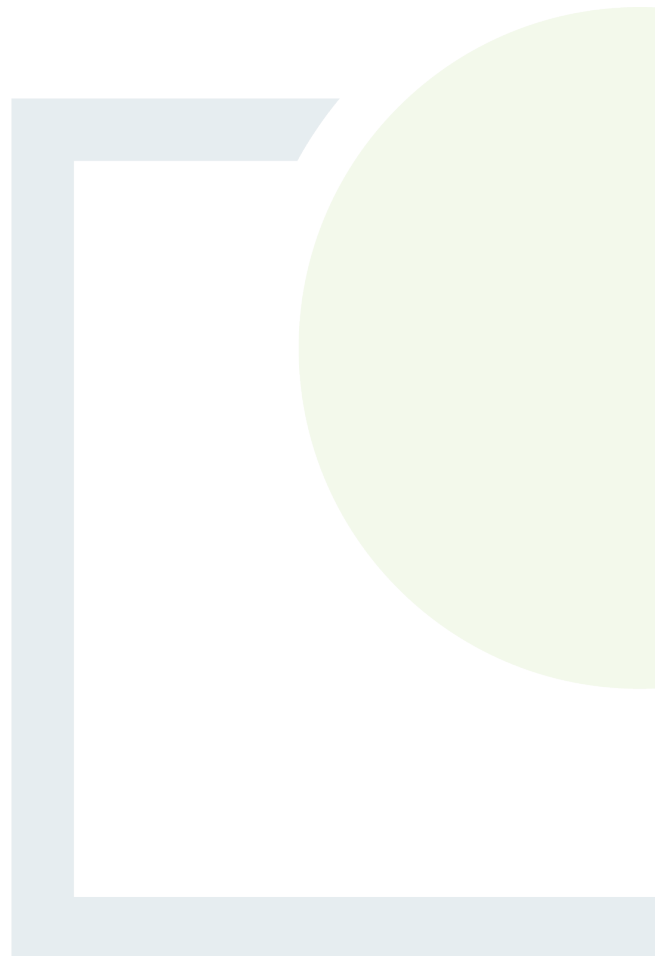




CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

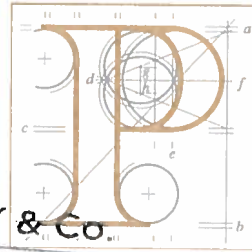
# APPENDIX 5.1

Scoping Responses









An  
Bord  
Pleanála

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution *Sy.*  
24 AUG 2018

Job No:

Correspondence No: *4*

Comment:

Silvia Garcia,  
Fehily Timoney & Company,  
Core House,  
Pouladuff Road,  
Cork.

22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2018.

Dear Sir/Madam,

An Bord Pleanála has received your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2018 concerning an EIAR in relation to a proposed wind and solar PV development near Bottlehill, County Cork.

An Bord Pleanála does not consider it appropriate, given its role in the planning system, to provide comments.

Yours sincerely,

Diarmuid Collins,  
Senior Administrative Assistant.





An Roinn Talmhaíochta,  
Bia agus Mara  
Department of Agriculture,  
Food and the Marine

Distribution

SL

24 AUG 2018

Job No:

Correspondence No: 10

Comment:

23 August 2018

Ms Silvia Garcia  
Fehily, Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork

**Re: Coom Green Energy Park**

Dear Ms Garcia,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Tel: 076-1064459, Web <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/>

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling;

<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/tree-felling/FellingReforestationPolicy240517.pdf> .

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM) , as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).



Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices for 2018 are published online at:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmental-impact-assessment-2018-public-consultation-for-forestation-forest-road-construction-and-felling-licences-2018/>
3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence and on request details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 28 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decisions for 2018 are published online at:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmental-impact-assessment-2018-register-of-decisions/>

Yours sincerely,

Janet Farrell  
Felling Section  
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine  
Johnstown Castle  
Co. Wexford  
e-mail: [felling.forests-service@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:felling.forests-service@agriculture.gov.ie)



Office of the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Dublin 2.

Oifig an Aire Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara, Baile Átha Cliath 2.

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution TD

04 JUL 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No: 3

Comment:

3 July 2019

Mr. Trevor Byrne  
Fehily Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork

**PLEASE QUOTE REF NUMBER ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE.**

Our Ref: 2019/61716N /HV

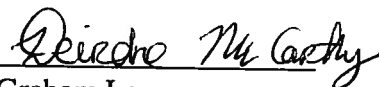
Your Ref: P1306/Lt/MM/MG/CF

Dear Mr. Byrne

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence addressed to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Michael Creed, TD concerning CGEP Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

I will undertake to bring your correspondence to the Minister's attention at the next practical juncture. In the interim I have forwarded your correspondence and enclosure for the attention of relevant Department officials.

Yours sincerely,

P.P. 

Graham Lennox  
Private Secretary

All personal data processed by this Office will take place in accordance with the law on Data Protection and will only be for the purpose(s) connected to the functions of the Office. Further information is available on the Department's Data Protection page:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/dataprotection/>



TREVOR BYRNE  
FEHILY TIMONEY & COMPANY,  
CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES, FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.  
CORE HOUSE,  
POULADUFF ROAD,  
CORK,  
IRELAND

Distribution *TS*

04 JUL 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No: *h*

Comment:

02 July 2019

**Re: Proposed Wind Farm Development - Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), Co. Cork (Your Reference: P1306/Lt/MM/MG/CF)**

Dear Mr Byrne,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling Licence from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Tel: 076-1064459, Web <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/tree-felling/tree-felling/>

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; <https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/media/migration/forestry/tree-felling/FellingReforestationPolicyMay2017250517.pdf>. As this development is within a forest lands particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment



Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices for 2019 are published online at:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmental-impact-assessment-eia-publicconsultation-for-afforestation-forest-road-construction-and-felling-licenses-2019/>
3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence and on request details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 28 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decisions for 2019 are published online at:  
<https://www.agriculture.gov.ie/forests-service/publicconsultation/environmental-impact-assessment-2019-register-of-decisions/>



It is important to note that when applying to a Local Authority or An Bord Pleanála for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
- b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
- c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,

that:

1. there is a requirement *inter alia* under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;

and

2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.





Yours sincerely,

*Sinead Stafford*

Sinéad Stafford

Felling Section

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

Johnstown Castle

Co Wexford

e-mail: [felling.forestservice@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:felling.forestservice@agriculture.gov.ie)





Your Ref: P1306/Lt/SG/MG/CF  
Our Ref: **G Pre00205/2018**  
(Please quote in all related correspondence)

21 September 2018

Ciara Finn,  
Fehily Timoney & Company,  
Core House,  
Pouladuff Road,  
Cork  
T12 D773

Via email: [ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie) cc: [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)

**Re: Environmental Impact Assessment Report Scoping and Consultation in relation to a renewable energy development comprising of wind and solar PV near Bottlehill, Co. Cork.**

A chara

On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related recommendations of the Department under the stated heading.

### **Archaeology**

This Department recommends that the intended Archaeological Impact Assessment should include an Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) of any watercourses within the footprint of the proposed wind and solar farms, including any areas for site compounds, haul roads, etc. and that might be impacted (either directly or indirectly) by the proposed works.

The UAIA shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and suitably experienced archaeologist with a track record in the survey of watercourses and shall include hand held metal detection survey. The UAIA shall be licensed by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. If any watercourse proves too deep to facilitate wading survey (i.e. as recommended to max. depth of 0.75m), then an underwater archaeological dive assessment will be required.

The above observations/recommendations are based on the papers submitted to this Department on a pre-planning basis and are made without prejudice to any observations



that the Minister may make in the context of any consultation arising on foot of any development application referred to the Minister, by the planning authority, in her role as statutory consultee under the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

You are requested to send further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at [manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@chg.gov.ie) (team monitored); if this is not possible, correspondence may alternatively be sent to:

The Manager  
Development Applications Unit (DAU)  
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht  
Newtown Road  
Wexford  
Y35 AP90

Is mise, le meas

---

Sinéad O' Brien  
Development Applications Unit



**OIFIG AN AIRE DLÍ AGUS CIRT AGUS COMHIONANNAIS  
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY**

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co**

Silva Garcia  
Fehily Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork

Distribution

*sg*

**23 AUG 2018**

Job No:

Correspondence No: *1*

Comment:

Reference : P1306/Lt/SG/MG/CF  
Minister Reference: 0821104335

21 August, 2018

Dear Ms. Garcia,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 16 August, 2018 regarding Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation.

Yours sincerely,

---

Conor Cleary  
Private Secretary to the Minister  
for Justice and Equality



Oifig an tAire Gnó, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta  
Office of the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation

Our Ref: **190633/MIN**

*H* July, 2019

Mr. Trevor Byrne  
Fehily Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution *TB*

08 JUL 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No. *2*

Comment:

Dear Mr. Byrne,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your recent correspondence to the Minister for Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ms. Heather Humphreys, T.D., enclosing Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

I will bring your correspondence to the Minister's attention at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely,

  
Eamonn McCormack  
Private Secretary



Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe  
ar son na hAeráide & Comhshaoil  
Department of Communications,  
Climate Action & Environment

FEHILY TIMONEY & CO.

Distribution *sg.*  
22 AUG 2018

Job No:

Correspondence No: *4*

Comment:

*22* August 2018

Ms Silvia Garcia  
Fehily Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork

Your Ref: P1306/Lt/SG/MG/CF

Dear Ms Garcia

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence, dated 16<sup>th</sup> August.

The contents of your correspondence will be brought to the attention of the relevant Division.

Yours sincerely

*Ann Shaw*  
Secretariat

*Fáiltítear roimh comhfhreagras i nGaeilge*





## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Manager Dau <Manager.Dau@chg.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday 17 August 2018 16:50  
**To:** Ciara Finn  
**Cc:** Silvia Garcia  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Our Ref: **G Pre00205/2018** (Please quote in all related correspondence)

A Chara

On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I acknowledge receipt of your recent consultation. In the event of observations, you will receive a response by email from Development Applications Unit (DAU) on behalf of the Department.

The normal target turnaround is six weeks from date of receipt. If observations are received before this time, DAU will be in contact at that stage.

If you have not heard from DAU and wish to receive an update, please telephone the direct line number below or email [manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@chg.gov.ie).

Le meas  
Diarmuid Buttimer

**Diarmuid Buttimer**  
*Executive Officer*

**An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**  
*Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**  
*Development Applications Unit*

**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**  
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

T +353 (0)53 911 7326  
[manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@chg.gov.ie)  
[www.chg.gov.ie](http://www.chg.gov.ie)

---

**From:** Ciara Finn [mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 14:49  
**To:** Manager Dau  
**Cc:** Silvia Garcia  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Apologies.

Please find attached the letter as mentioned below.

Regards

Ciara

---

**From:** Manager Dau [<mailto:Manager.Dau@chg.gov.ie>]

**Sent:** 17 August 2018 14:43

**To:** Ciara Finn <[ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Good Afternoon Ciara,

Please note, there was no attachment to your original email.

Regards

Diarmuid

**Diarmuid Buttimer**

*Executive Officer*

—

**An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**

*Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**

*Development Applications Unit*

**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**

Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

—

T +353 (0)53 911 7326

[manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@chg.gov.ie)

[www.chg.gov.ie](http://www.chg.gov.ie)

—

---

**From:** Ciara Finn [<mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie>]

**Sent:** 17 August 2018 14:30

**To:** Manager Dau

**Cc:** Silvia Garcia

**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or be email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

## Kind Regards

Ciara Finn

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road |Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 | Fax: +353 21 496 4464 | Mail to: [ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

**Winner CMG Design Building Awards Project/Construction Management Company of the Year 2012**

**Winner CMG Design Building Awards Engineering Practice of the Year 2011**

**Winner CMG Design Building Awards Engineering Practice/Consultant of the Year 2010**

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---

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo faoi rún, chomh maith le gach comhad atá ceangailte leis, agus i gcomhair úsáid an duine nó an chórais a bhfuil sé dírithe air amháin. Má fhaigheann tú an ríomhphost seo trí bhotún, cuir scéal chugainn ag [webmaster@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:webmaster@ahg.gov.ie). Tá an ríomhphost seo arna sheiceáil ag scanóir víreas agus dealramh air go bhfuil sé glan.

The information in this email, and any attachments transmitted with it, are confidential and are for the intended recipient only. If you receive this message in error, please notify us via [webmaster@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:webmaster@ahg.gov.ie) . This e-mail has been scanned by a virus scanner and appears to be clean.

\*\*\*\*\*

Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvíorais chun víorais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

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Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo faoi rún, chomh maith le gach comhad atá ceangailte leis, agus i gcomhair úsáid an duine nó an chórais a bhfuil sé dírithe air amháin. Má fhaigheann tú an ríomhphost seo trí bhotún, cuir scéal chugainn ag [webmaster@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:webmaster@ahg.gov.ie). Tá an ríomhphost seo arna sheiceáil ag scanóir víreas agus dealramh air go bhfuil sé glan.

The information in this email, and any attachments transmitted with it, are confidential and are for the intended recipient only. If you receive this message in error, please notify us via [webmaster@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:webmaster@ahg.gov.ie). This e-mail has been scanned by a virus scanner and appears to be clean.

\*\*\*\*\*

Is faoi rún agus chun úsáide an té nó an aonán atá luaite leis, a sheoltar an ríomhphost seo agus aon comhad atá nasctha leis. Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, déan teagmháil le bhainisteoir an chórais.

Deimhnítear leis an bhfo-nóta seo freisin go bhfuil an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvíorais chun víorais ríomhaire a aimsiú.

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager.

This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept by anti-virus software for the presence of computer viruses.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 23 July 2019 10:18  
**To:** David Walsh  
**Subject:** RE: Coom EIAR Scoping Report

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Our Ref: G Pre00205/2019 (Please quote in all related correspondence)

A Chara

On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I acknowledge receipt of your recent consultation.

In the event of observations, you will receive a co-ordinated heritage-related response by email from Development Applications Unit (DAU) on behalf of the Department.

The normal target turnaround for pre-planning and other general consultations is six weeks from date of receipt. In relation to general consultations from public bodies under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 to 2011, the Department endeavours to meet deadline dates, where requested.

If you have not heard from DAU and wish to receive an update, please telephone the direct line number below or email [manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@chg.gov.ie) .

