Planning and Environmental Consultants

APPENDIX 2-1

Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development Community Engagement Report

APPENDIX 2-1 Community Report

Client:	**Briskalagh Ltd.**
Project Title:	**Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development Community Engagement Report**
Project Number:	**230502**
Document Title:	**APPENDIX 2-1**
Document File Name:	**Appendix 2-1 Community Report – F – 2024.10.02 - 230502**
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Rev	Status	Date	Author(s)	Approved By
01	Draft	31/07/2024	NG	WOC
02	Final	02/10/2024	NG	WOC

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1. INTRODUCTION

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

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

The Guidelines state that:

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

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

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

The draft Guidelines has retained this position stating the following:

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

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

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

2. CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

2.1 Notification of the Local Community

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

- A company brochure, which provided an overview on Enerco Energy and some general information about wind energy;
- A site location map;
- An overview map which divided the properties surrounding the site into 2 zones;
- A map highlighting the potential developable area which was under review at that time and the properties within each zone;
- Dedicated contact details (name, phone and email) for the community liaison officer (CLO) in relation to the project, along with a web address for the dedicated project website.
- All of the information sent to the local community was also made available for public viewing on the project information website.

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

2.1.1 Community Interactions

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

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

In November 2022 the first round of public consultation was carried out, via door-to-door visits by the CLO (assisted by colleagues). The information pack delivered included a map of the developable area, an introductory letter and a brochure with some information about Enerco Energy and some general information about wind energy.

In May 2023 a project update was circulated. This included a letter and 13 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) from the CLOs interactions with the community, this was circulated to the original mailing list, which was updated accordingly following the initial consultation with the community, and updated throughout the entire consultation period.

In August 2023 correspondence was circulated, notifying the community about the dates and times of the first Public Information Exhibition to be held August 24th, in the Ballycallan Community Hall.

In September 2023, following the feedback from the first PIE, an updated set of FAQs was circulated with 14 additional FAQs which addressed the main concerns raised at the PIE.

In April 2024 an updated information pack was circulated, this included an updated site layout map and two zone maps showing the dwellings within 2km of the proposed turbines. This round of consultation also notified the community about the dates and times of the second Public Information Exhibition to be held May 23rd, in the Ballycallan Community Hall.

In July 2024, following feedback from the community and Kilkenny County Council, T08 was removed from the proposal, reducing the overall number of turbines to 7. The removal of T08 increased the setback between Kilmanagh and the nearest proposed turbines thereby significantly reducing any potential impacts on residential visual amenity. An updated information pack was circulated to the updated mailing list showing the proposed 7 turbine layout and dwellings within 2km of the proposed turbines.

In September 2024, a further project update was provided to the community with a letter circulated notifying the community that the planning application for the Proposed Project would be submitted to Kilkenny County Council within two weeks, and a copy of the press notice text was enclosed. A leaflet was delivered by the CLO to all properties directly accessed off the Proposed Grid Connection underground cabling route notifying them about the project and providing some information of the proposed works associated with the underground cabling installation. The leaflet included an overview map of the Proposed Grid Connection underground cabling route and contact details for the CLO should any interested parties wish to discuss the proposal further.

Throughout the lengthy consultation period the CLO has continued to liaise with any interested parties and answer any questions as promptly as possible.

2.1.1.1 November 2022

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

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

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

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

2.1.1.2 May 2023

A second round of consultation was carried out which comprised a project update letter accompanied with some FAQs was sent to the updated mailing list. The FAQs included 13 queries which were compiled following interactions with the community and feedback from the initial round of consultation in November 2022. The correspondence outlined that surveys were on-going at the site and further updates would be provided as new information became available.

2.1.1.3 September 2023

This round of consultation was carried out following the first PIE held on August 24th 2023. This included a short letter and an updated set of FAQs which addressed 14 additional queries which were common to those that had attended the PIE, the original 13 were also kept for convenience. The correspondence outlined that further updates would be provided as new information became available.

2.1.1.4 April 2024

The information pack issued to the usual mailing list in April 2024 provided a further update on the project status. It included a letter which outlined that environmental surveys and assessments were still being carried out on the site, it also outlined that the Proposed Project was envisaged to have a generating capacity of greater than 50 megawatts (MW), and that it was therefore necessary to consult with An Bord Pleanála, as the project could be considered to constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). Arrangements for the second PIE were included within this letter with.

The information pack issued in April 2024 included an updated 8 turbine layout map along with an overview map and zone map showing the dwellings within 2km of the proposed turbines.

2.1.1.5 July 2024

The information pack issued in July 2024 was the final project updated issued to the community prior to the lodgement of the application. Following feedback from the local community and Kilkenny county council, the decision was made to remove T08 from the proposal as this was the closest turbine to the settlement of Kilmanagh. The removal of T08 significantly reduced the potential impacts of the Proposed Project.

The information pack included a letter and outlining the intended submission timeframe along with details on the revised layout, including the reduced output or 49MW from 56MW. This reduced output resulted in the Proposed Project falling below the SID threshold of 50MW, meaning the planning application would be required to be submitted directly to Kilkenny county council, the letter outlined this. The pack also included a map of the revised 7 turbine layout and the dwellings within 2km.

2.1.1.6 September 2024

In September 2024, a letter was circulated to the usual mailing list informing them that the planning application for the Proposed Project would be submitted to Kilkenny County Council within the coming weeks. Enclosed with this letter was a copy of the press notice text which contained the development description of the Proposed Project. It was noted in this letter that the planning notice would appear in the 'Kilkenny People' dated the 4th of October, however, the planning notice was placed in the 'Kilkenny Observer' instead. To clarify this matter a notice was placed in the following weeks edition of the 'Kilkenny People' to inform readers of that paper about the application.

A leaflet was hand delivered by the CLO (assisted by colleagues) to all properties directly accessed off the Proposed Grid Connection underground cabling route. This leaflet provided some information of the proposed works associated with the underground cabling installation and contact details for the CLO. The leaflet also included a map of the entire underground cabling route along with the associated road numbers and key landmarks along the route. The door-to-door leaflet drop resulted in many queries being addressed on the day with queries received by the CLO afterwards and meetings held as required to satisfy the queries raised.

2.1.2 Public Information Exhibition

2.1.2.1 PIE Advertisement

On August 11th, 2023, a letter was circulated to the usual mailing list notifying them of the upcoming PIE being held in the Ballycallan Community Hall in Ballycallan on August 24th, 2023. An advert was also placed in the Kilkenny People August 18th to notify the wider community of the upcoming PIE.

Similarly, on April 12th, 2024, a letter was circulated to detailing the upcoming PIE being held in the Ballycallan Community Hall in Ballycallan on May 23rd, 2024. An advert was also placed in the Kilkenny People on May 10th to notify the wider community of the upcoming PIE. Unfortunately, following a sudden community bereavement, we decided to postpone the PIE from May 23rd to May 28th, as this was short notice the community were invited to spread the word locally and notices were erected outside the Ballycallan Community Hall in order to notify any parties that did not received the message.

2.1.2.2 PIE Details

- Ballycallan Community Hall, Ballycallan (24/08/2023) (approx. 270 attendees)
- Ballycallan Community Hall, Ballycallan (28/05/2024) (approx. 20 attendees)

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

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

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

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

2.1.2.3 PIE Feedback

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

1. *Proximity of houses;*
2. *Community Gain Scheme;*
3. *Number of turbines;*
4. *Flooding;*
5. *Noise and Vibration;*

6. *Height of turbines;*
7. *Visual Impact;*
8. *Impact on Biodiversity.*
9. *Hydrological Impacts;*
10. *Oil Bunding;*
11. *Turbine Foundations;*
12. *Shadow flicker;*
13. *Impact on Group Water Schemes;*
14. *Planning process.*

Following the Public Information Exhibitions, the CLO followed up with any queries raised at the events. Feedback received at and since the public information evenings has been noted by the CLO and relayed to the design team. The benefit of these PIEs is shown by the removal of T08 following feedback from the community. This feedback has continued to inform all refinements to the project design and all concerns have been fully addressed in the EIAR and NIS that accompany this planning application.

2.2 Dedicated Contact Details

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

2.3 Project Website

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

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

2.4 Community Liaison Officer

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

3. ENDURING ECONOMIC BENEFIT

3.1 Economic Benefits – Community Benefit Fund

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

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

3.2 Short Term Economic Benefits

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

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

3.3 Long Term Economic Benefits

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

3.3.1 Employment

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

3.3.2 Rates

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

3.3.3 Community Benefit Fund

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

Should the Proposed Project be developed under the current RESS T&C's, as a 49MW development it would attract a community contribution in the region of almost €275,000/year for the local

community (estimated based on an average energy yield). The value of this fund would be directly proportional to the electricity generated by the wind farm. Under the current RESS T&Cs, the following is the recommended breakdown of the fund:

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

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

Should the Proposed Project not be developed under RESS, the Applicant is committing that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the project will contribute €1 into a community fund for the entire operational life of the Proposed Project. This would equate to an estimated annual fund of approximately €137,000 (using the same formula as above), which across the 35-year operational lifespan would result in funding in the order of €4.8 million to the local community which is a substantial contribution.

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

3.3.3.1 Community Gain Examples

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

4. CONCLUSION

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

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

APPENDIX 2.1.1

NOVEMBER 2022 - INFORMATION

16th November 2022

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear XXX,

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

I am writing as a representative of Enerco Energy, an Irish-owned renewable energy developer, based in Lissarda, near Macroom Co. Cork. We are exploring the potential of a renewable energy development site in the area of Briskalagh and adjacent townlands. The site has been identified as being a potentially suitable location for a development of approximately 8 no. wind turbines.

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

Along with this letter, you will also find a map and company brochure enclosed. The map illustrates the area which has been identified as being potentially suitable for turbine development, while the brochure provides an overview on Enerco Energy, with some general information about wind energy. This information and all further updates will also be publicy available on a dedicated project website, www.briskalaghinfo.com.

Thank you for taking the time to review this information and should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 086-0841815, by email at clo@briskalaghinfo.com, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

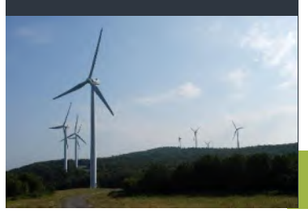
Enerco Energy Ltd
clo@briskalaghinfo.com
086-0841815

Decommissioning

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

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

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



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. 1. Why are the turbines so big?

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

Q. 2. Are wind turbines noisy?

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

Q. 3. What is shadow flicker?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Q. 7. Who can I contact?

A. Enerco Offices: +353 (0) 217336034

James Crowley Mob: +353 (0) 86 0841815 clo@briskalaghinfo.com

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

Renewable Energy Project
Wind Information Leaflet

Contents

Who We Are Enerco Energy

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

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

Enerco Energy

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

Climate Action Plan 2021

Introduction

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

Current situation

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

Targets for 2030 and beyond

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

Road map to achieve Targets

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

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

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

Wind in Ireland

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

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

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

Source: www.eirgridgroup.com

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

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

Solar in Ireland

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

What is an EIAR?

