

# **Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm Project**

## **Environmental Impact Assessment Report**

### **Chapter 3: Consultation**



**March 2025**

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Appendix 3.1	Record of Consultation with An Bord Pleanála	Included at the end of this Chapter
Appendix 3.2	Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies	Included at the end of this Chapter
Appendix 3.3	Local Community Notices	Included at the end of this Chapter



## CHAPTER 3 Consultation

### ElAR 3.1 Consultation with An Bord Pleanála

**An Bord Pleanála Case Number: ABP-312016-21.** On 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2021, Rowanmere Limited formally asked An Bord Pleanála, through the pre-application process, if a windfarm development with a total output greater than 50 megawatts in the vicinity of Ballynalacken County Kilkenny would be considered strategic infrastructure development. Subsequently 3 No. pre-application meetings took place between February 2022 and September 2022.

#### ElAR 3.1.1 1<sup>st</sup> Pre-Application Meeting

The 1<sup>st</sup> pre-application meeting between Rowanmere personnel and the Board's representatives was held on 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. The An Bord Pleanála minutes of this meeting can be found in [Appendix 3.1 Record of Consultation with An Bord Pleanála](#) at the end of this chapter.

**In summary, the prospective applicant** outlined the nature of the proposed development being a windfarm comprising about nine turbines, with an approximate tip height of 180 metres, with a total output in the ranges 54MW and 63MW, a 110kV substation and a 110kV underground grid connection. The site is located entirely in north Kilkenny, generally 4.2km northwest of Castlecomer and 3.2km south of Ballinakill, County Laois. Two grid connection options, one being an underground connection to the existing 38kV/110kV substation at Moatpark, County Kilkenny and the other, an underground connection to a recently permitted 110kV loop-in substation at Knockardagur, County Laois were being considered. The likely turbine delivery route being considered would utilise the M9 via Kilkenny and N78 via Castlecomer. The applicant identified that the site is designated as Acceptable in Principle within Appendix K Wind Energy Development Strategy, of the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027. There are no European designations within the proposed site. Surveys were ongoing at the time including baseline assessments, site surveys and site constraints mapping. Consultations had been held with Inland Fisheries Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Services, telecommunications operators and local landowners. Consultation with Kilkenny County Council's Road and Environment sections and other prescribed bodies and the local community were anticipated to take place in the following months. The proposed development aligns with the key objectives held within national and regional policy. The preparation of the ElAR and AA were underway. The prospective applicant was of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of Strategic Infrastructure Development.

**The prospective applicant stated** that peat probing had been completed and the area of mapped peat has been avoided as locations for the turbines and infrastructure. There would be a requirement for some felling, but this would be kept to a minimum and would mainly include keyhole felling. Alternative locations were considered and the proposed site was chosen for the windfarm due to its location, designation in the County Development Plan Wind Energy Development Strategy, set back distances and access routes. The grid connection was expected to form part of the planning application. Given the connectivity to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, it is anticipated that a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment would be required.

**The Board stated** that specific project details and site location (including red line boundary and site layout) would be required in order for the Board to determine the SID status of the proposed development. Also, given the connectivity to the SAC, the Board advised to be cognisant of Freshwater Pearl Mussel. In the context of the Derryadd judgement, the advice is that if a specific tip height is not finalised and ranges are brought forward, these ranges should be fully considered in the ElAR to allow the Board to examine and fully

evaluate the likely impacts. The Board advised that it was for the prospective applicant to request a further meeting or to close the pre-application consultation process.

### **EIAR 3.1.2 2nd Pre-Application Meeting**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-application meeting between Rowanmere personnel and the Board's representatives was held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022. The An Bord Pleanála minutes of this meeting can be found in [Appendix 3.1 Record of Consultation with An Bord Pleanála](#) at the end of this chapter.

In summary, the prospective applicant recapped on the nature and extent of the proposed development which now included 10 No. wind turbines and provided a photomontage of the proposed development when viewed from the N77 Ballyragget- Durrow Road. A separation distance in excess of 500 meters was proposed from residences and background noise monitoring was on-going at the time of the meeting. A community benefit fund was proposed, a Community Liaison Offices had been appointed and a project website was being progressed. The prospective applicant noted an SAC with respect to the two grid connection route options and also noted an SPA for Kingfisher along the Nore and Owenbeg river channels, and noted that Loughill Bridge was listed under the NIAH along grid route B option (to the Pinewood Wind Farm's substation in Knockardagur). The prospective applicant stated that there are no geological heritage sites at the windfarm site or along either of the grid connection route options. The prospective applicant noted local surface water catchments in the surrounding area (rivers and streams) and the composure of general bedrock geology; it also noted trial hole locations. With regard to soils, the prospective applicant noted the general composure of sand, silts, gravels and shale; it added that there is no peat within the subject site boundary and provided the Board with photos of the area generally (northern end and forestry road). The prospective applicant said that deep excavations would not be required and added that a stability assessment was underway. Excavated shale would be utilised in the borrow pits. Traffic count surveys and haul route surveys had been completed; bridge surveys were on-going along the two grid route options. Cumulative effects were being considered as part of its preparation work (with regard to other wind farm developments and other infrastructure projects); the prospective applicant was also researching other developments such as roads projects. There would be no effects on telecommunications arising from the proposed development. There had been engagement with the local authority and the NPWS and on-going consultations with local landowners.

**The Board commented that** that a red-line boundary is required for the subject site and that the grid connection route should also be included in the red-line boundary; and further both grid route options being considered could be included in the red-line boundary to be forwarded. The Board reminded the prospective applicant to be cognisant of effects on adjoining lands and noted the increase in the number of proposed turbines and also noted the inclusion of an energy storage compound and stated that a certain degree of information on this should be provided as part of the instant pre-application process. The Board reiterated that any replant forestry required as part of a felling licence would be the subject of a separate consent process and that a carbon calculation should be included as part of the climate chapter of the EIAR.

**In reply the prospective applicant stated** that it had established the red line boundary in a preliminary respect and that the details could be forwarded. The intention at the time of the meeting was to include the grid connection route which had been chosen, in the subsequent planning application and the Board said that a further meeting in the instant pre-application process could be facilitated if the prospective applicant wished to provide clarity on this matter. In relation to public consultations, the prospective applicant acknowledged that near-neighbour consultations had to be expanded upon through face-to-face meetings, unless a resurgence of Covid requires a greater degree of online consultations.

In conclusion, the prospective applicant indicated that it might avail of a further meeting for clarification purposes (with regard to the red-line boundary for the subject site and the proposed energy storage compound).

### **EIAR 3.1.3 3<sup>rd</sup> pre-application meeting**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> pre-application meeting between Rowanmere personnel and the Board's representatives was held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The An Bord Pleanála minutes of this meeting can be found in [Appendix 3.1 Record of Consultation with An Bord Pleanála](#) at the end of this chapter.

**The prospective applicant** provided updates on the windfarm layout and the proposed grid connection options. The proposed development now consisting of 11 wind turbines, a 110kV substation and associated works. Following trial hole investigations and site walk overs, some changes had been made to the windfarm layout and access roads. Alterations had been made to access roads in order to follow the contours more closely; to reduce cut and fill; to utilise an existing Coillte entrance in order to avoid an area of wet ground and the location of 1 No. turbine was moved slightly. Access to newly proposed turbine will be arranged with the landowners involved in the project.

In relation to the grid connection, the prospective applicant informed the Board that new EirGrid specifications require a greater separation distance between the windfarm substation and the turbines. Following this, the prospective applicant informed the Board that a new windfarm substation location option was being considered, further west in order to achieve this set back distance. Also, discussions were ongoing with several landowners in the area with the potential of routing the cable from the windfarm substation location, through 3<sup>rd</sup> party lands and a much shorter public road route, before connecting into the existing substation at Ballyragget. Another windfarm substation location option was also being assessed at Tinnalinton and the two options may be submitted with the planning application. The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant that if two grid connection options are submitted, both options must be fully considered and addressed within each chapter of the EIAR. The prospective applicant confirmed that the grid connection will form part of the planning application and that the cabling would consist of 33kV to the new proposed windfarm substation and then 110kV to the existing [EirGrid] Ballyragget substation. Each turbine has an output [rating] of c.6MW, which would give a total capacity of approximately 66MW. The prospective applicant confirmed that the energy storage compound would not form part of this planning application but that it may be applied for in the future.

The Board reminded the prospective applicant that if a specific tip height was not finalised and that ranges are instead brought forward, these configurations within the ranges should be specific and the specific configurations should be examined within each chapter of the EIAR to allow the Board to also examine and evaluate the likely impacts.

The meeting concluded, after which it was a matter for Rowanmere to revert to the Board if it required a further meeting or if it wished to close the pre-application consultation process.

#### **EIAR 3.1.4 Request from Rowanmere to Issue a Declaration**

On 28<sup>th</sup> October 2022 Rowanmere Limited formally requested that the pre-application consultation phase of the SID process be closed and that the Board proceed to carry out its Determination. Included was mapping of the site layout of the windfarm including a number of options for the connection of the windfarm to the national grid, which were to be considered further as part of the on-going EIA process.

#### **EIAR 3.1.5 Determination from An Bord Pleanála**

The pre-application process was closed out by letter from An Bord Pleanála on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023. The letter formally served notice that the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A (2)(a), (b) and (c) of the Planning & Development Act 2000 (as amended). Accordingly, the Board decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Act. Any application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

In conclusion the Board considered that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed.

See [Appendix 3.1 Record of Consultation with An Bord Pleanála](#) which includes the Board's minutes of the pre-application consultation meeting, the Board's Determination and the Board's Inspector's Report.

#### **EIAR 3.1.6 Rowanmere proposal following SID Consultation**

As a result of consultations, environmental considerations, and the available land holdings the following particulars for this planning application were finalised;

- The Ballynalacken Windfarm planning application will be made directly to An Bord Pleanála having been determined to be Strategic Infrastructure.
- The application will be made for 12 No. turbines which will have a rotor diameter of 117m. Regarding hub heights, two hub heights are proposed – 84m for Turbine No. T4, and 96.5m for all other turbines, thus giving an uppermost tip height of 142.5m for T4, and 155m for all other. The windfarm will have an output capacity of greater than 50MW.
- The windfarm substation will be located to the south-west of the windfarm site at a lower elevation and from there the grid connection cable will be routed to the existing 38kV/110kV station (Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation) at Moatpark, Ballyragget, County Kilkenny.

## ElAR 3.2 Consultations with Kilkenny County Council

Pre-planning application consultations were held with the Planning Section and the Roads Section of Kilkenny County Council.

- **Planning Section:** Julie Brett, ElAR Co-ordinator met with Deirdre Breen, Executive Planner, at Kilkenny County Council offices on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The following was discussed: the layout of the windfarm in relation to landuse and cover and in relation to the nearest houses to the development; the grid connection and transport routes; the location of the development in relation to scenic designations; the location from where Landscape montages had already been taken with Deirdre Breen requesting additional local locations for montages; and the other projects and plans to be considered in the cumulative impact assessments. The ElAR Coordinator also enquired about the possibility of a future waymarked trail being developed along Cromwell's Road. Deirdre Breen followed up this query with Harry Everard of Trail Kilkenny who confirmed that although he had met with some members of the community to discuss a walking route that there was nothing planned at the time.
- **Planning, Roads & Heritage Sections:** Julie Brett, ElAR Co-ordinator and Pat Rohan of Malone O'Regan engineering consultants met with Deirdre Breen (Executive Planner), Harry Shine (Roads Section) and Francis Coady (Conservation Officer), online on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2024 to discuss the use of the public road network to deliver turbine components to the windfarm site, the site entrances and type of roadside boundary fencing to be used at the windfarm site; the works required along the turbine component haul route, and the cable routes along the public road network in Coole and Moatpark townlands, including the installation of cables in the existing road bridge on the R432. The number of printed and digital copies of the planning documents required by Kilkenny County Council was also confirmed by email following the meeting.

At the time of lodgement of the application with the Board, the Chief Executive Officer of Kilkenny County Council will be served Notice of the lodgement of the application. Copies of the application will accompany the Notice. The Notice will also alert Kilkenny County Council to the Board's requirement that the application documentation be made available for public inspection/purchase by the planning authority in accordance with the terms of the newspaper notices and the Board's intention that all of the application documentation will remain available for public inspection during the currency of the application.

### ElAR 3.2.1 Consultations with Laois County Council

Laois County Council Planning Section was notified by letter in January 2023 of the intention to submit a planning application for Ballynalacken Windfarm. No reply was received.

Also, at the time of lodgement and as prescribed by the Board, Laois County Council will be notified of the lodgement of the application. A copy of the application will be included with the notification.

### **EIAR 3.3 Consultation with Developments Application Unit**

#### **EIAR 3.3.1 Consultation with DAU (NPWS)**

The experts who prepared the Biodiversity Chapter 13 of this EIAR – INIS Environmental Consultants, consulted with the Developments Application Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), on the proposed development on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022. Ecopower Developments sent an updated layout and project letter to the DAU (NPWS) in January 2024. NPWS made no comment on either consultation except to acknowledge receipt and reserve their right to submit observations/recommendations at a later stage in the process.

National Parks and Wildlife Service: A consultation request to NPWS was sent on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2024 for the overlapping hectads with the Project works boundary. The response was received on July 22<sup>nd</sup> 2024. Two hectads were noted to host Peregrine Falcon nest (S46, S55). An advisory note was made that the project overlapped within the Nore catchment hosting *Margaritifera sp.* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) and due consideration to risk and harm to this species be made in any planning designs.

Developments Applications Unit: An information request was sent on June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022. A response of “decline to comment at this time” was received on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2022. As such, no direct consideration was available beyond standard expectations related to windfarm projects in Ireland.

See **Appendix 3.2 Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies (Section 3.2.6)** (at the end of this Chapter) for the consultation record.

Also, at the time of lodgement of the application with the Board, the DAU (NPWS) will be notified of the lodgement of the application. A copy of the application will be included with the notification.

#### **EIAR 3.3.2 Consultation with DAU (NMS)**

The Developments Application Unit, National Monument Service (NMS) were consulted on the proposed development in January 2023 and again in January 2024. The response to the 2023 consultation is set out below.

The 2023 NMS reply included advice that;

The services of a Consultant Archaeologist be retained to carry out the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) as part of the overall Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) of the proposed development. In this regard the Department awaits the results of the CHIA for the scheme before commenting further.

Of a general nature, NMS also advised that the CHIA should include an assessment of the possible effects of the proposal on the wider archaeological landscape and also that it is of importance that the study area for the CHIA should be of sufficient size and extent to support this. The Department advised that the CHIA should incorporate a robust desk-study supported by a comprehensive field inspection as well as a visual impact assessment (to assist in identifying any possible impacts to the setting of sites or monuments). The methodology for the Visual Impact Assessment is also indicated.

The NMS also advise that the Archaeological Impact Assessment should also involve an examination of all available development layout/design drawings, completion of documentary/cartographic/photographic research and fieldwork, the latter to include where possible - geophysical survey (consent as required under the National Monuments Acts).

Ecopower Developments sent an updated layout to the DAU (NMS) in January 2024 and received an acknowledgement only.



See **Appendix 3.2 Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies (Section 3.2.8)** (at the end of this Chapter) for the consultation record.

The National Monument Service recommendations were taken into account in the preparation of the Cultural Heritage Chapter.

Also, at the time of lodgement of the application with the Board, the DAU (NMS) will be notified of the lodgement of the application. A copy of the application will be included with the notification.

### **EIAR 3.4 Consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)**

The experts who prepared the Biodiversity Chapter 13 of this EIAR – Inis Environmental Consultants, consulted with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), on the proposed development in June 2022. IFI made the following recommendations;

- Confirmation that the proposed development is located in the Nore catchment, in particular in the catchment areas of the following surface water bodies (SWB) – Nore\_120; Nore\_130; Castlecomer Stream\_010; Cloghagh\_010 and the Owveg (Nore)\_040. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status and Risk Status were also confirmed and also that all are part of or feeding directly to, the Barrow – Nore SAC.
- Article 28(2) of the Surface Water Regulations (SI 272 of 2009) states that a surface water body whose status is determined to be less than good shall be restored to at least good status. Furthermore, Article 5 states that there should be no deterioration in Ecological Status. The ecological surveys / reports should demonstrate how the proposed development would be consistent with the maintenance / restoration of each of the involved SWBs to Good Ecological Status within the third cycle of the national River Basin Management Plan.
- A comprehensive map of all aquatic habitats potentially affected by the proposed development should be provided in the reports. This should include an assessment of the potential adverse effects on all relevant aquatic receptors, including fish. The cumulative effects of the proposed development along with other existing or approved projects should also be considered. This should include an assessment of the impact on the conservation objectives of species listed as qualifying interests in the Barrow – Nore SAC, which include Lamprey species and Atlantic Salmon.
- Baseline ecological assessments of water courses potentially affected by the proposed development, including biological and physico-chemical surveys, should also be provided. Following the commencement of works, field testing and laboratory analysis of parameters should be undertaken at agreed sites. The reports should include locations, timing and frequency of the proposed monitoring of biological and physico-chemical parameters. A full list of parameters should also be provided.
- Records should be kept of biological and chemical monitoring undertaken before, during and after the works. Records should also be kept of inspections of proposed surface water mitigation measures. These records should be made available upon request to any authorised person as defined under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.
- The applicant should adhere to the recommendations and guidelines outlined in IFI's *Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and adjacent to Waters* 2016. The storage, management and conveyance of materials on site must not permit deleterious matter to reach adjacent surface water systems either directly or indirectly. Sources and estimates of potential run-off should be provided and details of measures to mitigate these, including their location, provided in the Report.

