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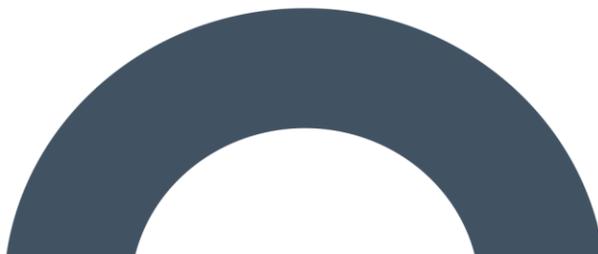
APPENDIX 2-2

COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT

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Community Benefit Report

Gannow Renewable Energy
Development, Co. Galway





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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 Gannow Renewable Energy Development. Gannow Ltd., the Applicant, 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, commercial rate payments and community benefit 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, the Applicant 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 Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, hereafter referred to as the ‘Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006)¹’, 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 Ireland² (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 Revised Wind Energy Guidelines, hereafter referred to as the ‘Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG 2019)’, 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

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2. CONSULTATION WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

2.1 Introduction

Engagement with the local community forms a key part of the development process for renewable energy projects. The purpose of this appendix is to outline the consultation measures undertaken in relation to the Proposed Project and to demonstrate how community input has been encouraged and facilitated throughout the planning process.

2.2 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 identified developable area, in June 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 map highlighting the potential developable area which was under review at that time
- An overview map which divided the properties surrounding the site into 2 zones;
- 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 (www.gannowinfo.com).

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

2.2.1 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 June 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.

The initial round of consultation initiated queries from the community, and the CLO worked with the community to provide answers to the queries raised. Common topics raised were collated into a Q&A document which was uploaded to the project website for public viewing. This was uploaded to the project website in October 2022.

Throughout 2023 & 2024 the CLO continued to be present in the community to answer any questions raised, while the lead consultant MKO coordinated the preparation of the documentation necessary to accompany the planning application.

In January 2025, a written project update was circulated. This letter included a Biodiversity Brochure prepared by MKO, and 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 March 2025 correspondence was circulated, notifying the community about the dates and times of the Public Information Exhibition (PIE) that was held April 8th, in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry.

The PIE was well attended and it afforded the opportunity to present up to date information about the proposal to the community and the CLO, along with other members of the project team were available to answer questions.

Throughout the lengthy consultation period the CLO has continued to liaise with any interested parties and answer any questions as promptly as possible, and will continue to be available throughout the entire project lifespan.

2.2.1.1 **June 2022**

The first round of consultation was by a letter from the appointed CLO to houses identified within c.2km of the developable area 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 Ltd. and some general information about wind energy, along with a map highlighting the identified 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 at the property 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 the dedicated project information website, www.gannowinfo.com and this website has been continuously updated to ensure that all community correspondence remains available for public viewing.

2.2.1.2 **October 2022**

Following the initial round of consultation, the CLO collated the common questions raised and the information gathered in response to those queries into a Q&A document which was uploaded to the project website for public viewing. Placing this Q&A document on the website provided a valuable information source for interested parties to inform themselves about the proposal.

2.2.1.3 **2023 and 2024**

The CLO continued to be present in the community to address any questions raised. MKO coordinated the project design team, ensuring that all baseline survey data was collected in accordance with best practice guidelines, to inform the preparation of the documentation necessary to accompany

the planning application. Throughout this time the CLO met with members of the local community to keep them informed about the proposal.

2.2.1.4 January 2025

A project update letter was sent to the updated mailing list. The correspondence outlined that surveys were on-going at the site and further updates would be provided as new information became available. This letter was accompanied by a Biodiversity brochure which was prepared by MKO, outlining some of the species that were recorded at the Site during multidisciplinary ecology surveys. The letter also noted that a PIE was being planned and would be held once all necessary information had been prepared.

2.2.1.5 March 2025

This round of consultation was carried out to inform the local community of the upcoming PIE, scheduled for April 8th 2025, at the Raheen Woods Hotel in Athenry. The letter provided details on the event's location and time, as well as information on who would be available to answer any queries. A copy of the advertisement intended for publication in the Connacht Tribune was also enclosed within the letter. A notice appeared in the Connacht Tribune, dated 28th March 2025, informing the public about the PIE.

2.2.1.6 PIE Details

- Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry (08/04/2025 at 4:30pm) (approx. 35 attendees)

The PIE was attended primarily by people who live in the locality of the Proposed Wind Farm site. The exhibition comprised several graphic and information boards positioned for the public to view and 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.gannowinfo.com, and the contact details of CLO were on display for the attendees.

All information that was displayed at the PIE was made publicly available on the project website 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.