**Connor Rooney**  
*Executive Officer*

—

**An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**  
*Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**  
*Development Applications Unit*

**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**  
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

—

T +353 (0)53 911 7464  
[manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@chg.gov.ie)  
[www.chg.gov.ie](http://www.chg.gov.ie)

—

---

**From:** David Walsh [mailto:david.walsh@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** Friday 19 July 2019 10:32  
**To:** Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Coom EIAR Scoping Report

Hi Connor,

Please click on the link below as seen in the screen grap

---

Yours faithfully,

Trevor Byrne

for and on behalf of Fehily Timoney & Company

[Click here to download documents](#) This message is for the intended recipient only. It may contain confidential or proprietary information. If you receive this message in error, please immediately delete it, destroy all copies of it and notify the sender. You must not use or disclose any part of this message if you are not the intended recipient. We may monitor all email communication through our networks. Any views expressed in this message are those of the individual sender, except where the message states otherwise. We take reasonable precautions to ensure our emails are virus free. However, we cannot accept responsibility for any virus transmitted by us and recommend that you subject any incoming email to your own virus checking procedure. Fehily Timoney is registered in Ireland as a private company limited by shares. Registration No. 180497. Registered office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, Ireland

Kind regards,

Trevor Byrne

---

**From:** Manager DAU <[Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie](mailto:Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie)>

**Sent:** Friday 19 July 2019 10:07

**To:** David Walsh <[david.walsh@ftco.ie](mailto:david.walsh@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Coom EIAR Scoping Report

Hi Trevor,

There doesn't seem to be any documents attached to the email.

Kind regards,

**Connor Rooney**  
*Executive Officer*

---

**An Roinn Cultúir, Oidhreachta agus Gaeltachta**  
*Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht*

**Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt**  
*Development Applications Unit*

**Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90**  
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

---

T +353 (0)53 911 7464  
[manager.dau@chg.gov.ie](mailto:manager.dau@chg.gov.ie)  
[www.chg.gov.ie](http://www.chg.gov.ie)

---

**From:** [Unionsquare@ftco.ie](mailto:Unionsquare@ftco.ie) [<mailto:Unionsquare@ftco.ie>] **On Behalf Of** David Walsh  
**Sent:** Friday 19 July 2019 09:13  
**To:** Manager DAU <[Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie](mailto:Manager.DAU@chg.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Coom EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached an EIAR Scoping report for the proposed Coom Green Energy Park(CGEP) renewable energy project located in County Cork.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate make contact using the email address provided in the attached document.

Yours faithfully,

Trevor Byrne

for and on behalf of Fehily Timoney & Company

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## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Trevor Austen <trevor.austen@housingagency.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 21 August 2018 10:53  
**To:** Silvia Garcia  
**Cc:** Jim Baneham  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park EIS Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Silvia,

The Housing Agency, 53 Mount Street, writes to confirm receipt of Fehily Timoney correspondence of 16<sup>th</sup> August in connection with the above.

We wish to advise that the Housing Agency holds no property, lands or other interests in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm; indicated on the maps supplied.

Regards

Trevor Austen



## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Tim Dowling <Tim\_Dowling@hsa.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday 17 August 2018 17:38  
**To:** Silvia Garcia  
**Cc:** Sean Hyde; Pat Conneely  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Silvia

I am based in the Dublin Office and perhaps the best persons to deal with this query is either Sean Hyde or Pat Conneely who are both based in the Cork office.

Regards  
Tim

---

**From:** Silvia Garcia [mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 17:23  
**To:** Tim Dowling  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Tim,  
No, this was sent correctly. We would like to consult with Health & Safety Authority in case they have any concern about the development.  
Would you please let me know if there is someone else in your organisation that will look after this, and we'll forward him/her this letter.  
Thanks.  
Regards,

**Silvia Garcia**  
**Senior Project Scientist**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 Direct Dial: +353 21 496 9565  
Fax: +353 21 496 4464  
Mail to: [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Ciara Finn  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 17:00  
**To:** Silvia Garcia <silvia.garcia@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** FW: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

---

**From:** Tim Dowling [mailto:Tim\_Dowling@hsa.ie]  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 17:00  
**To:** Ciara Finn <ciara.finn@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Ciara

I was just wondering is this document sent to me by mistake?

Regards

Tim Dowling

---

**From:** Ciara Finn [<mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie>]  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 14:56  
**To:** Tim Dowling  
**Cc:** Silvia Garcia  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or be email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

**Kind Regards**

**Ciara Finn**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road |Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: [+353 21 496 4133](tel:+353214964133) | Fax: [+353 21 496 4464](tel:+353214964464) | Mail to: [ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

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Environmental Health Service,  
Blackwater House,  
Mallow Business Park,  
Mallow,  
Co. Cork.  
Telephone (022) 58705  
Fax (022) 31707

Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

28<sup>th</sup> August 2019

Mr. Trevor Byrne,  
Fehily Timoney & Company,  
Core House,  
Pouladuff Road,  
Cork.

E-mail: [cgep@ftco.ie](mailto:cgep@ftco.ie)

EHS Ref: ID993

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution

TB

03 SEP 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No: 2.

Comment:

**RE: Environmental Health Service response to:  
COOM GREEN ENERGY PARK (CGEP) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - SCOPING REPORT**

Dear Mr. Byrne,

The Environmental Health Service (EHS) makes the following comments on the scoping report:

- a) The EHS has no additional comments on the proposed assessment methodology or evaluation criteria and is satisfied that this meets the current requirements of EIA.
- b) It is recommended that the population and human health assessment is expanded to include any potential opportunity for health gain from the proposed development. This could include, for example, designated recreational use of land between turbines, cycle routes and development of the area that increases opportunities for physical activity.
- c) The following HSE stakeholders were made aware of the Scoping Report on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2019:

Emergency Planning – David O’Sullivan  
Estates – Helen maher  
AND for Health protection – Kevin Kelleher  
CHO – Ger Reaney

A response from Emergency Planning was received by the EHS on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019 and is enclosed.

If you wish to discuss any aspects of this submissions then you should contact, in the first instance, Bernadine Scanlan, PEHO, at the above contact details.

Yours sincerely,

Stephen Ryan  
Senior Environmental Health Officer

Bernadine Scanlan  
Principal Environmental Health Officer



<b>HSE South Emergency Management Consultation Report</b>			
<b>Report to</b>	<b>Bernadine Scanlan, PEHO, North Cork</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>21 August, 2019</b>
<b>Type of consultation:</b> EIS <input type="checkbox"/> Scoping X Screening <input type="checkbox"/> EIAR X EPA <input type="checkbox"/>			
<b>Other (please specify):</b>			
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Cork County Council</b>		
<b>Authority Reference Number</b>	<b>EHIS 0993</b>		
<b>EM Reference Number</b>	<b>EMENV019</b>		
<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited</b>		
<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Coom Green Energy Park – Cork County Council Bottlehill Site Renewable Energy Development in partnership with Coillte</b>		

### HSE South Emergency Management Observations:

Please be advised that the HSE South Emergency Management function does not have any specific observations to make with respect to this application. However, please note the following recommendations within the context of site operations:

1. Should an incident occur at the site and the site operator requires the assistance of the emergency services, the incident information should be provided in the `ETHANE` format (please see attached).
2. Emergency Services access to the site should be clearly identified. This should be undertaken via appropriate high visibility signage, i.e.; a green sign with a yellow border and white lettering citing the abbreviation RVP
3. The site should have a mechanism in place to account for personnel during an evacuation in order to provide the responding emergency services with an estimate of the number of people accounted and unaccounted for.
4. The site should identify any critical / vulnerable facilities within the geographical catchment area, such as hospitals, schools, nursing homes, etc, that could be directly or indirectly affected by an incident at the site.
5. Where the `off-site` impacts of an incident at the site affects a vulnerable cohort / population such as children within crèches, schools; patients / clients / residents within nursing homes, etc; the emergency services will require assistance from the site operator in determining the impact on the local community.
6. The site operator is encouraged to develop a business continuity plan that includes a plan for severe weather. For more advice on this, please see the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, *Business Continuity Planning in Severe Weather*.  
<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Publications/Publication-files/Business-Continuity-Planning-in-Severe-Weather-Check-List-for-Businesses.pdf>

All correspondence or any queries with regard to this report should be forwarded to Ms. Maryanne Horgan, Emergency Management Office, HSE South, Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital, Western Road, Cork, T12 WP62 or [maryanne.horgan@hse.ie](mailto:maryanne.horgan@hse.ie)





Dial 999 / 112 – Request the service you require An Garda Síochána /  
Ambulance Service and / or Fire and Rescue Service

WHEN YOU ARE CONNECTED TO THE REQUISTE SERVICE(S)

**GIVE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION**

This is: \_\_\_\_\_ Eircode: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name, Telephone Number and Eircode Address of site)

*An incident has occurred at this site – standby for ETHANE message*

<b>E</b>	
	Exact location of the incident
<b>T</b>	
	Type of incident, e.g.; fire, explosion, gas leak, etc
<b>H</b>	
	Hazards – current and potential
<b>A</b>	
	Access and Egress – what is the safest approach route for responding emergency services and where is your emergency services meeting point (RVP)
<b>N</b>	
	Number of casualties and their condition – specify adult / children if known
<b>E</b>	
	The emergency services present and required

R.V.P.  
No.1

*N.B. If you require another emergency service, stay on the line and repeat the steps again*



## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Taly Hunter Williams <Taly.HunterWilliams@gsi.ie> on behalf of Duty Geologist <Duty.Geologist@DCCAE.gov.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday 28 June 2019 18:14  
**To:** David Walsh  
**Cc:** Duty Geologist  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Mr Byrne

Thank you for your email. I have passed it to the relevant staff within GSI.

Best regards  
Taly

---

**From:** David Walsh [mailto:david.walsh@ftco.ie]  
**Sent:** 27 June 2019 09:54  
**To:** Duty Geologist  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached an EIAR Scoping report for the proposed Coom Green Energy Park(CGEP) renewable energy project located in County Cork.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate make contact using the email address provided in the attached document.

Yours faithfully,

**Trevor Byrne**

for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

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## Marie Geary

---

**From:** EIAPanning <eiapanning@epa.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 27 June 2019 09:39  
**To:** David Walsh  
**Subject:** Automatic reply: Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

Thank you for contacting eiapanning@epa.ie

We have received your email and will deal with it as soon as possible.

Regards

EIA team  
Environmental Protection Agency



## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Seamus Walsh <Seamus.Walsh@met.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 20 August 2018 09:09  
**To:** Silvia Garcia  
**Subject:** Your Ref: P1306/Lt/SG/MG/CF

Dear Silvia,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2018 regarding Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Assessment Report. Met Éireann have no comments to make on the proposed development.

Regards,

Séamus Walsh

*Séamus Walsh*  
*Head, Climatology and Observations Division,*  
*Met Éireann, Glasnevin Hill, Dublin 9, Ireland, D09 Y921*  
*e:*[seamus.walsh@met.ie](mailto:seamus.walsh@met.ie) | *t:*+353 (01)8065541  
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Ta an teachtaireacht ríomhphoist seo scuabtha le bogearraí frithvireas.

\*\*\*\*\*





**Parkes, Matthew**

---

**Subject:** FW: NE-2019-300 Coom Green Energy Park

**From:** Parkes, Matthew  
**Sent:** 15 July 2019 12:29  
**To:** 'cgep@ftco.ie' <cgep@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** NE-2019-300 Coom Green Energy Park

NE-2019-300-2

Dear Trevor Byrne,

The Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland received your scoping documents for the above wind farm proposal. We are unaware of any mining heritage in this area or nearby that could or should be considered within the EIA. I shall return your document by post as it may thus be used again on your work.

IMPORTANTLY, I would ask you to update your company records to remove the Mining Heritage Trust from your potential consultees in future as we are in the process of winding up the company and it will no longer exist after August this year.

Many thanks for your consultation.

Matthew Parkes ( Chairman, MHTI)

Dr Matthew A Parkes, PGeo, EurGeol, FGA  
National Museum of Ireland - Natural History  
Merrion Street, Dublin 2, Ireland  
Email: [mparkes@museum.ie](mailto:mparkes@museum.ie)  
Please CC [matthewparkes@eircom.net](mailto:matthewparkes@eircom.net) or check that I have received your email  
Telephone: +353 (0)87 122 1967 or 01-6307006

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Visit: Jurassic Skies – When dinosaurs took to the air <https://www.museum.ie/Decorative-Arts-History/Exhibitions/Current-Exhibitions/Jurassic-Skies-When-Dinosaurs-Took-to-the-Air>

Geological Curators' Group Chairman and Journal Editor: <http://www.geocurator.org/>

Editor, Irish Journal of Earth Sciences: <http://www.ria.ie/Publications/Journals/Irish-Journal-of-Earth-Sciences.aspx>

Chairman, Director, Mining Heritage Trust of Ireland: [www.mhti.com](http://www.mhti.com)

Editorial Board of ProGEO journal: *Geoheritage*: <http://www.progeo.ngo/>

SUI Librarian: [www.caving.ie](http://www.caving.ie)

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Distribution

17 JUL 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:



## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Landuse Planning <LandUsePlanning@tii.ie>  
**Sent:** Friday 17 August 2018 16:03  
**To:** Cahill Fergal; Ciara Finn  
**Cc:** Silvia Garcia  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Ciara

Send your request to this email address

All land use planning requests are dealt with by the Land Use planning section.

Please update your systems

Regards

Tara

Tara Spain

[[Head of Land Use Planning](#)

**Transport Infrastructure Ireland**

Parkgate Business Centre, Parkgate St., D08 DK10, Ireland.

[ web: [www.tii.ie](http://www.tii.ie)

[email:[LandUsePlanning@tii.ie](mailto:LandUsePlanning@tii.ie)

[t: +353 1 6463600



 [www.tii.ie](http://www.tii.ie)

 [info@tii.ie](mailto:info@tii.ie)

 +353 (01) 646 3600

---

**From:** Cahill Fergal  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 16:00  
**To:** Ciara Finn <ciara.finn@ftco.ie>  
**Cc:** Silvia Garcia <silvia.garcia@ftco.ie>; Spain Tara <Tara.Spain@tii.ie>; McCormack Michael <Michael.McCormack@tii.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Ciara

I'm assuming that the attached scoping / consultation request has been sent to me in error?