- Instream works may only take place during the period 1 July to 30 September. There should be no interference with the bed, gradient, profile or alignment of watercourses without prior notification and the agreement of Inland Fisheries Ireland. Any proposed instream works must be accompanied by a site-specific method statement provided to IFI.
- The number of new water crossings should be minimised. Where existing crossings must undergo alteration, IFI request that these crossings are upgraded in the interests of habitat improvement and biodiversity net gain. IFI should be consulted at the design phase to maximise favourable outcomes. Where works on water crossings are proposed, method statements must be provided. Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) principles should be incorporated into surface water management plans to attenuate any run-off of suspended solids or other deleterious matter. Drainage infrastructure should be installed during dry ground conditions.
- The EIAR and NIS should include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), and an Emergency Response Plan (EMP) in case of an emergency incident. Provision should be made for the appointment of a suitably qualified Project Environmental Manager and Ecological Clerk of Works.

See [Appendix 3.2 Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies \(Section 3.2.5\)](#) (at the end of this Chapter) for the consultation record.

The Inland Fisheries Ireland recommendations were taken into account in the design of the Project and during the preparation of the Biodiversity and Water chapters.

Also, at the time of lodgement of the application with the Board, Inland Fisheries Ireland will be notified of the lodgement of the application. A copy of the application will be included with the notification.

#### **EIAR 3.4.1 Inis Environmental Consultants response to IFI Consultation**

Inis Environmental Consultants had regard to IFI's observations during the preparation of Chapter 13: Biodiversity of the EIAR including mapping and sensitive aspects of the receiving environment including the species listed as qualifying interests in the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, the developments environmental mitigation measures and monitoring arrangements and the Environmental Management Plan for the Project.

This consultation response from IFI was also shared with the project hydrogeologist experts Hydro-Environmental Services (HES) who prepared Chapter 8: Water of this EIAR and the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP).

A number of Project mitigation measures and monitoring arrangements were developed by Inis and HES having regard to the IFI observations. The key measures are summarised below (over).

Please see [Chapter 19 Mitigation Measures and Monitoring Arrangements – section 19.2.1 and 19.2.2](#).



1. Monitoring:

- **SM02:** Pre-construction confirmatory surface water quality monitoring and recording.
- **SM16:** Regular surface water quality monitoring and recording during the Construction Phase in accordance with the Surface Water Management Plan
- **SM17:** Monitoring of Q values and sediment build up immediately downstream of instream works dam locations (D1, D2).
- **SM12:** Monitoring of construction works by the project Environmental Management Team.
- **SM27:** implementation of Environmental Management Plan by the project Environmental Management Team which will include an Environmental Clerk of Works, the Project Ecologist and specialists such as a hydrologist, who are independent of the site contractors.
- **SM18 & SM19:** Fuel and oil storage and controls;

2. Construction phase measures

- **MM10:** additional measures at works locations within 50m of watercourses or existing drainage - including double silt fencing, temporary drain blocking, silt trapping arrangements. Works will not take place within this zone during prolonged heavy or exceptional rainfall events.
- **MM12:** Installation of a surface water drainage network at the windfarm site, which includes tranverse drains (grips), check dams and settlement ponds, cross drains and outfall weirs.
- **MM18:** In-stream works will not be undertaken without isolation of flow within the watercourse, any fish, if present, within the isolated section will be removed using electrofishing and transferred immediately downstream of the crossing point and placed back in the water. The water will be isolated from the works by over pumping, flume (pipe) or channel diversion methods.
- **MM19:** At wet drainage channels, instream works will be followed by site-specific reinstatement measures to ensure the restoration of flow character and morphology within the affected reach.  
**MM26:** All associated tree felling will be undertaken using good working practices as outlined by the Forest Service in their 'Forestry Harvesting and Environment Guidelines' (2000) and the 'Forestry and Water Quality Guidelines' (2000).
- **MM27:** Instream works in wet drainage channels will only take place during the IFI specified period (July, August and September) and will be carried out in accordance with the *Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and adjacent to Waters* (IFI, 2016).

### **EIAR 3.5 Consultation with Uisce Éireann**

Drawings of the Water Distribution and Sewer Network Assets in the public road in the vicinity, were secured from Uisce Éireann on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2022. These drawings show that there was a potential interaction with Uisce Éireann's assets on the R432 (Ballyragget to Ballinakill Road) and on the Local Road L-58442.

Uisce Éireann were consulted about the proposed project again January 2024 at the EIAR preparation stage. In their February 2024 reply, they advised that there is an existing Uisce Éireann abstraction point downstream from the proposed windfarm to the north west of Castlecomer and that the EIAR must include and consider all direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the abstraction point.

Also in their February 2024 reply, Uisce Eireann requested detailed mapping of the location of the turbines and the proposed location and extent of the cabling. It was also requested that where the proposed cabling is in close proximity to Uisce Eireann services, that the separation distances from services as per Uisce Éireann's Standards Codes and Practices<sup>1</sup> are achieved and that there will be no build-over of Uisce Eireann services. In April 2024, the requested mapping was provided to Uisce Eireann showing the proposed cabling route designed to satisfy Uisce Eireann's separation distance and relative locational requirements. In May 2024 Uisce Eireann replied, advising that they had reviewed our enquiry to a build-over/build-near of Uisce Éireann's water main, subject to some standard conditions, the proposed build-over/build-near can be facilitated.

See [Appendix 3.2 Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies \(Section 3.2.4\)](#) (at the end of this Chapter) for the consultation record.

Also, at the time of lodgement of the application with the Board, Uisce Eireann will be notified of the lodgement of the application. A copy of the application will be included with the notification.

### **EIAR 3.6 Consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (Tii)**

Tii were consulted about the proposed project in January 2024. The only interaction with Tii assets is during delivery of construction materials and in particular delivery of turbine components to site. The turbine delivery route from port on National Roads was described and it was confirmed that there would be no road works required on Tii assets. No reply was received from Tii. See [Appendix 3.2 Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies \(Section 3.2.2\)](#) (at the end of this Chapter) for the consultation record.

Also, at the time of lodgement of the application with the Board, Tii will be notified of the lodgement of the application. A copy of the application will be included with the notification.

### **EIAR 3.7 Consultation with Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)**

IAA and AIRNAV were consulted in March 2024. Turbine co-ordinates and the ground base elevation and blade tip heights for each of the 12 No. turbines were provided. No reply was received from IAA. See [Appendix 3.2 Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies \(Section 3.2.3\)](#) (at the end of this Chapter) for the consultation record. Also, at the time of lodgement of the application with the Board, IAA will be notified of the lodgement of the application. A copy of the application will be included with the notification.

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<sup>1</sup> Water Infrastructure Standard Details Connections and Developer Services Construction Requirements for Self-Lay Developments July 2020 (Revision 4) Document IW-CDS-5020-01

### EIAR 3.8 Consultation with other Prescribed/Statutory Bodies

Additional to the consultations listed in the previous sections, consultations took place with other prescribed/statutory bodies and other parties. All responses received, informed the examinations in this EIA Report.

**Table 3-1: Prescribed / Statutory Bodies and Other Parties**

Consultee	Summary of Consultee Response
<b>Geological Survey of Ireland</b>	<p>The Geological Survey Ireland replied that GSI provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. GSI recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes.</p> <p>In relation to geoheritage and specifically County Geological Sites (CGSs), GSI confirms that their records dating from 2007 and revised in 2012 show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed windfarm.</p> <p>In relation to groundwater, GSI advise that the proposed development needs to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general which include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps and, for areas underlain by limestone, refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Specifically in relation to the proposed development, GSI advise that the Groundwater Data Viewer indicates aquifers classed as a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive' , a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones', a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive' underlie the proposed wind farm development. The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates aquifers classed as a 'Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (diffuse)' and a 'Regionally important gravel aquifer' underlie the proposed windfarm underground cable and grid connection underground cable routes. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the range of groundwater vulnerabilities within the area covered is variable. GSI therefore recommend use of the GSI Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface' in the proposed development assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greatest in these areas.</p> <p>In relation to Climate, GWClimate which is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland, is recommended to access data with may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans.</p> <p>In relation to groundwater, GSI recommend in general that the Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) guidelines which were developed in partnership with Local Authorities, be consulted.</p> <p>In relation to bedrock and soils, GSI recommends in general that the GSI geological mapping be consulted and note that GSI recently launched QGIS compatible bedrock (100K) and Quaternary geology map data, with instructional manuals and videos.</p> <p>In relation to Geohazards, GSI recommends that geohazards be taken into consideration and encourage the use of the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map to identify vulnerable areas relevant to the proposed development. Also recommended is the national project on Groundwater</p>

	<p>Flooding to inform the flood risk assessment and management plans to be developed for the proposed project.</p> <p>GSI also refer to their Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area. GSI recommend that natural resources used in the proposed wind farm development are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities, and that consideration of future resource sterilization is considered.</p> <p>In relation to geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments, GSI recommends that baseline geochemistry data for Ireland which was developed as part of the Tellus programme be consulted in order to assess the impacts of activity on environmental chemical quality. (Ecopower Developments note: this data does not include the proposed windfarm area).</p> <p>Finally GSI recommend the following guidelines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institute of Geologists of Ireland, 2013. Guidelines for the Preparation of the Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Geology in Environmental Impact Statements.</li> <li>• EPA, 2022. Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)</li> </ul> <p>GSI ask that a copy of reports detailing any site investigation boreholes be sent to the GSI's Geological Mapping Unit so that the data can be added to GSI's national database of boreholes, which will provide a better service to the civil engineering sector.</p> <p><b>See Appendix 3.2: Consultation with Prescribed Bodies (Section 3.2.7)</b></p>
<b>Department of Environment, Climate and Communications</b>	No Reply
<b>Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media</b>	No Reply
<b>Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine</b>	Acknowledgement only
<b>Department of Rural &amp; Community Development</b>	No Reply
<b>Southern Regional Assembly</b>	No Reply
<b>Eirgrid</b>	No Reply
<b>The Heritage Council</b>	No Reply
<b>Commission for Regulation of Utilities</b>	No Reply
<b>Office of Public Works</b>	No Reply
<b>An Taisce</b>	No Reply
<b>An Chomhairle Ealaíonn</b>	No Reply
<b>Fáilte Ireland</b>	No Reply

### **EIAR 3.9 Consultation with the Public**

Most of the landowners involved in Ballynalacken Windfarm live locally and they are fully appraised of the proposal. Representatives of the developer, Rowanmere have also been in contact with households within 1km of a proposed turbine.

A Public Information Day was held in Ballyouskill Hall on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2024 between 3pm and 8pm. Along with Rowanmere representatives familiar with the proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm development details, the co-ordinators of the EIA Report were on hand to explain the specifics of the environmental findings of the pre-planning surveys and evaluations, and to provide details on the amount and operation of the project community benefit fund. Prior notice of the Public Information Day was provided through advertisement by in the local newspaper and in the parish newsletter. A dedicated community website was also developed to provide an overview of the proposal. [www.ballynalackenwindfarm.com](http://www.ballynalackenwindfarm.com). A mailshot information letter was sent to all houses within 1km of a turbine prior to the Public Information Day.

A second information letter was sent out in March 2025 to the nearest neighbours, when the design and evaluation of the project was completed, to inform these residents that the planning application was ready to be submitted. The community website was updated with an overview of the final proposal, a copy of the non-technical summary of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report on the proposed development and details of the procedure and timelines for submissions to An Bord Pleanála on the proposed development.

See **Appendix 3.3 Local Community Notices** (at the end of this Chapter) for mailshots and notice.

#### **EIAR 3.9.1 Public consultation via the Planning System**

Provision of notice to the public on applications for projects subject to EIA, is through the EIA Portal hosted by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage prior to the lodging of the application. The EIA Portal is an online map-based website that provides users with information on current applications for development consent which are accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The web link for the EIA Portal is [EIA Portal web link](#)

The public was also notified of the intention to apply for planning permission by the erection of Site Notices locally, publication of Planning Notices in newspapers circulating in the area (1 local and 1 national newspaper) and notification on the dedicated community website [www.ballynalackenwindfarm.com](http://www.ballynalackenwindfarm.com). The Non-technical Summary for the proposal is also available on the community website. Information on how to make a submission to An Bord Pleanála on the planning application is provided on the community website along with the contact email and phone number for the project manager for the development.

The planning documents submitted to An Bord Pleanála are available for inspection online at [www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie) and at their offices in 64 Marlborough St, Rotunda, Dublin 1 and online at <https://planning.kilkennycoco.ie/SearchExact> and at the offices of Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny.

In addition, all the application documents are available on the Applicant's dedicated planning website at [www.ballynalackenwindfarmplanning.ie](http://www.ballynalackenwindfarmplanning.ie). The planning website will also include details of the submission/observation procedure for the public and contact details of the Applicant.

## **EIAR 3.10      List of Appendices**

Appendix 3.1 Record of Consultation with An Bord Pleanála

Appendix 3.2: Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies

Appendix 3.3: Local Community Notices

## **Appendix 3.1 Record of Consultation with An Bord Pleanála**





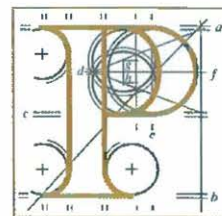
## **Appendix 3.1: Record of Consultation with An Bord Pleanála (ABP-312016-21)**

### **Table of Contents**

<b>3.1.1: An Bord Pleanála Minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> pre-application meeting held on 28.02.2022</b>
<b>3.1.2: An Bord Pleanála Minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-application meeting held on 20.07.2022</b>
<b>3.1.3: An Bord Pleanála Minutes of 3<sup>rd</sup> pre-application meeting held on 27.09.2022</b>
<b>3.1.4: Formal Closure Request from Rowanmere Limited 28.10.22</b>
<b>3.1.5 ABP Direction 03.04.2023</b>
<b>3.1.6: An Bord Pleanála Determination and list of Prescribed Bodies to be notified 04.04.2023</b>

**Our Case Number:** ABP-312016-21

**Your Reference:** Rowanmere Limited



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Ecopower Developments  
Zetec House  
Purcellsich IDA Business Park  
Dublin Road  
Co. Kilkenny

**Date:** 2nd March 2022

**Re:** Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm comprising of nine wind turbines of .6MW/6.5MW installed capacity each, meteorological mast, access roads electrical substation compound and control buildings, grid connection and all associated works.

Located 4.5km northwest of Ballyragget town, in the townlands of Loughill, Ballynalacken, Ballymartin, Commons, Firoda Upper and Byrnesgrove, Co. Kilkenny.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the first meeting of the 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

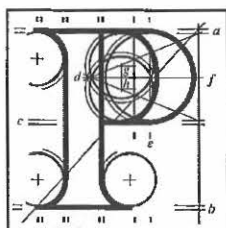
Sarah Caulfield  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-873 7287

PC07

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902





An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting

### ABP-312016-21 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

<b>Description</b>	ABP-312016-21 – Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm comprising of 9 wind turbines, Ballynalacken, Co. Kilkenny		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application Consultation.		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Meeting		
<b>Venue</b>	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
<b>Date</b>	28/02/2022	<b>Time</b>	11:00am –11:42am

#### Representing An Bord Pleanála

Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)

Kevin Moore, Senior Planning Inspector

Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer

s.caulfield@pleanala.ie

01-8737287

#### Representing the Prospective Applicant

Julie Brett – Ecopower Developments

Eamon O'Domhnaill – Art Generation Limited

## **Introduction:**

The Board referred to the letter received from the prospective applicant on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021, requesting pre-application consultations and advised the prospective applicant that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicant to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters that it wished to receive advice on from the Board. The Board mentioned the following general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicant may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve notice at the conclusion of the process as to the strategic infrastructure status of the proposed development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process on the matter.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.
- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or in any legal proceedings.



### **Presentation by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant commenced the presentation by providing a company overview and background. The prospective applicant, Rownmere Limited is a joint venture between Ecopower Developments and Art Generation Limited, both Irish based companies with substantial experience in the wind energy industry.

The proposed site is located in north Kilkenny within in the townland of Ballylacken, which is northwest of Castlecomer, Co. Kilkenny (4.2 kilometres) and south of Ballinakill, Co. Laois (3.2 kilometres). The prospective applicant said the windfarm is entirely situated within Co. Kilkenny however, one grid connection option being considered currently provides connectivity to a substation in County Laois.

It was submitted that the land use is primarily agricultural and coniferous forestry with a low population density surrounding the site. It is proposed to have a set back distance of approximately 720 metres from residential property.

The proposed development consists of 9 turbines, with an approximate tip height of 180 metres, with a total output in the ranges 54MW and 63MW. A 110kV substation and 110kV underground grid connection is also proposed as part of this development.

The prospective applicant said they are currently assessing two grid connection options, one being an underground connection to the existing 38kV/110kV substation at Moatpark, Co. Kilkenny and the other, an underground connection to a recently permitted 110kV loop-in substation at Knockardagur, Co. Laois.