2.2.1.7 PIE Feedback

The main queries raised during the PIE, were:

1. Proximity of houses;
2. Community Gain Scheme;

3. *Number of turbines;*
4. *Tip Height;*
5. *Noise and Vibration;*
6. *Scale of turbines;*
7. *Visual Impact;*
8. *Impact on Biodiversity.*
9. *Hydrological Impacts;*
10. *Turbine Foundations;*
11. *Shadow flicker;*
12. *Planning process.*

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Following the PIE, the CLO followed up on queries raised at the event. Feedback received at and since the public information evening has been noted by the CLO and relayed to the design team. 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.

2.3 Dedicated Contact Details

Since the project was first introduced to the community in June 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.

2.4 Project Website

In June 2022, a dedicated project website was launched, www.gannowinfo.com. The website is an additional communication channel to keep 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 public access the latest information at all times. It is intended to continue to update the website as any new information becomes available.

2.5 Community Liaison Officer

In June 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 June 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 Killimordaly GAA club, Kiltullagh/Killimordaly Camogie Club, Killimordaly Community Centre, local enterprise schemes, energy retro-fitting of houses (PV, Heat Pumps, Triple Glazing etc.) and contributions to electricity 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 Galway 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, and 2-3 jobs created during operational and maintenance phases of the Proposed Project.

3.3.2 **Rates**

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

3.3.3 **Community Benefit Fund**

Throughout the community engagement on the Proposed Project, the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) 2 guidelines have been used to demonstrate what benefits the community would receive should the Proposed Project be developed under RESS. The RESS 2 T&C's have since been updated in RESS 5 and will likely change again before the Proposed Project is built. As such, the fund will be adjusted accordingly depending on what RESS iteration is relevant when the Proposed Project becoming operational.

Based on the RESS 2 guidelines it is expected that for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by the wind farm, the Proposed Project will contribute €2 into a community fund for the first 15 years of operation of the Proposed Project.

Should the Proposed Project be developed under the RESS 2 T&C's, as a 48.8MW development it would attract a community contribution in the region of almost €300,000/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 Proposed 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 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.
- **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 the development of energy initiatives to benefit people living in the local area. This is to be provided to not-for-profit community enterprises each year.

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 Proposed Wind Farm, the Proposed 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 in the region of almost €150,000 (using the same formula as above), which across the 35-year operational lifespan would result in funding in the order of over €5 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**
 - Book clubs;
 - Active retirement groups;
 - Adult learning facilities;
 - Support for local sport facilities:
 - Astroturf pitches
 - Walking/running tracks
 - Floodlighting
 - Upgrade of clubhouse facilities
 - Improved accessibility of local community facilities:
 - Provision of ramps
 - Disabled parking spaces
 - Bannisters and handrails.
 - Supplies for local National Schools:
 - Library books
 - Arts and crafts materials

- Materials for sensory room
 - Resources for children with special needs
- > **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

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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 Gannow Renewable Energy Development will provide an enduring economic benefit to the communities surrounding the Proposed Wind Farm as outlined above, 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.

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APPENDIX 2.2.1

JUNE 2022 - INFORMATION

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 Ireland's 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 country's 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
Kieran Kyne Mob: +353 (0) 86 1427399 gannowclo@turnkeydev.com
We would like to hear any comments or queries you may have

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.

Renewable Energy Project Wind Information Leaflet



Contents

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- Benefits **P.2**
- Enerco Energy Projects **P.3**
- Questions & Feedback **P.4**

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.



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

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 eighth 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 to the Project
2. Background to the Proposed Development
3. Site Selection and Alternatives
4. Description of the Proposed Development
5. Human Beings, Population & Human Health including Shadow Flicker
6. Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
7. Land, Soils, Geology and Peat Stability
8. Water – Surface Water & Groundwater
9. Air and Climate
10. Noise and Vibration
11. Landscape and Visual
12. Cultural Heritage
13. Material Assists, including Traffic and Telecommunications
14. Interaction of Impacts



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.