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

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

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

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

Knocknagoum Wind Farm 44.5MW

Wind Resource in Ireland

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

How Wind Turbines Work

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

Environmental Benefits

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

Knocknagoum Wind Farm

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

Economic Benefits

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

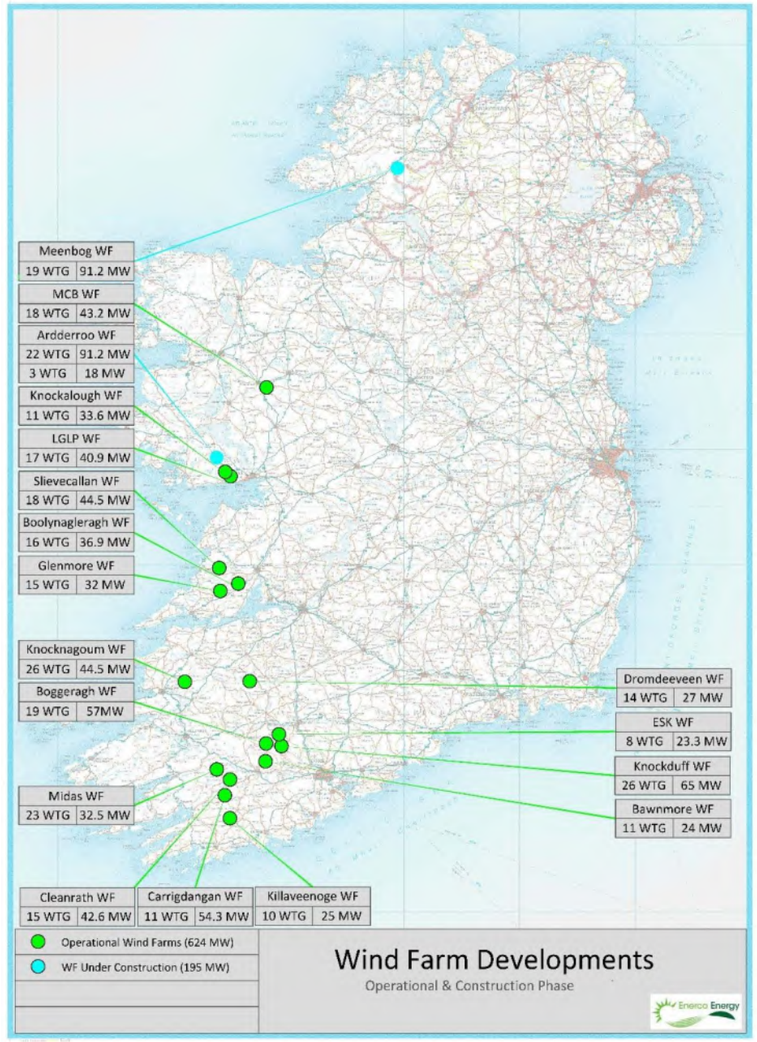
- Local contractors
- Construction plant suppliers
- Machinery operators
- Skilled labourers
- Construction materials suppliers
- Transport companies.

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

Security of Energy Supply

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

LGLP Wind Farm 40.9MW



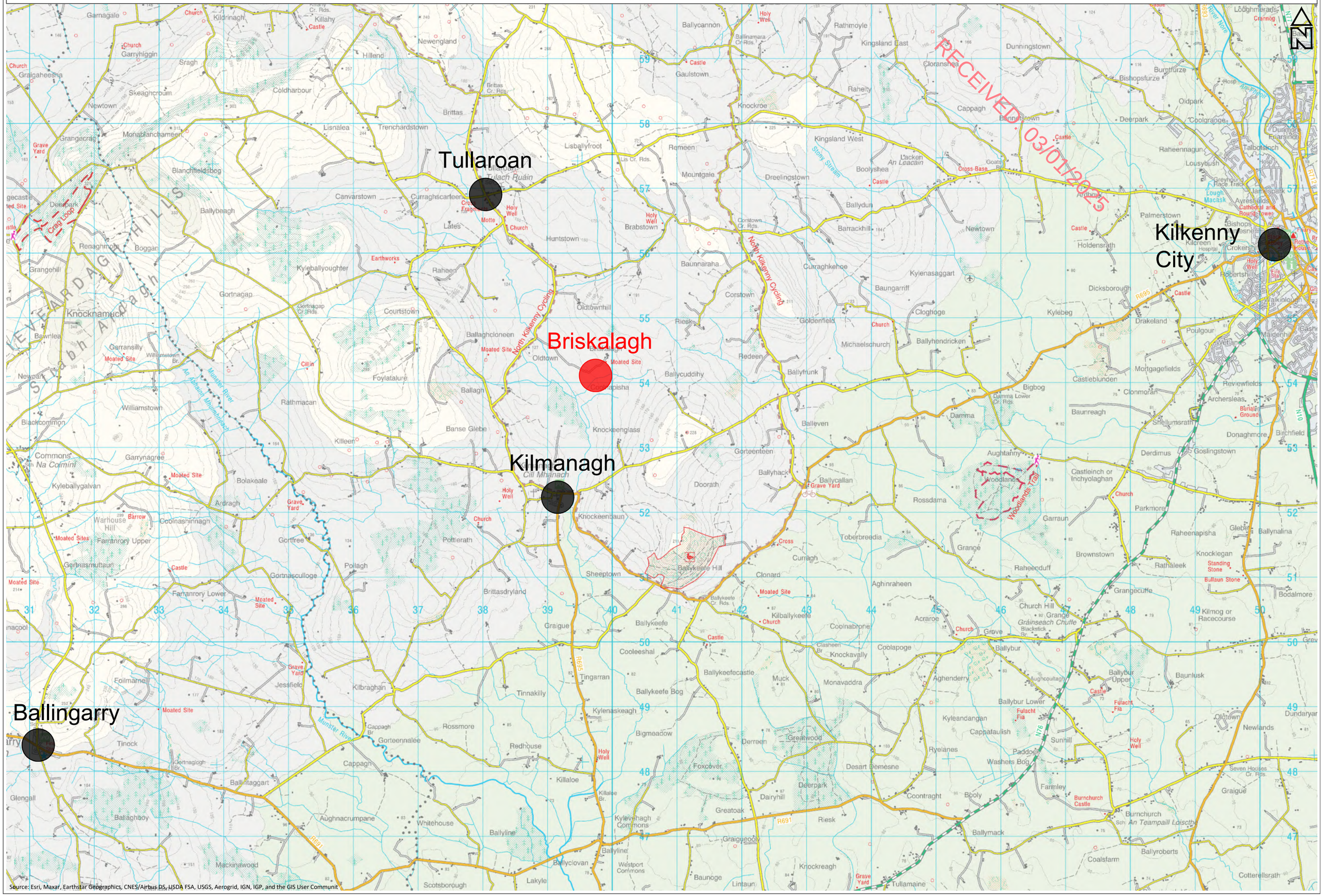
Benefits of Wind Turbines

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

Community Involvement

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

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Site Location - 15/11/2022



Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map Overview - OSI - 15/11/2022

Zone 1

Zone 2

RECEIVED: 03/01/2025

North Kilkenny Cycling

Briskalagh Moated Site

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

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA FSA, USGS, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map Overview - Aerial Imagery - 15/11/2022

Zone 1

RECEIVED: 03/01/2025

N

Zone 2

Legend:

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

Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA FSA, USGS, Aerogrid, IGN, IGP, and the GIS User Community

