



Owenreagh/ Craignagapple Wind Farm

Leaflet 3

Introduction

Welcome to the third and final leaflet on the proposed Owenreagh/Craignagapple Wind Farm. The purpose of this leaflet is to present the design proposed to be submitted for assessment to the planning authority, outline the many ways in which this project could bring positive benefit to the local area, and explain how you can engage with the planning process.

In putting together this design we have taken into account your feedback from the previous community consultation events, and that of DfI Planning and statutory consultees such as Environmental Health (noise), NIEA-NED (ecology including peat) and Landscape Architects Branch (Landscape and Visual Impact). If you have feedback on this design, you can contact the project team; details can be found at the back of this leaflet. Or you can meet us at our

second community consultation events which will be held on 30th November at the Fir Trees Hotel in Strabane and 1st December at Owen Roes' Club Rooms in Glenmornan. The project ecologist and landscape architect will also be in attendance to answer your questions. More details on this event can be found in the invitation delivered along with this leaflet. We hope to see you there!

About Ørsted

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy. Ørsted ranks as the world's most sustainable energy company and is recognised as a global leader on climate action. Headquartered in Denmark, Ørsted employs more than 7,000 people in 14 countries around the world with over 4.7GW of operating wind, solar and storage assets. Ørsted's onshore Ireland and Northern Ireland portfolio consists of over 332MW of operating wind capacity, including Owenreagh I & II Wind Farms.

Meet the team



Olivia Roche

Ørsted's Project Manager for the proposed wind farm development. Olivia has been involved in the renewable energy sector since 2014.



Michael Nicholas

Community Liaison Officer for the proposed wind farm development. Michael is an experienced Communications Manager & lives locally to the project.



Kellie Rouse

Assistant Community Liaison Officer for the proposed wind farm development. Kellie recently completed a Master's Degree in Agriculture at Queen's, works as an Agriculture Consultant and lives locally.

Climate change

Northern Ireland's first law to tackle climate change, the 'Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022', received Royal Assent on 6 June 2022. The Act aims to have Northern Ireland play its part in the global and UK effort to tackle climate change by creating a framework that will establish a pathway to achieving emission reduction targets. This will help to ensure that Northern Ireland develops a greener, low carbon circular economy in which the environment can prosper and be protected. The Act includes a target for net-zero emissions by 2050 as well as a set of interim targets for 2030 and 2040 for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Northern Ireland.

The recently adopted Northern Ireland Energy Strategy (Department for Economy) contains an ambitious 70% renewable electricity target by 2030, with flexibility to increase this target if it is achieved. One of the key ways to achieve this target is by increasing the proportion of renewable energy in the electricity sector. Wind turbines harness

the power of the wind to generate renewable electricity. Wind power is clean, cost effective and does the same job as fossil fuels but generates less waste. The recent energy crisis has highlighted our over-reliance on fossil fuels from overseas. Installing wind farms such as this one, will help to secure Northern Ireland's energy independence and help to shield us from excessive fossil fuel prices.

Owenreagh I & II Wind Farms have made an important contribution to Northern Ireland's Renewable Energy targets and low carbon objectives to date, and through this project we are seeking to secure and build on this contribution. We will be reusing an existing site, and reutilising its existing infrastructure, such as access roads, wherever possible. Repowering the existing operational windfarms in this way will not only help maintain the level of renewables generation in Northern Ireland, but will add to the further decarbonisation of the power sector, and help realise the Net Zero targets.

¹<https://cedrec.com/legislation/56074/overview>

Benefits to the local community

Owenreagh/Craignagapple Wind Farm will offer a number of benefits to the local community.

Community benefit fund

Ørsted will be putting in place a community benefit fund (CBF) valued at £5,000/MW per year from the first year of operation of the new wind farm. If the final project design gets consented this will equate to a fund of between £300k-£400k per annum (depending on the final turbine selection).

The funds are usually managed by an independent organisation, who set up a local committee which decides on how and to whom the funds are distributed. The existing Owenreagh Wind Farms' Community Benefit Fund has supported a number of local initiatives including Owen Roes' GAA Club, Clann na nGael GAA Club and installation of a defibrillator at Tristan Road, Evish.

Job and contracting/supply chain opportunities

The construction and operation of the wind farm will create jobs and contracting opportunities. As part of the tender for the wind farm construction, successful bidders will have to commit

to holding a "Meet the Suppliers" event for local businesses and contractors, informing them of how they can bid to provide goods and services for the construction and operation of the wind farm.

Habitat conservation and management

As part of the planning application, Ørsted will submit a Habitat Management Plan outlining our plans to protect and restore important habitats around the wind farm and our measures to enhance biodiversity. We are partnering with an expert hydrologist in peatland restoration from Queen's University Belfast to design innovative methods to restore peat in the area. We will improve habitats for important local bird species such as merlin, snipe, and red grouse. We are also looking into further habitat enhancement options for bats, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and invertebrates across the Wind Farm site.