The turbine delivery route has not been finalised however, it is likely to be delivered from Belview Port, along the M9 via Kilkenny and N78 via Castlecomer. There are minor works anticipated along these routes to accommodate oversized loads.

The prospective applicant said the site is designated as acceptable in principle within the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027.

It was submitted that there are no European designations within the proposed site. The River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site Code: 002162) is the closest European site and is located approximately 1.6 kilometres to the north of the site.

A number of surveys are ongoing including, baseline assessments, site surveys and constraints mapping. The prospective applicant has collated approximately 2 years of bird surveys and one year of bat surveys. Aquatic surveys were completed in 2021 which included electrofishing. Dwelling surveys and background noise surveys are expected to commence shortly.

Consultations have been held with Inland Fisheries Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Telecommunications operators and local landowners. The prospective applicant said consultations are anticipated shortly with Kilkenny County Council's Road and Environment sections and other prescribed bodies.

A Community Liaison Officer is expected to be appointed shortly along with a project specific website being released. A public information day is also anticipated prior to the submission of the planning application.

The prospective applicant provided an overview from a national and regional policy context and noted that the proposed development aligns with the key objectives held within.

The prospective applicant said the preparation of the EIAR, and AA are underway, and they anticipate submitting a planning application in July 2022.

The prospective applicant is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of Part 1 of the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act as amended, being a wind farm with an output greater than 50MW. Additionally, it submitted that the grid connection element falls within the scope of section 182A of the Act, being an electricity transmission line of 110kV.

## **Discussion**

The following matters were discussed:

- The Board's representatives said specific project details and site location (including red line boundary and site layout) would be required in order for the Board to determine the SID status of the proposed development and offer appropriate advice.



- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said there are sections of peat towards the outskirts of the site, but these areas have been avoided as turbine locations. It said peat probing has been completed on the site.
- The prospective applicant said there is a requirement for some felling but said this would be kept to a minimum and would mainly include keyhole felling. The Board's representatives reminded the prospective applicant about re-plant lands.
- The prospective applicant said alternative sites were assessed and the proposed site was chosen due to its location, designation in the County Development Plan, set back distances and access routes.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said the grid connection is expected to form part of the planning application however, this has yet to be finalised.
- Given the connectivity to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (Site Code: 002162), the prospective applicant anticipates requiring stage 2 appropriate assessment. The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant to be cognisant of Freshwater Pearl Mussel which is present in the Ballyragget area.
- The prospective applicant said any existing or permitted windfarms within 25 kilometres of the site will be cumulatively assessed within the EIAR.
- A general discussion was had around the Derryadd Judgement. The Board's representatives advised that if a specific tip height is not finalised and ranges are brought forward, these ranges should be fully considered in the EIAR to allow the Board to examine and fully evaluate the likely impacts.
- In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said consultations are expected to be held shortly with Transport Infrastructure Ireland but said it doesn't expect any works within their network.
- The prospective applicant said consultations with landowners are ongoing and future consultations with the public, including a public information day is expected soon.



- The Board's representatives said it is a matter for the prospective applicant to decide whether a second meeting is required but said this would be advisable in order to provide the Board with specific project details including the red line boundary.

## Conclusion

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it requires a further meeting or if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.

Ciara Kellett 1/3/22

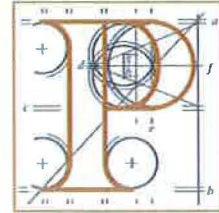
**Ciara Kellett**

**Assistant Director of Planning**

### 3.1.2 An Bord Pleanála Minutes of 2nd pre-application meeting held on 20.07.2022

**Our Case Number:** ABP-312016-21

**Your Reference:** Rowanmere Limited



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

Ecopower Developments  
Zetec House  
Purcellsich IDA Busniess Park  
Dublin Road  
Co. Kilkenny

**Date:** 25 July 2022

**Re:** Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm comprising of nine wind turbines of .6MW/6.5MW installed capacity each, meteorological mast, access roads electrical substation compound and control buildings, grid connection and all associated works.

Located 4.5km northwest of Ballyragget town, in the townlands of Loughill, Ballynalacken, Ballymartin, Commons, Firoda Upper and Byrnesgrove, Co. Kilkenny.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the second meeting of the 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2022 .

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

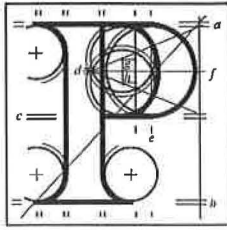
*pp. K. McCaffigan*

Sarah Caulfield  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737287

PC07

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glaó Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting ABP-312016-21 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	ABP-312016-21 Proposed Ballynalacken wind farm comprising of nine wind turbines and associated works, Co. Kilkenny.		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	20/07/22	<b>Start Time</b>	10 a.m.
<b>Location</b>	N/A	<b>End Time</b>	10.50 a.m.

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>
<b>Staff Members</b>
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)
Kevin Moore, Senior Planning Inspector
Kieran Somers, Executive Officer
<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Julie Brett, Ecopower Limited
Pat Brett, Ecopower Limited
Eamon O'Domhnail, Aeolas

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and enquired as to whether the prospective applicant had any comments it wished to make on the record of this meeting. The prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make on this.

#### **Presentation by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant recapped on the nature and extent of the proposed development which will comprise of 10 wind turbines (an increase from previously proposed 9), a 110kV substation and other associated works. With respect to the grid connection to facilitate the proposed development, the prospective applicant advised that two options are being considered (Option A and Option B). The prospective applicant also referred to the proposed haul route for the delivery of turbines to the subject site, which will most likely be from Belview Port, then along the M9 via Kilkenny and the N78 via Castlecomer. The prospective applicant added that some works would be required along the proposed haul route.

The prospective applicant referred to the wind strategy for the area and noted that it is designated to be acceptable in principle for the proposed development. The prospective applicant also provided an example of a photo montage in respect of the proposed development from the N77 Ballyragget – Durrow Road.

With respect to the surrounding vicinity and local community, the prospective applicant noted that a separation distance of in excess of 500 metres is proposed regarding the proposed turbines and it also noted a generally low population density in the surrounding area. The prospective applicant also stated that background noise monitoring is currently on-going. The prospective applicant noted that a community benefit fund is proposed and that general community engagement is on-going; a website is also being progressed for the project.

The prospective applicant noted other significant development in the vicinity of the subject site and referred to nearby European Sites. The prospective applicant said that there are no European Sites at the subject site and that the closest one is the River Barrow and River Nore SAC. The prospective applicant noted SACs with respect to the two grid connection route options and also noted an SPA for Kingfisher along the Nore and Owenbeg river channels. The prospective applicant noted Loughill Bridge NIAH along grid route B option and, with regard to geological



heritage sites, stated that there are no such geological sites at the subject site or along either of the grid connection route options.

The prospective applicant noted local surface water catchments in the surrounding area (rivers and streams) and the composure of general bedrock geology; it also noted trial hole locations.

With respect to land use in the area generally, the prospective applicant advised that this is mainly comprised of agricultural and forestry uses. With regard to soils, the prospective applicant noted the general composure of sand, silts, gravels and shale; it added that there is no peat within the subject site boundary.

The prospective applicant provided the Board's representatives with some photos of the area generally (northern end and forestry road). It reported that traffic count surveys and haul route surveys have been completed; bridge surveys are on-going along the two grid route options.

The prospective applicant said that cumulative effects are being considered as part of its preparation work (with regard to other wind farm developments and other infrastructure projects); it is also researching other developments such as roads projects. The prospective applicant said that there would be no effects on telecommunications arising from the proposed development.

With regard to on-going consultations with relevant stakeholders, the prospective applicant reported engagement with several bodies such as the local authority and the NPWS; there are also on-going consultations with local landowners and a community liaison officer has been appointed.

With respect to its timelines, the prospective applicant stated its current intention to lodge a subsequent planning application by the end of 2022; it noted that both an EIAR and an NIS would accompany the planning application.

Finally, the prospective applicant reiterated its opinion that the proposed development would comprise strategic infrastructure development having regard to the Seventh Schedule and sections 182A and 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

#### **Board's queries/comments:**

The Board's representatives noted that a red-line boundary is required for the subject site and reminded the prospective applicant of this. The prospective applicant said that it has established this in a preliminary respect and said that it has the details of this which can be forwarded. The Board reminded the prospective applicant to be cognisant of effects on adjoining lands. The prospective applicant replied that there is a buffer area in respect of sensitive receptors (such as dwelling houses). The Board also said that the grid connection route should also be included in the red-line boundary; the Board said that both grid route options being considered could be included in the red-line boundary to be forwarded. The prospective applicant said that its current intention is to include the grid connection route which has been chosen in the subsequent planning application. The Board said that a further meeting in the instant pre-application process could be facilitated if the prospective applicant wished to provide clarity on this matter.

The Board noted the increase in the number of proposed turbines and also noted the inclusion of an energy storage compound. The prospective applicant said that this would be chiefly for the temporary storage of excess energy as generated by the wind farm. The Board noted this and said that a certain degree of information on this should be provided as part of the instant pre-application process in order to assist the Board's determination of the case. The Board also reminded the prospective applicant of the implications of the Derryadd High Court judgement with regard to details of the proposed development (particularly with regard to turbine size and specifications). In response to the prospective applicant's query, the Board advised that if a definitive model of turbine is unknown at this stage that the proposed ranges of turbines/models be assessed in each chapter of the EIAR.

In response to the Board's query on the matter, the prospective applicant confirmed that an NIS would accompany the subsequent planning application given the proximity to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC.

The prospective applicant said that deep excavations would not be required in respect of the proposed development; it added that a stability assessment of the subject site is underway and will be included in the subsequent planning application.

The prospective applicant said that excavated shale would be utilised in the borrow pits and by other means.

In relation to public consultations, the prospective applicant acknowledged that there is more work to be done in this regard and that near-neighbour consultations have to be expanded upon. It said it intended face-to-face meetings in this regard unless a resurgence of Covid requires a greater degree of online consultations.

The Board reiterated that any replant forestry required as part of a felling licence would be the subject of a separate consent process.

The Board's representatives reminded the prospective applicant that a carbon calculation should be included as part of the climate chapter of the EIAR.

#### **Conclusion:**

The record of the instant meeting will issue shortly and it will then be open to the prospective applicant to request a further meeting or formal closure of the pre-application consultation process. The prospective applicant indicated that it might avail of a further meeting for clarification purposes (with regard to the red-line boundary for the subject site and the proposed energy storage compound).

The meeting concluded at 10.50 a.m.



**Ciara Kellett**

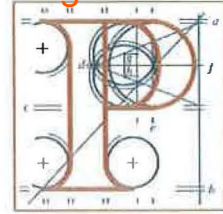
**Assistant Director of Planning**



### 3.1.3 An Bord Pleanála Minutes of 3rd pre-application meeting held on 27.09.2022

**Our Case Number:** ABP-312016-21

**Your Reference:** Rowanmere Limited



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Ecopower Developments  
Zetec House  
Purcellsich IDA Busniess Park  
Dublin Road  
Co. Kilkenny

**Date:** 7th October 2022

**Re:** Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm comprising of nine wind turbines of .6MW/6.5MW installed capacity each, meteorological mast, access roads electrical substation compound and control buildings, grid connection and all associated works.

Located 4.5km northwest of Ballyragget town, in the townlands of Loughill, Ballynalacken, Ballymartin, Commons, Firoda Upper and Byrnesgrove, Co. Kilkenny.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the third meeting of the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Caulfield  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737287

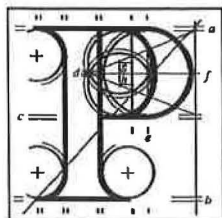
PC07

Tel	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	<a href="http://www.pleanala.ie">www.pleanala.ie</a>
Ríomhphost	Email	<a href="mailto:bord@pleanala.ie">bord@pleanala.ie</a>

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902



### 3.1.3 An Bord Pleanála Minutes of 3rd pre-application meeting held on 27.09.2022



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting

### ABP-312016-21- 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

<b>Description</b>	ABP-312016-21 - Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm comprising of nine wind turbines and associated works, Co. Kilkenny		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application Consultation.		
<b>1st / 2nd / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Meeting		
<b>Venue</b>	Virtually by Microsoft Teams		
<b>Date</b>	27/09/2022	<b>Time</b>	11:00am –11:20am

<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>		
Ciara Kellett, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)		
Kevin Moore, Senior Planning Inspector		
Sarah Caulfield, Executive Officer	s.caulfield@pleanala.ie	01-8737287
<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>		
Julie Brett, Ecopower Limited		
Pat Brett, Ecopower Limited		

#### **Introduction:**

The Board referred to its previous meeting with the prospective applicant of the 20<sup>th</sup> of July, 2022 and the record of this meeting. The Board asked if the prospective applicants had any comments it wished to make on the record of this meeting; the prospective applicant replied that it had no comments to make.

#### **Discussion**

The prospective applicant said the main topics to be discussed today include an update on the wind farm layout and the proposed grid connection options. The proposed development now consists of 11 wind turbines (an increase from the previously proposed 10), a 110kV substation and associated works.

It was said that following trial hole investigations and site walk overs, some changes were made to the windfarm layout and access roads as a result. The prospective applicant said the access road between T9 and T10 has been slightly altered to follow the contour of the road more closely and to reduce cut and fill but said the turbine locations have remained the same. The prospective applicant said the access into T7 now utilises an existing Coillte entrance in order to avoid an area of wet ground. The location of T7 has been moved slightly, given the discovery of rock close to the surface.

With regard to accessing the new turbine, T11, it was submitted that discussions are ongoing with 2 landowners and a preferred option is expected shortly. The prospective applicant said no changes are proposed to the remaining turbine locations or access routes.

In relation to the grid connection, the prospective applicant said new EirGrid specifications requires a greater separation distance between the substation and the turbines. Following this, the prospective applicant said a new substation location option is being considered, which is located further west in order to achieve this set back distance. It said discussions are ongoing with several landowners in the area with the potential of routing the cable on 3<sup>rd</sup> party lands and with a much shorter public road route, before connecting into the existing substation at Ballyragget.

The prospective applicant said a third substation location option is also being assessed at Tinnalintan but that it anticipates submitting two options with the planning application. The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicant that if two grid connection options are submitted, both options must be fully considered and addressed within each chapter of the EIAR.

In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said each turbine has an output of 6MW, which gives a total capacity of approximately 66MW.

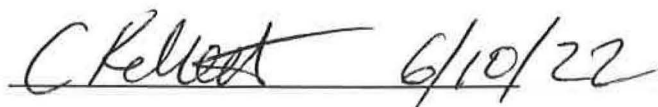
The prospective applicant confirmed that the grid connection will form part of the planning application and that the cabling would consist of 33kV to the new proposed substation and then 110Vkv onto the existing Ballyragget substation.

In response to a query on the matter, the prospective applicant said the energy storage compound will not form part of this planning application but that it may be applied for in the future.

The Board's representatives reminded the prospective applicant that if a specific tip height is not finalised and that ranges are instead brought forward, these configurations within the ranges should be specific and the specific configurations should be examined within each chapter of the EIAR to allow the Board to also examine and evaluate the likely impacts.

## Conclusion

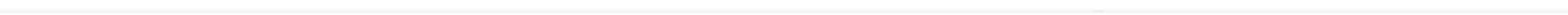
The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant, and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. It will be a matter for the prospective applicant to revert to the Board if it requires a further meeting or if it wishes to close the pre-application consultation process.



**Ciara Kellett**

**Assistant Director of Planning**

### 3.1.3 An Bord Pleanála Minutes of 3rd pre-application meeting held on 27.09.2022







Ecopower Developments Limited  
Zetec House, Purcellsinch IDA Business Park, Kilkenny, Ireland  
Tel: 056 775 0140 • E-mail: [office@ecopower.ie](mailto:office@ecopower.ie)

Ms. Sarah Caulfield  
An Bord Pleanála  
(Strategic Infrastructure Division)  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

28<sup>th</sup> October, 2022

**An Bord Pleanála Case Reference: PC10.312016**

**Formal Request to Issue SID Determination on a proposed windfarm in County Kilkenny (Ballynalacken Windfarm Project)**

Dear Ms Caulfield,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of the minutes of our most recent virtual Pre-Application Consultation meeting, held on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and to confirm that I do not wish to submit any comments regarding these minutes.

Ballynalacken Windfarm Project Layout: As discussed at pre-application meetings, please see mapping attached which illustrates the layout of the windfarm and grid connection and includes the site boundary for the project. As discussed at the most recent consultation meeting, the Ballynalacken Windfarm comprises eleven wind turbines and a number of options for the connection of the windfarm to the national grid. These options will be considered further as part of the on-going EIA process.

**See Attachments:**

**Layout Map**  
**Grid Connection Map**

Development Details: As discussed at the pre-application meetings, we intend to apply for a range of turbine sizes. The turbine size range will be 179-180m from turbine base to tip height with a rotor diameter of between 149m and 160m and a hub height of between 99m and 105m. The installed capacity of the windfarm will remain within the range of 55MW to 72.6MW.

This approach is appropriate because there may be more effective or more efficient turbines available prior to the construction of the project, than those models that are available at



present. In order to provide a basis on which the application can be decided by the Board, we propose to examine a number of turbine models within that range in the EIAR and the AA Report.