All such requests would need to be sent through TIIs Land Use Planning Section (who would then coordinate a review and response from all interested internal entities within TII).

Regards

Fergal

**Fergal Cahill**

Chartered Engineer

Senior Engineer - Structures Engineering & Asset Management  
Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Tel: +353-1-646-3676 | Email: [fergal.cahill@tii.ie](mailto:fergal.cahill@tii.ie) | Web: [www.tii.ie](http://www.tii.ie)



---

**From:** Ciara Finn <[ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** Friday 17 August 2018 15:30

**To:** Cahill Fergal <[Fergal.Cahill@tii.ie](mailto:Fergal.Cahill@tii.ie)>

**Cc:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or be email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

**Kind Regards**

**Ciara Finn**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road |Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: [+353 21 496 4133](tel:+353214964133) | Fax: [+353 21 496 4464](tel:+353214964464) | Mail to: [ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

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**Winner CMG Design Building Awards Engineering Practice of the Year 2011**

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**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Distribution

**27 AUG 2018**

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

**Ms. Silvia Garcia**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company**  
**Core House**  
**Pouladuff Road**  
**Cork**  
**Ireland**

**Dáta | Date**  
**24 August 2018**

**Ár dTag | Our Ref.**  
**TII18-102831**

**Bhur dTag | Your Ref.**  
**P1306**

**Re: EIAR Scoping Request for proposed Coom Green Energy Park for Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd (BRIL) in partnership with Coillte.**

**Dear Ms. Garcia,**

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) acknowledges receipt of your EIAR Scoping request in respect of the above proposed project.

National Strategic Outcome 2 of the National Planning Framework includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national roads network. It is also an investment priority of the National Development Plan, 2018 – 2027, to ensure that the extensive transport networks which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, accessibility and connectivity to transport users.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals following the examination of any valid application referred.

The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidance as outlined in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance and circulars available at [www.TII.ie](http://www.TII.ie).

In this instance the development is a windfarm and Solar PV energy generation proposal over 5 no. distinct areas around and to the north west of Bottlehill, Co. Cork. Also indicated on submitted figures is a further location for a 220kV substation and proposed grid connection options. All areas are south west of Fermoy and west of the M8, south of the N72 and east of the N20.

With respect to EIAR Scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of EIAR, which may affect the national roads network. The developer should have regard, *inter alia*, to the following;

- 1) As set down in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, it is in the public interest that, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that the national road network continues to serve its intended strategic purpose. The EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national

road network in order to demonstrate that the development can proceed complementary to safeguarding the capacity, safety and operational efficiency of that network.

- 2) Consultations should be had with the relevant local authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes.
- 3) In relation to cabling and potential connection routing, the scheme promoter should note locations of existing and future national road schemes and develop proposals to safeguard proposed road schemes. In the context of existing national roads, alternatives to the provision of cabling along the national road network, such as alternative routing or the laying of cabling in private lands adjoining the national road, should be considered in the interests of safeguarding the investment in and the potential for future upgrade works to the national road network.
- 4) Clearly identify haul routes proposed (construction and operation stages) and fully assess the network to be traversed. In this regard, specifically include considerations of duration of likely impacts. Separate motorway crossing, structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with proposed haul routes, including where temporary modification to the road network may be required. Consultation with relevant PPP Companies and MMarC Contractors may also be required. All structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed.
- 5) TII Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) including the requirement for Road Safety Audit (RSA) and Road Safety Impact Assessment (RSIA).
- 6) Have regard to any Environmental Impact Statement and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should in particular have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- 7) Assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- 8) Assessments and design and construction and maintenance standards and guidance are available at [TII Publications](#) that replaced the NRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) and the NRA Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works (MCDRW).
- 9) The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to TII Environment Guidelines that deal with assessment and mitigation measures for varied environmental factors and occurrences. In particular;
  - a) Include specific assessment of the visual impact of the construction and operation of the proposed development on the M8 and N20 national road and its users.
  - b) TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (National Roads Authority, 2006),
  - c) The EIAR should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see *Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes* (1<sup>st</sup> Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)).

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I trust that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

Yours sincerely,



Natasha Crudden  
Regulatory & Administration Unit



Distribution *TR*

08 JUL 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No: *3*

Comment:

**Mr. Trevor Byrne**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company**  
**Core House**  
**Pouladuff Raod**  
**Cork**

Dáta | Date  
4 July 2019

Ár dTag | Our Ref.  
TII19-106239

Bhur dTag | Your Ref.  
P1036/Lt/MM/MG/CF

**Re: EIAR Scoping Request: Proposed Coom Green Energy Park, Co. Cork on behalf of Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte.**

Dear Mr. Byrne,

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) acknowledges receipt of your EIAR Scoping request in respect of the above proposed project, received 3 July 2019.

National Strategic Outcome 2 of the National Planning Framework includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national roads network. It is also an investment priority of the National Development Plan, 2018 – 2027, to ensure that the extensive transport networks which have been greatly enhanced over the last two decades, are maintained to a high level to ensure quality levels of service, accessibility and connectivity to transport users.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals following the examination of any valid application referred.

The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidance as outlined in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at [www.TII.ie](http://www.TII.ie).

In this instance, the proposal is for up to 22 no. turbine windfarm, access tracks and underground cable to supply grid to either 110kV substation located at Barrymore near Rathcormac, Co. Cork or a 'looped-in' connection to the Killonan-Knockraha 200kV overhead line. The indicated site layouts submitted show the proposed development is located approximately 7km east of the N20, 10 km south of the N72 and 12 km west of the M8.

With respect to EIAR Scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of EIAR, which may affect the national roads network. The developer should have regard, *inter alia*, to the following;

Próiseálann BIE sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag [www.tii.ie](http://www.tii.ie).  
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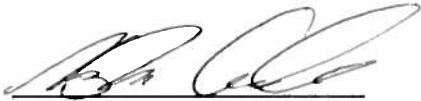
1. As set down in the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, it is in the public interest that, in so far as is reasonably practicable, that the national road network continues to serve its intended strategic purpose. The EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network in order to demonstrate that the development can proceed complementary to safeguarding the capacity, safety and operational efficiency of that network.
2. Consultations should be had with the relevant local authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to locations of existing and future national road schemes, including the M20 Cork to Limerick Road identified as an Investment Action to commence planning in the National Development Plan 2018 -2027.
3. In relation to cabling and potential connection routing, the scheme promoter should note locations of existing and future national road schemes and develop proposals to safeguard proposed road schemes. In the context of existing national roads, alternatives to the provision of cabling along the national road network, such as alternative routing or the laying of cabling in private lands adjoining the national road, should be considered in the interests of safeguarding the investment in and the potential for future upgrade works to the national road network. The cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII, any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network.
4. Clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route and all structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed.
5. Where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. TII's TTA Guidelines (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the TII TTA Guidelines which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.
6. TII Standards should be consulted to determine the requirement for Road Safety Audit (RSA) and Road Safety Impact Assessment (RSIA).
7. Assessments and design and construction and maintenance standards and guidance are available at [TII Publications](#) that replaced the NRA Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) and the NRA Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works (MCDRW).
8. The developer, in conducting Environmental Impact Assessment, should have regard to TII Environment Guidelines that deal with assessment and mitigation measures for varied environmental factors and occurrences. In particular;

- a. TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (National Roads Authority, 2006),
- b. The EIAR should consider the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see *Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes* (1<sup>st</sup> Rev., National Roads Authority, 2004)).

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I hope that the above comments are of use in your EIAR preparation.

**Yours sincerely,**



**Natasha Crudden**

**Regulatory & Administration Unit**



## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Info @ Waterways Ireland <info@waterwaysireland.org>  
**Sent:** Friday 17 August 2018 16:27  
**To:** Silvia Garcia  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Silvia

I am wondering did you mean to send this to Waterways Ireland. We have no remit for any area near Cork?

### Kind Regards

#### Nuala Maguire

Waterways Ireland  
2 Sligo Road  
Enniskillen  
BT74 7JY

Tel no: +44 (0)28 6634 6232

Email: [nuala.maguire@waterwaysireland.org](mailto:nuala.maguire@waterwaysireland.org)



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**From:** Ciara Finn <ciara.finn@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 15:36  
**To:** Info @ Waterways Ireland <info@waterwaysireland.org>  
**Cc:** Silvia Garcia <silvia.garcia@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or be email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

### Kind Regards

Ciara Finn

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

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**An Roinn Cosanta**  
Department of Defence

Mr. Trevor Byrne  
Fehily Timoney & Co  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork  
T12 D733

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Distribution TB

14 AUG 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No: 2

Comment:

12<sup>th</sup> August 2019

**Re: EIAR Scoping Document for the Proposed Coom Green Energy Park, Co Cork**

Dear Mr. Byrne,

On initial assessment as part of the scoping document received for this location, The Department would like to make the following observations:

**4.15.2 Assessment Methodology**

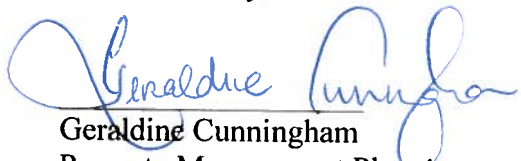
*An evaluation of the possible effects that the proposed development could have on aviation and existing telecommunications networks will be conducted. A study will be undertaken to analyse the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operator's point-to-point microwave radio links*

1. When made available please send this report as mentioned above to [airspaceandobstacles@defenceforces.ie](mailto:airspaceandobstacles@defenceforces.ie)
2. In all locations where wind farms are permitted it should be a condition that they meet the following lighting requirements
  - a) Single turbines or turbines delineating corners of a wind farm should be illuminated by high intensity obstacle strobe lights (Red).
  - b) Obstruction lighting elsewhere in a wind farm will be of a pattern that will allow the hazard be identified and avoided by aircraft in flight.
  - c) Obstruction lights used should be incandescent or of a type visible to Night Vision Equipment. Obstruction lighting fitted to obstacles must emit light at the near Infra-Red (IR) range of the electromagnetic spectrum specifically at or near 850nanometres (nm) of wavelength. Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light. Obstruction lights used should be incandescent or of a type visible to Night Vision Equipment.

Please keep this office advised of any changes to the development and future planning applications.

If you have any further queries in this regard, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine Cunningham

Property Management Planning

Tel: 045 492036

Email: [geraldine.cunningham@defence.ie](mailto:geraldine.cunningham@defence.ie)



## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Reception <reception@FTCO.IE>  
**Sent:** Monday 17 September 2018 10:21  
**To:** Silvia Garcia  
**Subject:** FW: P1306  
**Attachments:** Final draft IAC wind farm policy v3.1 \_ Aug 13\_2.docx

---

**From:** Joe Behan [mailto:Joe.Behan@defence.ie]  
**Sent:** 17 September 2018 10:17  
**To:** Reception <reception@FTCO.IE>  
**Cc:** Olive.Mulhall <Olive.Mulhall@defence.ie>  
**Subject:** P1306

Hi,

Please see attached draft in relation to application P1306.

Kind Regards,  
J. Behan  
Property Management Branch  
Department of Defence  
Station Road  
Newbridge  
Co. Kildare  
Tel: 045492032

---

**From:** Robert Keane <[rob.keane@defenceforces.ie](mailto:rob.keane@defenceforces.ie)>  
**Sent:** 14 September 2018 14:27  
**To:** Joe Behan <[Joe.Behan@defence.ie](mailto:Joe.Behan@defence.ie)>  
**Subject:** Re: P1306

Hi Joe,

Please send the attached document for the propose development.

Rob  
*Lieutenant Robert Keane*  
Irish Air Corps,  
SO ATS ,  
Air Corps Headquarters,  
Casement Aerodrome,

Baldonnel,

Dublin 22.

Ph - 01-4037504

Email – [rob.keane@defenceforces.ie](mailto:rob.keane@defenceforces.ie)

---

**From:** Joe Behan <[Joe.Behan@defence.ie](mailto:Joe.Behan@defence.ie)>

**Sent:** 14 September 2018 14:17

**To:** Robert Keane

**Subject:** P1306

Rob,

Please find attached planning application as discussed earlier.  
For your obs please.

Kind Regards,

J. Behan

Property Management Branch

Department of Defence

Station Road

Newbridge

Co. Kildare

Tel: 045492032

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Chun amharc ar an Chairt do Chustaiméirí, cliceáil ar

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Chun amharc ar an Chairt do Chustaiméirí, cliceáil ar

[www.defence.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2018-06/customer-charter-2017-irish.pdf](http://www.defence.ie/system/files/media/file-uploads/2018-06/customer-charter-2017-irish.pdf)

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Air Corps Policy in respect of windfarms

1. Objective: This policy is intended to ensure that
  - a. Air Corps operations and training may be accomplished in a safe and economical manner;
  - b. Baldonnell remains a viable aerodrome for IFR and VFR traffic;
  - c. The ability to train military flying skills is protected; and
  - d. Vital routes to and from the regions to Baldonnell and the Dublin area are protected to safeguard the ability of the Air Corps to fulfil its role.
  
2. Statement of Policy:
  - a. The Air Corps is opposed the erection of windfarms or other obstacles which will affect its ability to train and operate in a safe and economic manner.
  
  - b. The Air Corps is opposed to any windfarms or tall structures in the following areas:
    - (1) Lands underlying military airspace used for flying activity
      - (a) The area contained in Danger Area EI-D1.
      - (b) The area contained in Danger Area EI-D5.
      - (c) The area contained within Danger Area EI-D6.
      - (d) The area contained within Danger Area EI-D13.
      - (e) The area contained within Danger Area EI-D14.
      - (f) The area contained within Restricted Area EI-R15.
      - (g) The area contained within Restricted Area EI-R16 within 20NM of Baldonnell.
      - (h) The area contained within Military Operating Areas, MOAs 3 and 4 within 20NM of Baldonnell.
  
    - (2) Areas wherein military flying occurs at low level as identified in the annexes listed below.
      - (a) Annex A: Low flying training areas within MOA 4 in the areas of
        - a. Blessington
        - b. Edenderry/Allenwood/Rathangan
        - c. Kilmeague/Newbridge
        - d. Athy
  
      - (b) Annex B: low flying training area in the vicinity of Blacksod, Co Mayo.

