Brittas Wind Farm Project

ABOUT ØRSTED

Ørsted is a world leading renewable energy company and our vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy

In Ireland, Ørsted employs over 100 people in our Cork office and across our wind farms nationwide. We have invested over €700m in Ireland to date and operate 21 wind farms powering the equivalent of 250,000 homes. Our development pipeline is multi technology, including onshore and offshore wind, solar, hybrid, repower and storage. As such we offer a balanced, renewable, multi-technology view that we believe will contribute to a resilient energy mix.

Ørsted is recognised on the CDP Climate Change A-List as a global leader on climate action and was the first energy company in the world to have its science-based net-zero emissions target validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Headquartered in Denmark, Ørsted employs approx. 8,000 people globally.

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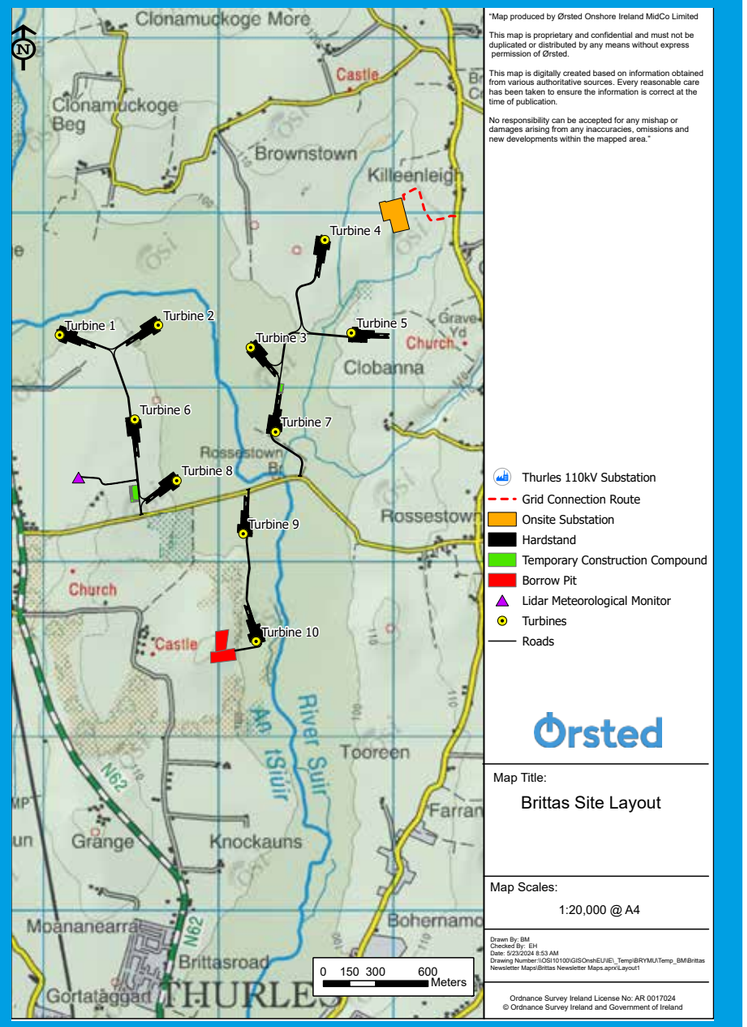
Introduction

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

In preparing the updated design we have considered the communities feedback from the previous consultation visits and events, as well as the views and opinions of the planning authority 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 a 10-turbine wind farm. We have removed one turbine from our previous design following feedback from community consultation and revision of environmental constraints. The proposed turbines will have a tip height of up to 180m. The turbines will be linked by new access tracks with 3 new site entrances on the L8017 local road (Dark Road). The project includes a new onsite electricity substation and a grid connection connecting the project to the national electricity grid. The project also includes accommodation works along the turbine delivery route which is the route chosen to transport large turbine components from the port of entry to the project site. The project will produce between 57MW and 65MW of renewable electricity.