Image 1

Members of the local Evish Community with Kellie Rouse representing Ørsted at the new Defibrillator which is located at 11 Tristan Road, Evish, Strabane, BT82 8NG. Pictured L-R: Elaine Sproule McKenna, Mary McCrossan, Rosemary McCrossan, James McCrossan, Kellie Rouse (Ørsted), Geraldine Boggs, Paddy Joe McCrossan and Pearl Sproule.

Image 2

Kellie Rouse representing Ørsted making the Community Benefit Fund donation to Clann na nGael Youth Player Dearbhaile Sproule. Pictured Left to Right are Clann na nGael members Aibhín Sproule, Conleith McAleer, Dearbhaile Sproule, Kellie Rouse (Ørsted), Dara Sproule and Conor Sproule.

Participants in Defibrillator Training Course funded by Ørsted and provided by Termon Community Responders in St Catherine's Primary School, Strabane

Image 3

L-R Roisin Toner, Sean Fullerton (Termon Community Responders), Barbara Jansen, Cormac McCrossan, Geraldine Gallagher, Patrick Casey, Patrick Hughes (Termon Community Responders), Leslie Buchanan, Ruth Buchanan

Image 4

Noeleen Dooher, Carmel O'Donnell, Majella Farrell

Wind farm design considerations

a. Noise

There are stringent guidelines on the noise levels wind turbines can contribute at residential properties to ensure the protection of local residents. The turbines have been located sufficiently away from noise sensitive receptors, such as residential properties, in order to ensure noise levels are within the allowed limits and that noise impacts are reduced as far as reasonably practical. Meetings were held with Environmental Health Officers to discuss the methodology used. If during operation the turbine noise is considered unacceptable, this can be raised directly with the Derry City & Strabane District Council's Environmental Health Office who will liaise with Ørsted to investigate the complaint.

b. Landscape and visual assessment

The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) has been considered throughout the design process. Following initial consultation with DfI Planning and Landscape Architects Branch, it was decided to reduce the planned height of the turbines from 180m to 156.5m. This was due to residential amenity considerations as well as the location of the site on the western edge of the Sperrin's Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

A landscape and visual analysis of the final design layout will be included in the planning application. It will be supported and accompanied by a series of visualisations known as photomontages and wireline views; these will present the wind farm against the existing landscape, allowing the reader and decision makers to fully understand how the wind farm will look within the landscape.

c. Ecology

Ecological data has been collected through a variety of surveys, including:

- Habitat surveys
- Bat surveys
- Bird surveys
- Mammal surveys
- Aquatic habitat surveys

Data collected from these surveys strongly influenced the wind farm design. A number of important bird species were identified across the site. Careful consideration has been taken to avoid any impacts of development for these species, and instead improve the habitat within the area as part of the Habitat Management Plan. Care was taken with the siting of the infrastructure to protect the flora and fauna on site.

d. Peat

Detailed hydrology and ecology surveys were conducted to assess the status of the peat on site. These included peat probing, dipwell monitoring and vegetation classification. Detailed maps of peat depth (found to be 0m to 4.3m) and peat condition (from active peat to inactive peat) were produced to avoid locating turbines and associated infrastructure on deep or active peat. This has resulted in the need for seven separate entrances as it was not possible to locate internal roads between the turbines without impacting active peat. In addition, a peat slide risk assessment was carried out to ensure the risk of a peat slide event during

construction or operation of the wind farm is minimised. Geological Survey of Northern Ireland were consulted during this process.

e. Other design considerations

There were many other topics considered during the design of the wind farm including:

- Shadow Flicker
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- Hydrology and Geology
- Traffic & Transport
- Land Use, Socioeconomics & Tourism
- Telecommunications
- Human Health



Planning process and how you can get involved

In May 2021, the Department for Infrastructure (“DfI Planning”) confirmed that they will be responsible for determining the planning application. We have undertaken a number of consultations with DfI Planning and their statutory consultees on a range of planning and environmental issues. We are aiming to submit the planning application in Spring 2023. Upon receipt of the planning application, DfI Planning will start the formal planning application determination process. Following the submission of the planning application to DfI Planning, the

full suite of planning application documents will be available to view on the DfI Planning website:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/finding-planning-application>²

Members of the public can make comments/ submissions in respect of the planning application directly to DfI Planning. DfI Planning will review the submission and will consider the issues raised as part of their planning assessment and decision-making process on the planning application.

²The address of the DfI planning website may be subject to change after the update to the planning portal website which is ongoing.



Project programme



Contact us

Telephone: **07733 210379** to speak with our
Community Liaison Officer, Michael Nicholas
or
Email: **info@craignagapplewindfarm.com**

Post: Craignagapple Wind Farm, Floor 5, City
Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork, Ireland.

For the latest information see:
craignagapplewindfarm.com

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