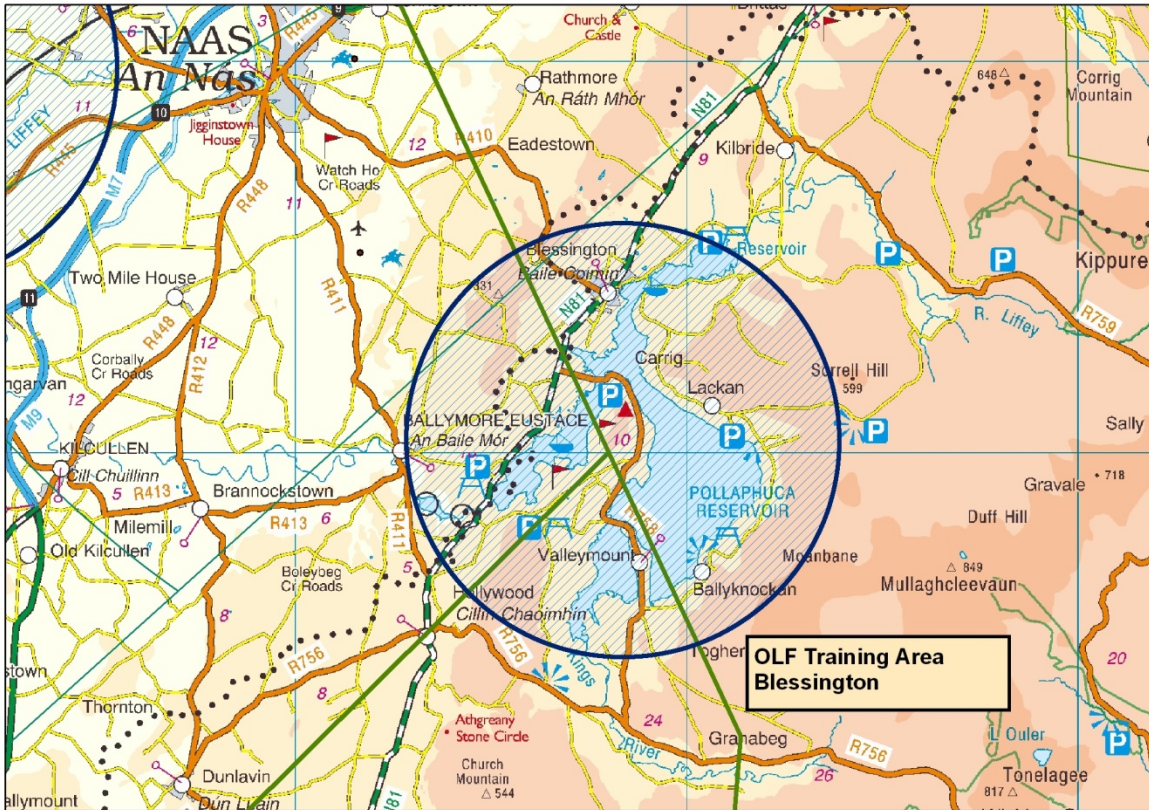
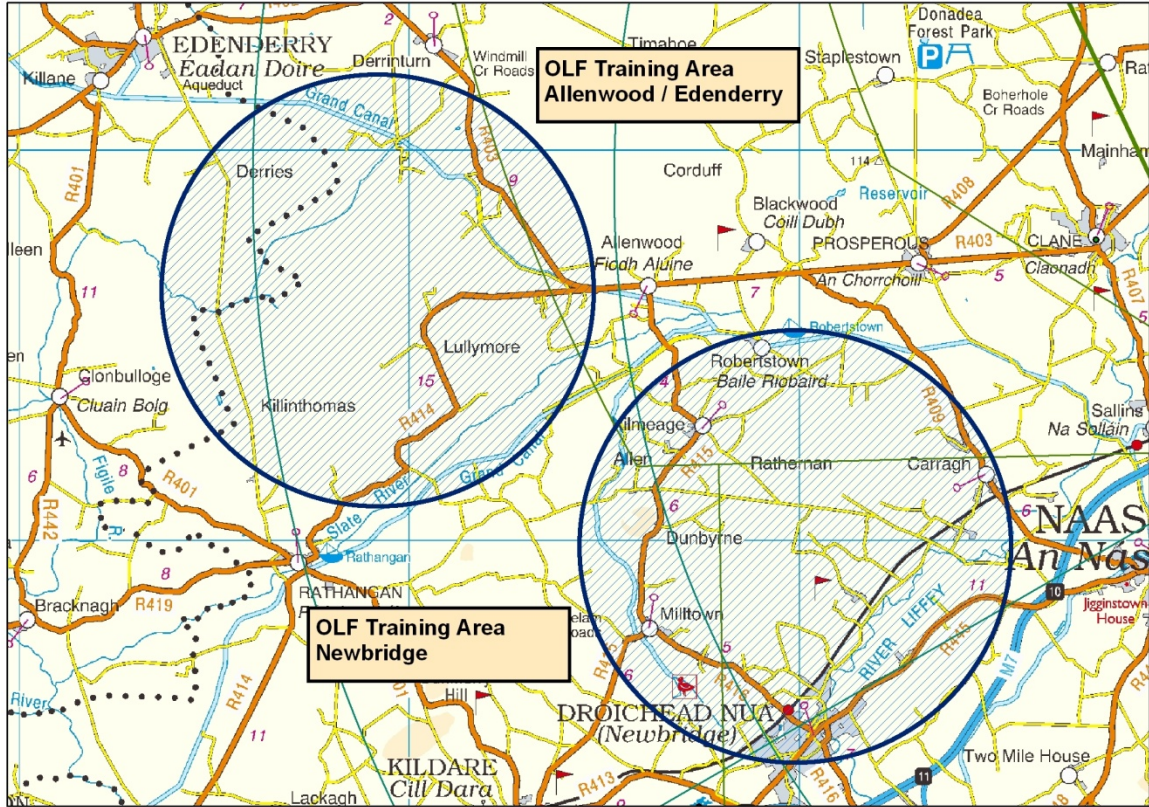
- (3) A distance of 5NM or less from military installations.
- c. The following routes are identified as critical low level routes in support of Air Corps operational requirements and the Air Corps is opposed to the erection of windfarms or tall structures within 3NM of the route centerline which could affect Air Corps' ability to access regional areas.
- (a) N/M1
  - (b) N/M2
  - (c) N/M3
  - (d) N/M4
  - (e) N/M6
  - (f) N/M7
  - (g) N/M8
  - (h) N/M9
  - (i) N/M11
  - (j) N25
  - (k) N17 between Sligo and Knock
  - (l) N15/N13 between Sligo and Letterkenny
  - (m) N14 from Lifford to Letterkenny and R245 and R247 from Letterkenny to Fanad Head.

Applications or proposals for structures in these areas of a height greater than 45m above ground level at the site of the object must be referred to Irish Air Corps for assessment of potential impact on flight operations.

- d. In MOA 4 outside of the areas identified in b.(1) (2) and (3), and in MOA 5, applications or proposals for objects of a height greater than 45m above ground level at the site of the object must be referred to the Irish Air Corps for assessment of potential impact on flight operations.
- e. In all locations where windfarms are permitted it should be a condition that they meet the following lighting requirements
- (1) Single turbines or turbines delineating corners of a windfarm should be illuminated by high intensity obstacle lights
  - (2) Obstruction lighting elsewhere in a windfarm will be of a pattern that will allow the hazard be identified and avoided by aircraft in flight.
  - (3) Obstruction lights used should be incandescent or of a type visible to Night Vision Equipment. Obstruction lighting fitted to obstacles must emit light at the near Infra-Red (IR) range of the electromagnetic spectrum specifically at or near 850nanometres (nm) of wavelength. Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light.



Annex A  
Low Flying Areas - MOA 4



## Annex B

### Low Flying Area – Blacksod

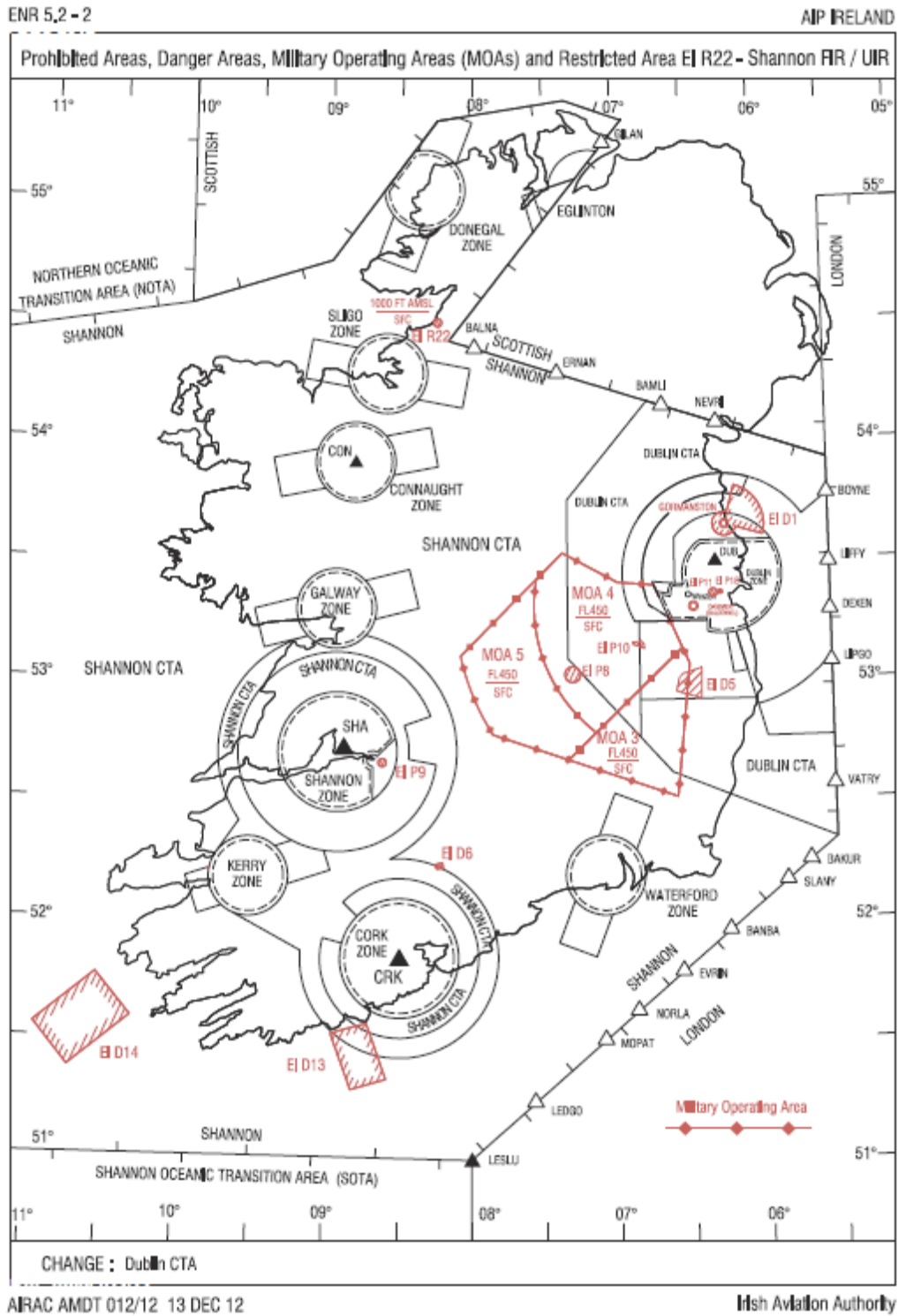
1. Area contained within the following grid (Irish National Grid).
2. Routes are primarily within valley areas.
3. Applications for windfarms/masts should be referred to Air Corps Operations for assessment.

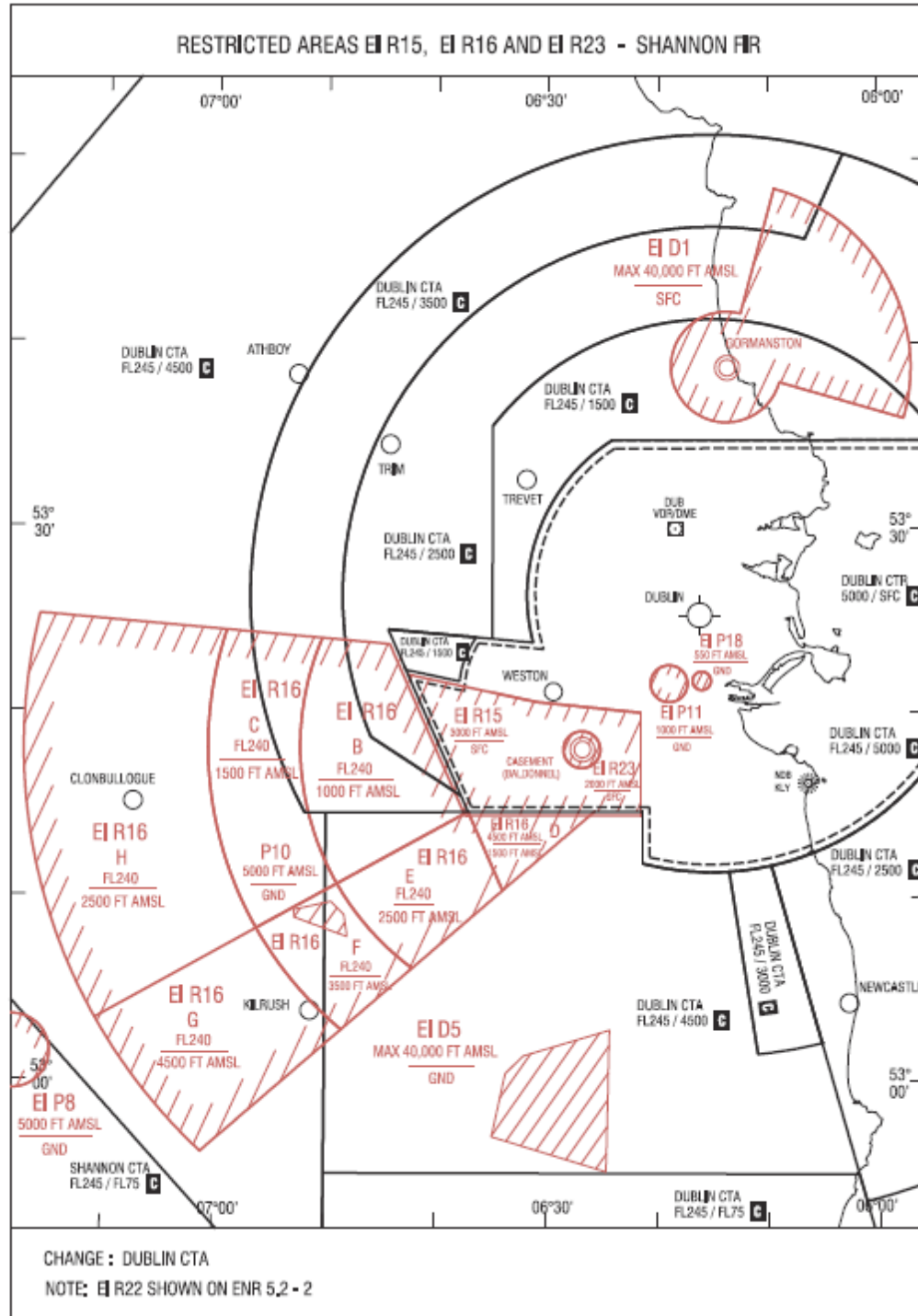




# Annex C

## Designated Airspace Restricted Areas, Danger Areas and Military Operating Areas





Annex D

Low Level Routes







## Marie Geary

---

**From:** FOI <FOI@garda.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 23 August 2018 16:08  
**To:** Ciara Finn  
**Subject:** FW: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation  
**Attachments:** P1306\_Scoping and Consultation Letter - Gardai.pdf

Dear Ms. Finn,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your email received in this office on 17<sup>th</sup> August, 2018.