Constraint Led Design Approach

A constraints led approach is best practice when designing a wind farm and that is how the Proposed Brittas Wind Farm has been designed. Various environmental sensitivities within the project study area are identified and from that, suitable areas are chosen where turbines and roads may be located. The project's design has considered a wide range of environmental sensitivities and has taken account of provisions of the Government's Wind Energy Development Guidelines. Examination of environmental constraints resulted in the removal of one wind turbine from the previous design of the project.

Residential Amenity

The turbine locations have been positioned to maintain a setback from nearby houses. The Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019) require a setback of 4x the tip height of the proposed turbines. This aims to reduce potential effects from visuals, noise and shadow flicker. A setback of 720m has been applied between nearby houses and turbine locations where possible.

Ecology

Ecological studies have been progressing on the site for the past three years. This has included extensive ornithology (bird) surveys, bat surveys, terrestrial and aquatic ecology surveys and mammal surveys. Extensive site walkovers have taken place, conducted by qualified ecologists, and an assessment of the potential effects on ecology has been prepared. The findings of the ecology surveys had a significant influence on the design of the project where avoidance of sensitive features and habitats was given high priority.

Landscape and visual

Landscape and visual impacts have been considered throughout the design process and each iteration of the design has been closely examined in terms of landscape and visual effects. The early layouts of the project were modelled by the landscape consultants Innovision, who examined the theoretic visibility of the proposed wind farm throughout the wider landscape. The consultant has also produced some visual representations of what the latest proposal for the 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 the 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.

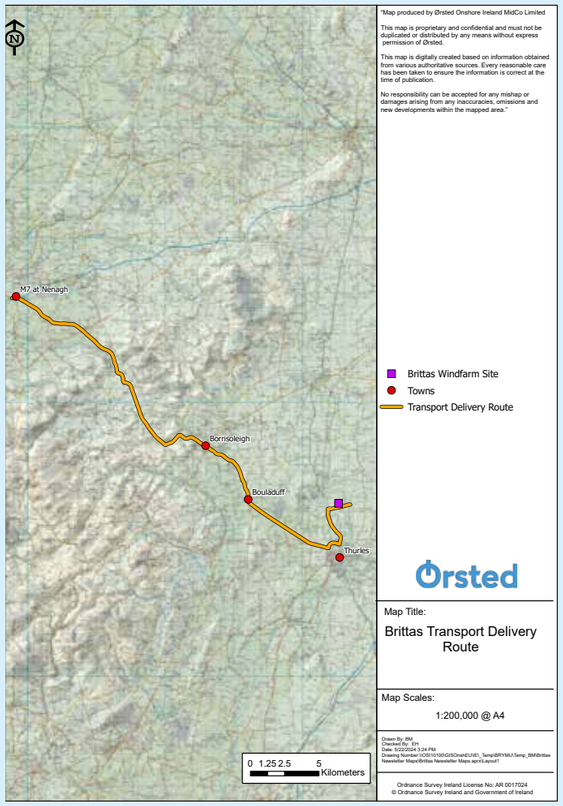
Other design considerations

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

- Noise surveys and assessments
- Setback from public roads and safe access to public roads
- Setback from rivers and streams to protect water quality
- Flood risk assessment
- Avoidance of impacts on registered archaeological monuments where possible