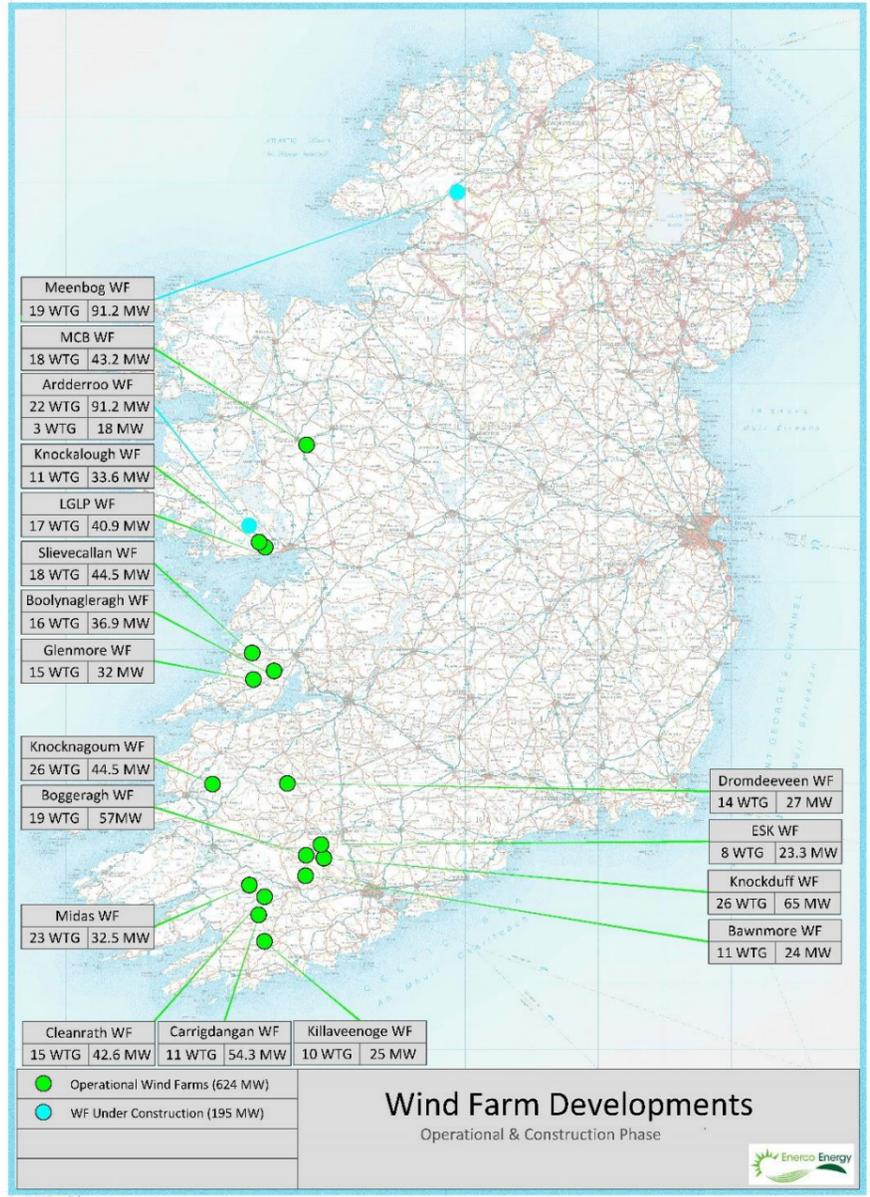
Increased activity in the locality benefits the local hospitality and service sector. Contractors and wind farm employees use shops, restaurants, hotels and B&Bs in the wind farm proximity throughout a project lifecycle.

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.
- 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.
- A community benefit scheme will be made available every year for the operational lifespan of the wind farm.
- "Open up opportunity for community participation in renewable generation and community gain arrangements" is a stated aim of the Climate Action Plan 2019.
- 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.



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21/06/2022

Proposed Gannow Renewable Energy Development

Dear _____,

I hope this letter finds you well. Based on available information we understand that you are the registered owner of the property marked H_____ on the enclosed map.

I am writing to you 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 in the area of Gannow and adjacent townlands, which we have identified as being a potentially suitable location for a development of 9 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, introduce you to the company and provide a point of contact to address any queries that you may have in relation to the proposal.

Along with this letter, you will also find maps and a leaflet enclosed. The leaflet provides an overview about Enerco Energy, with some general information about wind energy. There are two maps enclosed, the first map provides an overview of the site which illustrates the area deemed suitable to accommodate turbines (Wind Energy Developable Area), and all properties within c. 2km of the site. The second map provides a more focused view of the area relevant to your property, H_____.

A dedicated project website has been set up as a single point of information to inform the wider public, www.gannowinfo.com. The website provides an overview of the proposed project including a copy of this correspondence provided to the community and it will be updated with further information as the project progresses.

If you have any queries or would like to discuss any aspect of this proposal, please feel free to contact me. I am available by email at gannowclo@turnkeydev.com, by phone at _____ or via the "Contact" portal on the project website, www.gannowinfo.com.