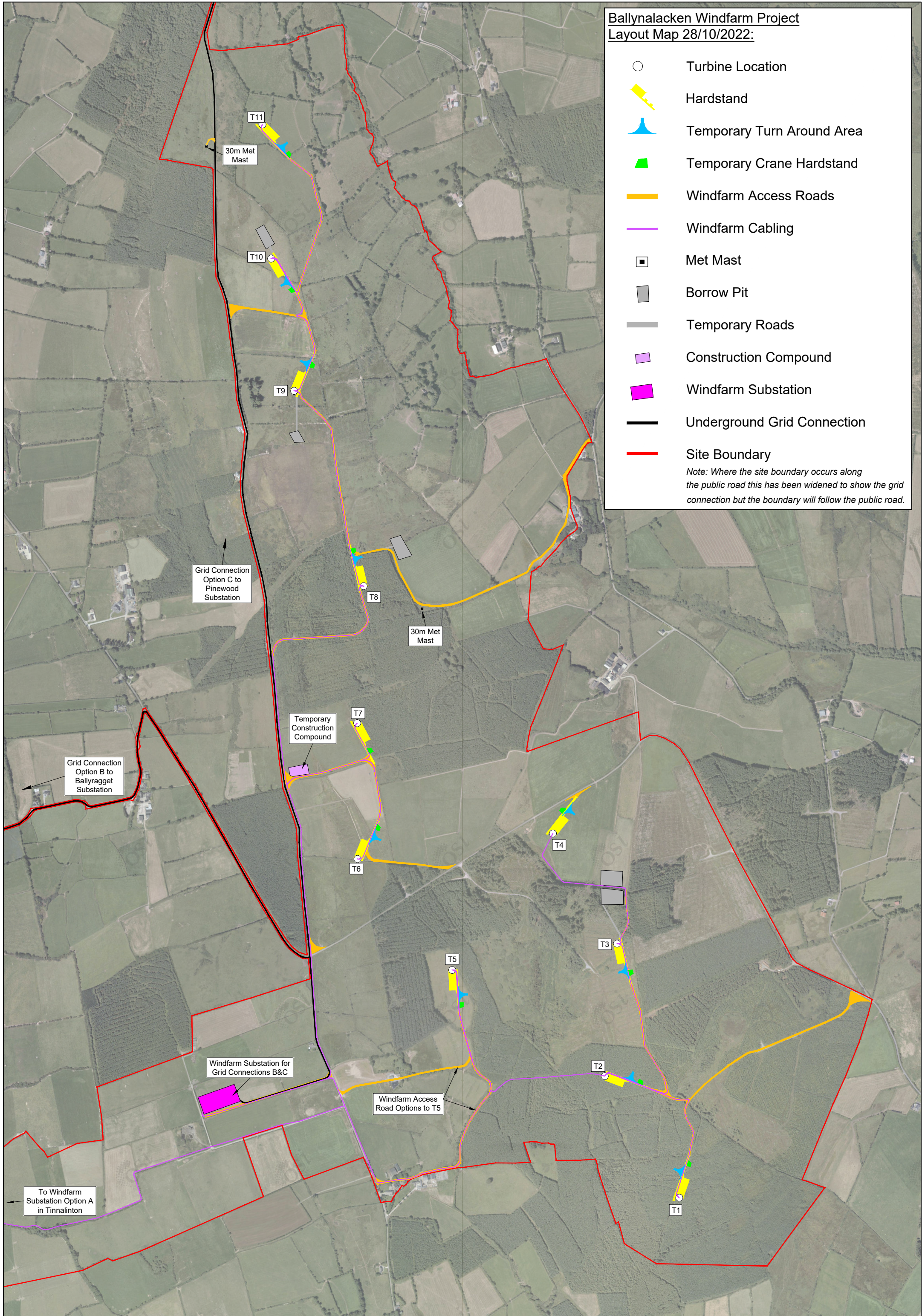
Closure Request: Finally, I herein formally request, on behalf of Rowanmere Limited, that the pre-application consultation process for the Ballynalacken Windfarm proposal be closed. Please proceed with the Board's formal determination of whether the proposal would constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development.

Yours Sincerely

Julie Brett

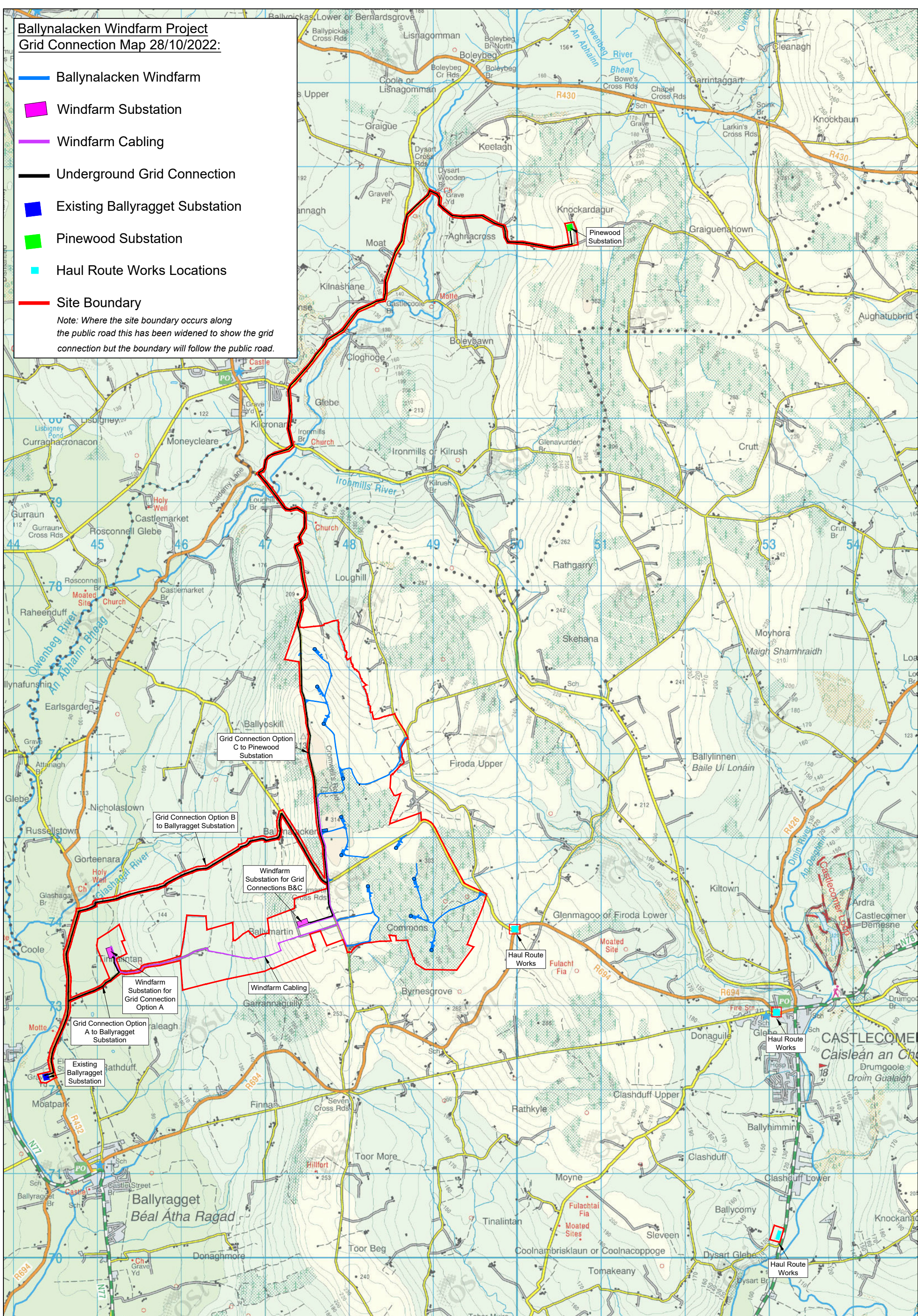
Ecopower Developments Limited  
on behalf of Rowanmere Limited



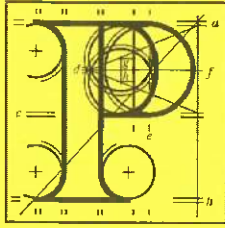




### 3.1.4 Formal Closure Request from Rowanmere Limited 28.10.22







An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Board Direction**  
**BD-011991-23**  
**ABP-312016-21**

The submissions on file and the inspector's report were considered at a Board Meeting held on 03/04/2023.

The Board decided that the proposed development falls within the class of energy infrastructure relating to a wind power installation for energy production as set out in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Furthermore, the proposed development would satisfy the conditions contained in section 37A (2) (a), (b) and (c) of the Planning and Development Act would therefore constitute a strategic infrastructure development for the purposes of the Planning and Development Act and that a planning application should be made directly to the Board.

The applicant shall be informed that the application documentation should be forwarded to:

An Chomhairle Ealaíon

An Taisce

Commission for Regulation of Utilities

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Fáilte Ireland

Health Service Executive

Heritage Council

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Irish Aviation Authority

## Appendix 3.1.5 Board Direction pre-application

Kilkenny County Council

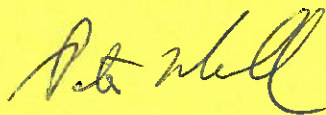
Laois County Council

Office of Public Works

Southern Regional Assembly

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

**Board Member:**



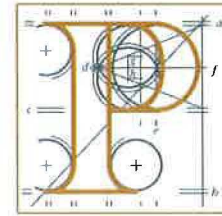
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Peter Mullan

**Date:** 03/04/2023

**Our Case Number:** ABP-312016-21

**Your Reference:** Rowanmere Limited



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

Julie Brett  
Ecopower Developments  
Zetec House  
Purcellsich IDA Busniess Park  
Dublin Road  
Co. Kilkenny

**Date:** 04 April 2023

**Re:** Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm comprising of nine wind turbines of .6MW/6.5MW installed capacity each, meteorological mast, access roads electrical substation compound and control buildings, grid connection and all associated works.

Located 4.5km northwest of Ballyragget town, in the townlands of Loughill, Ballynalacken, Ballymartin, Commons, Firoda Upper and Byrnesgrove, Co. Kilkenny.

Dear Madam,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board hereby serves notice under section 37B(4)(a) that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a), (b) and (c) of the Act. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Any application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Board considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed. Attached is a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development.

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board will make available for inspection and purchase at its offices the documents relating to the decision within 3 working days following its decision. This information is normally made available on the list of decided cases on the website on the Wednesday following the week in which the decision is made.

The attachment contains information in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1800 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902

### 3.1.6: An Bord Pleanála Determination and list of Prescribed Bodies to be notified 04.04.2023

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board. Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Sarah Caulfield  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737287

PC09

Teil  
Glao Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost

Tel  
LoCall  
Fax  
Website  
Email

(01) 858 8100  
1800 275 175  
(01) 872 2684  
[www.pleanala.ie](http://www.pleanala.ie)  
[bord@pleanala.ie](mailto:bord@pleanala.ie)

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

**List of prescribed bodies**

An Chomhairle Ealaíon

An Taisce

Commission for Regulation of Utilities

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

Fáilte Ireland

Health Service Executive

Heritage Council

Inland Fisheries Ireland

Irish Aviation Authority

Kilkenny County Council

Laois County Council

Office of Public Works

Southern Regional Assembly

Transport Infrastructure Ireland

**Teil**  
**Glao Áitiúil**  
**Facs**  
**Láithreán Gréasáin**  
**Ríomhphost**

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64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
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D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902



## **Appendix 3.2: Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies**



## **Appendix 3.2: Record of Consultation with Prescribed Bodies**

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<b>3.2.2 Consultation with Transport Infrastructure Ireland (Tii)</b>
<b>3.2.3 Consultation with Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)</b>
<b>3.2.4 Consultation with Uisce Eireann</b>
<b>3.2.5 Consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)</b>
<b>3.2.6 Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)</b>
<b>3.2.7 Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)</b>
<b>3.2.8 Consultation with National Monuments Service (NMS)</b>

### Appendix 3.2.1 List of Prescribed Bodies Consulted and Sample Letters

#### **Consultation 24.01.2023 and Sample Letter**

- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Department of Rural and Community Development
- Planning Department Laois County Council
- Southern Regional Assembly
- Consultations Section Eirgrid
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities
- An Taisce
- Arts Council of Ireland
- Fáilte Ireland
- Office of Public Works
- The Heritage Council
- Geological Survey of Ireland

#### **Consultation 24.01.2024 and Sample Letter**

- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
- Health Services Executive



Ecopower Developments Limited  
Zetec House, Purcellsinn IDA Business Park, Kilkenny, Ireland  
Tel: 056 775 0140 • E-mail: [office@ecopower.ie](mailto:office@ecopower.ie)

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht,  
Sport and Media  
23-28 Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
D02 TD30

24.01.2023

**Re: Scoping for Ballynalacken Windfarm Project, County Kilkenny**

As part of the scoping for a planning application, Ecopower Developments is consulting (on behalf of Rowanmere Limited), on the potential environmental effects of a proposed c.66MW **windfarm development** - Ballynalacken Windfarm Project. We are also consulting with An Bord Pleanála on whether this Project is Strategic Infrastructure and therefore for application directly to the Board.

The proposed site is located entirely within County Kilkenny on elevated lands equidistant between the small towns of Ballyragget (4.3km) and Castlecomer (4.2km) in County Kilkenny, and 3.2km from the village of Ballinakill in County Laois. Landuse on site is primarily agricultural and coniferous forestry with a low population density surrounding. The proposal is for c.11 No. turbines c.180m to tip height, site entrances and access tracts, 2 No. met masts, electrical control building, underground cabling, 110kV substation and compound, an underground grid connection to Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation and some works therein and ancillary construction works. The turbine delivery route from port will utilise the national and motorway road network to the M9 at Kilkenny, the N78 to Castlecomer, the R694 (Castlecomer to Ballyragget Road) and then Local Roads in the vicinity of the site. Some minor works are anticipated along these routes to accommodate oversized loads.

The Ballynalacken Windfarm site is designated for windfarms within the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027. There are no European designations within the site. The River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162) and River Nore SPA (004233) are the closest European sites being located approximately 400m from the 110kV windfarm substation and 1.6km from the nearest turbine site. A number of surveys are ongoing including baseline assessments, site surveys and residential and landholding constraints mapping. Habitat, bird, bat and aquatic surveys have been completed. The preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Appropriate Assessment Report (AA) are underway and your response will inform the scoping and assessment of these reports.

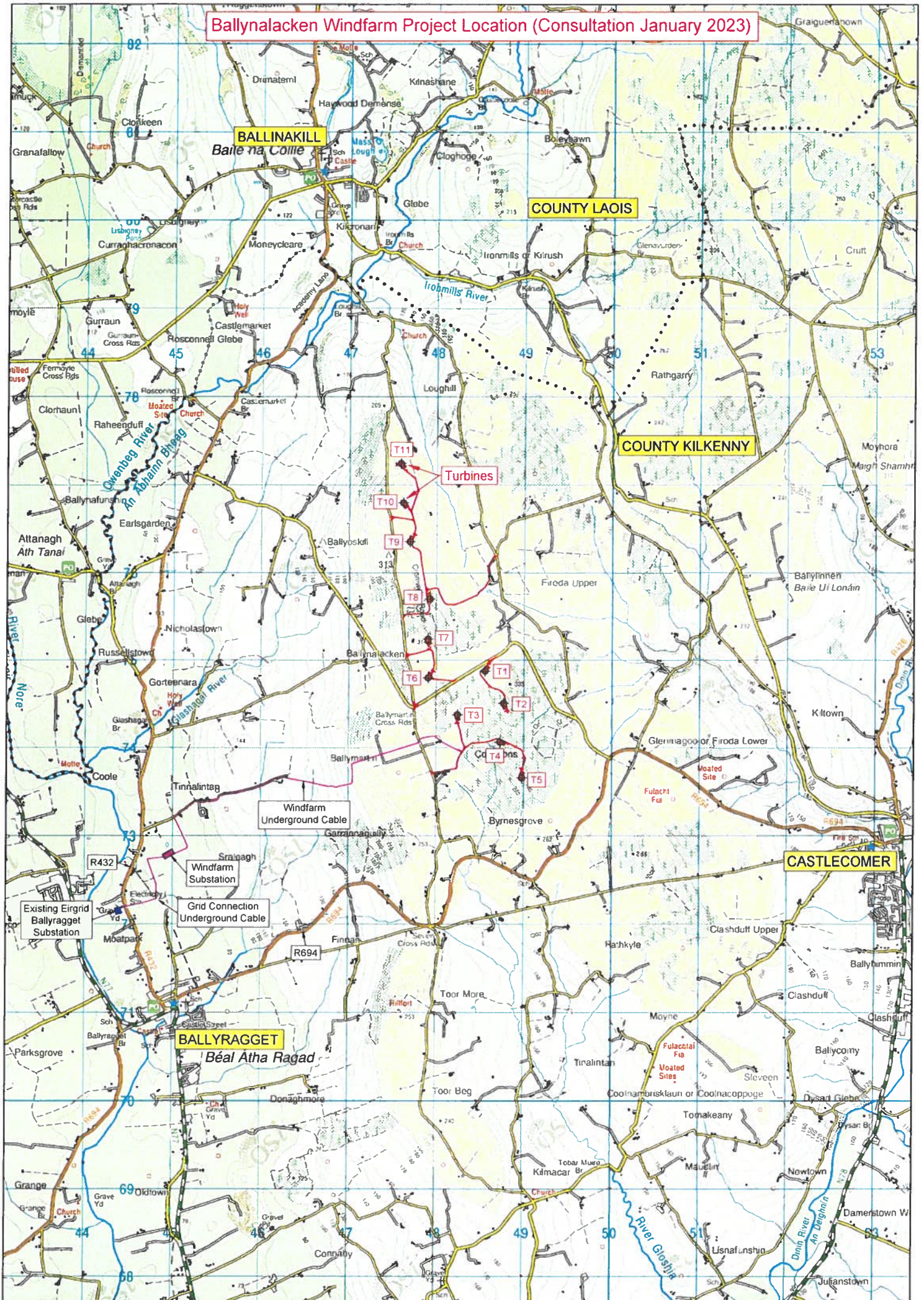
Ballynalacken Windfarm is expected to produce **150 million kWh per annum** of renewable generated electricity (RE-E) which is enough to supply **35,714 homes per annum**. Based on the energy intensity (295g CO<sub>2</sub>/kWh) of the Irish electricity generation mix, the predicted RE-E generated will offset **44,250 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum** for the lifetime of the windfarm. A **community fund of c.€300,000 per annum** will be provided from the project.

