

Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project



Environmental Impact Assessment Report Volume III

Appendix 2.1.5 – Blasting Coordination & Cooperation Plan

September 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1 Introduction

This Blasting Coordination and Cooperation Plan with Ballyfeeny Rock has been prepared by Rowan Engineering Consultants Limited (Rowan) and forms part of the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for the proposed Ballyfeeny Green Energy Project (the 'Project').

This Blasting Coordination and Cooperation Plan with Ballyfeeny Rock, has been prepared as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which will accompany the planning application for the proposed Project. The Blasting Coordination and Cooperation Plan outlines the procedures which will be taken during a blasting event at the Ballyfeeny Rock Quarry, in the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the proposed Project. It is the responsibility of the Project Site Manager and the Health and Safety Manager to implement this plan during the construction and decommissioning phases and the responsibility of the wind farm operator during the operational phase of the proposed Project.

1.2 Live Document

This Blasting Coordination and Cooperation Plan is considered a 'live' document and as such will be reviewed and updated as required during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

Updates to the Blasting Coordination and Cooperation Plan may be required due to changes in legislation, changes in the frequency of blasting at the Ballyfeeny Rock Quarry, or due to changes in construction and environmental best-practices. Updates may also be required to incorporate measures for compliance with the planning conditions for the proposed Project or any future planning applications at the Ballyfeeny Rock Quarry.

1.3 Relevant Guidance and Legislation

- Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations, 2008 and 2013
 - Regulation 47, of the, requires that a written blast specification, including the identification of the danger zone based on an assessment of risks.

The specification should be designed to:

- Minimise the risk of flyrock being projected outside of the declared danger zone;
 - Minimise the risk of misfires;
 - Enable the location of any misfired shots to be accurately determined; and
 - Ensure, where possible, that faces are left in a safe condition after a blast.
- Quarries & Ancillary Activities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2004).
 - Offer guidance to planning authorities on planning for the quarrying industry through the development plan and determining applications for planning permission for quarrying and ancillary activities (Part A); and
 - Be a practical guide to the implementation of section 261 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (Part B).

2. Purpose

2.1 Quarry Operations

Ballyfeeney Rock Limited own and operate the Ballyfeeney Rock Quarry, located in the townlands of Tully and Ballyfeeny, Co. Roscommon which is directly adjacent to the proposed wind farm Project. Planning Permission for the quarry was granted by the Local Authority (Planning Authority Reference: 07272) and by An Bord Pleanála (Planning Reference: 20.227917) in 2008. Planning was granted for a period of 20 years from the date of the An Bord Pleanála Order. As outlined in the Quarries & Ancillary Activities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2004), aggregates such as those produced at the Ballyfeeny Rock Quarry are seen as a significant natural resource. Therefore, for the purpose of the Project EIAR it is assumed (subject to a new planning application) that quarry activities at the quarry will continue beyond the planning expiration date.

The quarry has an annual yield estimation of 350,000 tonnes. The frequency of blasting to win stone for the quarry is assumed to be once per month, however this could be more or less frequent based on the material requirements at the time. Blasting operations are only permitted between 10:00 hours and 17:00 hours, Monday to Friday inclusive. Blasting at any other time shall only be undertaken for emergency or safety reasons.

An Environmental Management and Monitoring program has been established by the quarry operators including a blasting specification. The blasting specifications are prepared by the Blasting Supervisor to ensure Health and Safety Risks associated with blasting are controlled such as;

- Minimise the risk of flyrock being projected outside of the declared danger zone;
- Minimise the risk of misfires;
- Enable the location of any misfired shots to be accurately determined; and
- Ensure, where possible, that faces are left in a safe condition after a blast.

The blasting specifications outline that a warning notice will be issued to residents within 500m of the quarry site boundaries within one week in advance of a blasting event and again 24hours prior to the blasting event. An audible warning system will be given 5 minutes before each blast, and a further audible warning 30 seconds before each blast. On completion of the blasting operations an all clear signal will be given.

An exclusion zone will be determined by the Blasting Supervisor in advance of each blasting event and will be communicated for each blasting event in order to minimise any potential health and safety risks associated with flyrock.

2.2 Interactions with the proposed Project

The closest active quarrying operation to the site, at the Ballyfeeny Rock Quarry, is located less than 150m from the closest wind farm infrastructure at T04 and T06. The quarry currently supplies a combination of sands and gravel and crushed aggregate products at this facility. Fly-rock or debris thrown by a blast, has the potential to cause a significant hazard during blasting operations, potentially causing injury workers during the construction, operational or decommissioning phases. Therefore, it is crucial for robust procedures to mitigate the risks associated with fly rock.

3. Procedure

3.1 Procedure Prior to Blasting

- The frequency of blasting to win stone for the quarry is assumed to be once per month;
- The proposed Project if granted planning permission will be included in the quarries blasting specifications communication list;
- A task specific risk assessment shall be prepared by the Project Health and Safety manager to incorporate this Blasting Coordination and Cooperation Plan into the Construction Health and Safety Plan during the construction and decommissioning phases of the Project;
- A task specific risk assessment shall be prepared by the Project Health and Safety manager to incorporate this Blasting Coordination and Cooperation Plan into the Health and Safety Plan for the proposed Project during the operations phase;
- A toolbox talk will be completed to inform all workers on site of the procedures to follow during a blasting event;
- The Site Manager and the Health and Safety Manager shall communicate regularly with the Ballyfeeney Rock Quarry Manager to determine the date and time of the blasting. Contact details are shown in Section 3;
- The Ballyfeeney Rock Quarry Management shall communicate the date and time of the blasting to the Site Manager and the Health and Safety Manager at least one week prior to the blasting;
- The blasting exclusion zone shall be communicated by the Quarry Management to the Site Manager/Health and Safety Manager at least one week prior to blasting. This will be implemented into the construction programme; and
- 24 hours prior to the blasting event the Ballyfeeney Rock Quarry Management will again confirm the times and with the Site Manager and the Health and Safety Manager.

3.2 Procedure During Blasting

- All works on site will cease during the blast window. All site personnel will move to a designated safe zone outside of the exclusion zone set out by the Blasting Supervisor (Construction Compound or Onsite Substation);
- A rollcall will be taken by the Health and Safety Manager to ensure all personnel are present at the designated safe zone;
- The Health and Safety Manager will confirm with the Blasting Supervisor that all personnel are accounted for and are outside the blasting exclusion zone. Contact details are shown in Section 3;
- An audible warning system will be given 5 minutes before each blast, and a further audible warning 30 seconds before each blast;
- On completion of the blasting operations the Blasting Supervisor will inform the Health and Safety Manager that blasting operations are complete, and the blasting exclusion zone is lifted; and
- Once all blasting events are complete and confirmed with the Health and Safety Manager all personnel can return to their workstations and work can commence on site.

4. Contacts

Internal and External Contacts	Name and company	Contact Details
Ballyfeeny Rock Quarry Manager	TBC	TBC
Blasting Supervisor	TBC	TBC
Site Manager	TBC	TBC
Environmental Manager	TBC	TBC
Health and Safety Manager	TBC	TBC