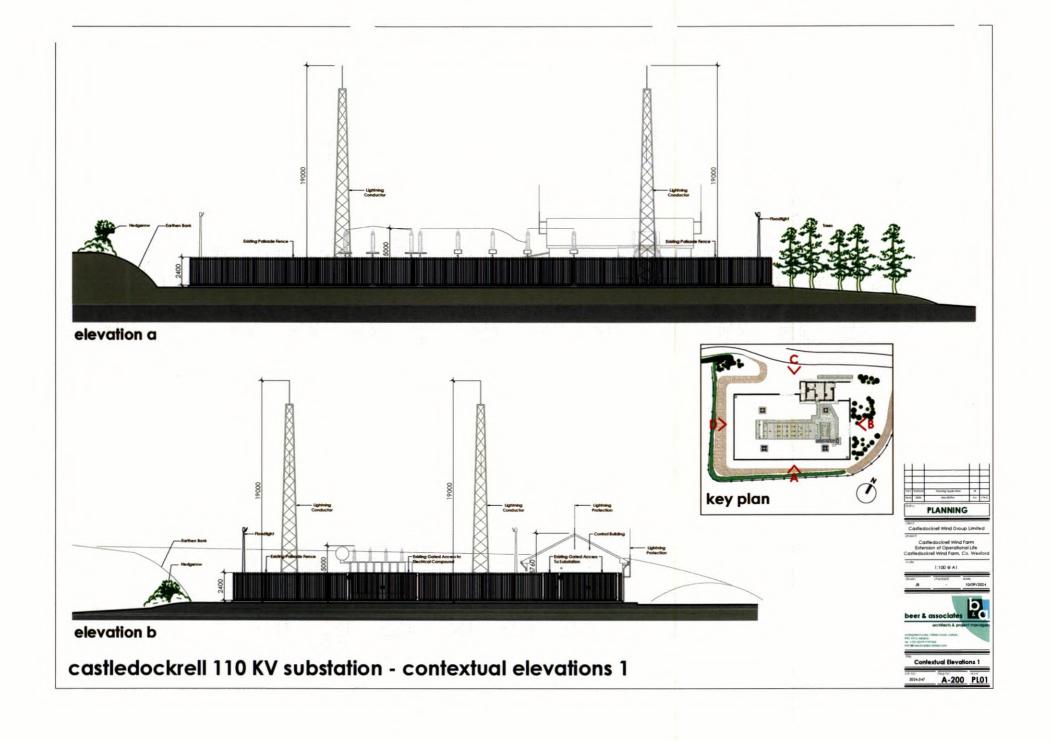
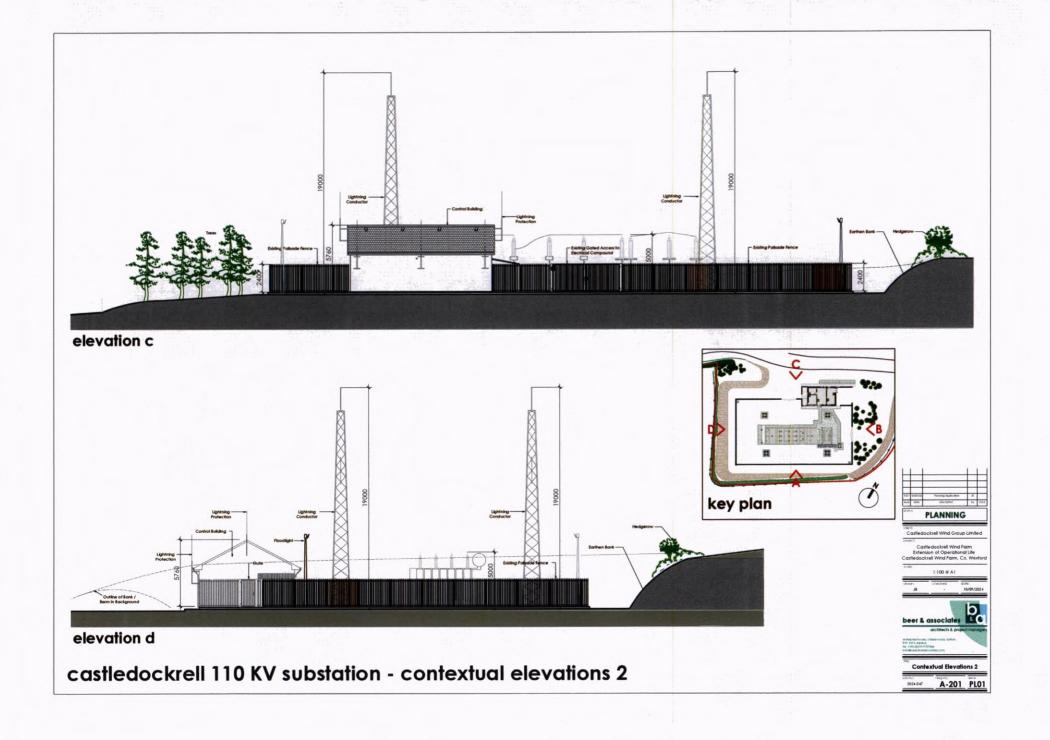
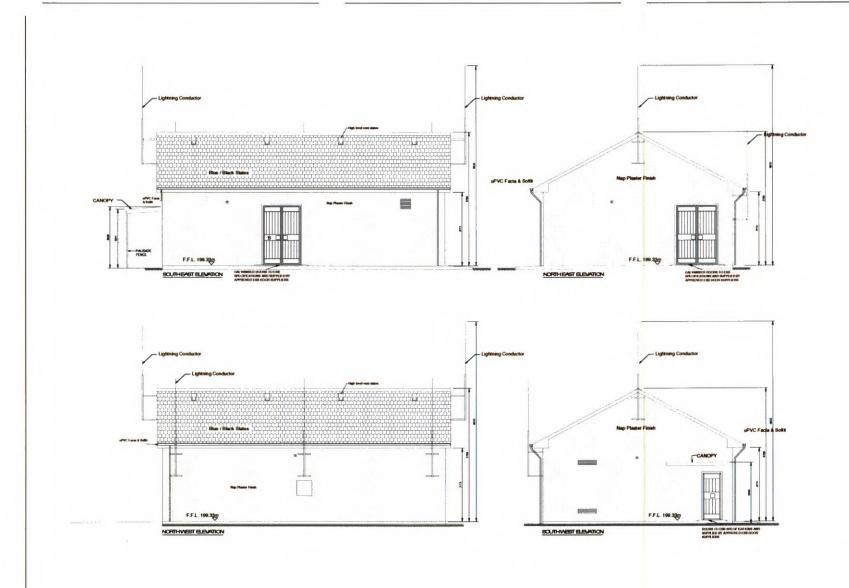