The consultation period is open until **28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**. Please reply to me Phil Kenealy, at the postal details above or at [pk@ecopower.ie](mailto:pk@ecopower.ie). I am also available on my mobile at **086 8399 193**.

**Enclosed: Ballynalacken Windfarm Project Location (Consultation January 2023).**



**Ballynalacken Windfarm Project Location (Consultation January 2023)**





The Minister  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage,  
Custom House, Dublin 1  
D01 W6X0

25.01.2024

**Re: Scoping for Ballynalacken Windfarm Project, County Kilkenny**

As part of the scoping for a planning application, Ecopower Developments is consulting (on behalf of Rowanmere Limited), on the potential environmental effects of a proposed c.72MW **windfarm development** - Ballynalacken Windfarm Project. An Bord Pleanála have already deemed the project to be a Strategic Infrastructure Development and therefore for application directly to the Board.

The proposed site is located entirely within County Kilkenny on elevated lands equidistant between the small towns of Ballyragget (4.3km) and Castlecomer (4.2km) in County Kilkenny, and 3.2km from the village of Ballinakill in County Laois. Landuse on site is primarily agricultural and coniferous forestry with a low population density surrounding. The project comprises 12 No. turbines c.170m to tip height and also includes met masts, an electrical control building, underground cabling, 110kV substation and underground grid connection cabling to Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation.

The Ballynalacken Windfarm site is designated for windfarms within the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027. There are no European designations within the site. The River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162) and River Nore SPA (004233) are the closest European sites being located approximately 400m from the 110kV windfarm substation and 1.6km from the nearest turbine site. A number of surveys are ongoing including baseline assessments, site surveys and residential and landholding constraints mapping. Habitat, bird, bat and aquatic surveys have been completed. The preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Appropriate Assessment Report (AA) are underway and your response will inform the scoping and assessment of these reports.

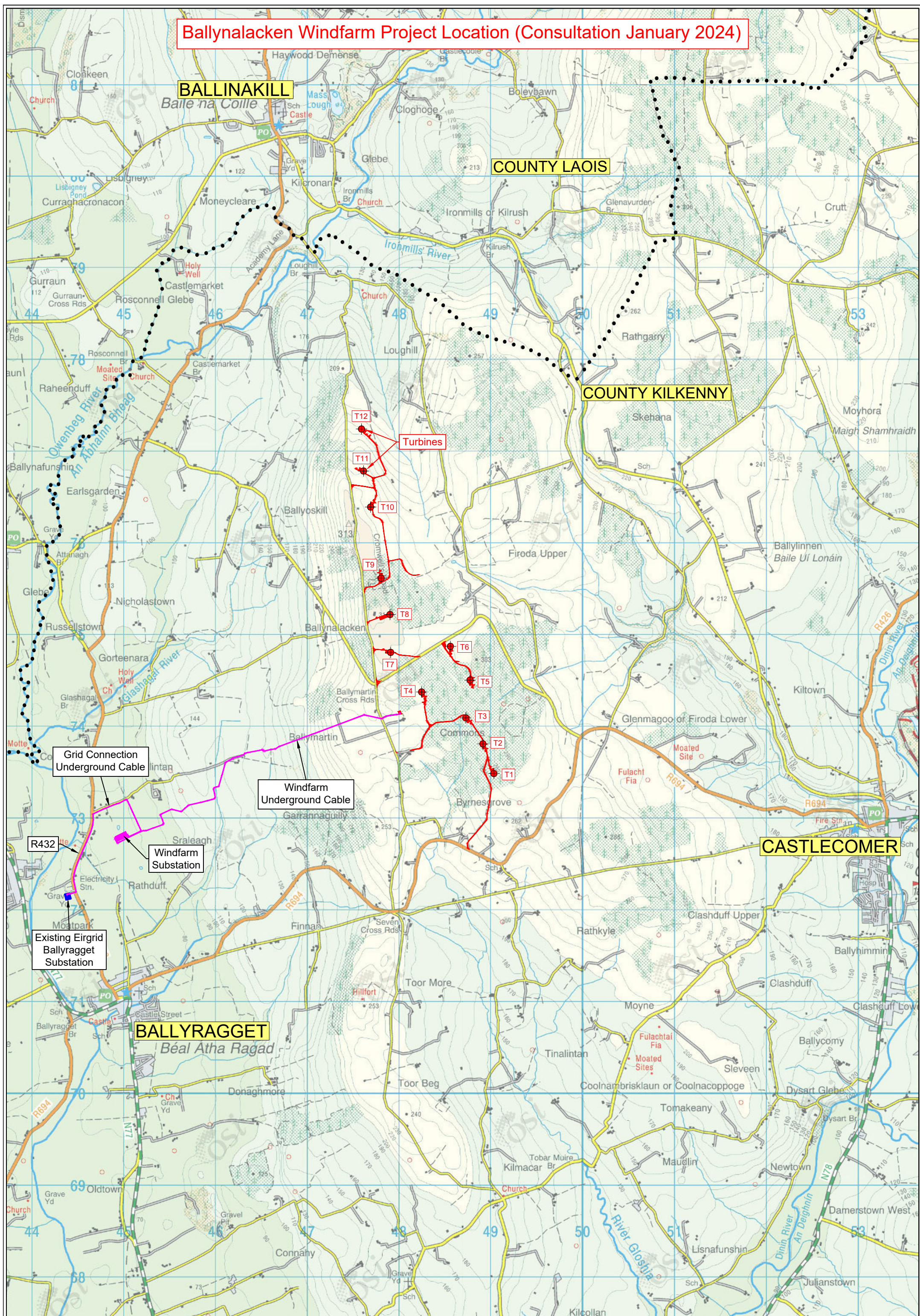
Ballynalacken Windfarm is expected to produce **170 million kWh per annum** of renewable generated electricity (RE-E) which is enough to supply **37,669 homes per annum**. Based on the energy intensity of the Irish electricity generation mix in 2023, the predicted RE-E generated will offset **44,030 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per annum** for the lifetime of the windfarm. A **community fund of c.€340,000 per annum** will be provided from the project.

The consultation period is open until **22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**. Please reply to me Phil Kenealy – Project Manager for Ballynalacken Windfarm Project, at the postal details above or at [pk@ecopower.ie](mailto:pk@ecopower.ie). I am also available on my mobile at **086 8399 193**.

**Enclosed: Ballynalacken Windfarm Project Location.**



Ballynalacken Windfarm Project Location (Consultation January 2024)





Ecopower Developments Limited  
Zetec House, Purcellsinch IDA Business Park, Kilkenny, Ireland  
Tel: 056 775 0140 • E-mail: [office@ecopower.ie](mailto:office@ecopower.ie)

Transport Infrastructure Ireland  
By email to [thirdpartyworks@tii.ie](mailto:thirdpartyworks@tii.ie)

29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Re: Scoping for Ballynalacken Windfarm Project, County Kilkenny**

As part of the scoping for a planning application, Ecopower Developments is consulting (on behalf of Rowanmere Limited), on the potential environmental effects of a proposed c.72MW **windfarm development** - Ballynalacken Windfarm Project. An Bord Pleanála have already deemed the project to be a Strategic Infrastructure Development and therefore for application directly to the Board.

The proposed site is located entirely within County Kilkenny on elevated lands equidistant between the small towns of Ballyragget (4.3km) and Castlecomer (4.2km) in County Kilkenny, and 3.2km from the village of Ballinakill in County Laois. The project comprises 12 No. turbines c.170m to tip height and also includes met masts, an electrical control building, underground windfarm cabling, an 110kV substation and underground grid connection cabling to Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation.

The proposed project will only interact with Tii assets during delivery of construction materials and in particular delivery of turbine components to site. The turbine delivery route from port will utilise the national and motorway road network to the M9, (Exit 8), then onto the N10 at Kilkenny, the N77 (part of Kilkenny City Ring Road) and the N78 to Castlecomer. A blade transfer area will be created in a roadside field adjacent to the N78, 4.4km south of Castlecomer Town. This area will be used to transfer the turbine blades onto specialist blade lifter trailers which will facilitate delivery to site in an inclined state, firstly through Castlecomer and onward using a Regional Road and Local Roads in the vicinity of the site.

**See Figure: Ballynalacken Windfarm Haul Route Works Locations (Consultation January 2024)**





### 3.2.2 Consultation with Tii

The proposed enabling works for turbine components transportation are minor and temporary in nature. The proposed enabling works comprise;

#### Haul Route Works & Activities (Tii Assets)

Location	Description of Works/Activities	Location & Road Number	Reinstatement Works
HR1	Light poles and street furniture removal	Rathgarvan or Clifden townland Turning off the M9 at Exit 8 (Kilkenny) onto the N10	Poles and street furniture to be reinstated.
HR2	Hardcore (90m <sup>2</sup> ) and street furniture removal.	Blanchfieldslands townland Roundabout 1 on the N10.	Hardcore area will be left in place. Following the delivery of turbine components, to conceal the works from view, 200mm of topsoil will be overlaid on the hardcore area and the area will be reseeded and replanted in keeping with the landscaping design at this roundabout.
HR3	Light poles and street furniture removal	Blanchfieldslands & Garrincreen townlands Roundabout 2 on the N10, turning right onto the N77	Poles and street furniture to be reinstated.
HR4	Hardcore (130m <sup>2</sup> ), roundabout planting removal and street furniture removal.	Newpark Upper townland Roundabout 3 continuing straight on the N77	Hardcore area will be left in place. To conceal the works from view, 200mm of topsoil will be overlaid, excavated soil will be used to landscape the works area and the area will be reseeded like the surrounding lands. Planting and street furniture reinstated.
HR5	Hardcore (130m <sup>2</sup> ), roundabout planting removal and street furniture removal	New Orchard townland Roundabout 4 continuing straight on the N77	Hardcore area will be left in place. To conceal the works from view, 200mm of topsoil will be overlaid on the hardcore area, and planting scheme will be reinstated. Street furniture will also be reinstated.



### 3.2.2 Consultation with Tii

Location	Description of Works/Activities	Location & Road Number	Reinstatement Works
HR6	Street furniture removal	Baun townland Roundabout 5, taking a right and continuing on the N77 (Ballyragget Road)	Street furniture reinstated
HR7	Hardcore (230m <sup>2</sup> ) and street furniture removal	Dunmore East townland Roundabout 6, leaving the N77 and continuing straight onto the N78 (Castlecomer Road)	Hardcore area will be left in place. To conceal the works from view, 200mm of topsoil will be overlaid on the hardcore area, and planting scheme will be reinstated. Street furniture will also be reinstated.
HR8	Blade Transfer Area - a new hardcore area created in the field (3500m <sup>2</sup> ). Roadside fence and gate removal and widening of existing entrance.	Damerstown West townland Located on the N78 4.4km south of Castlecomer town) The truck will drive fully into the blade transfer area field on the right-hand side of the road.	Hardcore area will be left in place. To conceal the works from view, 200mm of topsoil will be overlaid on the hardcore area, and planting scheme will be reinstated. Street furniture will also be reinstated. Fence and gate will be reinstated to the original size.
HR9	Temporary relocation of overhead lines and poles, street furniture removal.	Crossroads in Castlecomer Town N78 turning left onto the R694.	Reinstatement of overhead lines, poles and street furniture.

All street furniture predicted to act as an obstacle to the haul route, will be upgraded to socket foundations. Upgrade works will take place outside of peak hours, well in advance of the transportation of the turbine components. The socket foundation design will facilitate the removal and immediate reinstatement of street furniture as turbine components are transported.

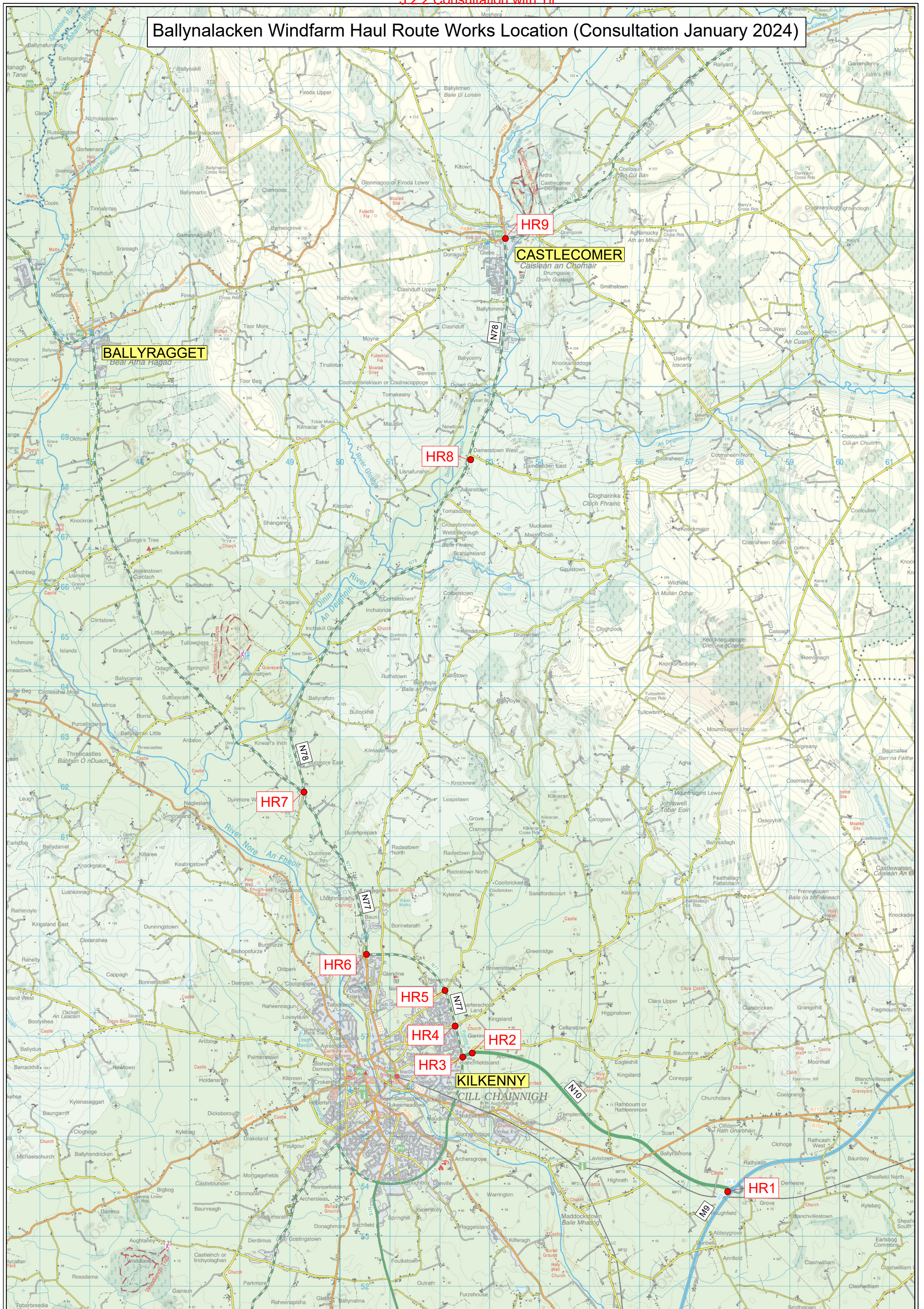
Environmental Studies are almost complete and the EIA Report and Appropriate Assessment Report are being prepared. We hope to submit the Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála, in March 2024. As a prescribed body, Tii will receive notice when the planning application is submitted and a copy of that application will be provided to you.

In the meantime, if Tii has any comments on the requirements for the EIA Report, please contact me Phil Kenealy, at the postal details above or at [pk@ecopower.ie](mailto:pk@ecopower.ie). I am also available on my mobile at **086 8399 193**. The consultation period is open until **26<sup>th</sup> February 2024**.

