning, policy and environmental guidelines and regulations.

Climate Change

At Ørsted, we want to be a global catalyst for systemic change through helping countries, communities and companies speed up their green transformations, meet science-based emissions reduction targets, and keep average global temperature increase within 1.5°C. Reducing carbon emissions helps mitigate the impacts of a warming climate on species and ecosystems, and an accelerated build-out of global green energy is among the most powerful ways to halve carbon emissions by 2030. The Brittas Wind Farm will contribute to global decarbonisation efforts as well as help Ireland to reach its 80% renewable electricity targets by 2030.

Brittas
Wind Farm

Ørsted

Environmental Impact Assessment

The planning application for the wind farm will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The EIAR sets out the baseline environmental conditions for the site and predicts the potential effects of the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the wind farm. The assessment has informed the wind farm design, dictating where turbines and associated infrastructure may be located in order to minimise the potential environmental effects of the project.

The potential effects of the full wind farm project are assessed in the EIAR which presents effects across a range of topics. The EIAR sets out mitigation measures where effects are predicted. Each environmental subject area has undertaken a cumulative assessment to understand the potential effects of the wind farm in combination with other projects nearby.

The project's Environmental Impact Assessment Report covers the following topics:

- Landscape & Visual Assessment
- Ornithology (Birds)
- Ecology
- Soils & Geology
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Archaeology & Cultural Heritage
- Noise
- Traffic & Transport
- Human Health & Safety
- Shadow Flicker; and
- Air Quality & Climate

Brittas Wind Farm

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Noise

Noise considerations are important throughout the wind farm design process. There are stringent guidelines on wind turbines and noise emissions to ensure the protection of local residents. Wind turbines will either be located sufficiently away from noise sensitive receptors, such as residential properties, to ensure noise levels are within the allowed limits, or reduced turbine noise modes will be employed to comply with the noise limits.

An assessment of noise levels, in accordance with best practice, has been undertaken throughout the design process of the project. Noise impacts are examined for the entire wind farm project including construction, operation, and decommissioning. This allows us to design a project which will comply with all current planning policies and best practice guidelines. The design of the project has included sufficient setback from dwellings in line with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines, which will reduce noise levels during the construction and operational phase of the proposed project. It is predicted that the proposed project will comply with noise limits at nearby properties.

The noise impact assessment forms a part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will be submitted alongside the planning application. Should the project be permitted and constructed, the wind farm will be subject to compliance with noise limits. Noise monitoring will take place post construction to assure the limits are adhered to.

Shadow Flicker

Shadow Flicker is the effect of light levels in a sunlit room noticeably varying as a result of the shadow of a turbine blade passing a window, causing a nuisance. It only occurs at certain times of the year and under certain conditions.

For shadow flicker to occur:

- **There must be a sufficient level of sunlight shining at a low angle in the sky**
- **The turbine needs to be directly between the sun and the dwelling, and**
- **The blades must be turning with nothing obscuring the view**

Current guidance states shadow flicker effects should not exceed a maximum of 30 minutes a day or 30 hours per year. If it is determined that shadow flicker will impact a property for longer periods of time than this, the wind farm operation will be adjusted to reduce it (i.e. the turbines causing the problem will be turned off during instances of shadow flicker).

A shadow flicker assessment has been carried out on the latest design of the proposed wind farm. This assessment has predicted potential occurrences of shadow flicker on nearby dwellings in proximity to the wind farm site, in line with national guidance. Where shadow flicker has been identified to occur at a dwelling, control measures will be implemented to reduce the potential occurrence.

The shadow flicker assessment will be presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will be submitted alongside the planning application.

Brittas
Wind Farm

Ørsted

Ecology

Ecology surveys have been ongoing on site since 2021. A variety of survey data has been collected in line with best practice guidance. The surveys include:

- Habitat surveys
- Bird surveys
- Bat surveys
- Mammal surveys
- Aquatic habitat surveys

The data that has been collected from these surveys has been considered as the basis of the ecological impact assessment contained within the project's Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The survey methodology is based on the latest best practice guidance and has been discussed and verified with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

The assessment has considered the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects that the construction and operation of the wind farm development could have on birds, bats, mammals, habitats and aquatic habitats. An Appropriate Assessment (AA) is being carried out, as required by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), to determine if there will be any potential effects on nearby Natura 2000 Sites. These are Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protected Areas (SPAs) that are protected under EU and National Law.