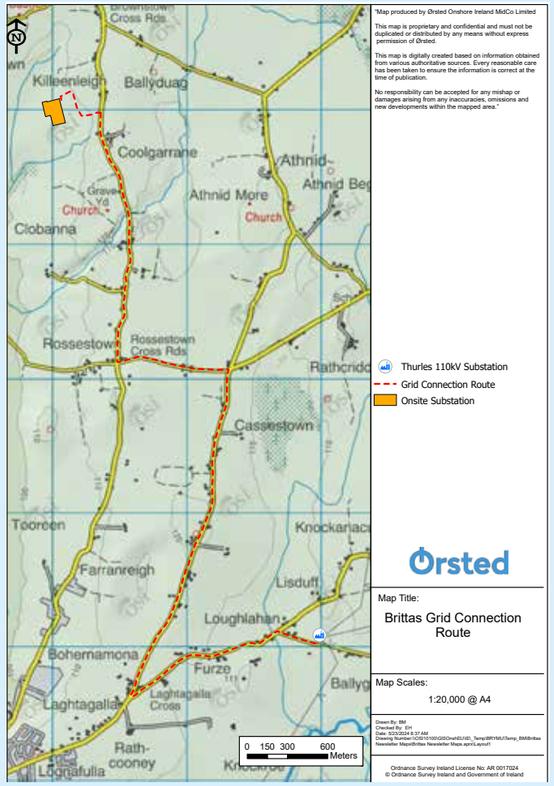
Turbine Delivery and Site Access

The site is accessed from the L8017 local road, 'The Dark Road' where three new site entrance are proposed. This road connects directly to the N62 to the west of the site. 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. Temporary accommodation works will be required along the route at various points prior to delivery.



Grid Route

It is proposed to connect the project to the national grid via an underground cable located within the public road. This is the preferred option as set out in the Wind Energy Development Guidelines and avoids any additional overhead lines. The proposed point of connection is the Thurles 110kV substation in the townland of Ballygammane. The grid route measures approximately 7km from the site entrance to the Thurles 110kV substation. The grid route and point of connection are subject to agreement with the system operator EirGrid.



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. The proposed project will produce between 57MW and 65MW, therefore an approximate community benefit fund of between €290,000 and €340,000 could be made available annually.

When qualifying for RESS, a projects community benefit fund is overseen by a fund committee consisting of volunteer community representatives, a representative of the project developer and an administrator. The primary decisions on fund spending is in the hands of the local community.

If the project does not enter into or qualify under a future RESS process, Ørsted remain fully committed to facilitating an annual Community Benefit Fund.

Jobs 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 proposed wind farm site 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

Since our last project update was issued, the project team experienced some delays in finalising the design and environmental assessment. We are currently on track to submit planning permission in the coming month. The project was recently issued Strategic Infrastructure Development status by An Bord Pleanála as the project is considered to consist of development which is of strategic economic or social importance to Ireland, the region or the local area.

Therefore, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála who are the national body that makes a decision to grant permission or refuse permission for major infrastructure projects. Once the application is lodged, members of the public will be able to view the full proposal, drawings and environmental assessments online or view a physical copy at the offices of An Bord Pleanála and Tipperary County Council. Once the planning application is submitted, members of the public are free to submit observations to the planning authority, which will be considered as a part of the decision-making process.

Upcoming Community Event

Ørsted's Brittas Wind Farm development team will be hosting an information event at the following location on Wednesday the 12th of June:

- Rahealty Community Centre, Rahealty, E41 DE62 on the 12th of June, 4pm to 8pm

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

Project Programme

Q2 2021
General ecological studies began in the study area.

Q3 2022
MWP consultants appointed to design and assess the project.

Q2 2023
Community consultation starts door-to-door in the surrounding area. Newsletter 2 is issued, and a public information evening is held at Thurles Sarsfields.

Q3 2023
Newsletter 3 is issued door-to-door in the local area and public information evenings are held at Thurles Sarsfields and Loughmore GAA.

Q2 2024
SID status is issued by An Bord Pleanála.

We are here

Q2 2024
Planning application to be submitted to An Bord Pleanála.

Q2 2022
Newsletter 1 was distributed in the locality of the site.

Q4 2022
Detailed environmental and engineering studies began.

Q3 2023
Initial wind farm layout is designed.

Q1 2024
Redesign of the project following community feedback and environmental assessment.

Q2 2024
Newsletter 4 is issue to local residents and a public event is organised at Rahealty Community Centre.

Meet the Team

Eamon Hutton

Eamon is Ørsted's project manager for the Brittas Wind Farm 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 renewable energy 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: **086 103 7437**
Alan: **086 103 0464**

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**

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