Yours sincerely,

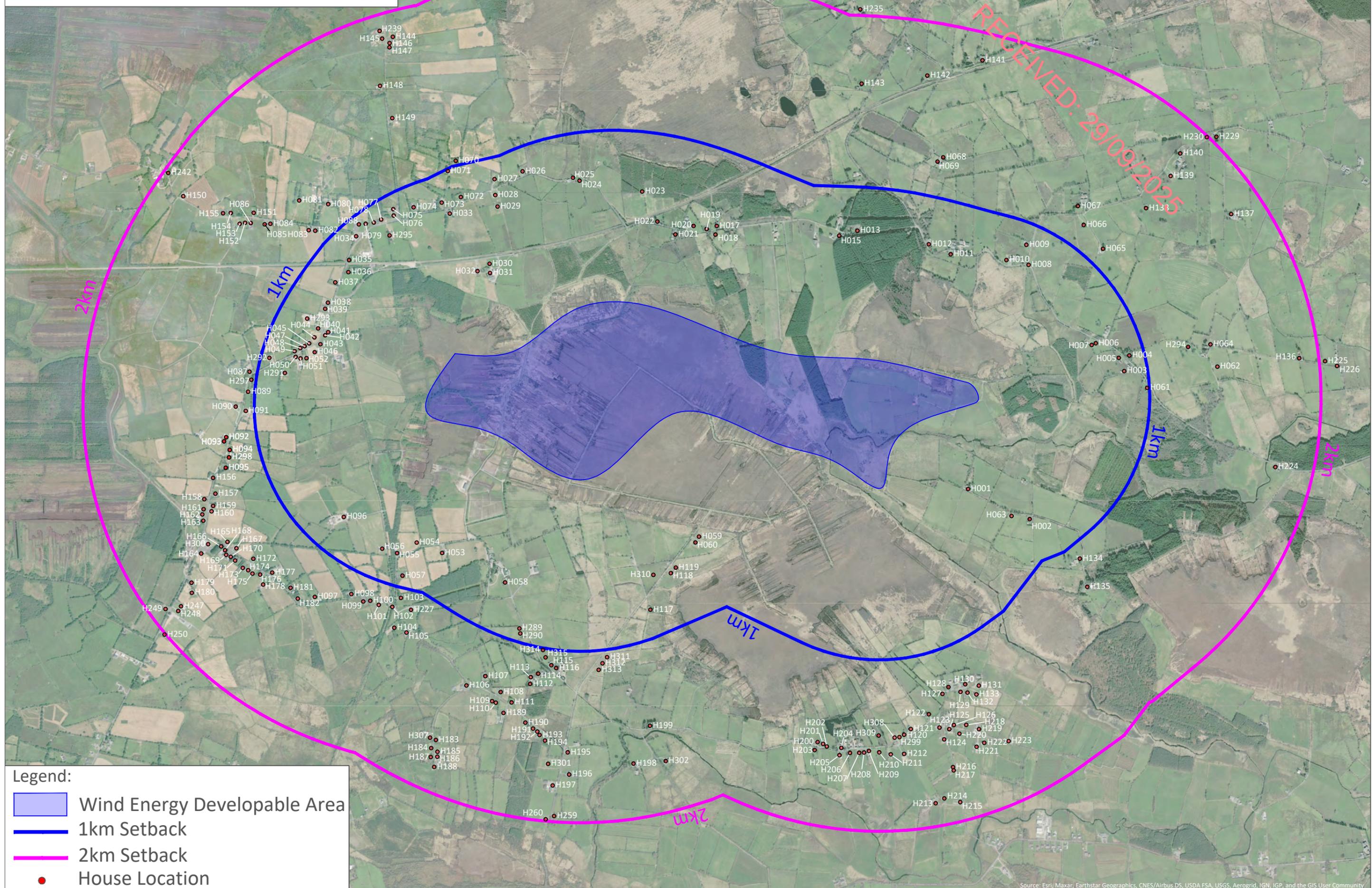
Kieran Kyne

Enerco Energy Ltd.