castledockrell 110 KV substation - control building plan & sections









castledockrell 110 KV substation - control building elevations



# **APPENDIX 4-3**

OPERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN



1.1

#### INTRODUCTION

This Operation and Environmental Management Plan (OEMP) has been prepared by MKO on behalf of Castledockrell Wind Group Ltd as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and planning application to Wexford County Council, for the proposed extension of operational life of the existing Castledockrell Wind Farm (Pl. Ref. WCC 2004/4702 and ABP Pl. Ref. 26.211725) for a further period of 20 years, hereafter referred to as the Proposed Development. Decommissioning of the Proposed Development is intended to take place after the proposed additional 20-year period (2045), subject to planning permission.

This report provides the environmental management framework to be adhered to during the extended operational phase of the Proposed Development and it incorporates the mitigating and monitoring principles that minimises the potential for any environmental impacts to occur.

This document has been prepared to accompany the EIAR prepared as part of the planning application for the Proposed Development.

## Scope of the Operation and Environmental Management Plan

This report is presented as a guidance document for the operation of the Proposed Development and is intended to replace the environmental management plan currently in place up to expiry of the existing permission in 2025. The OEMP is intended to provide a more concise document targeted specifically at the continued operation of the Proposed Development.

Where the term 'Site' is used in this OEMP it refers to all works associated with the operation of the Proposed Development. The OEMP clearly outlines the mitigation measures and monitoring proposals that are required to be adhered to in order to operate the site in an appropriate manner.