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map - Zone 1 - 15/11/2022

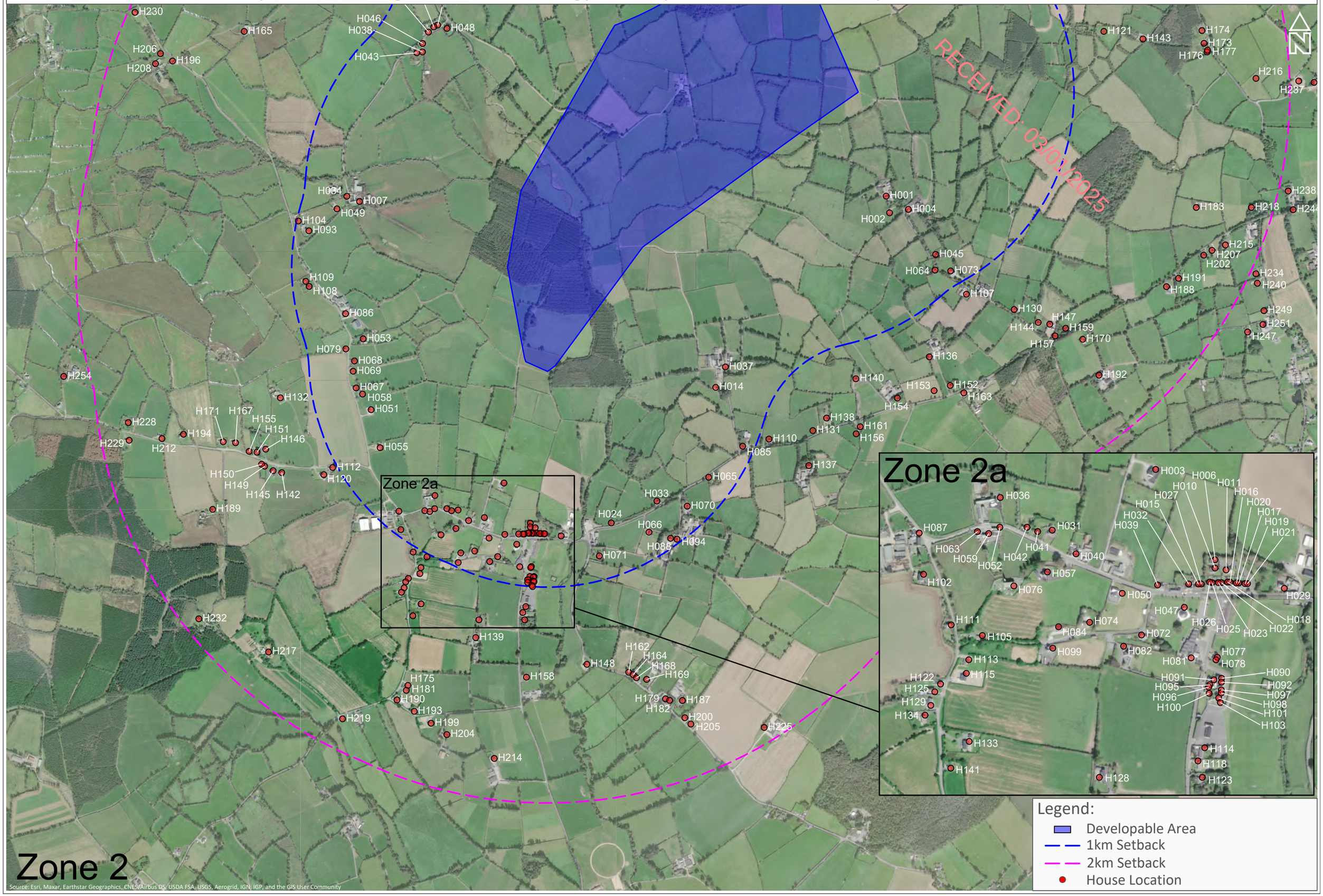
Zone 1

H241 H233 H242 H211 H203 H195 H198 H180 H186 H160 H201 H226 H236 H250 H243 H227 H223 H231 H221 H224 H235 H239 H166 H222 H210 H197 H185 H184 H172 H121 H143 H174 H173 H177 H176 H216 H237 H246 H238 H183 H218 H244 H215 H207 H202 H234 H240 H191 H188 H012 H008 H035 H044 H013 H253 H252 H248 H245 H213 H178 H117 H116 H119 H080 H062 H083 H030 H005 H089 H135 H126 H106 H127 H124 H220 H209 H009 H075 H230 H165 H206 H208 H196 H056 H061 H060 H046 H038 H048 H043 H034 H007 H049 H104 H093 H109 H108 H086 H053 H079 H068 H069 H067 H254 H001 H004 H002 H045 H064 H073 H107 H130 H144 H147 H157 H136 H037 H014 H140 H153 H152 H163

Legend:

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

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Discussion Map - Zone 2 - 15/11/2022



APPENDIX 2.1.2

MAY 2023 - INFORMATION

12th May 2023

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear XXX,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I am writing to you to provide an update on the proposed Briskalagh renewable energy development.

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

Various surveys continue to be gathered on-site including ornithological, ecological, meteorological, and hydrological, and so you may have noticed some activity in the area. These surveys and others will continue until MKO are confident that sufficient information has been collected to prepare a comprehensive Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) that will accompany the planning application.

Please find enclosed a copy of some Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with answers provided, I hope this will help you to better understand the proposed development.

I will continue to update the community as more information becomes available and will also be updating the project website, www.briskalaghinfo.com, with the same information.

As always should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 086-0841815, by email at clo@briskalaghinfo.com, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd
clo@briskalaghinfo.com
086-0841815

Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - FAQs

1. Who is the company behind this proposal?

Enerco Energy Limited is an Irish-owned company based in Lissarda, near Macroom in County Cork. This company has extensive experience in the design, construction, and operation of renewable energy developments throughout Ireland. It is responsible for wind and solar projects currently operating in Counties Kerry, Cork, Limerick, Clare, Galway, and Mayo. For more information about Enerco Energy Limited visit www.enercoenergy.ie.

2. Why are wind farms needed?

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (amendment) Act 2021 commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net-zero emissions no later than 2050, and a cut of 51% by 2030, transitioning Ireland to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy.

The Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP) identified the need to increase the share of electricity demand generated from renewable sources by up to 80% where achievable and cost effective, without compromising security of electricity supply, identifying a need for 9 GW (gigawatt) of onshore wind generation in order for Ireland to meet its 2030 targets.

3. How many wind turbines are proposed for the project?

There is a maximum of 8 no. wind turbines being assessed at the site of the proposed development.

4. How close will the nearest turbine be to a house?

It is intended to achieve a minimum setback distance of 4 times turbine ground to blade tip height, 740m (185m x 4), to all third-party properties. However, this setback distance can be reduced for involved properties, subject to a minimum setback distance of 500m from any relevant property.

5. Why are the wind turbines so big?

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

6. Are wind turbines noisy?

Wind turbines emit noise. However, noise levels experienced due to a noise source, reduce with distance from the source. Therefore, the total noise level at a noise-sensitive location due to a wind turbine development depends on the distance from that location to each of the turbines, and the noise emissions from the turbines. A detailed noise assessment for the proposed development will be prepared and presented in the planning application; it will follow the best-practice guidelines for the assessment of noise from wind farms affecting noise-sensitive locations, i.e. residential houses.

7. What is shadow flicker?

Shadow flicker is the effect of the sun (low on the horizon) shining through the rotating blades of a wind turbine, casting a moving shadow in a room in a nearby property. It will be perceived as a "flicker" due to the rotating blades repeatedly casting the shadow. This effect lasts only for a short period of time until the sun passes beyond the turbines. A shadow flicker study will be included as part of the planning application documentation and that will provide predicted shadow flicker levels at neighbouring properties together with proposals to mitigate shadow flicker effect where necessary.

8. When will a public information exhibition be held?

Once the site surveys are complete, and the relevant data compiled, a public information exhibition will be held. A letter with the details regarding the place and time of such exhibition will be furnished to all households. An advert will also be published in the local newspaper to inform the wider community.

9. When will the planning application be submitted?

Under section 37 of the Planning & Developments Act 2000, as amended, a wind energy development which has potential to generate greater than 50MW (megawatt) of electricity, it will be considered to be a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). A query will be lodged with An Bord Pleanála in this regard. However, it is envisaged that the proposed development will constitute SID and that a planning application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in Q1 of 2024.

10. What are the benefits of the project to the community?

At this stage of the proposed development, it is not possible to determine the exact community benefit. However, the below example outlines what the potential benefit could be under the current Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) T&Cs for an output of 50MW. The RESS contribution for wind energy is currently set at €2/MWh (megawatt hour).

A 50MW development developed under RESS, would attract a community contribution of approximately €300,000 per annum. The value of this fund would be directly proportional to the electricity generated by the development. Under the current RESS T&C's, this fund is to be divided as follows:

- **Direct payments:** A minimum €1,000 payment per annum for houses within 1km of the development.
- **Energy Efficiency:** A maximum of €120,000 per annum is available for the development of energy initiatives to benefit people living in the local area (i.e., PV panels, solar thermal panels etc.)
- **Support for local groups:** A maximum of €120,000 per annum is available for local groups, clubs and not for profit organisations that provide services in the local area. This includes but is not limited to the following services: services for the elderly, local community buildings, the development of sporting facilities and community amenities such as all-weather playing pitches, walkways, playgrounds.
- **Administration costs:** A maximum of 10% of this fund is available for the administration and governance costs of the fund.

The Community Benefit Fund belongs to the local community. The purpose of the fund is to bring about significant positive change to the local area. To make this happen, the first task is to form a benefit fund development working group which includes representatives from neighbours to the development and the local community. This group will then work on designing the governance and structure of a community entity that would administer the Community Benefit Fund. Further details of the RESS community benefit fund structure and a similar example can be found in the following link: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/5f12f-community-projects-and-benefit-funds-ress/

11. If the planning application is successful, when will works begin?

Typically, it can take one to two years to get a consented project to construction stage. The expected timeline for construction of the proposed development is 12 -18 months.

12. What are the Environmental Benefits?

The proposed development is expected to generate approximately 54 MW of renewable, carbon-neutral electricity, which is enough to supply over 39,000 homes per annum, based on average household use (Source: CRU Typical Consumption Figure 2017). Neither wind turbines, nor underground cables, emit toxic substances or air pollutants, unlike coal or gas power stations. In addition to a reduced dependence on oil and other imported fuels, the generation of electricity from the proposed development will displace approximately 72,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum from the largely carbon-based traditional energy mix.

13. What is the orientation of the turbines?

The turbines will face into the wind and therefore their orientation will vary depending on wind direction. All the turbines will be designed to rotate in the same direction.

APPENDIX 2.1.3

AUGUST 2023 - INFORMATION

11th August 2023

RE: Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

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

The site surveys continue to be carried out gathering all required data for the compilation of the necessary documentation that will accompany the planning application. In the meantime, we are preparing to hold a public information exhibition to provide an opportunity for public viewing of the information available to date.

The applicant for the planning application will be Briskalagh Ltd., which is an associate company of Enerco Energy Ltd., exclusively allocated to the Briskalagh project. This is a standard procedure for all projects of this nature, and Enerco will continue to manage the proposed development.

The public information exhibition will be hosted in the Ballycallan Community Hall, on Thursday 24th of August from 4:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Information about the proposed development will be on display and members of the project team along with myself will be present to answer any queries. See overleaf a copy of the advertisement which will appear in the next edition of the Kilkenny People to inform the wider community of this event.

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

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and as always if you have any queries regarding the proposed development, please feel free to contact me by email at clo@briskalaghinfo.com, by phone 086-0841815, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Briskalagh Ltd. | clo@briskalaghinfo.com | 086-0841815

Call: 056 77 21015

Classifieds

Kilkenny People

SEND US YOUR STORIES

Have you got a story that you'd like to share with us?

✉ Email us at news@kilkennypeople.ie

Coláiste Mhuire

Coláiste Mhuire, Johnstown, Co. Kilkenny has the following items for sale:

Lot 1. Boxford 280 manual engineering student lathe (Reserved Price)
Lot 2. Record TS300 Circular Woodwork Table Saw (Reserved Price)
Lot 3. Technoman FS30 elite planer thicknesser (Reserved Price)
Lot 4. Startrite STM25 mortice machine (Reserved Price)
Lot 5. Record DP58P Pedestal drill
Lot 6. Record RPD100P Pedestal drill
Lot 7. Record CL3 woodwork lathe on stand
Lot 8. 1 number Record Woodwork lathes table mounted.
Lot 9. 1 number Record Woodwork lathes table mounted.
Lot 10. 1 number Record Woodwork lathes table mounted.
Terms and Conditions apply.

Viewing of items by appointment only, email
info@coláistemhuirekk.ie
or call **0568831135**.

Offers should be made in writing and submitted to:
Tríona Delaney, Corporate Service, Seville Lodge, Callan Road, Kilkenny by 5pm Friday 25th August 2023. All envelopes are to be sealed and marked "private and confidential" – "Colaiste Mhuire".

Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

RECEIVED: 08/04/2025

Briskalagh Ltd. are holding an information exhibition regarding a proposed renewable energy development, comprising up to 8 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure, in the townlands of Briskalagh, Coolnapisha, Ballycuddihy, Oldtown, Kilmanagh, Oldtown Hill, Co. Kilkenny, with underground grid connection cabling following the public road network, connecting to the existing Ballyragget Substation. This exhibition will be held in the Ballycallan Community Hall, Ballycallan, as follows.