This Office is established to process requests received under Part 1(n) of Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2014 which states that An Garda Síochána is listed as a partially included agency “insofar as it relates to administrative records relating to human resources, or finance or procurement matters”. Therefore, only administrative records that relate to human resources, finance or procurement shall be considered.

As Freedom of Information Officer, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on this matter. However, in this instance, I suggest that you forward your correspondence to Assistant Commissioner, An Garda Síochána, Anglesea St., Cork, who may be in a position to assist you.

Sent on behalf of Superintendent Kennedy.

**Kind Regards**

**Patricia Kiernan**

*Freedom of Information Office,*

*Garda Síochána,*

*Athlumney House,*

*Navan,*

*Co. Meath.*

*Tel: 046 9036350*

*Email: [foi@garda.ie](mailto:foi@garda.ie)*

*Website: [www.garda.ie](http://www.garda.ie)*

---

**From:** Ciara Finn [mailto:[ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie)]  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 15:48  
**To:** FOI <FOI@garda.ie>  
**Cc:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or by email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

**Kind Regards**

**Ciara Finn**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road |Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: [+353 21 496 4133](tel:+353214964133) | Fax: [+353 21 496 4464](tel:+353214964464) | Mail to: [ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

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\*\*\*\*\* Faisnéis í seo don té sin nó don eintiteas sin a bhfuil a sheoladh uirthi, agus dó siúd amháin, agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar rúnda agus/ nó ábhar faoi phribhléid a bheith iniata. Toirmiscear aon athbhreithniú, atarchur nó leathadh a dhéanamh ar an bhfaisnéis seo, aon úsáid eile a bhaint aisti nó aon ghníomh a dhéanamh ar a hiontaoibh, ag daoine nó ag eintitis seachas an faighteoir beartaithe. Más trí bhotún a fuair tú é seo, cuir scéala chuig an seoltóir le do thoil agus scrios an t-ábhar d'aon ríomhaire. Is é polasaí An Gharda Síochána seoladh ábhair cholúil a dhícheadú, agus más dóigh leat gur ábhar colúil atá sa teachtaireacht seo ba cheart duit dul i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus le [postmaster@garda.ie](mailto:postmaster@garda.ie) láithreach. The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer. It is the policy of An Garda Síochána to disallow the sending of offensive material and should you consider that the material contained in this message is offensive you should contact both the sender and [postmaster@garda.ie](mailto:postmaster@garda.ie) immediately.

## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Noel Sheridan <Noel.Sheridan@CorkCoCo.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 23 August 2018 08:45  
**To:** Silvia Garcia  
**Cc:** Assumpta Drake  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park - scoping request

Silvia

You submitted an EIA Scoping Consultation request to us for the above.

The scale of the development appears to be in the SID category as per the 7<sup>th</sup> schedule of the Act.

You should therefore liaise with An Bord Pleanála in the first instance. Scoping cannot be requested in 7<sup>th</sup> Schedule cases unless the Board has given an opinion that the development is strategic infrastructure. The Board's website has detailed information regarding the process to follow.

Regards

Noel Sheridan  
A/Senior Planner

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*D'fhonn do cheist a phr?ise?il, d'fh?adfadh s? a bheith riachtanach do Chomhairle Contae Chorca? faisn?is phearsanta a bhaili? uait. D?anfar an fhaisn?is sin a phr?ise?il de r?ir ?r r?iteas pr?obh?ideachta at? ar f?il le breathn? [anseo](#)*



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## Marie Geary

---

**From:** planning applications <planning.applications@faiteireland.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 4 July 2019 17:25  
**To:** David Walsh  
**Subject:** FW: Fáilte Ireland:: Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report Email No :0100169007280  
**Attachments:** P1306\_Cover Letter\_Scoping Report Failte Ireland.pdf; EIS &Tourism Guidelines.pdf

Hello Trevor,

Thank you for your letter in relation to EIAR Scoping report for the proposed Coom Green Energy Park(CGEP) renewable energy project located in County Cork.  
Please see attached a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the treatment of tourism in an EIS, which we recommend should be taken into account in preparing the EIAR.

For future planning notifications/applications, queries and documentation please send direct to [planning.applications@faiteireland.ie](mailto:planning.applications@faiteireland.ie) or by post to Fáilte Ireland, Mr Shane Dineen, Manager of Environment & Planning, 88/95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1. D01WR86.  
This will ensure the information/notifications will get to the Environment & Planning Unit Team and reviewed in a timely manner.

Regards,

## Yvonne Jackson

**Product Development-Environment & Planning Support** | Fáilte Ireland  
Áras Fáilte, 88/95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1. D01WR86  
T +353 (0)1 884 7224 | [www.failteireland.ie](http://www.failteireland.ie)



----- Original Message -----

**From:** [david.walsh@ftco.ie](mailto:david.walsh@ftco.ie)  
**Received:** Wed Jun 26 2019 10:36:39 GMT+0100 (British Summer Time)  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached an EIAR Scoping report for the proposed Coom Green Energy Park(CGEP) renewable energy project located in County Cork.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate make contact using the email address provided in the attached document.

Yours faithfully,

**Trevor Byrne**

for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

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# Guidelines on the treatment of tourism in an Environmental Impact Statement

## 1. Introduction

Tourism is a significant component of the Irish Economy – estimated to employ approximately 205,000 people – and contributing €6.6 billion in spending to the economy in 2014. The environment is one of the main resources upon which this activity depends – so it is important that the EIS evaluates whether and how the interacting impacts of a project are likely to affect tourism resources.

The purpose of this short note is to provide guidance on how these impacts can be assessed through the existing EIA process. Undertaking an EIA is governed by the EIA Advice Notes published by the EPA. These Advice Notes contain detailed guidance on how to describe and evaluate the effects arising from a range of projects, including tourism projects.

These guidelines were written with the assistance of Conor Skehan, Head of Department of Environment and Planning, Dublin Institute of Technology.

## 2. Tourism and the Environment

There are two interactions between tourism and the environment.

1. Impacts caused by Tourism Projects
2. Impacts affecting Tourism (e.g. the quality of a destination or a tourism activity)

### Impacts caused by Tourism Projects

Tourism projects can give rise to effects on the environment. These are specifically dealt with under a number of Project Types in the Advice Notes, specifically:

#### **12 TOURISM AND LEISURE**

- a. Ski-runs, ski-lifts and cable-cars where the length would exceed 500 metres and associated developments. Project Type 20
- b. Sea water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 300 and fresh water marinas where the number of berths would exceed 100. Project Type 10

c. Holiday villages which would consist of more than 100 holiday homes outside built-up areas; hotel complexes outside built-up areas which would have an area of 20 hectares or more or an accommodation capacity exceeding 300 bedrooms. Project Type 28

d. Permanent camp sites and caravan sites where the number of pitches would be greater than 100. Project Type 28

e. Theme parks occupying an area greater than 5 hectares. Project Type 29

**Figure 1 The Advice Notes contain detailed descriptions on how to describe and evaluate the effects arising from a range of tourism projects.**

### **Impacts affecting Tourism**

Environmental effects of other projects on tourism are not specifically addressed in the Advice Notes. Taking account of the significance of tourism to the Irish economy a specialist topic of 'Tourism' has been prepared to facilitate a systematic evaluation of effects on this sector within the format laid down for other parts of the Environmental Impact Statement.

It is not intended that the assessment of effects on tourism should become a separate section of the Impact Statement, instead it is intended to become a specialist sub-section of the topic 'Human Beings' which is currently described in Section 2 of the Advice Notes

## **3. Tourism in the Existing Environment**

### **Introduction**

Visitor attitude surveys reveal that the following factors – in order of priority – are the reasons that tourists visit and enjoy Ireland:

- Beautiful scenery
- Friendly & hospitable people
- Safe & Secure
- Easy, relaxed pace of life
- Unspoilt environment
- Nature, wildlife, flora
- Interesting history & culture
- Plenty of things to see and do
- Good range of natural attractions

It is noteworthy that over half of the factors listed are environmental and that all others are related to the way of life of the people. The following describes how these factors are considered within an EIS, set out under EIA topic headings, and how they interact with tourism.

### *Beautiful scenery*

This is covered in the '*Landscape*' Section. Particular attention needs to be paid to effects on views from existing purpose-built tourism facilities, especially hotels, as well as views from touring routes and walking trails. It is important to note that there appears to be evidence that the visitor's expectations of 'beautiful' scenery does not exclude an admiration of new modern developments – such as windfarms – which appear to be seen as indicative of an modern, informed and responsible attitude to the environment.

### *Friendly & hospitable people*

This is not an environmental factor though it is indirectly covered under the '*Human Beings*' section of the EIS. The principal factor is the ratio of visitors to residents. This is of less significance in areas with long-established patterns of tourism.

### *Safe & Secure*

This is not an environmental issue – though some of the factors that are sometimes covered under the heading of '*Human Beings*' – such as social inclusion or poverty – can point to likely effects and interactions.

### *Easy, relaxed pace of life*

This is not an environmental issue though it is partially covered under '*Human Beings*' – see comments above.

### *Unspoilt environment*

This is covered under the sections dealing with '*Landscape*', '*Flora*' and '*Fauna*' and to a lesser extent under emissions to '*Water*' and '*Air*'. In some instances traffic congestion, especially in rural areas, can be an issue, this is usually covered within '*Material Assets*'.

### *Nature, wildlife, flora*

This is principally covered under the headings of '*Flora*' and '*Fauna*' and to a lesser extent by '*Landscape*', '*Water*' and '*Air*'. The principal issues being to avoid any effects that might reduce the health or extent of the habitats. This can occur either directly, by impinging on the site, or indirectly, through emission, that can affect the natural resources, like clean water, which the habitat depends on. It also considers effect on physical access to and visibility of these sites. Occasionally there are concerns about the disturbance or wear and tear of visitor numbers to such sites.

### *Interesting history & culture*

This is principally covered under '*Cultural Heritage*' and, to a lesser extent, under '*Human Beings*'. The principal issues being to avoid damage to sites and structures of cultural, historical, archaeological or architectural significance – and to their contexts or settings. It also considers effect on physical access to and visibility of these sites. Occasionally there are concerns about the wear and tear of visitor numbers to such sites.

*Plenty of things to see and do.*

This is not an environmental issue though it is partially covered by the 'Human Beings' section, where the tourism resources of an area are described and assessed.

*Good range of natural attractions*

This is covered by the 'Landscape', 'Flora', 'Fauna', and 'Cultural Heritage' sections of the EIS.

## **4. Project factors affecting Tourism**

### **Introduction**

Tourism can be affected both by the structures or emissions of new developments as well as by interactions between new activities and tourism activities – for example the effects of high volumes of heavy goods vehicles passing through hitherto quiet, scenic, rural areas. Tourism can be affected by a number of the characteristics of the new project such as:

- New Developments
  - Social Considerations
  - Land-uses and Activities
- *New Developments* - will the development stimulate or suppress demand for additional tourism development in the area? If so, what type, how much and where? Marinas, golf courses, other major sporting facilities as well as theme parks and larger conference facilities can all stimulate the emergence of new accommodation, catering and leisure facilities often within an extensive area around a new primary visitor facility. Extensive urbanisation and large scale infrastructure as well as certain processing and extractive industries all have the potential to suppress demand for additional tourism – but usually only in the immediate locality of the new development. It should be noted however, that some types of new or improved large scale infrastructure – such as roads – can improve the visitor experience – by increasing safety and comfort or can convey a sense of environmental responsibility – such as wind turbines.
- *Social Consideration* - will the development change patterns and types of activity and land use? Will it affect the demographics, economy or social dynamics of the locality?
- *Land-use* - will there be severance, loss of rights of way or amenities, conflicts, or other changes likely to ultimately alter the character and use of the tourism resources in the surrounding area?

### **Existing Tourism**

In the area likely to be affected by the proposed development, the following attributes of tourism, or the resources that sustain tourism, should be described under the following headings.

Note that the detailed description and analysis will usually be covered in the section dealing with the relevant environmental topic – such as '*Landscape*'. Only the relevant finding as to the likely significance to, or effect on, tourism needs to be summarised in this section.