Gannow - Wind Energy Developable Area for Discussion



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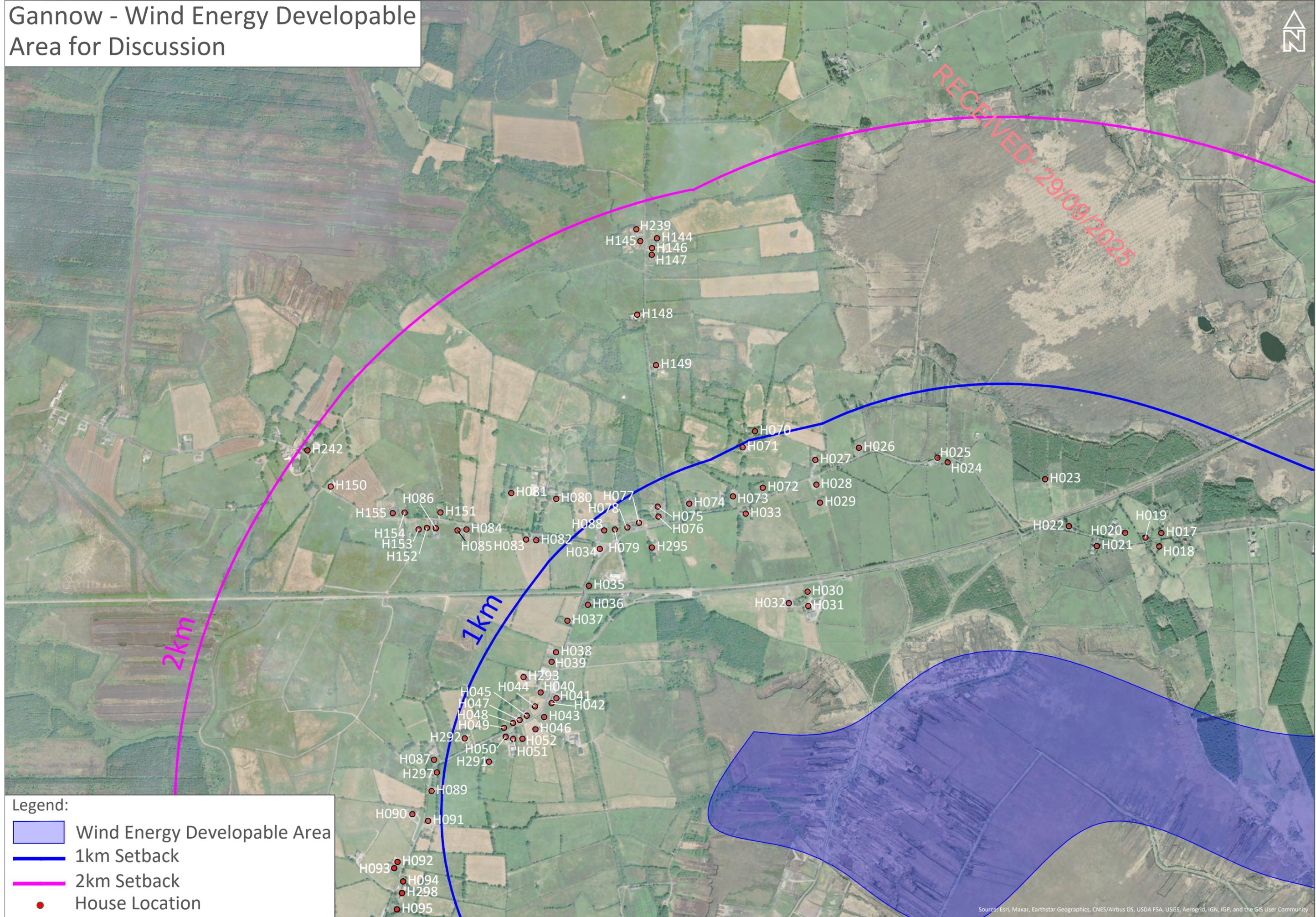
Legend:

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

Gannow - Wind Energy Developable Area for Discussion



RECEIVED: 29/09/2025

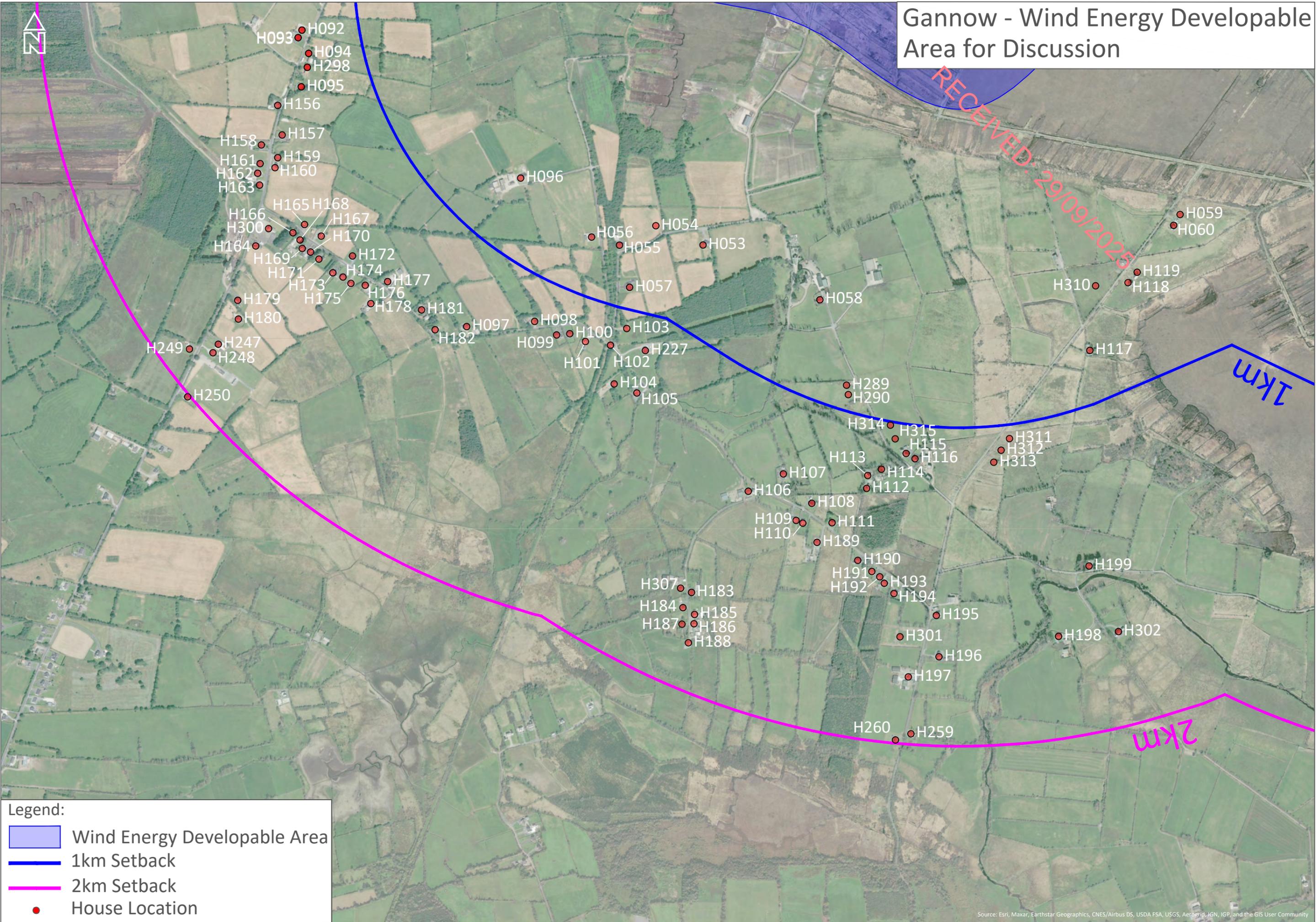


Legend:

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

Gannow - Wind Energy Developable Area for Discussion

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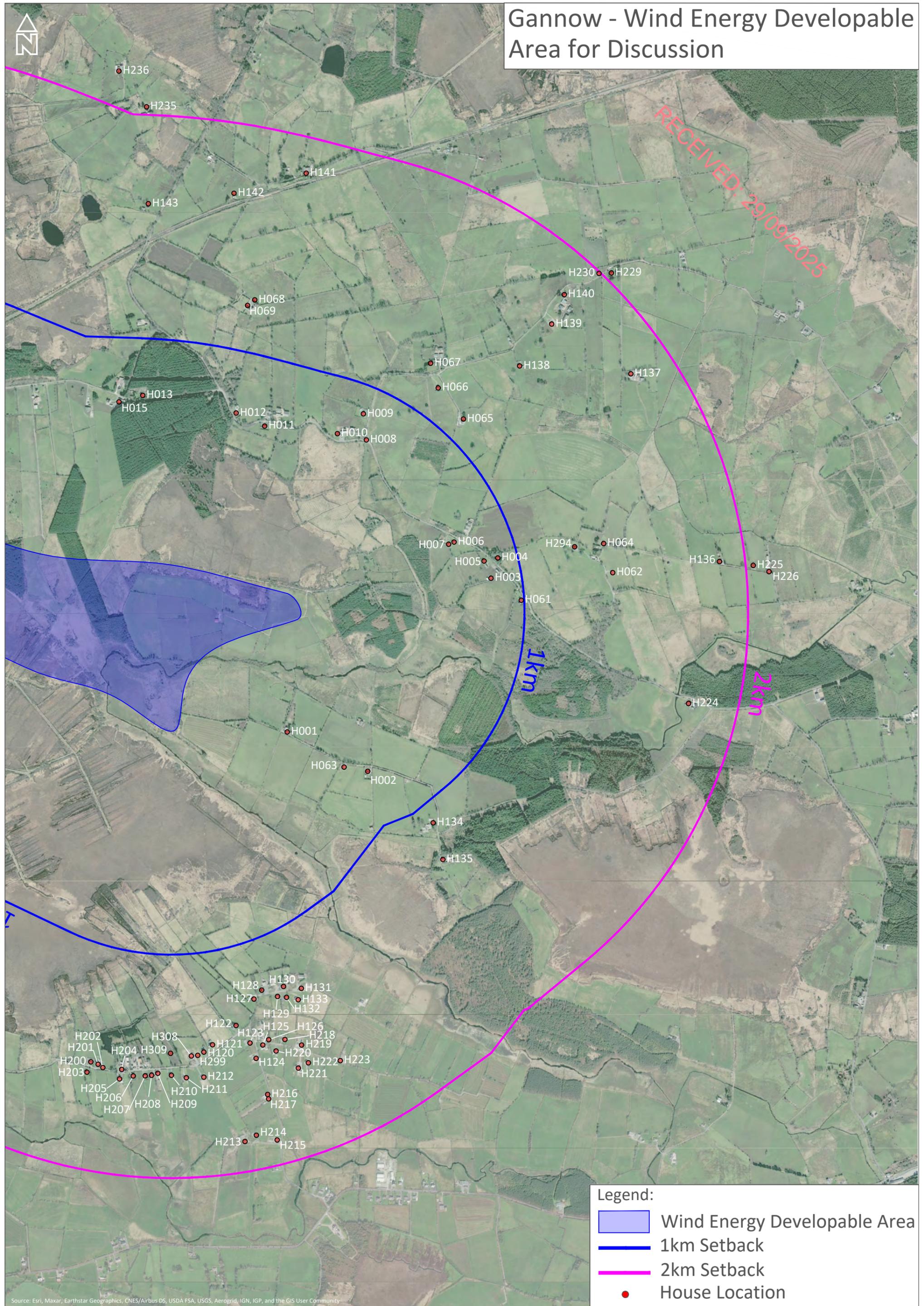
Legend:

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

Gannow - Wind Energy Developable Area for Discussion



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Legend:

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

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APPENDIX 2.2.2

JANUARY 2025- INFORMATION

Gannow Biodiversity

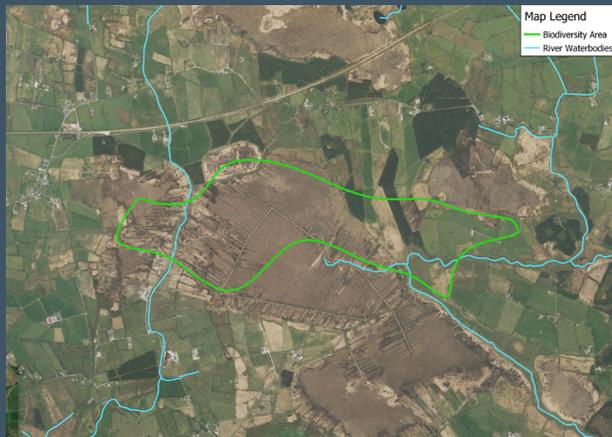
Gannow is situated within a landscape of regenerating cutover bog, agricultural and wet grasslands encompassing hedgerows and treelines with rivers, floodplains, and small patches of plantation forestry. This leaflet provides an overview of the main habitats and species recorded during ecological surveys of the area.

What is Biodiversity?

Biodiversity is a term used for the variety of life on earth, biodiversity includes all species and habitats found within a given area known as an ecosystem. A wide variety of specialist ecological surveys have been undertaken at Gannow by MKO, with the project designed to avoid sensitive ecological receptors.

These surveys have targeted a wide variety of species and habitats with the aim of determining their distribution in the area. Species recorded in the study area to date include everything from biodiverse plants to insects, birds, mammals and amphibians.

This leaflet provides a brief overview of a variety of habitats and species of interest with potential to occur within the biodiversity study area as well as some interesting facts for the reader.



Map 1 The biodiversity study area and local rivers

Habitats

Map 1 shows the biodiversity study area which covers the environs of the wind energy developable area. The following habitat types, which may be of interest to the local community, are found within the study area.

Watercourses

A number of small watercourses and tributaries flow in southerly directions within the Gannow biodiversity study area. The Raford River and its tributaries flow southwest off the biodiversity study area and into Galway Bay over 20km away. The Raford River is known to host protected White-clawed crayfish, while further downstream where it meets the Kilcolgan River Otters have been recorded on several occasions. Fish species including Salmon and Lamprey have also been present in the vicinity of the biodiversity study area. Aquatic invertebrates such as mayfly and aquatic plants found in the rivers and drains throughout the biodiversity study area play an important role in the food chain for a wide array of faunal species, including fish and amphibians such as frogs, which have been found throughout the biodiversity study area.



Plate 1 The Raford River flowing through the west of the biodiversity study area

Regenerating Raised Bog

Cutover bog and small areas of regenerating cutover bog are present within the biodiversity study area. Bogs are wetlands made of peat, plants and water combined together. Bogs develop on poorly drained soils where the weather is very wet.

Peat is the result of the accumulation of partially decayed plants over thousands of years. This makes peatlands such as these incredibly important carbon sinks, storing 53% of all soil carbon in the island of Ireland on just 16% of the land area. Bogs support a number of protected plant and animal species including Irish Hare, Badger and Sphagnum moss species.



Plate 2 Area of regenerating raised bog

Wet Grasslands

Wet grasslands are an abundant habitat throughout Gannow due to the wet, often waterlogged nature of the local soils. These fields are often dominated by rushes, but in some areas are highly diverse with Purple moor grass, Sweet vernal grass, Devil's-bit scabious, Tormentil, Bog asphodel, Milkwort, and orchids. These areas provide important areas of shelter for ground nesting and foraging birds including Snipe and Meadow pipits, as well as mammals such as Foxes, the trails and traces of which were abundant in this habitat in Gannow.