Ballycallan Community Hall,
Ballycallan,
Co. Kilkenny.
Thursday 24th August
4.00pm – 8.30pm

The exhibition is open to all interested parties and information in relation to the proposal will be on display with project representatives in attendance to answer any questions. For those that cannot attend, all information on display at the exhibition will also be available on the project website, www.briskalaghinfo.com. If anyone cannot access the website, please contact the project Community Liaison Officer (CLO), James Crowley, to arrange an alternative means of sharing the information.
E-mail: clo@briskalaghinfo.com or Phone: 086-0841815

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DRAW 11TH AUG 2023

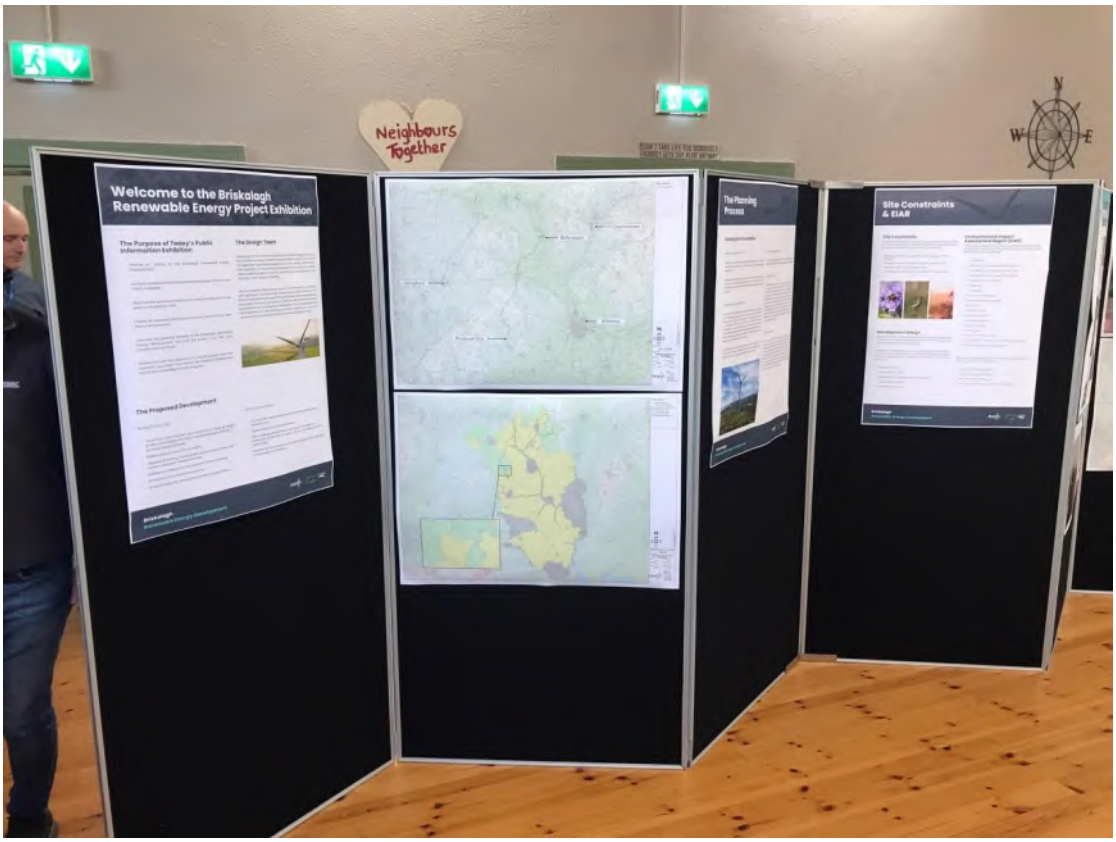
1st	Betty O'Connor	€779	Walsh's Toyota
2nd	Henry Giles	€80	Jim Cashin
3rd	Liz Murray	€50	Home Rule Club

Many thanks for your generous support from our many VOLUNTEERS & Staff who help to keep our Community Radio Kilkenny City going.

Go neiri an bóthar libh go léir

Licence Granted by District Court No. 22

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITION – 24/08/2023



APPENDIX 2.1.4

SEPTEMBER 2023 - INFORMATION

27th September 2023

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear XXX,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Following the Public Information Exhibition (PIE) in August, the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document on the Project Website has been updated to address queries raised, at and subsequent to the PIE. Please find enclosed copy of the updated FAQ's for your convenience, this document is also available on the Project Website.

I will update you again as more information becomes available, and as always, any new information shared with you will also be presented for public viewing on the project website, www.briskalaghinfo.com.

Should you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact me by phone at 086-0841815, by email at clo@briskalaghinfo.com, or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd
clo@briskalaghinfo.com
086-0841815

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3. How many wind turbines are proposed for the project?

There is a maximum of 8 no. wind turbines being assessed at the site of the proposed development.

4. How close will the nearest turbine be to a house?

It is intended to achieve a minimum setback distance of 4 times turbine ground to blade tip height, 740m (185m x 4), to all third-party properties. However, this setback distance can be reduced for involved properties, subject to a minimum setback distance of 500m from any relevant property.

5. Why are the wind turbines so big?

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

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Wind turbines emit noise. However, noise levels experienced due to a noise source, reduce with distance from the source. Therefore, the total noise level at a noise-sensitive location due to a wind turbine development depends on the distance from that location to each of the turbines, and the noise emissions from the turbines. A detailed noise assessment for the proposed development will be prepared and presented in the planning application; it will follow the best-practice guidelines for the assessment of noise from wind farms affecting noise-sensitive locations, i.e. residential houses.

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11. If the planning application is successful, when will works begin?

Typically, it can take one to two years to get a consented project to construction stage. The expected timeline for construction of the proposed development is 12 -18 months.

12. What are the Environmental Benefits?

The proposed development is expected to generate approximately 54 MW of renewable, carbon-neutral electricity, which is enough to supply over 39,000 homes per annum, based on average household use (Source: CRU Typical Consumption Figure 2017). Neither wind turbines, nor underground cables, emit toxic substances or air pollutants, unlike coal or gas power stations. In addition to a reduced dependence on oil and other imported fuels, the generation of electricity from the proposed development will displace approximately 72,000 tonnes of carbon emissions per annum from the largely carbon-based traditional energy mix.

13. What is the orientation of the turbines?

The turbines will face into the wind and therefore their orientation will vary depending on wind direction. All the turbines will be designed to rotate in the same direction.

14. Is there an example of an existing project developed under RESS?

The majority of the Enerco portfolio was developed prior to RESS. However, there is a small wind farm which was developed under RESS and in the first year it generated a fund of €44,600 for the local community. A redacted copy of the fund distribution page from the RESS Community Fund report is attached providing the fund breakdown for that year.

15. What is the community benefit if the project is not developed under RESS?

Should the project fail to be developed under RESS, the company commits to paying €1/MWh for the lifetime of the development. Based on the example provided in question 10, this €1/MWh would equate to approximately €150,000 per annum.

16. What impact will the wind farm have on the local biodiversity?

Impact assessments will be undertaken by competent experts in relation to the biodiversity present on and around the site, including individual assessments of the impacts on birds, bats, and other flora and fauna, that may arise as a result of the proposed development. Impact assessments will include initial desktop studies and onsite surveys. The results of these surveys will inform the requirement for any mitigation measures to be implemented to ensure potential negative effects on biodiversity are avoided.

17. Why was this site selected?

This proposed wind farm site at Briskalagh was identified as part of a nationwide wind farm site screening exercise. A robust analysis of wind energy constraints in Co. Kilkenny indicated that this site does have development potential. In addition, the proposed turbines are located within or adjacent to an area designated as 'Acceptable in Principle (AIP)' for wind energy development in The Wind Energy Development Strategy (Wind Strategy). Any turbines not located within an AIP area will be located within an area designated as 'Open To Consideration (OTC)' in the Wind Strategy. The Wind Strategy forms Appendix K of the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-2027 (KCDP). A primary aim of the Wind Strategy is to identify suitable areas for wind energy development based on a number of factors including wind potential, landscape sensitivity, accessibility to electricity transmission, strategy areas of adjoining counties and location of existing wind farms.

18. Will the development affect the quality of water or cause a risk of flooding?

Impact assessments will be undertaken by competent experts in relation to water quality and flood risk. A flood risk assessment of the site is being undertaken as part of the iterative design process of the proposed development and an assessment of the distribution and movement of surface and ground water will also be undertaken. The results of these surveys will inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report, and best practice mitigation measures will be prescribed as part of the design and construction of the proposed development to ensure that any negative effects are avoided in relation to flood risk and water quality.

19. Have you considered the impact the wind farm will have on the landscape?

The Landscape Character Assessment for County Kilkenny identified four landscape character types, which are subdivided into 14 landscape character areas, with some areas identified as being of special landscape character value, and also identified features and areas of high landscape sensitivity, in particular Brandon Hill Uplands, and the River Valley Areas of the Rivers Nore, Barrow and Suir have been identified as being highly scenic and visually pleasing, and as having significant visual amenity value and tourism potential within the county. The proposed development is not located within any of these areas and is therefore aligned with the landscape policy of the Kilkenny County Development Plan 2021-2027. A comprehensive landscape and visual impact assessment, including an assessment of effects on residential visual amenity will be included within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

20. Will the wind farm negatively impact the health & well-being of locals?

There is currently no approved published scientific evidence to link wind turbines with adverse health effects. There is no evidence to demonstrate any significant health effects in humans arising from noise at the levels of that generated by wind turbines. In addition, in terms of impacts on human health, including from noise and shadow flicker, these are all subject to relevant Irish guidance. The Environmental Impact Assessment Report will have a dedicated chapter addressing potential effects on Population and Human Health.

21. Will the price of my property decline?

The largest and most recent studies from the United States and Scotland on the impact of wind farms on property values (there is an absence of any Irish studies on the effect of wind farms on property values) have all concluded that no evidence is found that home prices surrounding wind facilities are consistently, measurably, and significantly affected by either the view of wind facilities or the distance of the home to those facilities. The scientific literature on the topic has found that the property market drives local house prices, not the presence or absence of wind farms. Although there have been no empirical studies carried out in Ireland on the impacts of wind farms on property prices, the scientific literature demonstrates that at an international level, wind farms have not impacted property values in the local areas. It is a reasonable assumption based on the available international literature, that the provision of a wind farm at the proposed location would not impact on the property values in the area.

22. How will local traffic be affected during the construction phase?

While the traffic will increase during the construction phase, this will only be for a short period of time. A Traffic Management Plan will be prepared to reduce any potential impacts as much as possible.

23. Who is responsible for taking down the turbines?

Once the turbines have reached the end of their lifecycle, the owner of the wind farm will be responsible for the full decommissioning of the site. A planning condition is typically applied to the grant of permission, requiring security to be put in place with the Local Authority to ensure that the wind farm is decommissioned to the satisfaction of the Local Authority.

24. Where will the substation be located?

An appropriate substation location for the proposed development is still being assessed. Once a suitable location is identified, the information regarding the proposed substation will be included in the next community information update.