### **Context**

Indicate the location of sensitive neighbouring tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of secondary impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development. The following should be noted in particular:

- Hotels, conference centres, holiday accommodation – including holiday villages, holiday homes, and caravan parks.
- Visitor centres, Interpretive centres and theme parks
- Golf courses, adventure sport centres and other visitor sporting facilities
- Marinas and boating facilities
- Angling facilities
- Equestrian facilities
- Tourism-related specialist retailers and visitor facilities
- Historic and Cultural Sites
- Pedestrian, cycling, equestrian, vehicular and coach touring routes

Indicate the numbers of premises and visitors likely to be directly affected directly and indirectly.

Identify and quantify, where possible, their potential receptors of impacts, noting in particular transient populations, such as drivers, walkers, seasonal and other non-resident groups.

Describe any significant trends evident in the overall growth or decline of these numbers, or of any changes in the proportion of one type of activity relative to any other.

Indicate any commercial tourism activity which likely to be directly affected, with resultant environmental impacts.

### **Character**

Indicate the occupations, activities or interests of principal types of tourism in the area. – Where relevant, describe the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values; where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities. For example describe the number of guides, boats and anglers who use a salmon fishery and the duration of the salmon season as well as the quantity and type of local accommodation that is believed to be used by the anglers.

### **Significance**

Indicate the significance of the principal tourism assets or activities likely to be affected. Refer to any existing formal or published designation or recognition of such significance. Where possible provide an estimate of the contribution of such

tourism activities to the local economy. For instance refer to the number of annual visitors to a tourism attraction or to the grading of a hotel.

### **Sensitivity**

Describe any significant concerns, fears or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism interests. Identify, where possible, the particular aspect of the development which is of concern, together with the part of the existing tourism resource which may be threatened. For instance describe the extent of a potential visual intrusion onto a site of historic significance which is the main local tourist attraction.

## **5. Impacts on Tourism**

### **"Do Nothing" Impact;**

Describe how trends evident in the existing environment will continue and how these trends will affect tourism.

### **Predicted impact;**

- Describe the location, type, significance, magnitude/extent of the tourism activities or assets that are likely to be affected.
  
- Describe how the new development will affect the balance between long-established and new dwellers in an area and its affect on the cultural or linguistic distinctiveness of an area. For example describe the effect of a new multi-national population required for an international call-centre located in a Gaeltacht area.
  
- Describe how changes in patterns of employment, land use and economic activity arising from the proposed development will affect tourism, for example, illustrating how a new industrial development will diversify local employment opportunities thereby reducing the area's unsustainable over-reliance on seasonal tourism.
  
- Describe the consequences of change, referring to indirect, secondary and cumulative impacts on tourism; Examples can include describing how the new development may lead to a reduced assimilative capacity for traffic or water during the peak of the tourism season or how new urbanism combined with existing patterns of tourism may lead to unsustainable levels of pedestrian traffic through a sensitive habitat.
  
- Describe the potential for interaction between changes induced in tourism and other uses that may affect the environment – for instance increasing new tourism-related housing affecting water resources or structures
  
- Describe the worst case for tourism if all mitigation measures fail.



## 6. Mitigating adverse impact on Tourism

Describe the mitigation measures proposed to:

- *avoid* sensitive tourism resources – such as views, access, and amenity areas including habitats as well as historical or cultural sites and structures.
- *reduce* the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental burdens arising from the development's emissions or volumes of traffic [pedestrian and vehicular], and/or losses of amenity arising from visually conspicuous elements of the development – for example by prioritizing visual screening of views from a hotel towards a quarry.
- *reduce* the adverse effects to tourism land uses and patterns of activities – especially through interactions arising from significant changes in the intensity of use or contrasts of character or appearance – for example by separating traffic routes for industrial and tourism traffic.
- *remedy* any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities, for example by providing alternative access to tourism amenities – such as waterways or monuments.



## Marie Geary

---

**From:** Jarek Frankiewicz <jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 9 July 2019 11:43  
**To:** David Walsh; Licensing  
**Subject:** Re: Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

Hi David,

In relation to Coom Green Energy Park development.

After analysing provided information it looks like it does not have any impact to our radio infrastructure. However, we have one link in the very middle, between T16 and T21.

Link Corrin HTC - CIX

Site A 52.11329,-8.50104  
Site B 51.903474,-8.512537

Best Regards

**Jarek Frankiewicz** | Procurement

**M:** 087 9654718

**E:** [jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net](mailto:jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net) | **W:** [ripplecom.net](http://ripplecom.net)  
Houston Hall, Raheen Business Park, Limerick, V94 PKF1



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---

**From:** David Walsh <david.walsh@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 12:34:53 PM  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached an EIAR Scoping report for the proposed Coom Green Energy Park(CGEP) renewable energy project located in County Cork.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate make contact using the email address provided in the attached document.

Yours faithfully,

**Trevor Byrne**

for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

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**From:** [Andrew Snowden](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Bennett](#); [Jarek Frankiewicz](#); [Licensing](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report  
**Date:** Tuesday 17 September 2019 14:57:20  
**Attachments:** [heiddhlejakcpj.png](#)  
[image001.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image011.png](#)  
[image009.png](#)  
[dacbc83f-dc36-4661-8e13-2176d1a0dee1.png](#)

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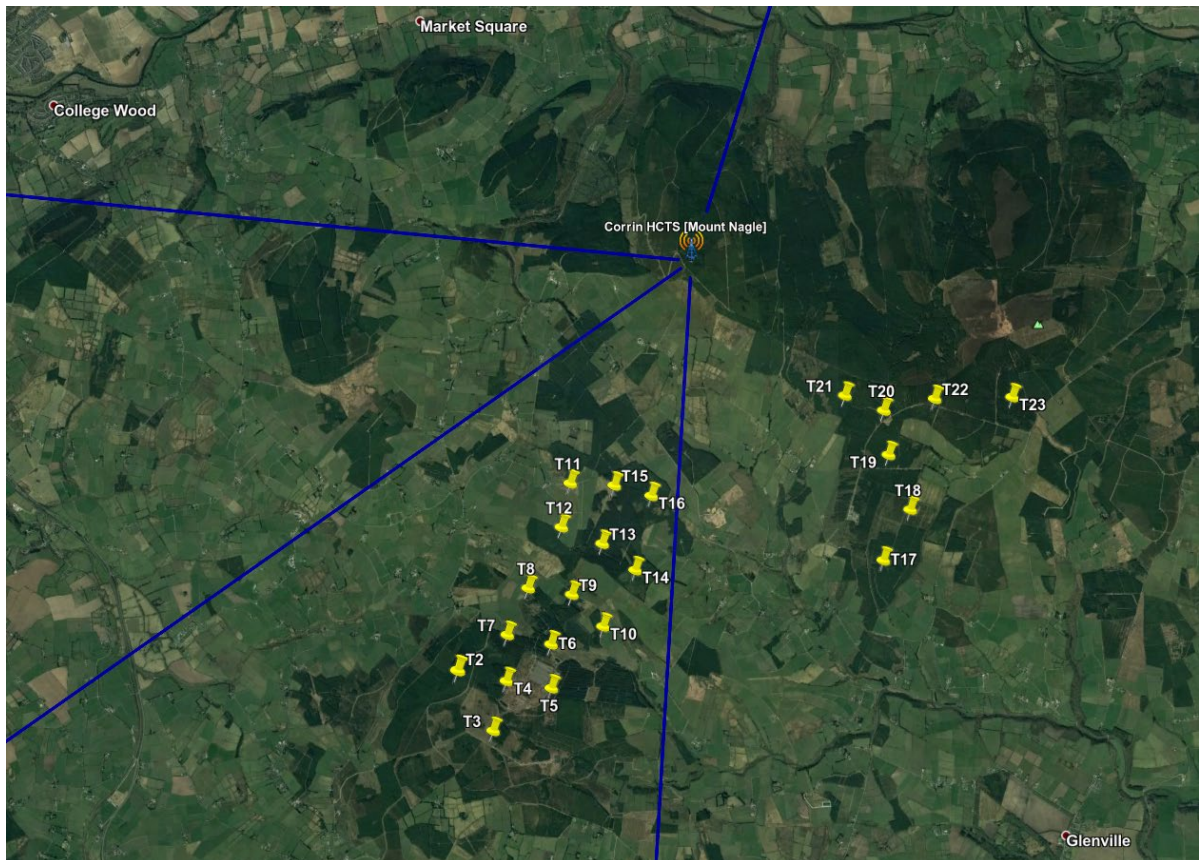
Hi Elaine,

In future you can email me regarding these as Jarek no longer works for Ripplecom

T16 comes within 500 meters of an existing link path but that will have no impact. So we have sufficient clearance.

Best regards,

Andrew



On 16/09/2019 10:46, Elaine Bennett wrote:

Hi Jarek,  
Have you had a chance to assess the turbines in relation to your link?  
Thanks,  
Elaine



**Dr. Elaine Bennett**  
Senior Scientist

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9567; mobile: 0876822239

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie) [in](#) [tw](#)

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett  
**Sent:** Friday 6 September 2019 08:28  
**To:** Jarek Frankiewicz <[jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net](mailto:jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net)>; Licensing <[licensing@ripplecom.net](mailto:licensing@ripplecom.net)>  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

Hi Jarek,  
The turbine co-ordinates are below – is there a sufficient buffer to your link?

Turbine ID	X (ITM)	Y (ITM)
T2	562641	590193
T3	563128	589420
T4	563291	590078
T5	563884	589990
T6	563866	590568
T7	563288	590685
T8	563547	591305
T9	564126	591229
T10	564547	590811
T11	564077	592704
T12	563969	592119
T13	564515	591909
T14	564961	591567
T15	564661	592686
T16	565156	592556
T17	568268	591749
T18	568612	592430
T19	568305	593154
T20	568229	593738
T21	567708	593928
T22	568904	593906
T23	569943	593950

Thanks,  
Elaine



**Dr. Elaine Bennett**  
Senior Scientist

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9567; mobile: 0876822239

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie) [in](#) [tw](#)

---

**From:** Jarek Frankiewicz <[jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net](mailto:jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 9 July 2019 11:43  
**To:** David Walsh <[david.walsh@ftco.ie](mailto:david.walsh@ftco.ie)>; Licensing <[licensing@ripplecom.net](mailto:licensing@ripplecom.net)>  
**Subject:** Re: Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

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Link Corrin HTC - CIX

Site A 52.11329,-8.50104  
Site B 51.903474,-8.512537

Best Regards

**Jarek Frankiewicz** | Procurement

M: 087 9654718  
E: [jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net](mailto:jarek.frankiewicz@ripplecom.net) | W: [ripplecom.net](http://ripplecom.net)  
Houston Hall, Raheen Business Park, Limerick, V94 PKF1





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**From:** David Walsh <[david.walsh@ftco.ie](mailto:david.walsh@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 12:34:53 PM  
**To:** Licensing  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached an EIAR Scoping report for the proposed Coom Green Energy Park(CGEP) renewable energy project located in County Cork.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate make contact using the email address provided in the attached document.

Yours faithfully,

**Trevor Byrne**

for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

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**From:** [Matthew Craig](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Bennett](#)  
**Cc:** [windfarms@rte.ie](mailto:windfarms@rte.ie); [Johnny Evans](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park - Consultation  
**Date:** Monday 19 August 2019 10:43:38  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[Coom Green Energy Park Protocol Agreement.docx](#)

---

Hi Elaine,

The turbine sites that you propose will have no impact on 2rn's fixed microwave linking. It may however cause interference to television viewers, we therefore recommend that a protocol be signed.

Could you please fill in the remainder of the form, have it signed and returned to us?

Regards

**Matthew Craig**

Project Engineer

Projects and Coverage Planning

2RN

Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland

D24 WK28

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261

Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

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**From:** Johnny Evans <[Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie](mailto:Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie)>  
**Sent:** 07 August 2019 14:08  
**To:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>  
**Cc:** Matthew Craig <[matthew.craig@2rn.ie](mailto:matthew.craig@2rn.ie)>; [windfarms@rte.ie](mailto:windfarms@rte.ie)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park - Consultation

Hi Elaine, yes we were waiting on the turbine locations (see attached email). Thanks for sending these on, we can now have a proper look and will send on a draft agreement. Hopefully next week.

Regards, Johnny

**Johnny Evans**

Head of Projects and Coverage Planning

2RN

Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland  
D24 WK28  
Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082680  
Mobile: + 353 (0) 86 8255653

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett <[elaine.bennett@ftco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** 01 August 2019 08:33  
**To:** Johnny Evans <[Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie](mailto:Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie)>  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park - Consultation

Hi Johnny,

We're developing a wind farm at Coom Green Energy Park in Co. Cork. We issued a scoping and consultation report to yourselves, but didn't receive a response to date.

Would you be able to assess if there will be any interference issues please and also could you send on the current Protocol agreement?

The turbine coordinates are below:

Turbine ID	X (ITM)	Y (ITM)
T2	562641	590193
T3	563128	589420
T4	563291	590078
T5	563884	589990
T6	563866	590568
T7	563288	590685
T8	563547	591305
T9	564126	591229
T10	564547	590811
T11	564077	592704
T12	563969	592119
T13	564515	591909
T14	564961	591567
T15	564661	592686
T16	565156	592556
T17	568268	591749
T18	568612	592430
T19	568305	593154
T20	568229	593738
T21	567708	593928
T22	568904	593906
T23	569943	593950

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Dr. Elaine Bennett**  
Senior Scientist

---



**Fehily Timoney and Company**

Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773

t: +353 21 496 9567; mobile: 0876822239

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)



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**From:** [John.Bagnall@eir.ie](mailto:John.Bagnall@eir.ie)  
**To:** [Ciara Finn](mailto:Ciara.Finn)  
**Cc:** [Silvia Garcia](mailto:Silvia.Garcia); [Brendan.OFlaherty@eir.ie](mailto:Brendan.OFlaherty@eir.ie)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation  
**Date:** Tuesday 21 August 2018 11:24:48  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[ATT00001.txt](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

---

Ciara,

I don't think we have a site within the boundary of your area under proposal without exact coordinates it hard to tell, but the one site we have close to the area is below with both end of the transmission path, we try to keep a buffer zone of 100 meters from development like this as not to impact on Meteor / Eir Mobile sites.

