

Brittas Wind Farm Project



ABOUT ØRSTED

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy

Ørsted is a renewable energy company taking action to create a world that runs entirely on green energy. We develop, construct, own and operate onshore and offshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants.

Ørsted owns and operates 20 wind farms across Ireland providing 360MW of electricity to the national grid, with additional renewable projects in the construction and planning phases. It is our

ambition to grow our capacity significantly over the next decade to support the Irish Government's emission reduction targets. To achieve this, we aim to develop new onshore assets, repower existing assets, and grow our presence in Ireland's nascent energy storage market.



Introduction

As outlined in our last newsletter, we are exploring the potential to develop a wind energy project in the townlands of Brittas, Rossestown and Clobanna, near Thurles, Co. Tipperary. Since our last project update was distributed, we have progressed the initial design of the wind farm and are continuing the environmental assessment of the project.

In putting together this design we have considered your feedback from the previous community consultation event, and that of the planning and statutory consultees including Tipperary County Council, An Bord Pleanála and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Project Overview

The proposed project design currently consists of an 11-turbine wind farm. The turbines will have a tip height of up to 180m. The turbines will be linked by new access tracks. The project will include a new onsite electricity substation and a grid connection connecting the project to the national electricity grid. The project will also include a turbine delivery route which is the route chosen to transport large turbine components from the port of entry to the project site.



The initial turbine layout has considered various environmental factors and sensitivities and aims to comply with the Government's Wind Energy Development Guidelines. The design has considered the following:

Landscape and visual

Landscape and visual impacts have been considered throughout the design process. Initial layout designs were modelled by the landscape consultants Innovision, who modelled the theoretic visibility of the wind farm throughout the wider landscape. The consultant has also produced some visual representations of what the proposed wind farm will look like from various representative viewpoints. A landscape and visual assessment of the final design layout will be included in the planning application, accompanied by a series of visualisations known as photomontages. 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.

Ecology

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

- Terrestrial and aquatic habitat surveys
- Bat surveys
- Bird surveys
- Mammal surveys

Data collected from these surveys strongly influenced the wind farm design. Some areas of sensitive habitat were detected within the site boundary. Careful consideration has been taken to limit or avoid any impacts on these areas, and instead improving the overall quality of habitats within the area as part of the Habitat Management Plan. Care was taken with the siting of the current infrastructure layout to protect the flora and fauna on site.

Residential Amenity

The turbine locations have been positioned to maintain a setback from nearby houses of at least 720m. This is in line with the requirements set out in the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines which requires a setback of 4x the tip height of the proposed turbines. This aims to reduce potential impacts from visuals, noise and shadow flicker.