25. How accurate are the photomontages?

The production of photomontages is an extremely precise exercise which requires specialist equipment and pinpoint accuracy. The photomontages developed for the PIE were prepared by an experienced landscape team within MKO using industry standard software. MKO are confident that the illustrations are accurate. As the project progresses additional photomontages will be prepared from a variety of locations in the surrounding area, some of these will be selected from the feedback received by the local community.

26. What size is a turbine foundation?

Typically, a turbine of the proposed scale would require a reinforced concrete foundation of 3-3.5m deep and c.25m in diameter. This is subject to detailed engineering design following advanced geotechnical surveys. Please refer to 'Typical Wind Turbine Foundation Details' document on the project website where a cross-section drawing, and photographs are provided of a typical turbine foundation.

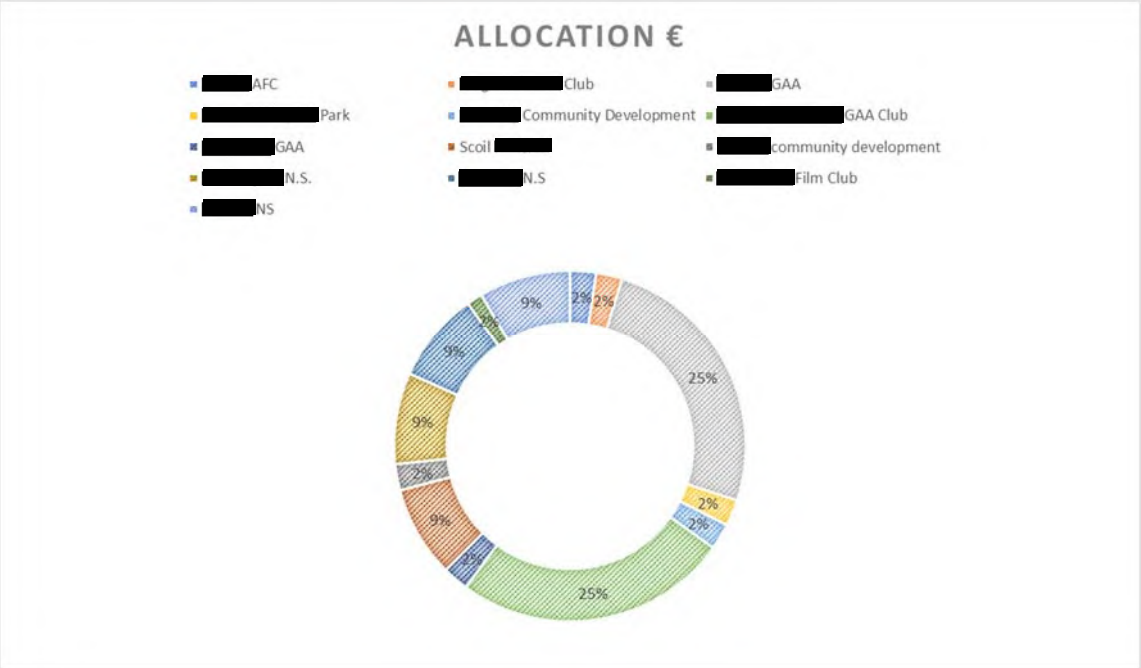
27. What are the next steps for the project?

Surveys and assessments are currently ongoing for the project, led by MKO. As and when more information becomes available, we will be in touch with the community to present the up to date information, any new information will also be available for public viewing on the project website (www.briskalaghinfo.com).

FUNDING DECISIONS

As this is the first year that [redacted] Community funding has been available it was decided by the committee that it would be beneficial to the community to award some funding to all applicants to ensure a more diverse benefit to the community while being mindful of the RESS T&C and to ensure that we are following the allocation process where there is a strong focus on Education and climate action.

The total value of the fund available is €41,600 and the following allocation to each group was decided on. As [redacted] GAA Club and [redacted] GAA Club had the most comprehensive applications they were allocated a significant portion of the funding but there was also a sum provided to each applicant so that a more diverse benefit to the community is achieved for year 1.



Typical Wind Turbine Foundation Details

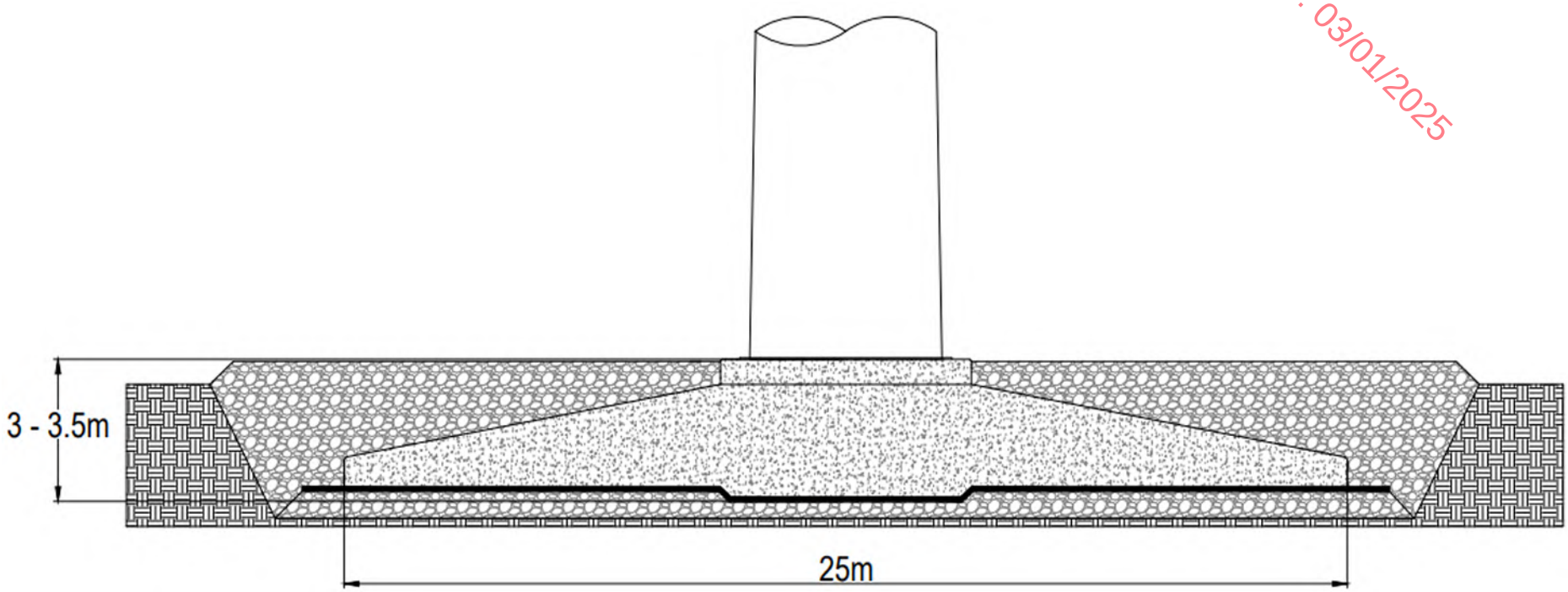


Figure 1.1 Typical turbine foundation cross-section.

Typical Wind Turbine Foundation Details

Figure 1.2 Image of a typical turbine foundation being constructed.

Figure 1.3 Image of a typical turbine tower being erected onto a foundation.

APPENDIX 2.1.5

APRIL 2024 - INFORMATION

12th April 2024

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wish to update you on the proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development. MKO, the project environmental consultants, have almost completed the various surveys and assessments required to prepare a planning application for the proposed Briskalagh development. The layout displayed during the last Public Information Exhibition (PIE) has been revised incorporating the results of the site surveys to date. Please find enclosed maps for your information, Figure A and the Draft Layout, your house, HXXX, is marked for convenience.

As seen on the enclosed map, a new entrance has been added to the south of the site. This entrance will be solely used for abnormally sized loads, such as turbine components which will be delivered at nighttime under Garda escort, and concrete deliveries during the 8 days that turbine foundations are poured. All other construction traffic will access the site via a new proposed entrance to the north of the site. This northern access road will facilitate access to the proposed on-site borrow pit which will generate the majority of the stone to be used for the construction of the roads and hardstands on site.

As MKO continue to prepare all necessary information needed to lodge a planning application, we will continue to update you with new information as it becomes available. Currently MKO anticipate that a planning application for the proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy development will be lodged in the summer of this year.

As the proposal is likely to have a generating capacity in excess of 50 Mega Watts (MW), it was necessary to query with An Bord Pleanála whether the development constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). MKO submitted this query in December 2023, and we await the Board's determination (Case Ref: 318714). As was described at the PIE, should the Board determine that the proposal constitutes SID, the application will be submitted directly to An Board Pleanála, otherwise it will be submitted to Kilkenny county council.

We are grateful for the feedback received from the community following the first PIE held in August 2023. We intend to hold another PIE on Thursday the 23rd of May 2024 from 4.00pm to 8.30pm, in Ballycallan community hall. Initially we were seeking to identify a larger venue to cater for a strong attendance of the PIE, similar to the first event in August last year, whilst we were delighted with the level of interest shown in the proposal, we felt that the room in Ballycallan Hall got a little congested at times. However, following discussions locally, there is a strong preference to keep the PIE at a venue within the community and therefore Ballycallan Hall remains to be the best option to achieve that request.

Enerco Energy Limited, Lissarda Business Park, Lissarda, Co Cork, Ireland
Tel: +353 (0) 21-7336034 Email: clo@briskalaghinfo.com Reg. No. 357045

The format of the PIE will be the same as before with the most up-to-date project information on display and members of the project team from Enerco and MKO present to answer any queries you may have relating to the proposal.

Along with the updated layout map you will also find enclosed an advert which will appear in the 'Kilkenny People' newspaper 2 weeks prior to the PIE, this letter and the notice will also appear on the dedicated project website.

All information made available on the day will be uploaded to the project website prior to the PIE, www.briskalaghinfo.com. I can prepare an information pack for anyone who is unable to attend the PIE and that may not have access to the website.