Plate 3 Wet grassland

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Agricultural Grasslands

Agricultural grassland is the most abundant habitat in the east of the biodiversity study area and is currently being grazed by livestock such as sheep and cattle. Although agricultural grasslands are often of relatively low biodiversity value compared to wet grasslands, they do provide some supporting habitat for pollinator species such as butterflies and bumblebees, as well as foraging fauna and birds including Blue tits, Chaffinches, Wrens, Blackbirds, and the friendly Robin. The treelines and hedgerows in agricultural areas are particularly important for providing 'connectivity' between different habitats, in addition to yielding food and creating shelter for birds and mammals, particularly bats which depend on these features for commuting, foraging and roosting.



Plate 4 Agricultural grasslands with treelines and hedgerows

Conifer Forestry

In the eastern part of the biodiversity study area there is a small area of conifer plantation forestry. This habitat is often relatively low in biodiversity value due to the density of trees planted and the monocultural nature of the species composition. Nevertheless, a variety of species are often found utilising its shelter including Pine marten, Red squirrel, Badgers and a variety of bird species such as Buzzards and Ravens.

Mammals

A number of mammals including Badger, Irish Hare, Otter, Red Squirrel, Rabbit and Pine Marten have been recorded in the area in the past. Badgers live in social groups with family members and can live within complex tunnelling systems known as setts.

Irish Hare is a subspecies of the Mountain Hare which is endemic to Ireland and is therefore a particular conservation interest. There are nine bat species in Ireland, and a seven of these species have been recorded foraging within the areas around Gannow, including Common Pipistrelle, Soprano Pipistrelle, Myotis species, Brown Long-eared Bat and Leisler's bat. Ireland's smallest bat is the Soprano Pipistrelle which weighs as little as a €1 coin. Each bat can eat over 3000 midges in one night!

Marsh Fritillary Butterflies

The Marsh Fritillary butterfly is an elusive butterfly in Ireland, with its mottled brown, orange and white colouring and small size it camouflages itself well within meadows and marshes. This butterfly is the only insect in Ireland that is designated under Annex II of the EU Habitats Directive, giving it important protection for its conservation. Dedicated surveys were carried out for this species in Gannow, and caterpillars were found in the eastern section of the biodiversity study area. The butterflies lay their eggs within silky webs only on the leaves of the Devil's-bit scabious plant which has a vibrant purple flower in the late summer months. These caterpillars then stay together in colonies until March when they cocoon to emerge as beautiful adults early in the summer.



Plate 5 A web of Marsh fritillary butterfly caterpillars

RECEIVED: 29/09/2025

14/01/2025

RE: Proposed Gannow Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

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

Since our last correspondence, I have endeavoured to ensure the information that I have in relation to property ownership is up to date. Land ownership details have been obtained from the Property Registration Authority, however, by their nature, these records are not fully up-to-date and changes in land ownership details may not be fully reflected in such records. In addition, names of deceased persons may still be recorded in such files and, if this is the case, this is sincerely regretted. If there is a discrepancy in the information that we have in relation to your property, please let me know and I will update the information for further correspondence.

The project Environmental Consultants, MKO, continue to gather the necessary surveys to inform the planning application, for example, ornithological, ecological and hydrological, etc 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 Assessment (NIS) that will accompany the planning application.

Please find enclosed a biodiversity brochure prepared by MKO, which you may find of interest, presenting some information regarding the biodiversity of the area where the site is located.

We intend to hold a Public Information Exhibition (PIE), where information in relation to proposal will be on display. This will provide an opportunity for all interested parties to view the information, and there will be representatives from MKO and Enerco Energy Ltd in attendance to answer any questions in relation to the proposal. The timing of the PIE will be dependent on the necessary information being prepared by MKO, we will provide an update on this when more information is available.

All information presented to the community will continue to be made available for public viewing at www.gannowinfo.com. If you have difficulty in accessing the project website, please let me know and I will assist with this. I would welcome any queries or questions you may have relating to the project and would appreciate your feedback.



Please feel free to contact me, either through the contact page on the website, by email,
or by phone,

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Kyne

Enerco Energy Ltd.

RECEIVED: 29/09/2025

RECEIVED: 29/09/2025



APPENDIX 2.2.3

MARCH 2025 - INFORMATION



18th March 2025

Proposed Gannow Renewable Energy Development

Dear Householder,

I hope this letter finds you well.

I wish to update you on the proposed Gannow Renewable Energy Development. The project Environmental Consultants, MKO, continue their preparation for a planning permission application for the proposed development and are ready for a Public Information Exhibition (PIE) about the proposal.

The PIE will be hosted in the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry, on Tuesday 8th of April from 4.30pm to 8.00pm. 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 Connacht Tribune to inform the wider community of this event.

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

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.gannowinfo.com. If you cannot attend the PIE and have difficulty accessing the information on the project website, please contact me and I will assist you.

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 gannowclo@turnkeydev.com, by phone or through the 'contact' portal on the project website.

Yours sincerely,

Kieran Kyne

Enerco Energy Ltd. | gannowclo@turnkeydev.com |