Habitats & Vegetation

The wind farm site mainly consists of agricultural fields and plantation forestry as well as river habitat. The habitat survey has mapped and classified all habitats within the site, with a particular focus on Annex I habitats or habitats with specific sensitivities. Detailed botanical surveys were carried out of the areas around the proposed turbine locations and other proposed infrastructure. The findings of the habitat surveys had a significant influence on the design of the project where avoidance of sensitive features and habitats was given high priority.

Brittas Wind Farm

Birds

Bird populations have been surveyed within the site and surrounding areas, extending up to 6km outside the wind farm site. Best practice survey methods were used to assess populations of sensitive species, including vantage point surveys to assess patterns of flight activity across the wind farm site.

Disturbance and displacement effects have been predicted using best knowledge from relevant scientific research, and making precautionary assumptions where evidence is limited. Collision risk modelling has been used to predict the potential number of collisions per year based on the patterns of flight activity recorded in the vantage point surveys, using the proposed wind turbine parameters (height and blade diameter).

Bats

Static surveillance has been undertaken across the wind farm site in accordance with wind farm survey guidelines to determine bat species present and activity level at static stations. This is where electronic detectors are placed at certain locations at the site to monitor bat activity. The data collated has been analysed using the Bat Eco Tool and bat activity has been mapped across the site.

Walking transects have been undertaken along fields and forestry within the site area and along the local road network to document the local bat populations in relation to commuting and foraging habitats. We have also undertaken dusk and dawn surveys of buildings and structures within and adjacent to the wind farm site to document bat roosts. All of the transect works has been undertaken in accordance with the most up-to-date scientific guidance.

Aquatic Biodiversity

The wind farm site includes small watercourses and drainage ditches. As the watercourses in the wind farm site drain to the River Suir, special care must be taken to avoid effects on water quality which has potential to impact on important species and habitat within the river corridor.

Aquatic habitat assessments were carried out using the methodology based on the 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland' (CIEEM, 2019) and the Environmental Protection Agency's EIAR Guidelines (2022). Aquatic surveys included kick sampling (for benthic macroinvertebrates, where suitable habitat exists) to establish a baseline water quality rating at suitable locations and a review of habitat suitability for Annex II species such as White-clawed Crayfish.

All the survey data captured will be presented in an ecological assessment in the Environemtnal Impact Assessment Report which will describe the potential effects the proposed project will have on the existing ecological baseline of the site. The findings of the aquatic ecology surveys have informed the drainage design of the proposed wind farm which aims to avoid effects on water quality of the existing watercourses across the site.

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Benefit to the Local Community

Wind Farms offer a number of benefits to the local community including community benefit funds, job and contracting opportunities, and habitat conservation and management.

Community Benefit Fund

The current government guidelines for the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) requires that a community benefit fund is put in place for all renewable energy projects contracted through RESS. The community benefit fund is valued at €2/Megawatt Hour (MWH) per year from the first year of operation of the new wind farm. This means that for every megawatt hour the wind farm produces, €2 is contributed to the fund. This would result in a substantial benefit fund being made available. For example, a 50MW project would provide approximately €280,000 per annum to the community benefit fund.

When qualifying for RESS, a projects community benefit fund is usually managed by an independent organisation, who set up a local committee which decides on how and to whom the funds are distributed.

The current conditions of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) require the community benefit fund to be used for not-for-profit community enterprises whose primary focus or aim is the promotion of initiatives towards the delivery of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, including education, affordable and clean energy, sustainable communities and climate action. A near neighbour scheme is also included which allocates funding to houses within 1km of the wind farm.

Job and Contracting/Supply Chain Opportunities

The construction and operation of the wind farm will create jobs and contracting opportunities. As part of the tender for the wind farm construction, successful bidders will have to commit to holding a "Meet the Suppliers" event for local businesses and contractors, informing them of how they can bid to provide goods and services for the construction and operation of the wind farm.

Habitat Conservation and Management

As part of the planning application, Ørsted will submit information outlining our plans to protect and restore important habitats around the wind farm and our measures to enhance biodiversity. At Ørsted, we avoid, mitigate and address our impact on biodiversity to build and operate in harmony with nature. Our ambition is to deliver a net positive biodiversity impact from new projects commissioned from 2030.

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Planning Application Process

The planning application for the proposed Brittas Wind Farm will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application. An Bord Pleanála is the national body that makes decisions to grant or refuse permission for major infrastructure projects that are important to either Ireland, the region or the local area. Examples include motorways, hospitals or wind farms (with an output greater than 50MW). SID applications are made for developments which:

- **Contribute significantly to meeting any of the objectives of the National Planning Framework, or**
- **Contribute significantly to meeting any regional spatial and economic strategy for an area, or**
- **Have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority**

Once the application is lodged, members of the public will be free to submit observations to the planning authority, which will be considered as a part of the decision-making process. The application documents will be available to view online, and physical copies will be available at the offices of An Bord Pleanála in Dublin and at the offices of Tipperary County Council. After experiencing some delays in preparing the planning submission, we are currently on schedule to submit the planning application over the coming month.