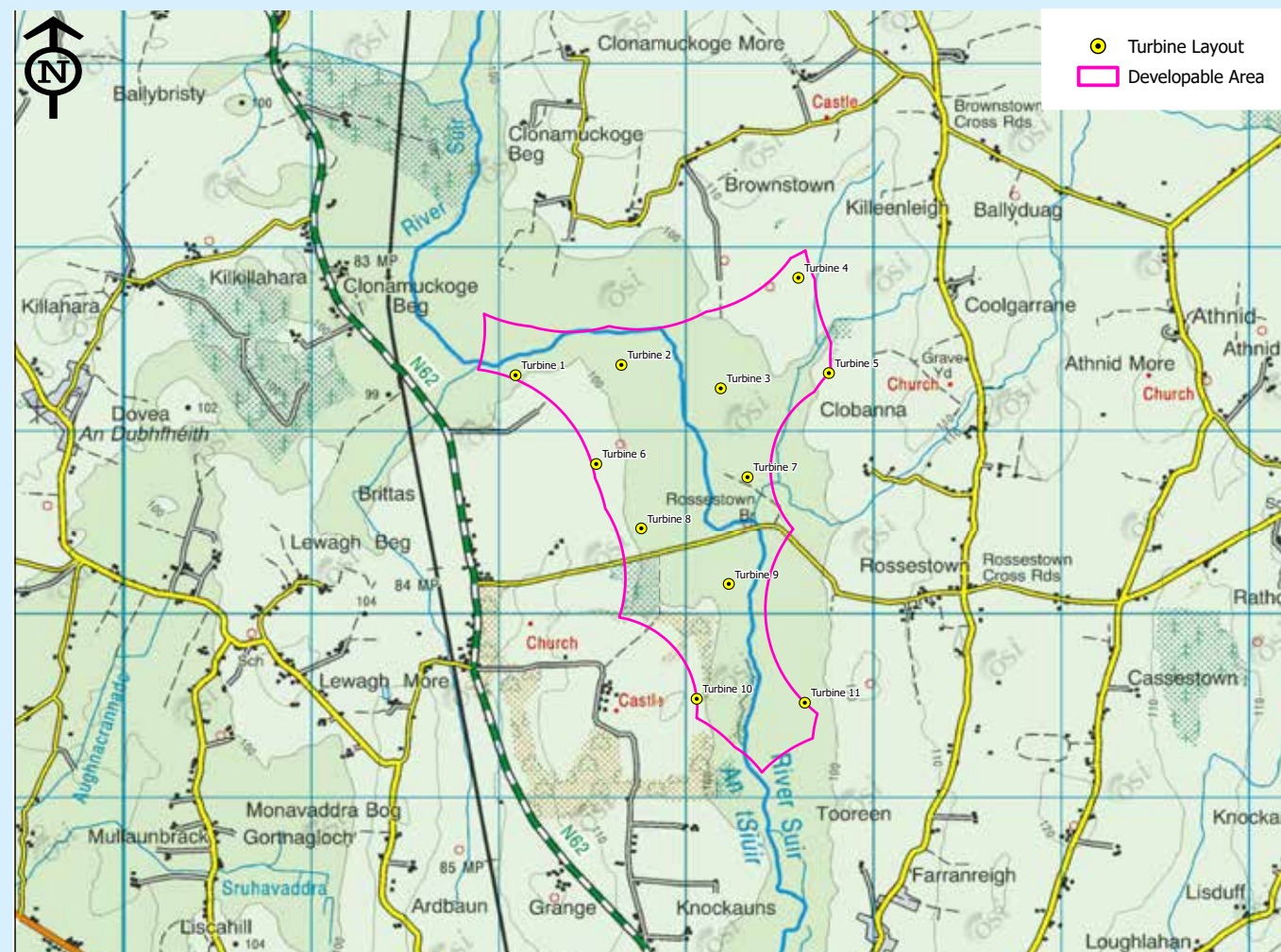
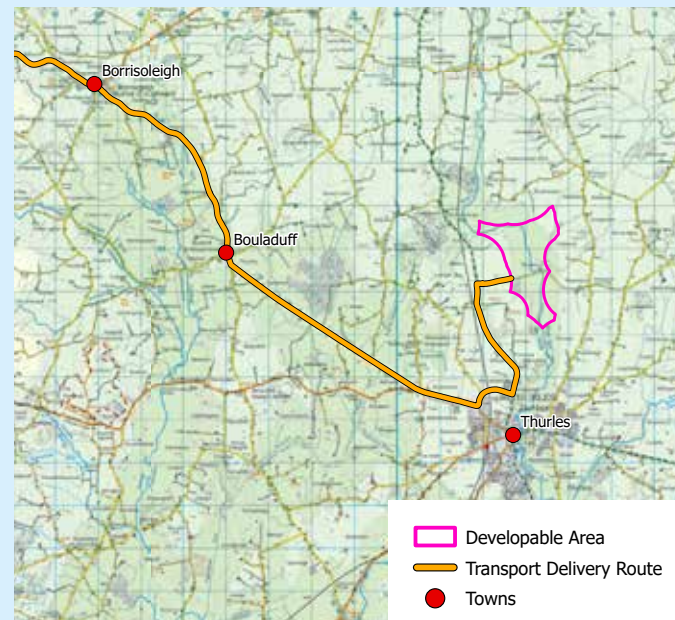
Other design considerations

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

- Setback from rivers and streams to avoid siltation during construction.
- Setback from public roads.
- Setback from registered archaeological monuments.