As always, should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, by phone, email or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley | Enerco Energy Ltd | clo@briskalaghinfo.com | 086-0841815

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Draft Layout - 12/04/2024

Zone 1

RECEIVED: 03/01/2025

N

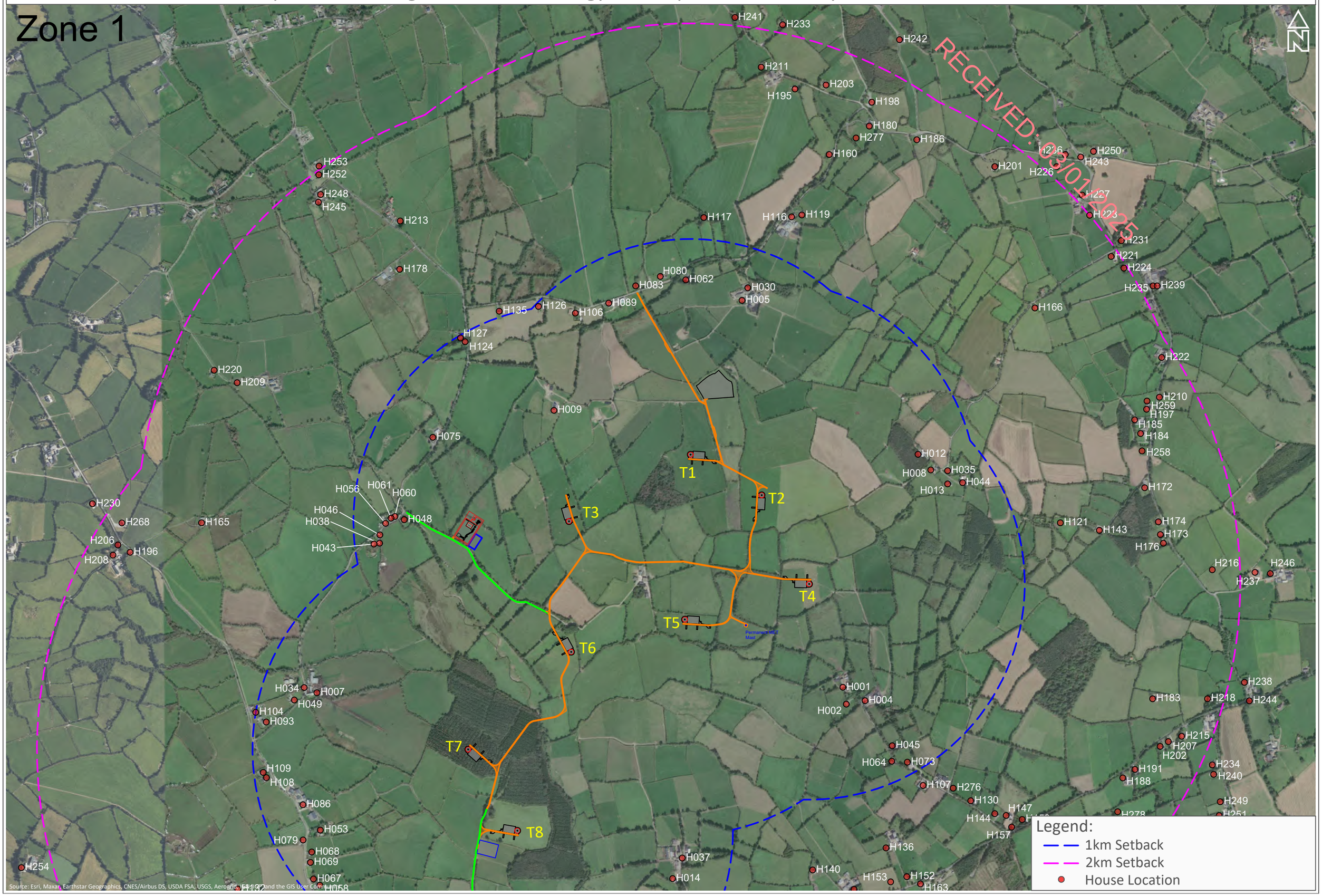
T1
T2
T3
T4
T5
T6
T7
T8

Zone 2

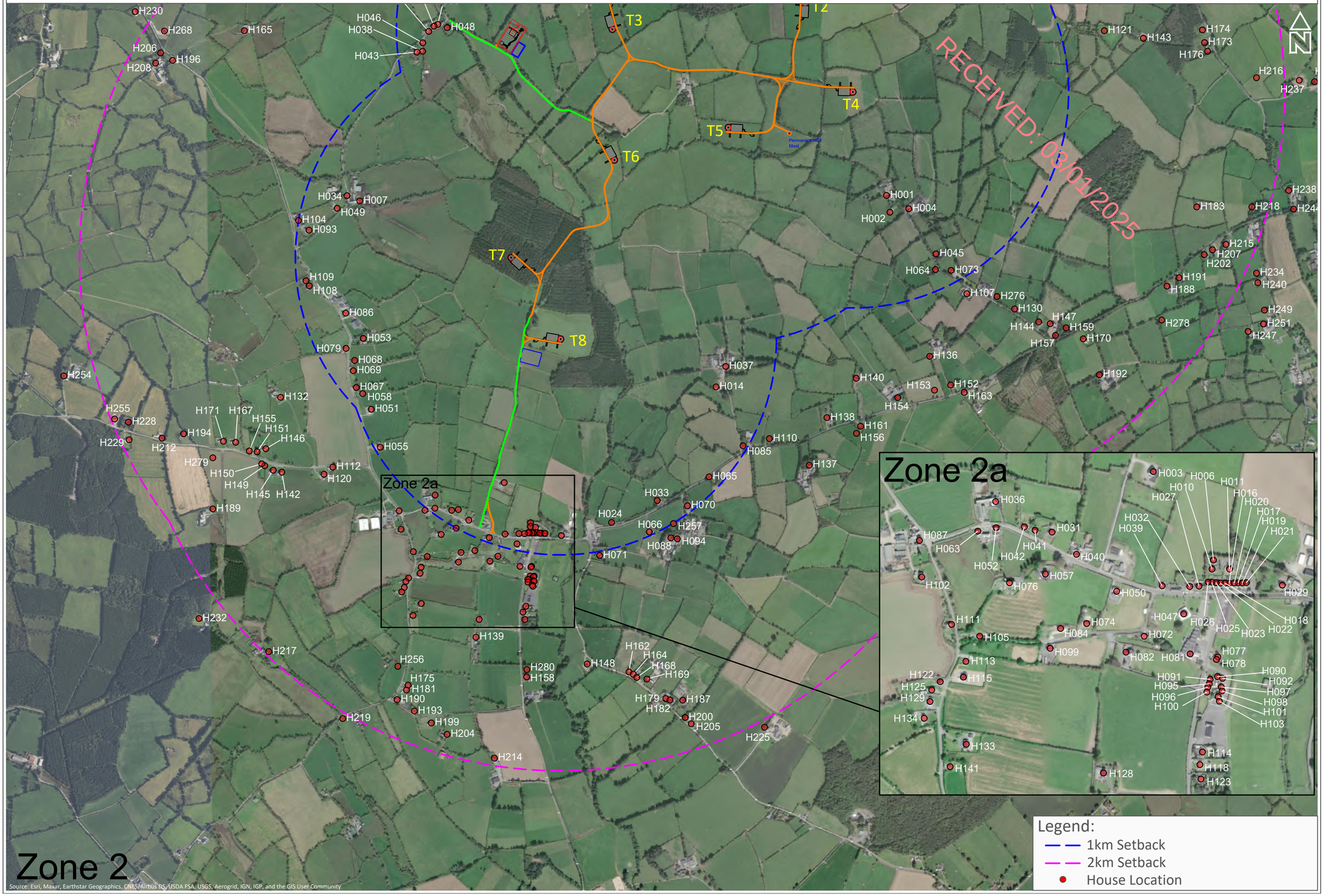
Legend:
- 1km Setback
- 2km Setback
- House Location

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Draft Layout - Zone 1 - 12/04/2024

Zone 1



Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Draft Layout - Zone 2 - 12/04/2024



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Map Legend

- Proposed Turbines
- Existing Roads to be Upgraded
- Proposed New Roads
- Borrow Pit
- Hardstands
- Met Mast
- 110kV Substation
- Temporary Construction Compound

Drawing No.

Figure A

Drawing Title

Proposed Project Layout

Project Title

Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

Scale	Project No.	Date	Drawn By	Checked By
1:12,500	230502	12.04.2024	JS	

Ground broken on Thomastown's new state-of-the-art, €4.6 million library

Sian Moloughney
sian.moloughney@kilkennypeople.ie

Longer opening hours, study spaces, opportunities for lifelong learning, as well as a vast choice of reading material are set to be features of a new multi-million euro library development in Thomastown.

Minister Heather Humphreys made the trip to Thomastown, last week, to officially turn the first sod in the much-anticipated development.

The development will be an investment of €4.66 million in the town's facilities.

Everyone in the community is set to benefit from the project as this new development is designed to be accessible, welcoming and inclusive of all.

A state-of-the-art development, the new Thomastown library will sit adjacent to the Community Centre, where the 'bones' of the building can already be seen, rising up behind the existing building.

It is expected that all construction and furnishing work will be completed and the door open to the public by the end of next year, 2025.

Local councillors joined Minister Humphreys for the special day.

The minister was in Kilkenny to, among other engagements, officially open the Mayfair Library in Kilkenny City. The modern design and build of the city premises is a taste of what can be expected in Thomastown.

The overall cost of the project is €4.665 million with grant funding being provided by the Rural Regeneration Development Fund of over €4 million and the balance funded by Kilkenny County Council.

Earlier this year an additional €1,450,823.70 was allocated to the project, following some redesign issues, bringing the total government funding approved for the library to €4,013,144.70.

With a floor area of 700sqm, over two floors, the new facility will more than six times the size of the current library.

This will allow the new library to provide a range of spaces and services including: dedicated spaces for adults, children and teenagers; ICT and digital spaces; study spaces; a multipurpose/ community area; My Open Library access; workshops, events and classes throughout the year for all ages; a wide range of cultural and creative programming; and sensory collections.

Cllr David Fitzgerald, Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council Lar Power, Cllr Joe Lyons, Deputy John McGuinness, Minister Heather Humphreys, Cathaoirleach of the County Council Cllr Michael Doyle, Chair of the Callan Thomastown Municipal District Cllr Deirdre Cullen, and Cllr Peter 'Chap' Cleere PICTURE: VICKY COMERFORD

Chair of the Callan Thomastown Municipal District, Cllr Deirdre Cullen, was delighted to greet the minister at the ground-breaking ceremony.

"We fought hard to secure the extra €1.4million to ensure the project would get started and not delayed," Cllr Cullen said of her district colleagues.

"The library certainly will be a game changer for Thomastown. Modern libraries are not just about books but have quiet spaces for study and creative spaces where communities can meet.

"I'm delighted the work has begun and am looking forward to seeing it through to fruition," Cllr Cullen said.

"The development of a new library in Thomastown allows for the continued expansion of library services in Kilkenny," said Josephine Coyne, County Librarian. "This investment will provide a modern, well designed, accessible and welcoming library to cater for the diverse needs of individuals, families and communities.

"Investing in our libraries is an investment in our communities and I look forward to the development of Thomastown library."