Overview of Planning Application Process

Brittas Wind Farm

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Project Timeline

Brittas Wind Farm

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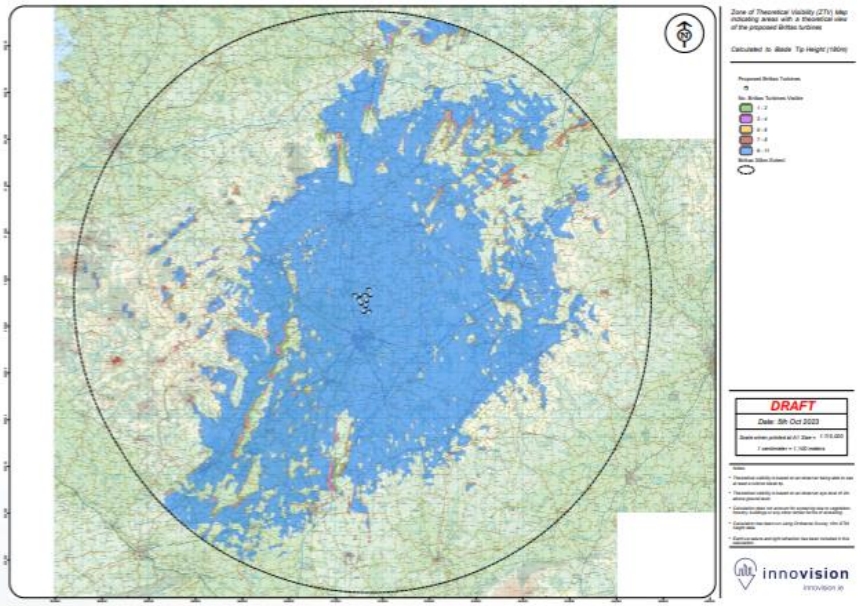
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) is currently underway and will be presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) to be submitted with the planning application. It will identify the effects of the wind farm on the surrounding landscape, as well as views from certain important, and agreed, viewpoints. The LVIA will also identify visual effects from receptors such as nearby residential properties.

A zone of theoretical visibility (ZTV) is first produced outlining which project elements will be visible from various areas of the local landscape within a 30km radius of the site (see image below). Note this is a worst-case scenario and in reality, visibility will be lower from many locations as intervening landscape features, such a trees, hedgerows, and buildings, all reduce the visibility of turbines. The ZTV does not account for these landscape features, however, the photomontages provide an accurate representation of what the project may look like.

Photomontages are produced from key areas identified in the ZTV to show what the proposed project will look like from local towns and villages as well as other points of interest. Photomontages have computer generated images of wind turbines accurately placed into actual photography that has been taken from agreed viewpoint locations surrounding the proposed wind farm. These photomontages will present the wind farm against the existing landscape, allowing the reader and decision makers to fully understand how the wind farm will look within the landscape.



Appendix D – Screenshots from Project Website

www.brittaswindfarm.com

Ørsted About the project Latest updates Local community Timeline Frequently asked questions Contact us Visit Orsted.ie

About the project

Ørsted is exploring the potential to develop a wind energy project in the townlands of Brittas, Rossestown and Clobanna, near Thurles, Co. Tipperary. The project aims to supply clean and sustainable electricity to the national grid, supporting Ireland's objective to achieve 80% renewable electricity by 2030. Environmental studies have commenced at the site. These studies, along with feedback from the local community and other stakeholders, will be used to inform the design of the project.

You can view our online exhibition which includes the latest project information, environmental information and photomontages of the proposed Brittas Wind Farm.

Go to our online exhibition →

About Ørsted in Ireland

Ørsted is a renewable energy company taking action to create a world that runs entirely on green energy. We develop, construct, own and operate onshore and offshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants. Ørsted owns and operates 21 onshore wind farms across the island of Ireland providing 378MW of green electricity to the grid, with additional renewable projects in the construction and planning phases.

It's our ambition to grow our capacity significantly over the next decade to support the Irish Government's emission reduction targets. To achieve this, we aim to develop more than 1,000 MW new onshore assets, repower existing assets, enter into the Irish offshore market, and grow our presence in Ireland's nascent energy storage market.