Turbine Delivery and Site Access

The site is accessed from the L8017 local road, 'The Dark Road' which connects to the N62. It is proposed to deliver turbine components to the site from the Port of Foynes, County Limerick. The components will be transported from the port via the M7 to Nenagh, where the route turns onto the R498 regional road southeast to Thurles passing through Borrisoleigh. The route will cross the outskirts of Thurles before turning north on the N62 towards the site. The delivery route has been designed to reduce disruption to local roads and traffic.



Benefits to the Local Community

The Brittas Wind Farm Project will offer a number of benefits to the local community

Community benefit fund

The current government guidelines for the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS) requires that a community benefit fund is put in place for all renewable energy projects contracted through RESS. The community benefit fund is valued at €2/MWH per year from the first year of operation of the new wind farm. This means that for every megawatt hour the wind farm produces, €2 is contributed to the fund. This would result in a substantial benefit fund being made available. For example, a 50MW project would provide approximately €280,000 per annum to the community benefit fund.

When qualifying for RESS, a projects community benefit fund is usually managed by an independent organisation, who set up a local committee which decides on how and to whom the funds are distributed.

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 information outlining our plans to protect and restore important habitats around the wind farm and our measures to enhance biodiversity. At Ørsted, we avoid, mitigate and address our impact on biodiversity to build and operate in harmony with nature. Our ambition is to deliver a net positive biodiversity impact from new projects commissioned from 2030.



The Planning Process

We are currently on schedule to submit the planning application in December of this year, provided we don't encounter any delays outside of our control. This application will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application. An Bord Pleanála is the national body that makes a decision to grant permission or refuse permission for major infrastructure projects that are important to either Ireland, the region or the local area. Examples include motorways, hospitals and wind farms with an output greater than 50MW. SID applications are made for developments which:

- Contribute significantly to meeting any of the objectives of the National Planning Framework, or
- Contribute significantly to meeting any regional spatial and economic strategy for an area, or
- Have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

Once the application is lodged, members of the public will be free to submit observations to the planning authority, which will be considered as a part of the decision-making process. The application documents will be available online, and physical copies will be available at the offices of An Bord Pleanála and Tipperary County Council.

Further information will be provided to the public prior to the planning submission.

Upcoming Community Event

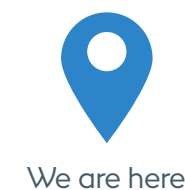
Ørsted's Brittas Wind Farm development team will be hosting an information event at the following locations:

- Thurles Sarsfields Gaelic Athletic Association Clubhouse, Townspark, Thurles on Tuesday 10th of October 5pm to 8pm.
- Loughmore Castleiney GAA Club, Coogulla on Wednesday 11th of October 5pm to 8pm.

The purpose of the event is to invite members of the local community to view the progress of the proposed project and to speak to the project team. The event will take place between 4pm and 8pm (TBC). If you cannot attend the event, please contact our team and we will send you an information pack.



Project Programme



Meet the Team

Eamon Hutton

Eamon is Ørsted's project manager for the Lisheen 4 project. Eamon is responsible for bringing renewable energy projects from initial conception, through the Environmental Impact Assessment and planning process to consent.



Aidan Stakelum and Alan Barry

Aidan and Alan are the community liaison representatives for the project. They are responsible for developing community engagement strategies and stakeholder management plans to engage with communities on greenfield projects. Aidan and Alan are available to discuss the proposed project with the local community.



Contact Us

We welcome all engagement and interaction on all aspects of the proposed Brittas Wind Farm Project.

You can contact us by email: **info@brittaswindfarm.com**

Or call a member of the project team on:

Aidan: **0861037437**

Alan: **0861030464**

Or write to us at: **Brittas Wind Farm, Floor 5, City Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork City, Ireland.**

Visit the project website at: **www.brittaswindfarm.ie**