The report is divided into six sections, as outlined below:

- Section 1 provides a brief introduction as to the scope of the report.
- Section 2 outlines the Site and Project details, detailing the targets and objectives of this plan along with providing an overview of methodologies for works that will be carried out during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.
- Section 3 sets out details of the environmental controls to be implemented on site including the mechanisms for implementation.
- Section 4 consists of a summary table of all mitigation proposals to be adhered to during the operational phase of the project.
- Section 5 consists of a summary table of all monitoring proposals to be adhered to during the operational phase of the project.
- Section 6 outlines the proposals for reviewing compliance with the provisions of this report.



## SITE AND PROJECT DETAILS

#### 2.1 Site Location and Description

The Proposed Development is located approximately 6.5 kilometres (km) south of the town of Bunclody and approximately 8.1 km west of the town of Ferns in County Wexford. The Proposed Development is located within the townlands of Kilcullen, Ballynelahillan, Carranroe, Tomatee, Knockduff and Sroughmore, while the approximate grid reference location for the centre of the site is ITM X688181 Y648191.

The existing wind farm consists of 11 No. Enercon 2.3 MW wind turbines with a maximum overall blade tip height of 120m (hub height 84.5m, rotor diameter 71m). The existing wind farm, which became operational in 2011, has a total rated capacity of 25.3MW

The existing wind farm became operational in 2011 and is connected to the National Grid by a 110 kilovolt (kV) underground cable between the existing 110kV substation at Castledockrell Wind Farm and the existing Lodgewood 220 kV Substation, located approximately 7km east of the Proposed Development.

The grid connection is assessed as a cumulative project only within the EIAR. The planning background for Castledockrell Wind Farm is detailed further in the accompanying EIAR Chapter 2: Background to the Proposed Development and the project description is further detailed in Chapter 4: Description of the Proposed Development.

No construction activities or alterations to the existing wind farm are proposed beyond routine maintenance of the turbines and associated infrastructure during the operational phase of the Proposed Development.

## 2.2 Description of the Proposed Development

Planning permission is being sought for the continued operation of 11 no. of the existing 12 no turbines on the Castledockrell Wind Farm, as permitted by WCC ref 2004/4702 and ABP Ref PL26.211725) for an additional period of 20 years beyond the expiry date on its existing permission (i.e. 2025). It is also proposed to permanently extend the operational life of the existing onsite 110kV substation. The Proposed Development does not comprise any modifications to the existing operational wind farm.

The Proposed Development consists of:

- 11 no. existing 2.3 MW wind turbines with an overall tip height of 120m and associated hardstands;
- I no. existing 110kV Substation including 1 no. single story control building, all associated electrical plant and equipment, security fencing and all ancillary infrastructure:
- 3. All existing underground electrical and communication cabling connecting the existing wind turbines to the onsite Castledockrell 110kV Substation;
- 4. Existing internal access tracks; and,
- 5. All existing ancillary infrastructure.

All elements of the wind farm are pre-existing and it is not proposed to make any alterations to the current site layout, wind turbines or associated infrastructure as part of this application.

As mentioned above, it is proposed to permanently extend the operational life of the existing onsite 110kV substation, as permitted under WCC Ref 2004/4702 and subsequently amended under WCC Ref 2005/3945. It should also be noted that the existing 110kV underground grid connection, which



connects the existing Castledockrell Wind Farm to the National Grid at Lodgewood 220kV substation does not form part of this application, and is assessed cumulatively in the EIAR. The planning history of the existing Castledockrell Wind Farm is further detailed in the accompanying EIAR Chapter 2: Background to the Proposed Development.

The site layout showing the existing infrastructure of the Proposed Development is shown in Figure 2-1.

As construction has been completed, elements of the project that were developed as a temporary facilitator have either been removed, restored to its original condition or will have naturally revegetated. All access roads and hardstanding areas form part of a site roadway network which will be required by the ongoing agricultural practices, and therefore will be left in-situ for future use. It is intended that decommissioning will remove the existing turbines and reinstate areas where infrastructure is removed. The following elements are included:

- Wind turbines dismantling and removal off site;
- > Electrical cabling removal (ducting remaining), and
- Turbine foundation backfilling (underground reinforced concrete remaining in-situ).

A Decommissioning Plan has been prepared for the Proposed Development and is presented as Appendix 4-4 of this EIAR.