Facts about the project

Name: Brittas Wind Farm
Location: County Tipperary
Capacity: 57MW to 66MW
Target to Submit Planning Application: Q2 2024
Target to Enter Commercial Operation: 2028

Latest updates and news

The Ørsted team have met Tipperary County Council, An Bord Pleanála and the National Parks and Wildlife Services to discuss the proposed Brittas Wind Farm project. Public consultation events were held in April 2023 and October 2023 where the Ørsted team met local residents. Since we last met the community, the design of the project has been progressed and environmental studies completed. In May 2024, the project was issued Strategic Infrastructure Status by An Bord Pleanála. Further community consultation will take place over the coming months prior to the planning submission which will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála.

Newsletter June 2022 →

Newsletter April 2023 →

Newsletter October 2023 →

Newsletter June 2024 →

Local community

Ørsted is committed to engaging inclusively with the whole community and developing a responsible project that is good for society and for our neighbours. As part of the project, we want to help bring forward sustainable, long-term community initiatives that meet local priorities, needs and objectives.

In accordance with the government-led Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS), the project, if consented, will deliver a substantial and long-term community benefit fund during the operational period of the Wind Farm. In line with government guidance, this fund is expected to provide €2 per MW hour for the first 15 years of the project and will include a near neighbour scheme. For a 50MW project, the community benefit fund could amount to €280,000 per annum.

The community benefit fund must be used for the wider economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being of the local community. The distribution of the fund will ultimately be for the community living in proximity to the project to decide in partnership with the Ørsted team.

If you would like to speak to us about the community benefit opportunities, please get in touch - we are keen to hear from you. Details of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme and community benefit can be found on the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland's website.

Project timeline

Autumn 2021

Ecology studies commence on site.

Autumn 2022

Environmental consultants Malachy Walsh & Partners are appointed to commence environmental assessment.

Spring 2023

Initial community consultation event took place at Thurles Sarsfields.

Summer 2023

First design iteration completed.

Autumn 2023

Second community consultation event took place in Thurles Sarsfields and Loughmroe GAA. Newsletter 3 distributed to nearby houses.

Spring 2024

Finalise design and complete environmental assessments.

Summer 2024

Third community consultation event in Rahealty Community Centre. Newsletter 4 distributed to nearby houses.

Summer 2024

Planning submission.

Frequently Asked Questions:

- Is Onshore Wind a Reliable Source of Electricity? →
- Can Wind Turbines be Recycled? →
- What is the Carbon Footprint of Onshore Wind? →
- Are Wind Turbines Noisy? →
- Are Wind Turbines Dangerous to Human Health? →
- Are Wind Turbines Dangerous to Bird Species? →

Contact us

The project team for the proposed Brittas Wind Farm has extensive experience in the design, construction and operation of wind energy projects. We are committed to mobilising our experience to ensure we meet our stated aim of creating wind projects which are good for Ireland, good for the local communities and good for the environment.

Our Community Liaison Officer, Aidan Stakelum, is available to speak with local residents and community members to make sure information is readily available. All queries or questions are recognised and responded to in a transparent and efficient manner.

Please get in contact if you have any suggestions as to how you feel we can best facilitate or tailor the proposed project's communications to suit you best.

Email: info@brittaswindfarm.com

Telephone: (021) 4223692

Post: Brittas Wind Farm Project, Floor 5, City Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork City, Ireland

Appendix E – Screenshots from the Online Exhibition

https://tours.innovision.ie/v/y2qmnKQD1wO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Click banners to learn more
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Welcome
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The Proposed Development


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Environmental Impact Assessment
Brittas Wind Farm
Ørsted
Landscape & Visual Impact Assessment
Brittas Wind Farm
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Photomontages


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Noise
Brittas Wind Farm
Ørsted
Ecology
Brittas Wind Farm
Ørsted
Community Benefit
Brittas Wind Farm
Ørsted
Planning Process


Brittas
Wind Farm
Ørsted
Project
Timeline
Newsletter 4 June '24
Newsletter3 Oct '23
Newsletter 2 April '23
Newsletter 1 June '22
Brittas
Wind Farm
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Thank You &
Contact Us


Viewpoint 1
Viewpoint 1
Viewpoint 2
Viewpoint 3
Viewpoint 4
Viewpoint 5
Viewpoint 6
Viewpoint 7
Viewpoint 23
Viewpoint 27
VP1: Brittas Wind Farm - Photomontage View
Location Information (Lat, Long, Alt): 52.70935, -7.786215, 113.31m
Date & Time: 24/05/2023 12:31
Direction of View: 61.7
Google
Click for Existing View
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