Yours Sincerely, Phil Kenealy (*By email bears no signature*)



Ballynalacken Windfarm Haul Route Works Location (Consultation January 2024)





### Appendix 3.2.3 Consultation with IAA (AIRNAV)

**From:** Conor Brett <ConorBrett@ecopower.ie>

**Sent:** Tuesday 19 March 2024 14:50

**To:** planning@airnav.ie

**Subject:** Consultation on Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm, County Kilkenny

Dear Planning,

As part of the scoping for the preparation of a planning application which will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Ecopower Developments is consulting on the potential effects on IAA assets of a proposed windfarm development - Ballynalacken Windfarm. The site is located in County Kilkenny between the small towns of Ballyragget (4.3km) and Castlecomer (4.2km). The nearest airport is Waterford Airport, approx. 71km to the south of the windfarm site. The nearest radar surveillance sites are at Shannon Airport, Woodcock Hill and Dublin Airport, which are 112km, 96km and 96km distant respectively from the windfarm site.

Please find below ground base elevation and blade tip heights for each turbine

ID	ITM Easting	ITM Northing	Latitude	Longitude	Ground elevation	Height of turbine (height from ground level to blade tip)	Blade tip elevation
T1	648966	673528	52° 48' 37.827"N	-7° 16' 25.310"W	278	170	448
T2	648846	673851	52° 48' 48.316"N	-7° 16' 31.544"W	278	170	448
T3	648660	674135	52° 48' 57.565"N	-7° 16' 41.323"W	280	170	450
T4	648178	674417	52° 49' 6.845"N	-7° 17' 6.913"W	280	170	450
T5	648706	674547	52° 49' 10.880"N	-7° 16' 38.646"W	284	170	454

### Appendix 3.2.3 Consultation with IAA (AIRNAV)

T6	648492	674915	52° 49' 22.855"N	-7° 16' 49.878"W	294	170	464
T7	647840	674849	52° 49' 20.929"N	-7° 17' 24.735"W	296	170	466
T8	647833	675261	52° 49' 34.261"N	-7° 17' 24.892"W	304	170	474
T9	647737	675658	52° 49' 47.136"N	-7° 17' 29.811"W	302	170	472
T10	647621	676430	52° 50' 12.150"N	-7° 17' 35.602"W	284	170	454
T11	647545	676826	52° 50' 24.986"N	-7° 17' 39.454"W	278	170	448
T12	647523	677284	52° 50' 39.811"N	-7° 17' 40.390"W	230	170	400

If you have any comments at this pre-application stage please email or call my mobile. Otherwise, because the proposed windfarm is a Strategic Infrastructure Project, IAA as a prescribed body will receive a copy of the planning application at the time of submission to An Bord Pleanála.

Is mise le meas

**Conor Brett**

**Ecopower Limited**

Zetec House - Purcellsinch IDA Business Park - Dublin Road - Kilkenny - R95 PX5X

**M: 087 6531458** T: 056 7750140 [www.ecopower.ie](http://www.ecopower.ie)

### Appendix 3.2.3 Consultation with IAA

**From:** Conor Brett <ConorBrett@ecopower.ie>

**Sent:** Tuesday 19 March 2024 12:02

**To:** O'BRIEN Christophe <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie>

**Cc:** Phil Kenealy <pk@ecopower.ie>

**Subject:** Consultation on Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm, County Kilkenny

Hi Christophe,

As part of the scoping for the preparation of a planning application which will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report, Ecopower Developments is consulting on the potential effects on IAA assets of a proposed windfarm development - Ballynalacken Windfarm. The site is located in County Kilkenny between the small towns of Ballyragget (4.3km) and Castlecomer (4.2km). The nearest airport is Waterford Airport, approx. 71km to the south of the windfarm site. The nearest radar surveillance sites are at Shannon Airport, Woodcock Hill and Dublin Airport, which are 112km, 96km and 96km distant respectively from the windfarm site.

Please find below ground base elevation and blade tip heights for each turbine

ID	ITM Easting	ITM Northing	Latitude	Longitude	Ground elevation	Height of turbine (height from ground level to blade tip)	Blade tip elevation
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T2	648846	673851	52° 48' 48.316"N	-7° 16' 31.544"W	278	170	448
T3	648660	674135	52° 48' 57.565"N	-7° 16' 41.323"W	280	170	450
T4	648178	674417	52° 49' 6.845"N	-7° 17' 6.913"W	280	170	450

### Appendix 3.2.3 Consultation with IAA

T5	648706	674547	52° 49' 10.880"N	-7° 16' 38.646"W	284	170	454
T6	648492	674915	52° 49' 22.855"N	-7° 16' 49.878"W	294	170	464
T7	647840	674849	52° 49' 20.929"N	-7° 17' 24.735"W	296	170	466
T8	647833	675261	52° 49' 34.261"N	-7° 17' 24.892"W	304	170	474
T9	647737	675658	52° 49' 47.136"N	-7° 17' 29.811"W	302	170	472
T10	647621	676430	52° 50' 12.150"N	-7° 17' 35.602"W	284	170	454
T11	647545	676826	52° 50' 24.986"N	-7° 17' 39.454"W	278	170	448
T12	647523	677284	52° 50' 39.811"N	-7° 17' 40.390"W	230	170	400

If you have any comments at this pre-application stage please email or call my mobile. Otherwise, because the proposed windfarm is a Strategic Infrastructure Project, IAA as a prescribed body will receive a copy of the planning application at the time of submission to An Bord Pleanála.

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Is mise le meas

**Conor Brett**

**Ecopower Limited**

Zetec House - Purcellsinch IDA Business Park - Dublin Road - Kilkenny - R95 PX5X

**M: 087 6531458** T: 056 7750140 [www.ecopower.ie](http://www.ecopower.ie)



### Appendix 3.2.4 Uisce Eireann Consultation and Attachments

**From:** Conor Brett  
**Sent:** Tuesday 16 April 2024 10:53  
**To:** diversions@water.ie  
**Cc:** aisling.mcgrath@water.ie; Phil Kenealy <pk@ecopower.ie>  
**Subject:** Ballynalacken Windfarm pre-application consultation - Uisce Eireann

#### **Ballynalacken Windfarm pre-planning consultation**

Dear Diversions team,

As part of the scoping for a planning application, Ecopower Developments is consulting on the potential environmental effects of a proposed c.72MW windfarm development - Ballynalacken Windfarm Project. An Bord Pleanála have already deemed the project to be a Strategic Infrastructure Development and therefore for application directly to the Board.

The proposed 12-turbine windfarm is in County Kilkenny, 4.2km east of Ballyragget. It is proposed to connect the windfarm by 110kV underground cable to the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation, where there is sufficient spare capacity to accept the generation from the windfarm. Ballyragget Substation is situated west of the R432 (Ballyragget to Ballinakill Road). There is cabling proposed for Regional Road R432 where there is an Uisce Eireann mains water pipe and some lateral lines. There is also cabling proposed for Local Road L-58442 where there is an Uisce Eireann lateral line serving local properties. The cabling will be built near and across Uisce Eireann assets on the R432 or the L-58442.

Ahead of submission of a planning application for Ballynalacken Windfarm and as advised by Aisling McGrath in your Kilkenny Office, I wish to engage with Uisce Éireann diversion team to assess arrangements for building near Uisce Eireann's assets (see initial consultation with Aisling McGrath email thread below).

Please find attached the following:

- Completed Building-over or Near an Irish Water Asset Application Form - following discussion with Aisling MacGrath 15/04/2024, I highlighted to her that some of the information within the application form would not be known at pre-planning stage of the project. She advised that we submit the form anyway and complete as much as possible with all known information.

### Appendix 3.2.4 Uisce Eireann Consultation and Attachments

- Figure 5.1 showing the location of the proposed 12 No. turbines and the location and extent of the cabling to the grid connection point at the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation on the R432
- Raster Mapping UE Assets and Ballynalacken WF Grid Connection showing proximity of the proposed windfarm cabling (red line) in relation to UE Main Lines (blue line) and Lateral Line (green line). As you can see from the mapping, the cabling is proximate to a UE lateral line on a section of the local road L-58442 and to a main line on the regional route R432. The cabling will not cross the main line on the R432 – it can join the R432 north of the UE Asset at the junction of the L-58442.
  - Build under - The cable will cross under lateral lines at four points (1 no. in private lands, 1 no. on the L-58442 and 2 no. on the R432).
  - Build near - Along the L-58442 heading west, the UE lateral line asset is mapped as being on the Left Hand Side of the road. It is proposed to install the windfarm cabling on the Right Hand Side of the road. Along the R-432 heading south, the UE main line asset is mapped as being on the Left Hand Side of the road. It is proposed to install the Ballynalacken Windfarm Grid Connection on the Right Hand Side of the road.
- Trenching Design – Other Underground Services showing cross section of grid connection cable ducting in relation to other existing underground services.

Also I wish to confirm that the operating voltage of the Ballynalacken Windfarm grid connection cabling will be 110KV and will be built to EIRGRID Functional Specifications (find attached). This cabling will be “taken in charge” by EIRGRID once the cable is operational. As per the attached EIRGRID Functional Specifications the *“Minimum clearances to 3rd party services (in any direction) is 300mm, unless additional clearance is specified and agreed by 3rd party service asset owner.”*

Further, Ballynalacken Windfarm grid connection will require detailed design and agreement with EIRGRID, prior to construction. This design entails trail holes and bore holes etc. to identify existing services within the public roads along the route and that at least

### Appendix 3.2.4 Uisce Eireann Consultation and Attachments

minimum clearances from such services be achieved. The extracts below outline what is required during the grid connection final design process.

Extract from EIRGRID Functional Specifications “A full survey shall be carried out, including trial holes and bore holes as required, before design is finalised to identify all major obstacles, such as major road crossings, rivers or railways and other services.”

Extract from EIRGRID Functional Specifications “The Customer shall submit a cross section of the cable route identifying all locations where the cable crosses other services. A minimum standard clearance of 300mm must be maintained between the EirGrid ducts (power or comms) and all other services”.

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Is mise le meas

**Conor Brett**

**Ecopower Limited**

Zetec House - Purcellsinch IDA Business Park - Dublin Road - Kilkenny - R95 PX5X

**M: 087 6531458** T: 056 7750140 [www.ecopower.ie](http://www.ecopower.ie)

**From:** Aisling McGrath(C) < >

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:28 AM

**To:** Phil Kenealy <[pk@ecopower.ie](mailto:pk@ecopower.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Ballynalacken Windfarm pre-application consultation - Uisce Eireann

Hi Phil,



#### Appendix 3.2.4 Uisce Éireann Consultation and Attachments

In response to your email below, if the cabling is proposed to cross under Uisce Éireann assets at any point it is required that you engage with Uisce Éireann's Diversions team to assess feasibility of building near/over/under Uisce Éireann's assets.

A Building Over/Near Enquiry should be lodged and a Confirmation of Feasibility obtained prior to the lodgement of the planning application.

Refer to Uisce Éireann's website for details on the Building Near UE assets and how to apply.

<https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/diversion-and-build-over/>

Based on the information provided below it is unlikely that a diversion would be required, however this will be determined in the Building Near/Over application.

Regards

**Aisling McGrath**

Development Management Planning

**Uisce Éireann**

Smithlands Centre, Waterford Road, Loughboy, Co.Kilkenny R95 W023

M +353 85 136 2434

[aisling.mcgrath@water.ie](mailto:aisling.mcgrath@water.ie)

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

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

### Appendix 3.2.4 Uisce Eireann Consultation and Attachments

**From:** Phil Kenealy <[pk@ecopower.ie](mailto:pk@ecopower.ie)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 3:58 PM

**To:** Planning <[Planning@water.ie](mailto:Planning@water.ie)>; Aisling McGrath(C) <[aisling.mcgrath@water.ie](mailto:aisling.mcgrath@water.ie)>

**Subject:** Ballynalacken Windfarm pre-application consultation - Uisce Eireann

#### **Ballynalacken Windfarm pre-application consultation**

Following UE's scoping response (dated 21 Feb 24, attached) to our scoping consultation in January, I attach the following additional information as requested.

- Figure 5.1 showing the location of the proposed 12 No. turbines and the location and extent of the cabling to the grid connection point at the Eirgrid Ballyragget Substation
- Raster Mapping UE Assets and Ballynalacken WF showing proximity of the proposed windfarm cabling (red line) in relation to UE Main Lines (blue line) and Lateral Line (green line). As you can see from the mapping, the cabling is proximate to a UE lateral line on a section of the local road L-58442 and to a main line on the regional route R432. The cabling will cross under the lateral line serving individual houses at four points.

As can be seen from the mapping, along the L-58442 heading west, the UE lateral line asset is mapped as being on the Left Hand Side of the road. It is proposed to install the Ballynalacken Windfarm Grid Connection on the Right Hand side of the road. Along the R-432 heading south, the UE main line asset is mapped as being on the Left Hand side of the road. It is proposed to install the Ballynalacken Windfarm Grid Connection on the Right Hand side of the road. Also I wish to confirm that the operating voltage of the Ballynalacken Windfarm Grid Connection will be 110KV and will be built to EIRGRID Functional Specifications (find attached). This cabling will also be "taken in charge" by EIRGRID once the cable is operational. As per the attached EIRGRID Functional Specifications the *"Minimum clearances to 3rd party services (in any direction) is 300mm, unless additional clearance is specified and agreed by 3rd party service asset owner."*

### Appendix 3.2.4 Uisce Éireann Consultation and Attachments

Further, Ballynalacken Windfarm Grid Connection will require detailed design and agreement with EIRGRID, prior to construction. This design entails trial holes and bore holes etc. to identify existing services within the public roads along the route. The extracts below outline what is required by the grid connection designers.

Extract from EIRGRID Functional Specifications “A full survey shall be carried out, including trial holes and bore holes as required, before design is finalised to identify all major obstacles, such as major road crossings, rivers or railways and other services.”

Extract from EIRGRID Functional Specifications “The Customer shall submit a cross section of the cable route identifying all locations where the cable crosses other services. A minimum standard clearance of 300mm must be maintained between the EirGrid ducts (power or comms) and all other services”.

Also, I wish to confirm that no diversion of UE assets will be required to facilitate the Ballynalacken Windfarm Grid Connection.

We note from your scoping response that there is an existing Uisce Éireann abstraction point downstream from the proposed windfarm to the northwest of Castlecomer. I confirm that the planning application EIAR will include and consider all direct, indirect and cumulative effects on the abstraction point.

I am available to contact by email or mobile if you wish to discuss further.

Regards

Phil

**Philomena Kenealy**

**Ecopower Limited**

Zetec House, Purcellsinch IDA Business Park

Dublin Road, Kilkenny, R95 PX5X

**Mob: 086-8399193**



- Windfarm Grid Connection UGC
- Uisce Eireann Water Mains
- Uisce Eireann Lateral Line

To  
Ballinakill

L-58442

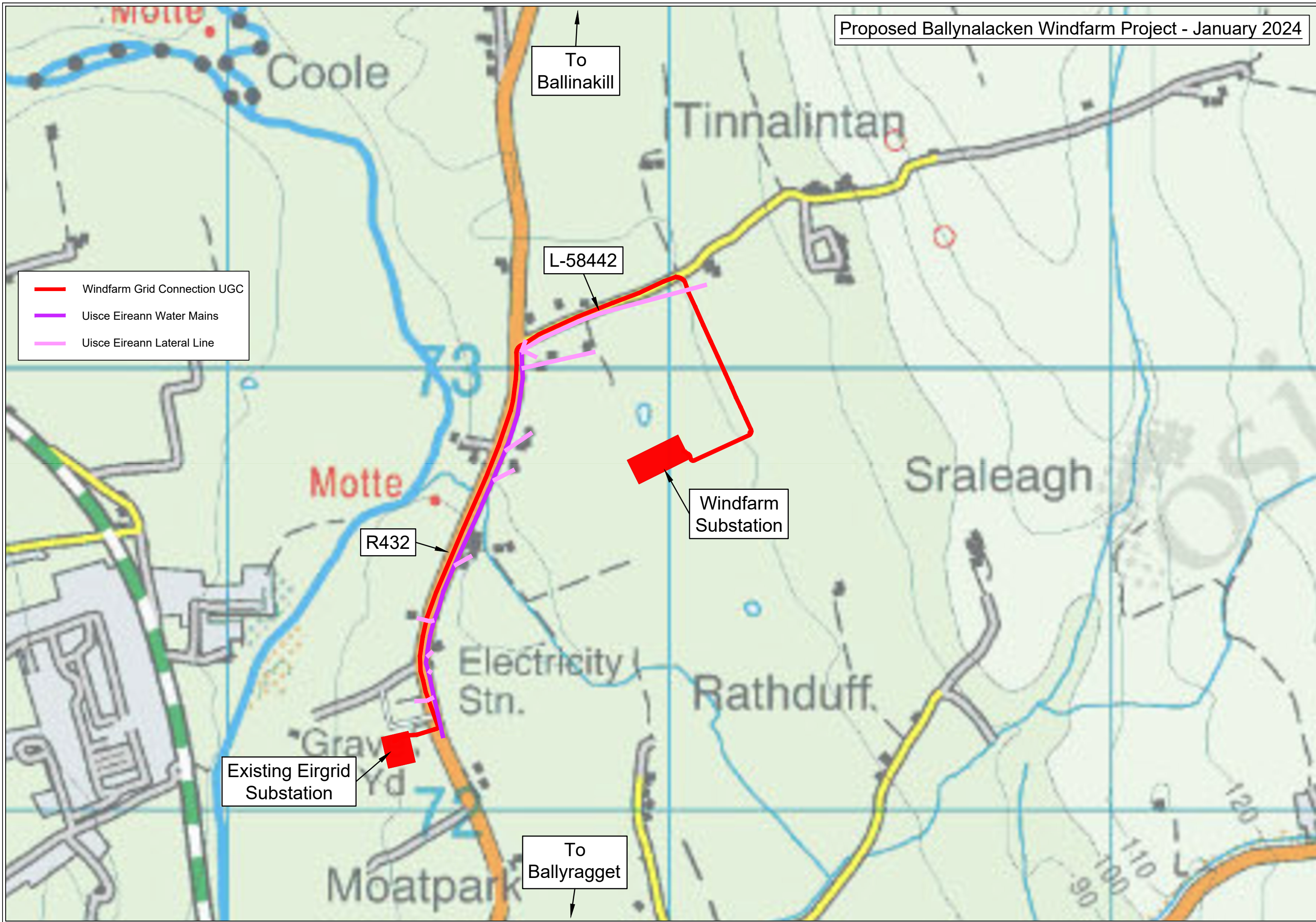
Windfarm  
Substation

R432

Electricity  
Stn.