The project team for the library development is Brendan O'Brien and Seamus Foley, County Librarian is Josephine Coyne, the contractor is Tom O'Brien Ltd, and the design team is Reddy Architecture and Urbanism.

At a meeting of Callan Thomastown Municipal District councillors, last year, Ms Coyne said the new library will allow for a staffing increase from two to four people. Opening hours will be greatly extended, from 30 hours a week to 40 hours a week. This will be further extended by the My Open Library service.

Plans for the new library in Thomastown were first mooted in early 2021 and there was a warm welcome in May of that year when initial funding of €2.5 million was allocated to the project under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

However, as the project developed and the requirements of a modern library were built into the plan, additional funding was required.

This was granted earlier this year and the project moved swiftly forward, with contracts signed and construction crews moving on site.

Turning the ceremonial first sod for the new Thomastown library was Minister Heather Humphreys with Chief Executive of Kilkenny County Council Lar Power, Chair of the Callan Thomastown Municipal District Cllr Deirdre Cullen, Cathaoirleach of Kilkenny County Council Michael Doyle, and representatives from the project team Brendan O'Brien and Seamus Foley, contractor Tom O' Brien Ltd and Reddy Architecture and Urbanism
PICTURE: VICKY COMERFORD

Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITION POSTPONED

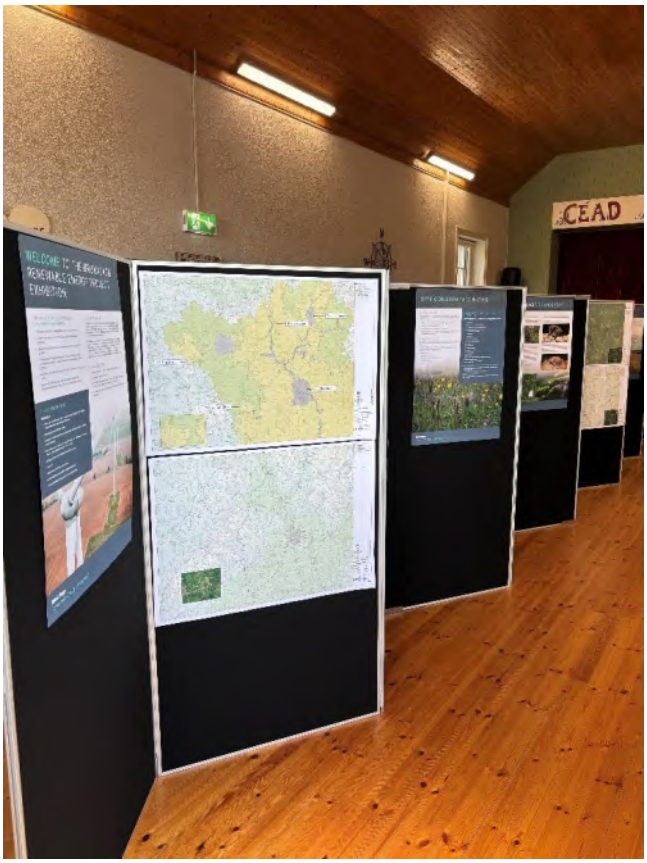
The Public Information Exhibition due to be held today has been postponed due to a community bereavement.

The Public Information Exhibition will now be held here on

Tuesday 28th May from 4.00 – 8.30pm.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

PUBLIC INFORMATION EXHIBITION – 28/05/2024



APPENDIX 2.1.6

JULY 2024 - INFORMATION

01st July 2024

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wish to update you on the proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development.

Following feedback from the community we have revised the proposed layout for the Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development. Please find enclosed map for your information, your house, HXXX, is marked for convenience.

As shown, we have removed T08 from the development, increasing the setback between the development and Kilmanagh far beyond the requirements laid out in the draft 2019 wind energy development guidelines. Removing T08 will decrease the generating potential of the development from 56MW to 49MW resulting in the development falling below the SID threshold of 50MW. This will mean that the planning application will be submitted to Kilkenny County Council.

Currently it is envisaged that the application will be submitted in August of this year with the enclosed layout being the final revision, when the application is ready to be submitted we will publish an advert in the local newspaper and erect notices around the site to notify the community.

As always, should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me, by phone, email or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley | Enerco Energy Ltd | clo@briskalaghinfo.com | 086-0841815

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Planning Layout - 01/07/2024

Zone 1

RECEIVED: 03/01/2025

N

T1
T2
T3
T4
T5
T6
T7
Permanent MET Mast

Zone 2

Legend:
- 1km Setback
- 2km Setback
- House Location

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Planning Layout - Zone 1 - 01/07/2024

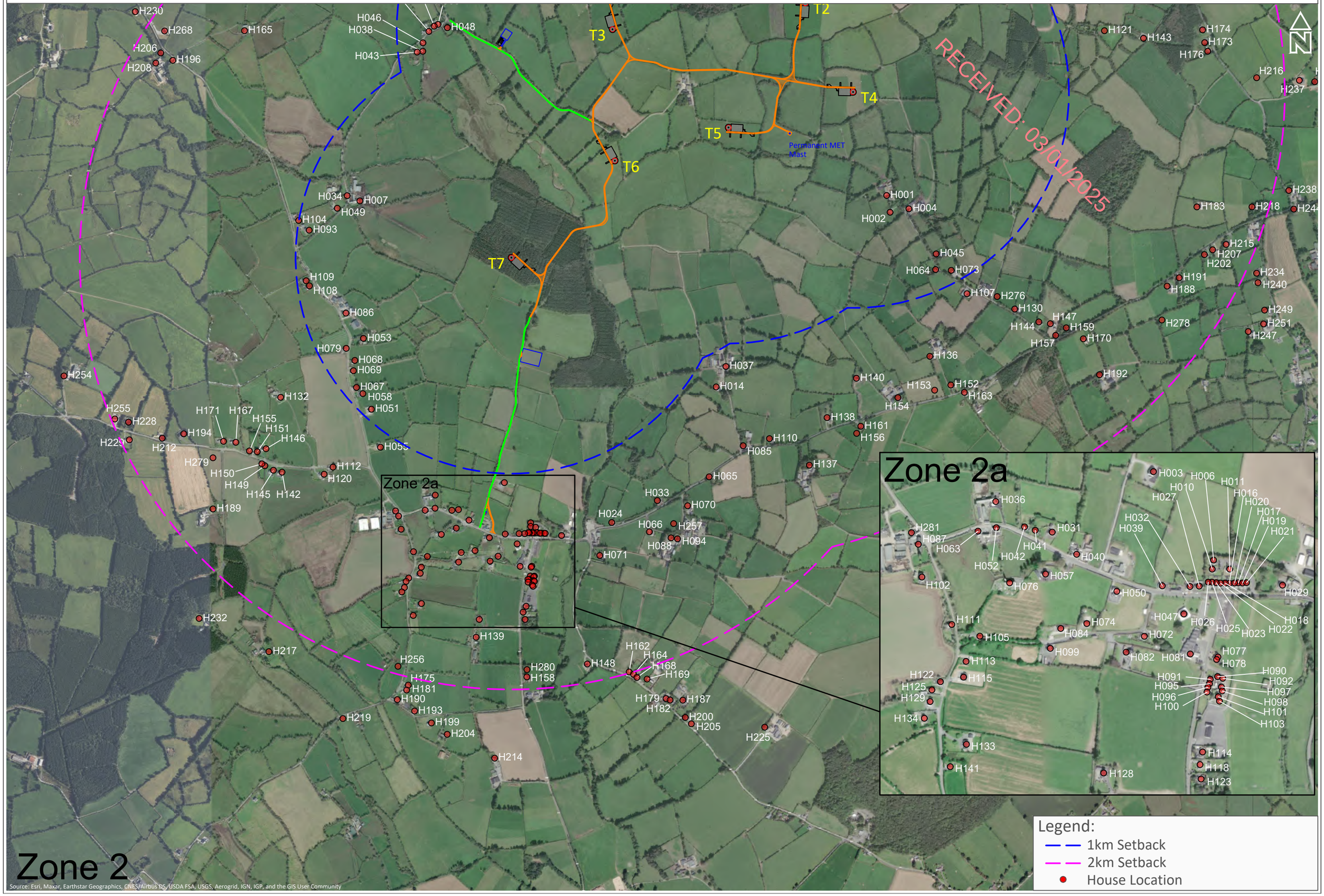
Zone 1

RECEIVED: 03/01/2025

H241 H233 H242 H211 H203 H195 H198 H180 H277 H186 H160 H236 H250 H243 H201 H226 H227 H223 H253 H252 H248 H245 H213 H117 H116 H119 H231 H221 H224 H239 H235 H178 H080 H062 H083 H030 H005 H089 H135 H126 H106 H166 H127 H124 H222 H220 H209 H210 H259 H197 H185 H184 H258 H009 H075 H012 H008 H035 H044 H013 H172 T1 T2 T3 T4 T5 T6 T7 H230 H268 H165 H056 H061 H060 H046 H038 H048 H043 H121 H143 H174 H173 H176 H206 H196 H208 H216 H246 H237 Permanent MET Mast H034 H007 H049 H104 H093 H001 H004 H002 H238 H183 H218 H244 H215 H207 H202 H045 H064 H073 H234 H240 H191 H188 H109 H108 H107 H276 H130 H147 H144 H157 H249 H086 H053 H079 H068 H069 H067 H136 H037 H014 H140 H153 H152 H163 H254

Legend:
- 1km Setback
- 2km Setback
- House Location

Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development - Planning Layout - Zone 2 - 01/07/2024



APPENDIX 2.1.7

SEPTEMBER 2024 - INFORMATION

27th September 2024

RE: Proposed Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well. I wish to update you on progress regarding the Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development.

The project lead consultant, MKO, are nearing completion of the necessary documentation to accompany the planning application. The proposal will include 7 no. turbines with an overall height of 185m, a hub height of 103.5m and a rotor blade diameter of 163m. The proposed turbines will be connected to the grid via an on-site substation and underground cabling connection to the existing Ballyragget 110kV Substation.

It is anticipated that the planning application for the proposed development will be submitted to Kilkenny County Council within the next two weeks.

A public notice, about the planning application, will appear in this week's edition of the 'Kilkenny People', Friday 04th of October, see a copy of the public notice text which is due to appear in the newspaper overleaf for your information. Public site notices will also be erected at selected locations surrounding the site and along the underground cabling route to Ballyragget.

Once the planning application has been lodged, a link to the planning application documentation, will be provided on the project website, www.briskalaghinfo.com. Should you have any difficulties accessing this information, please contact me and I will assist you.