End point 1 52° 6'47.93"N 8°30'4.40"W

End point 2 52° 3'44.82"N 8°46'30.28"W



Kind Regards,

John Bagnall   
Transmission Design & Engineering

0851053746  
[John.bagnall@eir.ie](mailto:John.bagnall@eir.ie)  
4030 Kingswood Ave, Citywest, Dublin 24.  
Eir Code: D24 YK12



---

**From:** Ciara Finn [mailto:[ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie)]  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 15:52  
**To:** Bagnall, John





**Cc:** Silvia Garcia

**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or be email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

**Kind Regards**

**Ciara Finn**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road |Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

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**From:** [John Bagnall](#)  
**To:** [David Walsh](#)  
**Cc:** [Mobile Networks TXN](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Coom Green Energy Park EIAR Scoping Report  
**Date:** Monday 22 July 2019 09:41:00

---

Hi David,

We have no transmission or radio services in the vicinity. The nearest is over 1.5km away and this doesn't pose any risk to the Eir Mobile (formerly Meteor) network.

Please keep sending new development analysis request to [MobileNetworksTXN@eir.ie](mailto:MobileNetworksTXN@eir.ie) for Eir Mobile (formerly Meteor) network analysis.

Kind regards,



**John Bagnall**  
Transmission Design & Engineering

**M:** +353 85 1053746  
**E:** [john.bagnall@eir.ie](mailto:john.bagnall@eir.ie)  
Address: EirCode - D24 HX03

On Thu, 27 Jun 2019 at 12:28, David Walsh <[david.walsh@ftco.ie](mailto:david.walsh@ftco.ie)> wrote:

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached an EIAR Scoping report for the proposed Coom Green Energy Park(CGEP) renewable energy project located in County Cork.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate make contact using the email address provided in the attached document.

Yours faithfully,

**Trevor Byrne**

for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

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**From:** [Gerry Callan](#)  
**To:** [Ciara Finn](#)  
**Cc:** [Silvia Garcia](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation  
**Date:** Friday 17 August 2018 16:17:20

---

Hi Ciara,

Would you have Irish Grid XYs of the extremities of the proposed development (North West, South East)?

Or perhaps a MapInfo shape of the proposed development area?

Thanks and best wishes,

**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
gerry.callan@three.ie



**Make it count.**

---

**From:** Ciara Finn [mailto:[ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie)]  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 15:45  
**To:** Gerry Callan  
**Cc:** Silvia Garcia  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or be email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

**Kind Regards**

**Ciara Finn**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road |Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

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**From:** [Gerry Callan](#)  
**To:** [Silvia Garcia](#)  
**Cc:** [Alan Hutchinson](#); [Trevor Byrne](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation  
**Date:** Monday 27 August 2018 14:43:22

---

Hi Silvia,

We typically seek a 100m buffer to ensure stability of service.

Hope this helps,

Best wishes,

**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
[gerry.callan@three.ie](mailto:gerry.callan@three.ie)



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---

**From:** Silvia Garcia [<mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie>]  
**Sent:** 27 August 2018 14:05  
**To:** Gerry Callan  
**Cc:** Alan Hutchinson; Trevor Byrne  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Gerry,

Thanks for sending those links.

Can you confirm which is the buffer distance that you require to maintain the centre of the turbine please?

Many thanks.

Regards,  
**Silvia Garcia**  
**Senior Project Scientist**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 Direct Dial: +353 21 496 9565  
Fax: +353 21 496 4464  
Mail to: [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Gerry Callan <[Gerry.Callan@three.ie](mailto:Gerry.Callan@three.ie)>  
**Sent:** 27 August 2018 13:37





**To:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Alan Hutchinson <[alan.hutchinson@three.ie](mailto:alan.hutchinson@three.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Silvia,

Thanks for the IG coordinates.

We have a number of links in the region traversing the proposed development area.

Site A Name	Site A (X)	Site A (Y)	Site B Name	Site B (X)	Site B (Y)	Band
Nagles	165712	95776	Cobh ESB	179700	66970	13
Nagles	165712	95776	Glanmire HSE	172532	78059	13
Nagles	165712	95776	Whitechurch Towercom	164513	81437	18
Nagles	165712	95776	Burnfoot Meteor	157351	87091	23
Nagles	165712	95776	Bweeng	146856	90345	13

I note that the northern most point of the development is 121m east of our Nagles site, so any south facing links from Nagles may be impacted by the development, as listed above.

Can you please add these to your constraints map and let us know when you have a finalised layout so we can investigate any potential impact more thoroughly?

Good luck with the development.

Best wishes,

**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
[gerry.callan@three.ie](mailto:gerry.callan@three.ie)



**Make it count.**

---

**From:** Silvia Garcia [<mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie>]

**Sent:** 20 August 2018 10:05

**To:** Gerry Callan

**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Gerry,

Please see those coordinates below.

	X_IG	Y_IG

South	163108	89190.3
West	162271	90324.4
East	170557	94836.8
North	165833	95757.9

Regards,

**Silvia Garcia**

**Senior Project Scientist**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 Direct Dial: +353 21 496 9565

Fax: +353 21 496 4464

Mail to: [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Gerry Callan <[Gerry.Callan@three.ie](mailto:Gerry.Callan@three.ie)>

**Sent:** 17 August 2018 16:17

**To:** Ciara Finn <[ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Ciara,

Would you have Irish Grid XYs of the extremities of the proposed development (North West, South East)?

Or perhaps a MapInfo shape of the proposed development area?

Thanks and best wishes,

**Gerry Callan**

Transmission Engineer

086 3884246

[gerry.callan@three.ie](mailto:gerry.callan@three.ie)



**Make it count.**

---

**From:** Ciara Finn [<mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie>]

**Sent:** 17 August 2018 15:45

**To:** Gerry Callan

**Cc:** Silvia Garcia

**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or by email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

**Kind Regards**

**Ciara Finn**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

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**From:** [Elaine Bennett](#)  
**To:** [David Walsh](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation  
**Date:** Thursday 1 August 2019 14:58:34  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)

---

Hi David,  
I contacted Three in relation to a telecoms link, can you log this response please?

Thanks,  
Elaine



**Dr. Elaine Bennett**  
Senior Scientist

---

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Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9567; mobile: 0876822239  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

---

**From:** Gerry Callan <Gerry.Callan@three.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 1 August 2019 14:09  
**To:** Elaine Bennett <elaine.bennett@ftco.ie>  
**Cc:** DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>; Alan Hutchinson <alan.hutchinson@three.ie>  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Elaine,

I've reviewed the turbine layout as provided and the potential impact upon the 3 transmission network and am happy to conclude that the development will not adversely impact our services in the region. The buffer provided between all of the turbines and our closest links should be sufficient to ensure continued impact-free service.

Good luck with the development.

Best wishes,

**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
gerry.callan@three.ie



## Make it count.

---

**From:** Elaine Bennett <elaine.bennett@ftco.ie>

**Sent:** 31 July 2019 10:59

**To:** Gerry Callan <Gerry.Callan@three.ie>

**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Gerry,

I have attached a figure illustrating the Three telecoms links in the vicinity of Coom Green Energy Park and the grid coordinates are below. Can you confirm that there is sufficient buffering distance between the links and the turbines please?

Turbine ID	X (ITM)	Y (ITM)
T2	562641	590193
T3	563128	589420
T4	563291	590078
T5	563884	589990
T6	563866	590568
T7	563288	590685
T8	563547	591305
T9	564126	591229
T10	564547	590811
T11	564077	592704
T12	563969	592119
T13	564515	591909
T14	564961	591567
T15	564661	592686
T16	565156	592556
T17	568268	591749
T18	568612	592430
T19	568305	593154
T20	568229	593738
T21	567708	593928
T22	568904	593906
T23	569943	593950

Thanks,  
Elaine

**Dr. Elaine Bennett**  
Senior Scientist

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9567; mobile: 0876822239  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  



---

**From:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 27 August 2018 14:05  
**To:** Gerry Callan <[Gerry.Callan@three.ie](mailto:Gerry.Callan@three.ie)>  
**Cc:** Alan Hutchinson <[alan.hutchinson@three.ie](mailto:alan.hutchinson@three.ie)>; Trevor Byrne <[trevor.byrne@ftco.ie](mailto:trevor.byrne@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Gerry,

Thanks for sending those links.

Can you confirm which is the buffer distance that you require to maintain the centre of the turbine please?

Many thanks.

Regards,  
**Silvia Garcia**  
**Senior Project Scientist**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 Direct Dial: +353 21 496 9565  
Fax: +353 21 496 4464  
Mail to: [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

---

**From:** Gerry Callan <[Gerry.Callan@three.ie](mailto:Gerry.Callan@three.ie)>  
**Sent:** 27 August 2018 13:37  
**To:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>  
**Cc:** Alan Hutchinson <[alan.hutchinson@three.ie](mailto:alan.hutchinson@three.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Silvia,

Thanks for the IG coordinates.

We have a number of links in the region traversing the proposed development area.

Site A	Site A	Site A		Site B	Site B	
--------	--------	--------	--	--------	--------	--

Name	(X)	(Y)	Site B Name	(X)	(Y)	Band
Nagles	165712	95776	Cobh ESB	179700	66970	13
Nagles	165712	95776	Glanmire HSE	172532	78059	13
Nagles	165712	95776	Whitechurch Towercom	164513	81437	18
Nagles	165712	95776	Burnfoot Meteor	157351	87091	23
Nagles	165712	95776	Bweeng	146856	90345	13

I note that the northern most point of the development is 121m east of our Nagles site, so any south facing links from Nagles may be impacted by the development, as listed above.

Can you please add these to your constraints map and let us know when you have a finalised layout so we can investigate any potential impact more thoroughly?

Good luck with the development.

Best wishes,

**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
[gerry.callan@three.ie](mailto:gerry.callan@three.ie)




---

**From:** Silvia Garcia [<mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie>]

**Sent:** 20 August 2018 10:05

**To:** Gerry Callan

**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Gerry,

Please see those coordinates below.

	X_IG	Y_IG
South	163108	89190.3
West	162271	90324.4
East	170557	94836.8
North	165833	95757.9

Regards,

**Silvia Garcia**  
**Senior Project Scientist**  
**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

Tel: +353 21 496 4133 Direct Dial: +353 21 496 9565

Fax: +353 21 496 4464

Mail to: [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)



---

**From:** Gerry Callan <[Gerry.Callan@three.ie](mailto:Gerry.Callan@three.ie)>

**Sent:** 17 August 2018 16:17

**To:** Ciara Finn <[ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Hi Ciara,

Would you have Irish Grid XYs of the extremities of the proposed development (North West, South East)?

Or perhaps a MapInfo shape of the proposed development area?

Thanks and best wishes,

**Gerry Callan**  
Transmission Engineer

086 3884246  
[gerry.callan@three.ie](mailto:gerry.callan@three.ie)



---

**From:** Ciara Finn [<mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie>]

**Sent:** 17 August 2018 15:45

**To:** Gerry Callan

**Cc:** Silvia Garcia

**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or be email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie).

**Kind Regards**

**Ciara Finn**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road |Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland

**Tel: +353 21 496 4133 | Fax: +353 21 496 4464 | Mail to: [ciara.finn@ftco.ie](mailto:ciara.finn@ftco.ie) | Web:**

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)

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**From:** [Clara Finn](#)  
**To:** [Gavin Byrne](#)  
**Cc:** [Gavin Byrne](#); [Silvia Garcia](#); [Dimitris Michalos](#); [Dimitris Michalos](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation  
**Date:** Friday 17 August 2018 17:09:27  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

Hi Clara,

There is a Vodafone Microwave near of the proposed turbine locations. The link traverses the Mollenaboree forest, Bottlehill and possibly part of area marked for the PV solar panels at Knockaunolour. I would only be concerned about the wind turbines. Link details are below. This link has three southbound site dependents and is classed as a feeder link in the access network. Can you please avoid a direct line of site impact of this link when considering final turbine locations and maintain a reasonable exclusion from the point to point microwave.

If you have precise locations and dimensions of the turbines, please send them onto me and I can assess more thoroughly.

LinkID	Radio Config Status	BW + Ref Mod	Freq Band	Max Ethernet Capacity (Mbps)	B-End IDU	B-End HW IDU Type	B-End Latitude	B-End Longitude	B-End Bearing	A-End IDU	A-End HW IDU Type	A-End Latitude	A-End Longitude	A-End Bearing	RAN Site Aggregation	Access RAN Site Dependents	Hop Distance (km)
CKWCHCK104_50	radio 1+0	16QAM	15 GHz	170	CK104700	ALCplus2e	52.11348438	-8.500786946	184.48	CKWCH702	ALCplus2e	51.98438715	-8.517248721	4.49	3	CK087,CK104,CK556	14.4

Regards,

Gavin Byrne BE, MSc, MIEI  
 Transmission Planning & Strategy Engineer  
 NetShare Ireland  
 Iveagh Building, The Park, Carrickmines, Dublin 18  
 mobile: +353 87 6448159  
 email: [gavin.byrne@netshare.ie](mailto:gavin.byrne@netshare.ie)



**From:** Clara Finn <[clara.finn@fcco.ie](mailto:clara.finn@fcco.ie)>  
**Sent:** 17 August 2018 15:57  
**To:** Netshare Info <[info@netshare.ie](mailto:info@netshare.ie)>; Gavin Byrne <[gavin.byrne@netshare.ie](mailto:gavin.byrne@netshare.ie)>; Silvia Garcia <[silvia.garcia@fcco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@fcco.ie)>  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a consultation letter for the above named project.

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIA. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018 in writing or be email to [silvia.garcia@fcco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@fcco.ie)

**Kind Regards**

**Clara Finn**

**Fehily Timoney & Company** | Core House | Pouladuff Road | Cork | T12 D773 | Ireland  
**Tel: +353 21 496 4133** | Fax: +353 21 496 4464 | Mail to: [clara.finn@fcco.ie](mailto:clara.finn@fcco.ie) | Web: [www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  
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**From:** [Dave Mc Donald](#)  
**To:** [Elaine Bennett](#)  
**Cc:** [Lyndsey Crowley](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Coom Green Energy Park  
**Date:** Monday 2 December 2019 12:48:19  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[556c262c-3280-41af-af73-5f1d6534367e.png](#)  
[P1306\\_Fig3-L\\_Sitelayout\\_A3.pdf](#)

Hi Elaine

Thank you for your email regarding the proposed turbine development at Bottlehill. We have had a cursory look and do feel that there will be some impact to our publically available telecommunications services. There are a number of base stations nearby, operating fixed wireless broadband and telephony services for both residential and business customers.