Existing Eirgrid  
Substation

To  
Ballyragget





Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm Project - April 2024

- Windfarm Grid Connection Underground Cabling 110kV
- Uisce Eireann Water Mains
- Uisce Eireann Lateral Line

To Ballinakill

L-58442

Ballynalacken Substation

R432

Existing Eirgrid Substation

To Ballyragget

River Nore  
An Fheoir

P á i r c  
a n M h ó t a  
M o a t p a r k

Cemetery

110Kv

### 3.2.5 Consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)



**Iascach Intíre Éireann  
Inland Fisheries Ireland**

Ms. Emer Hannon  
Inis Environmental Consultants Ltd.  
Suite 16, Block A, Clare Technology Park,  
Gort Road, Ennis,  
Co. Clare

15 June 2022

#### **Re: Proposed Windfarm, Ballynalacken, Co. Kilkenny**

Submitted via email to: [info@inisenv.ie](mailto:info@inisenv.ie)

Dear Ms. Hannon,

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is the statutory authority tasked under section 7(1) of the Inland Fisheries Act 2010 (No. 10 of 2010) with responsibility for the protection, management, and conservation of the inland fisheries resource.

The proposed development is located in the Nore catchment, in particular in the catchment areas of the following surface water bodies. All are part of or feeding directly to the Barrow – Nore SAC.

Surface Water Body	WFD Status	Risk Status
Nore_120	Unassigned	At Risk
Nore_130	Good	Not At Risk
Castlecomer Stream_010	Moderate	Not At Risk
Cloghagh_010	Good	Not At Risk
Owveg (Nore)_040	Good	Not At Risk

In respect of the statutory ecological surveys proposed by Inis Environmental Consultants Limited IFI wish to make the following observations:

Article 28(2) of the Surface Water Regulations (SI 272 of 2009) states that a surface water body whose status is determined to be less than good shall be restored to at least good status.

Furthermore, Article 5 states that there should be no deterioration in Ecological Status.

The proposed surveys / reports must demonstrate how this project would be consistent with the maintenance / restoration of each of the above surface water bodies to Good Ecological Status within the third cycle of the national River Basin Management Plan.

A comprehensive map of all aquatic habitats potentially affected by the project should be provided in the reports. This should include an assessment of the potential adverse effects on all relevant aquatic receptors, including fish. The cumulative effects of the proposed development along with other existing or approved projects should also be considered. This should include an assessment of the impact on the conservation objectives of species listed as qualifying interests in the Barrow – Nore SAC, which include Lamprey species and Atlantic Salmon.

### 3.2.5 Consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)



**Iascach Intíre Éireann**  
**Inland Fisheries Ireland**

Baseline ecological assessments of water courses potentially affected by the proposed development, including biological and physico-chemical surveys, should also be provided. Following the commencement of works, field testing and laboratory analysis of parameters should be undertaken at agreed sites. The reports should include locations, timing and frequency of the proposed monitoring of biological and physico-chemical parameters. A full list of parameters should also be provided.

Records should be kept of biological and chemical monitoring of undertaken before, during and after the works. Records should also be kept of inspections of proposed surface water mitigation measures. These records should be made available upon request to any authorised person as defined under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts.

The applicant should adhere to the recommendations and guidelines outlined in IFI's *Guidelines on Protection of Fisheries during Construction Works in and adjacent to Waters* 2016. A copy of this document is available [here](#). The storage, management and conveyance of materials on site must not permit deleterious matter to reach adjacent surface water systems either directly or indirectly. Sources and estimates of potential run-off should be provided and details of measures to mitigate these, including their location, provided in the Report.

Instream works may only take place during the period 1 July to 30 September. There should be no interference with the bed, gradient, profile or alignment of watercourses without prior notification and the agreement of Inland Fisheries Ireland. Proposed instream works must be accompanied by a site-specific method statement provided to IFI.

The number of new water crossings should be minimised. Where existing crossings must undergo alteration, IFI request that these crossings are upgraded in the interests of habitat improvement and biodiversity net gain. IFI should be consulted at the design phase to maximise favourable outcomes. Where works on water crossings are proposed, method statements must be provided.

SuDS principles should be incorporated into surface water management plans to attenuate any run-off of suspended solids or other deleterious matter. Drainage infrastructure should be installed during dry ground conditions.

Any EIAR, NIS and / or application for planning should include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP), a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP), and an Emergency Response Plan (EMP) in case of an emergency incident. Provision should be made for the appointment of a suitably qualified Project Environmental Manager and Ecological Clerk of Works.

Future correspondence or any requests for clarification can be sent via email to [cormac.goulding@fisheriesireland.ie](mailto:cormac.goulding@fisheriesireland.ie) or by post to the address below.

Yours sincerely,

Cormac Goulding  
Fisheries Environmental Officer  
South-Eastern River Basin District



### 3.2.6 Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

#### FW: Information Request - Ballynalacken, Co. Kilkenny

Jochen Roller (Housing) <Jochen.Roller@housing.gov.ie>

Thu 6/23/2022 5:07 PM

To: Orla Van Der Noll <orla.vandernoll@inisenv.ie>

Cc: Alex Copland <alex.copland@inisenv.ie>; QC <qc@inisenv.ie>; Operations <operations@inisenv.ie>

Dear Orla,

Please find requested information attached and below. The queries on our species database (as in the attached files) were run for the provided hectad, and additional bird data was queried for any hectads that intersect with a 5km buffer around a centroid of the provided shapefile.

We hold the following additional data for the area:

#### **Freshwater pearl mussel:**

Please note that the site location overlaps with catchments identified as sensitive area for the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*). The most recent sensitive areas GIS files are attached.

Species records are provided as both Excel file and shapefile (in Irish Grid TM75). Records are represented as squares in the shapefile, with the side lengths of the squares corresponding to the resolution (1x1m to 10x10km) in which the observations were recorded.

Just to reiterate, as per the data policy, our datasets are not complete or perfect in terms of quality, so it is important to note that the absence of information in the NPWS dataset for an area, does not necessarily imply a low biodiversity value for that area. These data should not be seen as a replacement for field surveys.

Please note that the NPWS species dataset is incomplete, particularly for fish, bats and birds. Can I also remind you that locations for sensitive species should not be made publicly available.

The list of what qualifies as a protected or threatened species is available at <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM%20116%20Checklists%20Protected%20and%20Threatened%20Species%20Version%202.1%203%20December%202021.xlsx>. It covers species listed in one or more of the following documents: EU Directives (Birds & Habitats), Wildlife Act, 1976, Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 and other relevant amendments, Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 or Published National Red Lists.

Habitats and species data from the Article 17 (Habitats Directive) and Article 12 (Birds Directive) Assessments in 2019 and 2013 are available for download from our website on: <http://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data>

GIS datasets used in the production of Site-specific Conservation Objectives for designated sites can also be downloaded from <http://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data>

The National Biodiversity Data Centre, Inland Fisheries Ireland, BirdWatch Ireland and Bat Conservation Ireland may have additional records of use.

Best regards,  
Jochen

Jochen Roller | GIS Consultant | National Parks & Wildlife Service | 90 North King Street, Smithfield, Dublin 7, D07 N7CV | [Jochen.Roller@housing.gov.ie](mailto:Jochen.Roller@housing.gov.ie)

**3.2.6 Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)****From:** Orla Van Der Noll <[orla.vandernoll@inisenv.ie](mailto:orla.vandernoll@inisenv.ie)>**Sent:** Thursday 2 June 2022 16:03**To:** Housing natureconservation <[natureconservation@housing.gov.ie](mailto:natureconservation@housing.gov.ie)>**Cc:** Alex Copland <[alex.copland@inisenv.ie](mailto:alex.copland@inisenv.ie)>; QC <[qc@inisenv.ie](mailto:qc@inisenv.ie)>; Operations <[operations@inisenv.ie](mailto:operations@inisenv.ie)>**Subject:** Information Request - Ballynalacken, Co. Kilkenny

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find a NPWS data request form attached regarding the proposed wind farm at Ballynalacken, Co. Kilkenny. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

Kind regards,

Orla van der Noll BSc MSc  
Assistant Ecologist

INIS Environmental Consultants Ltd.  
Suite 16 Block A  
Clare Technology Park  
Gort Road  
Ennis  
County Clare  
Ireland

e: [orla.vandernoll@inisenv.ie](mailto:orla.vandernoll@inisenv.ie)

w: [www.inisenvironmentalservices.com](http://www.inisenvironmentalservices.com)

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INIS Environmental Consultants Limited is registered in Ireland at Edenvale, Kilrush Road, Ennis, County Clare, Republic of Ireland. Registration Number 479167.  
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Before printing, think about the environment

### 3.2.6 Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

Dear Cillian,

Please find requested information for the provided 10km grid squares attached.

As the area lies within the Nore catchment, which has a population of **Freshwater pearl mussel** recorded, I am attaching any records for the species within the catchment in shapefile and Excel formats. Please note that dead shell only records are included in the dataset, and that some records may be assigned to 10km or 1km Irish Grid squares and will not plot near rivers.

**Can we just remind you of the sensitivity of *Margaritifera* data owing to the on-going risk of pearl fishing and other deliberate damage. Consequently, these data should not be made available to the public, either electronically or in hard copy, in a format (e.g. as a large scale map) that could readily be used to locate mussels.**

GIS files for catchment-based *Margaritifera* sensitive areas are available for download from <https://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data>

We hold the following additional bird data for the hectads:

**Peregrine falcon nest sites** – as recorded during the 2017 National Peregrine Survey (with information as to whether the sites were recorded as nest sites in the previous National Survey in 2002):

- Hectad S46: one occupied nest site (known in 2002)
- Hectad S55: two occupied nest sites (known in 2002)

Species records are provided as both Excel file and shapefile (in Irish Grid TM75). Records are represented as squares in the shapefile, with the side lengths of the squares corresponding to the resolution (1x1m to 10x10km) in which the observations were recorded.

Just to reiterate, as per the data policy, our datasets are not complete or perfect in terms of quality, so it is important to note that the absence of information in the NPWS dataset for an area, does not necessarily imply a low biodiversity value for that area. These data should not be seen as a replacement for field surveys.

Please note that the NPWS species dataset is incomplete, particularly for fish, bats and birds. **Can I also remind you that locations for sensitive species should not be made publicly available.**

The list of what qualifies as a protected or threatened species is available at <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/IWM%2016%20Checklists%20Protected%20and%20Threatened%20Species%20Version%203.1%201%20February%202023.xlsx>. It covers species listed in one or more of the following documents: EU Directives (Birds & Habitats), Wildlife Act, 1976, Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 and other relevant amendments, Flora (Protection) Order, 2015 or Published National Red Lists.

Habitats and species data from the Article 17 (Habitats Directive) and Article 12 (Birds Directive) Assessments in 2019 and 2013 are available for download from our website on: <http://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data>

GIS datasets used in the production of Site-specific Conservation Objectives for designated sites can also be downloaded from <http://www.npws.ie/maps-and-data/habitat-and-species-data>



### 3.2.6 Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS)

The National Biodiversity Data Centre, Inland Fisheries Ireland, BirdWatch Ireland and Bat Conservation Ireland may have additional records of use.

Best regards,  
Jochen

Jochen Roller | GIS Consultant | National Parks & Wildlife Service | 90 North King Street, Smithfield,  
Dublin 7, D07 N7CV | [Jochen.Roller@housing.gov.ie](mailto:Jochen.Roller@housing.gov.ie)

### 3.2.7 Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



Geological Survey  
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta  
Ireland | Éireann

Phil Kenealy  
Ecopower Developments Ltd  
Zetec House,  
Purcellsinch IDA Business Park  
Kilkenny

15 February 2023

**Re: Scoping for Ballynalacken Windfarm Project Co Kilkenny**

**Your Ref: n/a**

**Our Ref: 23/28**

Dear Phil,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your letter received on the 30 January 2023, concerning the Scoping for Ballynalacken Windfarm Project Co Kilkenny, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

#### **Geoheritage**

A national inventory of geoheritage sites known as County Geological Sites (CGSs) is managed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland. CGSs, as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include sites that are of national importance which have been selected as the very best examples for NHA (Natural Heritage Areas) designation. NHA designation will be completed in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for Co. Kilkenny was carried out in 2007 and revised in 2012. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there are no CGSs in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm.**

#### **Groundwater**

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems.

Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#) which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. **For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie).** Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

**The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates aquifers classed as a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive', a 'Poor Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Unproductive except for Local Zones', a 'Locally Important Aquifer - Bedrock which is Generally Moderately Productive' underlie the proposed wind farm development. The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates aquifers classed as a 'Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (diffuse)' and a 'Regionally important gravel aquifer' underlie the proposed windfarm underground cable and grid connection underground cable routes.**

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Geological Survey Ireland, Block 1, Booterstown Hall, Booterstown, Blackrock, Co Dublin, A94 N2R6

Bloc 1, Halla Bhaile an Bhóthair, Baile an Bhóthair, An Charraig Dhubh, Baile Átha Cliath, A94 N2R6

T +353 (0)1 678 2000 [www.gsi.ie](http://www.gsi.ie) Fáiltítear roimh comhfhreagras i nGaeilge

### 3.2.7 Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



Geological Survey  
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta  
Ireland | Éireann

**The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the range of groundwater vulnerabilities within the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface' in your assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greatest in these areas.**

[GWClimate](#) is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the [Map viewer](#).

Geological Survey Ireland has completed Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) in partnership with Local Authorities, and there is now national coverage of GWPS mapping. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. **The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main reports is here:** <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx>

#### **Geological Mapping**

Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. We would encourage you to use these data which can be found [here](#), in your future assessments.

**Please note we have recently launched QGIS compatible bedrock (100K) and Quaternary geology map data, with instructional manuals and videos. This makes our data more accessible to general public and external stakeholders. QGIS compatible data can be found in our downloadable bedrock 100k .zip file on the [Data & Maps](#) section of our website.**

#### **Geohazards**

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.

Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated [Map Viewer](#). Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.

Geological Survey Ireland also engaged in a national project on Groundwater Flooding. The data from this project may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans, and is described in more detail under 'Groundwater' above.

#### **Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)**

Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our [Minerals section](#) of the website. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our [Map Viewer](#).

We would recommend use of the Aggregate Potential Mapping viewer to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area. In keeping with a sustainable approach we would recommend use of our data and mapping viewers to identify and ensure that natural resources used in the proposed wind farm development are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities, and that consideration of future resource sterilization is considered.



### 3.2.7 Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications



**Geological Survey**  
Suirbhéireacht Gheolaíochta  
Ireland | Éireann

#### **Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments**

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx>.

#### **Guidelines**

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:

- Institute of Geologists of Ireland, 2013. Guidelines for the Preparation of the Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Geology in Environmental Impact Statements.
- [EPA, 2022](#). Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)

#### **Other Comments**

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at <mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie>, 01-678 2795.

I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at [GSIPlanning@gsi.ie](mailto:GSIPlanning@gsi.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville  
**Senior Geologist**  
**Geological Survey Ireland**

Trish Smullen  
**Geoheritage and Planning Programme**  
**Geological Survey Ireland**

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.