I would like to thank the local community for the engagement received to date and I remain available to discuss any queries regarding this proposal, please feel free to contact me. I am available by email at clo@briskalaghinfo.com, by phone at 086-0841815 or via the "Contact" portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

James Crowley

Enerco Energy Ltd. | clo@briskalaghinfo.com | 086-0841815

Kilkenny County Council

We, Briskalagh Ltd., intend to apply for permission for a period of 10 years for a development at this site situated in the townlands of Acragar, Ballyconra, Ballycuddihy, Ballyroe, Ballyroe (Grace), Ballyroe (Maher), Baunaniska, Boherkyle, Briskalagh, Brittas, Clone, Coolnapisha, Curraghduff, Freshford, Freshford Lots, Graigueswood, Grange, Huntstown, Kilmanagh, Knockeenglass, Knockown, Moatpark, Monabrika, Monavadaroe, Moneenaun, Oldtown, Oldtownhill, Parksgrove, Picketstown, Rathealy, Sart, Sweethill, Tobernapeastia, Tullaroan, Upperwood Demesne, Co. Kilkenny.

The development will consist of the provision of the following:

i. **7 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 185 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 163 metres; and hub height of 103.5 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;**
ii. **A permanent 38kV substation compound (control building with welfare facilities, all associated electrical plant and apparatus, security fencing, underground cabling, storage containers, wastewater holding tank, site drainage and all ancillary works);**
iii. **Permanent underground electrical (38kV) and communications cabling to the existing Ballyragget 110kV substation in the townland of Moatpark (including joint bays, communication and earth sheath link chambers and all ancillary works along the route);**
iv. **Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;**
v. **3 no. temporary construction compounds (including site offices and welfare facilities);**
vi. **A meteorological mast with a height of 30 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;**
vii. **A new temporary site entrance on the L1009;**
viii. **A new gated site entrance on the L5024;**
ix. **Upgrade of existing site tracks/ roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;**
x. **A borrow pit;**
xi. **Spoil Management;**
xii. **Tree felling and hedgerow removal;**
xiii. **Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);**
xiv. **Site Drainage;**
xv. **Operational Stage site signage; and**
xvi. **All ancillary works and apparatus.**

A thirty five-year operational life from the date of full commissioning of the wind turbines and subsequent decommissioning of the wind turbines is being sought.

An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) have been prepared in respect of the proposed development and accompany this application.

The planning application, EIAR and NIS may be inspected, or purchased at a fee not exceeding the reasonable cost of making a copy, at the offices of the Planning Department, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny, during its public opening hours 9 a.m.- 1.00 p.m. and 2.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. Monday to Friday, and a submission or observation in relation to the application, EIAR or NIS may be made to the Planning Authority in writing on payment of the prescribed fee (€20.00) within the period of 5 weeks beginning on the date of receipt by the Planning Authority of the planning application, and such submissions or observations will be considered by the Planning Authority in making a decision on the application.

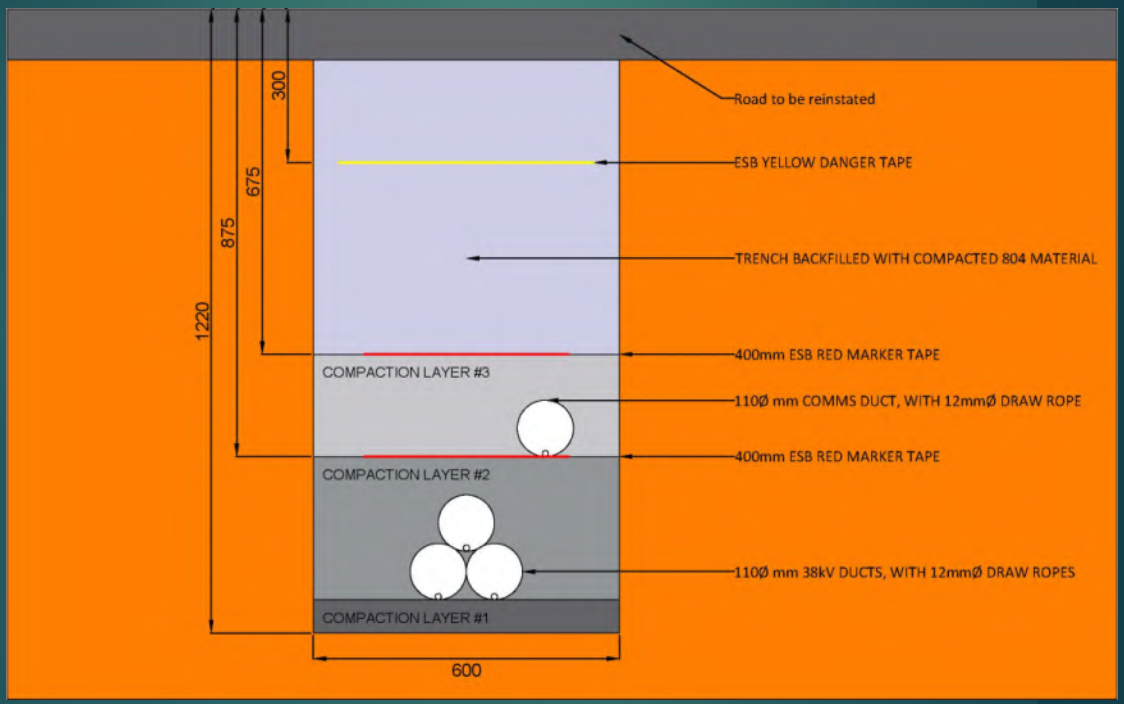
Briskalagh - Grid Connection

Briskalagh Ltd. intend to submit a planning application for a proposed wind farm at Briskalagh and adjacent townlands. The associated grid connection will be via approximately 23km of 38kV underground cabling to Ballyragget 110kV substation near Ballyragget Co. Kilkenny. The proposed underground cabling will be designed and installed to ESB specifications, primarily located within the public road corridor.

Please see overleaf, a map for your information which illustrates the overall grid connection route from the proposed wind farm to Ballyragget 110kV substation.

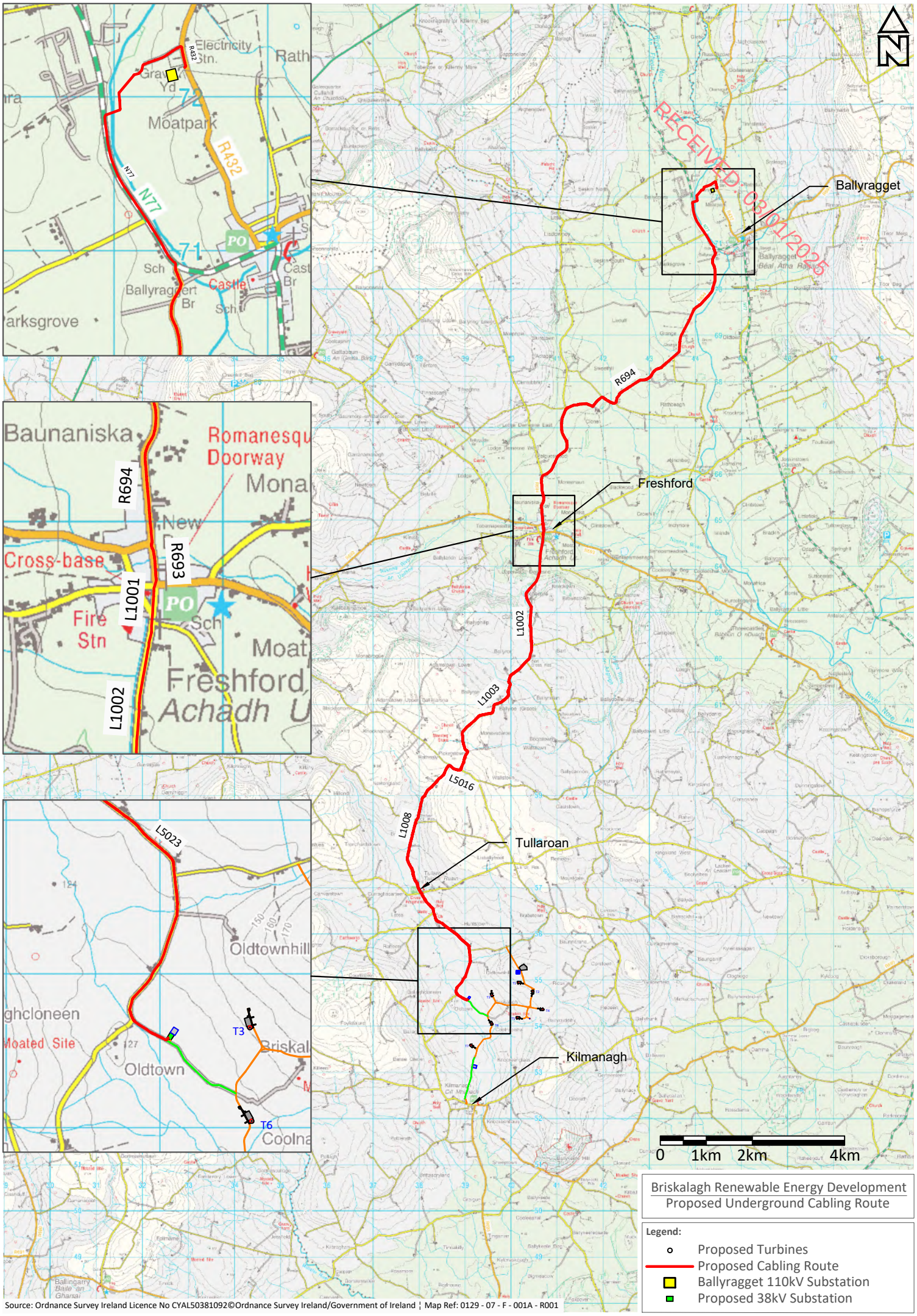
The works required to install the underground cabling will be transient in nature, with approximately 100-150m completed daily. There will be an appropriate traffic management plan in place for the duration of the works in each section.

You can view all available information in relation to the development on the project website, www.briskalaghinfo.com.



If you have any concerns or queries in relation to the proposed grid connection or to the entire development, please feel free to contact the CLO.

James Crowley
clo@briskalaghinfo.com
086-0841815


RECEIVED 03/01/2025
Ballyragget
Freshford
Tullaroan
Kilmanagh
R694
L1002
L1003
L5016
L1008
L5023
R693
L1001
R432
N77
T3
T6
Moatpark
Oldtownhill
Oldtown
Briskal
Coolna
Fire Stn
Cross-base
Baunaniska
Romanesqu
Doorway
Mona
Freshford
Achadh U
Castle
Sch
PO
0
1km
2km
4km
Briskalagh Renewable Energy Development
Proposed Underground Cabling Route
Legend:
Proposed Turbines
Proposed Cabling Route
Ballyragget 110kV Substation
Proposed 38kV Substation
Source: Ordnance Survey Ireland Licence No CYAL50381092©Ordnance Survey Ireland/Government of Ireland ¦ Map Ref: 0129 - 07 - F - 001A - R001