## 3.2.7 Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)

**Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes**  
following European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018  
(S.I. No. 296 of 2018)

Geological Survey Ireland Programme	Dataset	Relevant EIA Topic	Coverage	Description / Notes / Limitations	Link to Geological Survey Ireland map viewer
Geohazards	Landslide: National landslide database and landslide susceptibility map	Land & Soil/Climate/Landscape	National	Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=b68cf1e4a9044a5981f950e9b9c5625c</a>
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Historic)	Water	Regional	Provide information of historic flooding, both surface water and groundwater. [A lack of flooding presented in any specific location of the map only indicates that a flood has not been detected. It does not indicate that a flood cannot occur in that location at present or in the future]	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc</a>
Geohazards	Groundwater Flooding (Predictive)	Water	Regional	Provides information on the probability of future karst groundwater flooding (where available). [The maps do not, and are not intended to, constitute advice. Professional or specialist advice should be sought before taking, or refraining from, any action on the basis of the flood maps]	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=848f83c85799436b808652f9c735b1cc</a>
Geohazards	Radon Map	Land & Soils/Air	National		<a href="http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/">http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap/</a>
Geohazards	County Geological Sites as adopted by National Heritage Plan and listed in County Development Plan	Land & Soils/Landscape	Regional	All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0b2fbd2aaac3c228</a>
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	National	1:100,000 scale and associated memoirs.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Bedrock geology:	Land & Soils	Regional	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Sediments	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Quaternary geology: Geomorphology	Land & Soils	National	1:50,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=de7012a99d2748ea9106e7ee1b6ab8d5&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Physiographic units:	Land & Soils	National	Broad-scale physical landscape units mapped at 1:100,000 scale in order to be represented as a cartographic digital map at 1:250,000 scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a420fc54877843aca1bc075c62b">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=afa76a420fc54877843aca1bc075c62b</a>
Geological Mapping	GeoUrban: Spatial geological data for the greater Dublin and Cork areas	Land & Soils	Regional	includes 3D models	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f84818b79416093beb2212a850ce6&amp;scale=0">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9768f84818b79416093beb2212a850ce6&amp;scale=0</a>
Geological Mapping	Geotechnical database	Land & Soils	National	Digitised geotechnical and Site Investigation Reports and boreholes which can be accessed through online downloads	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=a2718be1873d47a585a3f0415b4a724c</a>
Goldmine	Historical data sets including geological memoirs and 6" to 1 mile geological mapping records	Land & Soils/Water	National	available online	<a href="https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html">https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/goldmine/index.html</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater resources (aquifers)	Water	National	Data limited to 1:100,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater recharge.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale; long term annual average recharge	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater vulnerability.	Water	National	Data limited to 1:40,000 scale; sites should be investigated at local scale	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Group scheme and public supply source protection areas.	Water	National	Not all PWS / GWS have SPZ / ZOC. Check with IW / coco / NFGWS for private supplies.	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater Protection Schemes	Water	National	Data is limited to scale of 1:40,000. Data does not include all of the source protection areas	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Catchment and WFD management units.	Water	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	karst specific data layers	water	National	For areas underlain by limestone, includes karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie)	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Wells and Springs	Water	National	Not comprehensive, there may be unrecorded wells and springs	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7e8a202301594687ab14629a10b748ef</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Groundwater body Descriptions	Water	National	Not exhaustive; only those in designated SACs; could be other GWDTEs; for more information contact NPWS / EPA / site investigations Also, Roadmap for a Policy and Regulatory Framework for Geothermal Energy, November 2020	<a href="https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx">https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geothermal-unit/activities/understanding-ireland-groundwater/Pages/Groundwater-bodies.aspx</a>
Groundwater & Geothermal	Geothermal Suitability maps	Land & Soils/Water	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ee46bee08de41278b90a99160c0b9e">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=9ee46bee08de41278b90a99160c0b9e</a>
Marine & Coastal Unit	INFOMAR - Ireland's national marine mapping programme; providing key baseline data for Ireland's	Water	National		<a href="https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/">https://secure.dcaa.gov.ie/GSI/INFOMAR_VIEWER/</a>
Marine & Coastal Unit	CHERISH - Coastal change project (Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands, and Headlands)	Water	Regional		<a href="http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/">http://www.cherishproject.eu/en/</a>
Marine & Coastal Unit	Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI).	water / Land & Soils	Regional	Currently the project is being carried out on the east coast and will be rolled out nationally	<a href="https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx">https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/marine-and-coastal-unit/projects/Pages/Coastal-Vulnerability-Index.aspx</a>
Minerals	Aggregate potential	Land & Soils/Material Assets	National	Consideration of mineral resources and potential resources as a material asset which should be explicitly recognised within the environmental assessment process	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f134416dc9956">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f134416dc9956</a>
Minerals	Active quarries	Land & Soils	National		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f134416dc9956">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ee8c4c285a49413aa6f134416dc9956</a>
Minerals	Historic mines	Land & Soils/Cultural Heritage	National	Inventory and Risk Classification 2009. Environmental Protection Agency, Economic Minerals Division and Geological Survey Ireland (DECC).	<a href="https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?teasing=7&amp;nothing=7&amp;lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities">https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/default?teasing=7&amp;nothing=7&amp;lid=EPA:LEMA_Facilities_Extractive_Facilities</a>
Tellus	Geochemical data: multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>
Tellus	Airborne geophysical data including radiometrics, electromagnetics and magnetics	Land & Soils	Regional	A national mapping programme	<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>
Tellus	urban geochemistry mapping (Dublin SURGE project).	Land & Soils	Regional		<a href="https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754">https://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=6304e122b733498b99642707f72754</a>

**Notes:**

- The maps and data listed above are available on the Geological Survey Ireland map viewer <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/default.aspx>
- Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data
- Geological Survey Ireland and Irish Concrete Federation published guidelines for the treatment of geological heritage in the extractive industry in 2008.

### 3.2.8 Consultation with National Monuments Service (NMS)

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



**Your Ref:** Ballynalacken Wind Farm

**Our Ref:** G Pre00019/2023

*(Please quote in all related correspondence)*

28 February 2023

Ecopower Limited  
Zetec House,  
Purcellsinch IDA Business Park  
Dublin Road,  
Kilkenny  
R95 PX5X

Via email: [pk@ecopower.ie](mailto:pk@ecopower.ie)

<b>Re:</b> Proposed windfarm development at Ballynalacken, Ballyragget, Co. Kilkenny.
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A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

#### **Archaeology**

The Department has reviewed the site location mapping submitted for the proposed wind farm. The information provided was not sufficiently detailed to allow for a full assessment of the archaeological implications of this proposal, however the Department wishes to advise that your client should retain the services of a Consultant Archaeologist to carry out the Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) as part of the overall Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment (CHIA) of the proposed development, which should be integrated into the finalised Planning and Environmental Considerations Report. In this regard the Department awaits the results of the CHIA and full Planning and Environmental Considerations Report for the scheme before commenting further.

Further to the above, and by way of general archaeological advice, please note that, whilst the proposed development site (PDS) may or may not contain within it known or subsurface Recorded Monuments and/or Archaeological sites that may require assessment as part of





the overall Cultural Heritage Assessment, the PDS itself is located within a wider area of known archaeological settlement and activity (this Department's initial review of the Record of Monuments and Places, [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie) and cartographic sources). All of these Recorded Monuments, both within and outside the PDS, are subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under section 12 of the National Monuments Act 1930-2014. Therefore, the CHIA should include an assessment of the possible effects of the proposal on the wider archaeological landscape. It is of importance that the study area for the CHIA should be of sufficient size and extent to support this.

The Department advises that the CHIA should incorporate a robust desk-study supported by a comprehensive field inspection as well as a visual impact assessment (to assist in identifying any possible impacts to the setting of sites or monuments).

In this respect it should be noted that in addition to site-specific vulnerabilities to impact on setting many monument types—for example prehistoric monuments such as Standing Stone Alignments, Standing Stone Rows, Single Standing Stones, as well as some megalithic tombs—are often considered to represent a wide area of associated archaeological settlement and activity. The characteristics of a development may have a negative visual impact on such monuments and may diminish or interrupt alignment views and alter key aspects of their original function and layout. Therefore, Visual Impact Assessment should:

- Set out the key characteristics of the monument(s) and its surroundings that contribute to its setting and the degree to which this setting is integral to the significance and appreciation of the monument.
- Assess the effects of the development—both positive and negative—on these key characteristics. The development should be considered in terms of its location and siting relative to the monument as well as its form, appearance and permanence.
- Be supported by appropriate illustrations of the monument, its setting and the development.

The AIA should also involve an examination of all available development layout/design drawings, completion of documentary/cartographic/photographic research and fieldwork, the latter to include where possible - geophysical survey (consent as required under the National Monuments Acts).

The Department is happy to provide further advice and clarification as and if required in relation to the preparation of a suitably comprehensive assessment as outlined above.



Notwithstanding the above, the Department awaits the submission of this assessment before commenting further.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at [manager.dau@npws.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@npws.gov.ie).

Is mise, le meas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edel Griffin', is written above a horizontal line.

Edel Griffin  
Development Applications Unit  
Administration





## **Appendix 3.3: Local Community Notices**



## Appendix 3.3: Local Community Notices

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**PROPOSED BALLYNALACKEN WINDFARM**

# **PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY**

**ROWANMERE LIMITED**

**is holding a**

# **PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY**

**at**

**BALLYOUSKILL COMMUNITY HALL,**

**COUNTY KILKENNY**

**on**

**THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2024**

**3PM to 8PM**

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE INVITED TO ATTEND**

INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE REGARDING A TWELVE TURBINE WINDFARM, BALLYNALACKEN WINDFARM, PROPOSED FOR A LOCATION ON THE CASTLECOMER PLATEAU BETWEEN CASTLECOMER AND BALLYRAGGET, SOUTH OF BALLINAKILL. REPRESENTATIVES FROM ROWANMERE LIMITED WILL BE PRESENT TO PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ANSWER ANY QUERIES THAT YOU MAY HAVE REGARDING THE PROPOSAL.

THE TURBINES ARE PROPOSED FOR AGRICULTURAL FARMLAND AND FORESTRY LANDS, INCLUDING SECTIONS OF COILLTE PROPERTY IN ADDITION TO OTHER THIRD-PARTY LANDS. REPRESENTATIVES FROM COILLTE WILL BE PRESENT AT THE EVENT TO DISCUSS ANY COILLTE SPECIFIC QUERIES.

**PROPOSED BALLYNALACKEN WINDFARM CONTACT:**

**COMMUNITY@BALLYNALACKENWINDFARM.COM**

**WEB: WWW.BALLYNALACKENWINDFARM.COM**



## Proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm Location





# PROPOSED BALLYNALACKEN WINDFARM

## The Proposal

It is proposed to build **twelve Wind Turbines of 170m to tip height** in the townlands of Byrnesgrove; Commons; Ballymartin; Ballynalacken; Ballyouskill and Loughill, County Kilkenny.

The turbines are proposed for a location on the **Castlecomer Plateau** between Castlecomer (4km) and Ballyragget (5km) and 3.3km south of Ballinakill. **The villages of Ballyouskill and Attanagh are located 3km and 4km respectively to the west of the turbines.**

It is proposed to connect Ballynalacken Windfarm by **underground cabling, to the grid at the Eirgrid Substation** on the Ballinakill Road outside Ballyragget

The project lands are a mixture of agricultural farmland and forestry. The lands are owned **by local landowners and also include sections of Coillte property**. Please contact [Lsinfo@coillte.ie](mailto:Lsinfo@coillte.ie) if you have any Coillte related queries about the proposal.

The promoters of the Ballynalacken Windfarm project are two experienced Kilkenny based windfarm developers - **Ecopower and Art Generation**, under the company name **Rowanmere Limited**.

## Benefits of Windfarms

**Climate Action: One-third of greenhouse gas emissions in Ireland are due to the generation of electricity.** But there is an alternative - **wind power**, which can be used to generate electricity **with no associated greenhouse gas emissions**.

Every unit (kilowatt hour) of electricity generated by wind turbines in Ireland replaces a unit of electricity that would otherwise be generated by gas, coal or oil. Ballynalacken Windfarm will replace the production of approximately **150 million kilowatt hours** of electricity from gas/coal/oil every year which means the windfarm will avoid the associated production of **38,850 tonnes of greenhouse gases every year**.

**Security of Electricity Supply:** In response to the hardships and global energy market disruption caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the **EU member states** including Ireland, **pledged to accelerate the deployment of wind energy** in the EU and move towards **independence from fossil fuel suppliers and volatile fuel prices**. The Ballynalacken Windfarm will supply enough **clean, renewable, Irish electricity** for approximately 33,237 homes every year.

## Community

The Government RESS scheme for renewable energy stipulates that windfarm projects selling electricity supported by RESS, are required to pay into a Community Benefit Fund an amount of €2 per megawatt hour produced by the project, to be distributed in the locality annually for the lifetime of the RESS contract (i.e. for the first 15 years of operation). **Based on the predicted production at the windfarm, the Ballynalacken Windfarm Community Benefit Fund will be approximately €300,000 per annum.** This fund will be paid under RESS rules, irrespective of whether the windfarm participates in RESS or not. The fund will be distributed annually to near neighbours and to local community organisations.

**A Public Information Day will be held in Ballyouskill Community Hall on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2024 from 3pm to 8pm.** The proposed windfarm details will be available and the development team will be on hand to answer any questions that you might have. See [www.ballynalackenwindfarm.com](http://www.ballynalackenwindfarm.com) for more details or **contact the Ballynalacken Project Manager at Ecopower 056 7750140 or email [community@ballynalackenwindfarm.com](mailto:community@ballynalackenwindfarm.com)**



# PROPOSED 12 WIND TURBINE BALLYNALACKEN WINDFARM

## Update March 2025

We invite you to read our update on the proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm project and we welcome any questions or feedback you may have.

Ecopower and ART Generation (working together as Rowanmere Limited) are two Kilkenny based renewable energy companies. In the coming week beginning 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, we plan on applying for planning permission to build **Twelve Wind Turbines** in the townlands of Byrnesgrove; Commons; Ballymartin; Ballynalacken; Ballyoskill and Loughill. The proposed turbines are located on agricultural lands and forestry lands, to the north and south of Ballymartin Crossroads.

A **new windfarm substation will be built at a location in Tinnalintan**, and underground cabling will connect this new substation to the **electrical grid at the Eirgrid Substation in Moatpark** on the Ballinakill Road outside Ballyragget.

The Ballynalacken Windfarm project is being developed as part of **Ireland's response to climate change and will generate a significant amount of renewable electricity**, enough green electricity to power circa 31,000 houses. The renewable electricity generated at Ballynalacken Windfarm will avoid circa 36,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases per annum, because this power will not need to be generated by coal, oil or gas-fired power stations.

**Public Information Day:** We appreciate how members of the public from the local community and further afield, took the time to attend the **Public Information Day in Ballyouskill Community Centre in July 2024**. We value the feedback received and the knowledge that was exchanged on the day. The concerns expressed on the day have been fully addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report to be submitted with the Planning Application. Issues raised during the Public Information Day were Turbine Size; the Community Benefit Fund from the windfarm; Shadow Flicker, Noise and Health Effects from the windfarm and the possible effects on water in the Local Wells.

**Turbine Size:** The proposal was originally for wind turbines with an overall height to tip of 170m and this size was presented at the Public Information Day in July 2024. Due to concerns expressed at the Public Information Day, about the size of the wind turbines proposed, it is now proposed to apply for planning for **wind turbines with a lower height to tip of 155m** which is 15m lower than the originally proposed height.

**The Community Benefit Scheme** will generate a fund of circa **€280,000 per annum**. The fund will be distributed annually between near-neighbour payments and sport and amenity facilities in the locality. The local community will be invited to participate into how this fund is distributed and who will be involved in managing it.

**Shadow Flicker** is a phenomenon associated with wind turbines, where the rotating blades periodically cast shadows on the ground or nearby structures as they pass in front of the sun. This creates a temporary flickering effect that can be experienced at houses in the vicinity of a turbine. Modelling for shadow flicker for the proposed turbines has predicted shadow flicker effect for an average of 16 hours over the whole year at neighbouring houses, which is negligible over a year. Additionally, the turbines are equipped with software controls that allow them to be shut down during these flicker periods, effectively mitigating the effect.

**Noise:** The turbine model now proposed will have the same noise management controls in-built as the original turbine model proposed, ensuring the noise levels remain within the limits set by the planning conditions. A noise survey will be carried out once the turbines are operational, to ensure that the noise from turbines comply with the approved limits.

**Health Effects:** Concerns were raised regarding health effects from windfarms. We can reassure you that health effects have been comprehensively assessed during the compilation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the planning application. The windfarm will be built in accordance with all National and European regulations which are designed to be protective of human health.

**Water Supply at Local Wells:** There will be no adverse effects on either the quality or the quantity of the water from local wells. This is because the site groundwater flowpaths are short (between 30m and 300m), due to the type of bedrock present locally. The distance of over 500m from the site to local houses and residential wells will mean that the quality and quantity of the water in the wells, will not be compromised. Additionally, water supply for livestock from wells located closer to the site, will be safeguarded through standard and proven water protection measures during construction.

**We plan to lodge the planning application to An Bord Pleanála during next week.** Prior to lodgement, site planning notices will be erected locally, and advertisements will be placed in newspapers circulating locally. A full summary of the proposal will be uploaded onto the community website at [www.ballynalackenwindfarm.com](http://www.ballynalackenwindfarm.com). The website will also have a web link to the full suite of planning application documents and environmental reports. The website will also include details on where to make submissions on the planning application.

The contact for the proposed Ballynalacken Windfarm is [community@ballynalackenwindfarm.com](mailto:community@ballynalackenwindfarm.com) or contact Ecopower at (056) 7750140 and ask for the **Ballynalacken Community Liaison Officer**.