I've asked our GIS specialist, Lyndsey Crowley, to investigate further and estimate the impact in terms of coverage area lost, or existing customers lost. We will revert as soon as possible and look forward to working with you to mitigate any impact.

Regards,

Dave

Dave Mc Donald / CTO & Founder  
01 901 5021 / 087 711 9091 / [www.novatelecom.ie](http://www.novatelecom.ie)

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**From:** **Deirdre Williams** <[deirdre@novabroadband.ie](mailto:deirdre@novabroadband.ie)>  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 10:57  
**Subject:** Fwd: Coom Green Energy Park  
**To:** Office <[office@novabroadband.ie](mailto:office@novabroadband.ie)>

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**From:** **Elaine Bennett** <[elaine.bennett@fco.ie](mailto:elaine.bennett@fco.ie)>  
**Date:** Wed, 20 Nov 2019 at 10:19  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park  
**To:** [support@novabroadband.ie](mailto:support@novabroadband.ie) <[support@novabroadband.ie](mailto:support@novabroadband.ie)>

Dear Sir / Madam,

Fehily Timoney are currently progressing a planning application and EIAR for the proposed Coom Green Energy Park (wind farm) near Bottlehill in Co. Cork. We would like to engage with you to assess whether the proposed turbine locations may affect any telecommunications links that you may have in the area.

The turbine co-ordinates are set out below and I attach a site layout figure. If you could revert as soon as possible, I would be very grateful.

Turbine ID	X ITM	Y ITM
T2	562641	590193
T3	563128	589420
T4	563273	590075
T5	563833	590014
T6	563848	590542
T7	563433	590717
T8	563566	591305
T9	564126	591229
T10	564548	590812
T11	564002	592625
T12	563969	592119
T13	564515	591909
T14	564961	591567
T15	564661	592686
T16	565156	592556
T17	568267	591705
T18	568612	592430
T19	568206	593193
T20	568229	593738
T21	567708	593928
T22	568905	593906
T23	569943	593950

Thanks,

Elaine

Dr. Elaine Bennett



Senior Scientist

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**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12  
D773  
t: +353 21 496 9567; mobile: 0876822239  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie) [in](#) [t](#)

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--

Deirdre Williams / Technical Support Agent  
021 242 9560 / [deirdre@novabroadband.ie](mailto:deirdre@novabroadband.ie)

**Nova Broadband**  
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**From:** MACCRIOSTAIL Cathal <[Cathal.MacCriostail@IAA.ie](mailto:Cathal.MacCriostail@IAA.ie)>

**Sent:** Thursday 31 October 2019 14:11

**To:** Dineen, James <[James.Dineen@brookfieldrenewable.com](mailto:James.Dineen@brookfieldrenewable.com)>

**Cc:** Mike Watson <[mike@pagerpower.com](mailto:mike@pagerpower.com)>; Kieran O'Malley <[Kieran.OMalley@coillte.ie](mailto:Kieran.OMalley@coillte.ie)>; WALSH Enda <[Enda.WALSH@IAA.ie](mailto:Enda.WALSH@IAA.ie)>;  
BYRNE Jonathan <[Jonathan.Byrne@IAA.ie](mailto:Jonathan.Byrne@IAA.ie)>; Brian Culloty <[Brian.Culloty@corkairport.com](mailto:Brian.Culloty@corkairport.com)>; KAVANAGH Peter  
<[Peter.Kavanagh@IAA.ie](mailto:Peter.Kavanagh@IAA.ie)>

**Subject:** FW: Wind Farm Nagle Mountain

**Importance:** High

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Dear James,

Many thanks for the call earlier and I'm glad to follow up in response to your earlier email below.

In this response I've also copied Jonathan Byrne, who's the Operations Manager for Cork ATC and Brian Culloty, daa Cork Airport, for information.

Attachments 1 and 2 are the last received documents. I have no comments on these.

For completeness I've also attached the following:

- Attachment 3: Minutes of our meeting which resulted in the further assessment
- Attachment 4: Previously received Risk Assessment
- Attachment 5: My email correspondence from last June. All concerns outlined have now been addressed

***Therefore, I can confirm that The IAA ATM Operations and Strategy Directorate, whom I represent, has no objection to this development.***

If more formal correspondence is required, please don't hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

Cathal

**Cathal Mac Criostail**

Údarás Eitlíochta na hÉireann / Irish Aviation Authority  
The Times Building, 11-12 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2, D02 T449, Ireland

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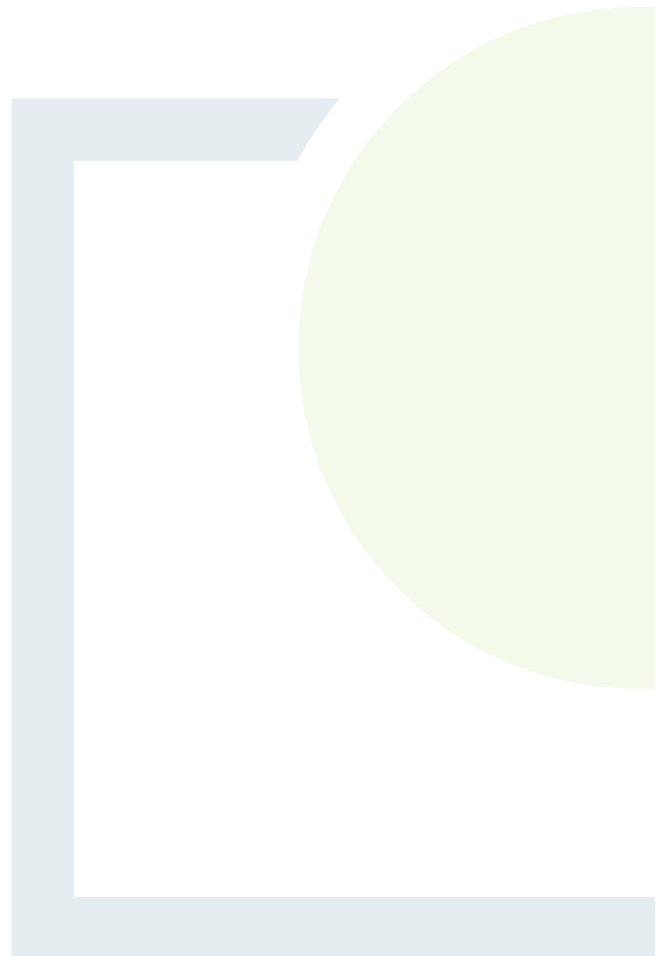




CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

# APPENDIX 5.2

Scoping Report







CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P1306/Lt/SG/MG

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

7<sup>th</sup> August 2018

**Re: Coom Green Energy Park Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation**

Dear Sir/ Madam,

Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited (BRIL) Ltd in partnership with Coillte intends to apply for planning permission to construct a renewable energy development comprising of wind and solar PV near Bottlehill, Co. Cork. The proposed Coom Green Energy Park site includes lands in following townlands: Tooreen South, Knuttery, Coom (Fitzgeralds), Coom (Hudsons), Mullennaboree, Knockaunalour, Commons, Knoppoge, Carrig, Killeagh, Glannasack, Toorgarrif, Knockdorty, Lackendarragh North and Moneygorm.

A site location map showing the proposed outline development boundary areas is shown in Figure 1. The outline development boundary has been identified by detailed desk-based planning and environmental constraints studies and a preliminary visual impact assessment which included field surveys. The proposed windfarm site is located within two main land parcels;

- Site Area (1) Black Bog, Bottlehill & Badgers Hill areas.
- Site Area (2) Commons, Glannasack & Toorgarrif.

It is expected that the development will be connected to the existing Barrymore 110kV substation through the cable route shown in Figure 1. Also outlined in Figure 1 is the alternative option of connecting to an existing 220kV overhead line near Knockroura via a looped in connection. This is identified as "Potential Tie in Location" in Figure 1.

Cont'd...

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Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd. Number 180497

Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D



### *The Applicants*

The applicant for the proposed project will be Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited (BRIL) and Coillte.

BRIL is a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable Partners, a global renewable energy company that develops, acquires, builds and operates utility-scale wind and solar power projects. BRIL has constructed and operates a portfolio of approximately 250 renewable power facilities in North America, Latin America and Europe with a combined installed capacity exceeding 10,000 megawatts.

Coillte is a commercial forestry business in Ireland, owned by the state, and based in Newtownmountkennedy Co. Wicklow. Coillte manage approximately 7% of the country's land and operates three businesses with the core business being commercial forestry. Coillte have developed a number of large scale renewable energy projects in Ireland including Galway Wind Park, Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm, Co. Roscommon and Raheenleagh Wind Farm, Co. Wicklow and Catlepool, Co. Cork.

### *Existing Environment*

The Bottlehill landfill development with associated infrastructure exists within the Site Area 1 and consists of approximately 10 ha currently and includes upgraded roads and infrastructure to accommodate the development. The Site Area 1 and Site Area 2 are occupied by coniferous forestry, green fields and an area of mineral extraction. Both land parcels contain an extensive network of recently upgraded forestry tracks running through the centre of the site which are in good condition with associated drainage along many tracks.

### *Proposed Development*

The proposed development will comprise of up to 33 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, several solar arrays, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, substations including control buildings, underground electrical and communications cabling, borrow pits, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compounds, tree felling and associated works. Several battery storage containers with associated hard standing compounds shall also form part of the development.

### *Structure and Scope of the EIAR*

The planning application of this development will be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). The contents of an EIAR will be prepared in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 and the assessment of the effects will be carried out in accordance to EU 2014 EIA Directive. The EIAR will identify, describe and assess the direct and indirect significant effects of the project (including grid connection) on the following factors:

- (a) population and human health
- (b) biodiversity, with particular attention to protected species and habitats
- (c) land, soil, water, air and climate

Cont'd



Page 3

- (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape
- (e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d).

This letter is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before **8<sup>rd</sup> September 2018** in writing or email to [silvia.garcia@ftco.ie](mailto:silvia.garcia@ftco.ie)

It is intended that a second round of statutory consultation will be carried out later in the year with a more developed site layout which will show internal infrastructure general arrangements etc. The general arrangement of the site will be developed using feedback from this round of statutory consultation and community engagement which is currently ongoing.

If you have no comments to make on this proposed development, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter and provide any queries to the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

---

Silvia Garcia  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.





CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P1306/Lt/MM/MG/CF

«AddressBlock»

25<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Re: Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Scoping and Consultation**

Dear Sir or Madam,

Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited (BRIL) Ltd in partnership with Coillte intends to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), located in North County Cork. The proposed CGEP site includes lands contained within the following townlands: Glashaboy North, Coom (Hudson), Tooreen South, Killeagh, Coom (Fitzgerald), Slievedotia, Mullenaboree, Knoppoge, Carrig, Knuttery, Lackendarragh North, Knockacullata, Knockdoorty, and Glannasack.

This letter and enclosed scoping report is being issued to you as part of the consultation process for the EIAR and follows an initial round of consultation which took place in Summer 2018. As part of the consultation process, we would be interested in receiving any comments you may have on the proposed development, relevant to your area of expertise, before 8<sup>th</sup> of August in writing or be email to [cgep@ftco.ie](mailto:cgep@ftco.ie)

If you have no comments to make, I would be grateful if you would please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

If you have any queries regarding the project, please contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

Trevor Byrne  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney & Company**

Encl.

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# COOM GREEN ENERGY PARK (CGEP) ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - SCOPING REPORT

**JUNE 2019**



**Brookfield**





# CGEP ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT - SCOPING REPORT

Rev. Nr.	Description of Changes	Prepared by:	Checked by:	Approved by:	Date:
0	Issue for Consultation	EB/MM/MG/CF	TB	JH	25/06/2019

**Client:** Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited and Coillte.

**Keywords:** Energy Park, Renewable Energy, EIA Scoping, Planning Application.

**Abstract:** This is a scoping report prepared for a proposed energy park primarily comprising of a wind farm in Co. Cork. The purpose of the scoping report is to identify the content and extent of the information to be provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the proposed project.



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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 General

### 1.1.1 Introduction

Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited (BRIL) Ltd in partnership with Coillte intends to apply for planning consent for a renewable energy development referred to as the Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), located in North County Cork. The proposed CGEP site includes lands contained within the following townlands: Glashaboy North, Coom (Hudson), Tooreen South, Killeagh, Coom (Fitzgerald), Slievedotia, Mullenaboree, Knoppoge, Carrig, Knuttery, Lackendarragh North, Knockacullata, Knockdoorty, and Glannasack. The site is approximately 377 hectares in size.

A site location map is presented in Figure 1-1.

A number of grid connection options are currently being considered in order to supply power from the development to the Irish electricity network. One of which proposes to connect to the existing 110kV Barrymore substation near Rathcormac, Co. Cork via underground cable. The other option currently being considered is a 'looped in' connection to the existing Kilonan-Knockraha 220kV overhead line (OHL) using a 220kV underground cable to a purpose built substation located within the project site.

An initial round of statutory consultation took place in 2018 with consultees receiving a letter and supporting site boundary maps.

### 1.1.2 The Proposed Development

The proposed development is located approximately 12km to the south east of Mallow in County Cork.

The energy park will comprise of up to 22 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, 2 no. substation compounds including control buildings and battery storage units, underground electrical and communications cabling, borrow pits, drainage and sediment controls, temporary site compounds, tree felling and associated works. The applicant is also exploring the use of Solar Photovoltaics (PV) on substation building roof spaces as part of the energy park development.

It is proposed to supply power from CGEP to the Irish electricity network via underground cable to either the existing substation located at Barrymore 110kV substation near Rathcormac, Co. Cork, or via a 'looped-in' connection to the existing Kilonan-Knockraha 220kV overhead line (OHL) using a 220kV underground cable (UGC) to a 220kV substation located at the CGEP Project site. The cables will traverse the following townlands primarily along the public road: Ballynahina, Coolmucky, Farran South, Farran North, Corrin, Glanakis, Chimneyfield, Toorgarriff, Killeagh, Moneygorm, Inchinanagh, Knoppoge, Carrig, Tooreen, Lackendarragh North, Knockacullata, Knockaunacorin, Moanlahan, Knockdoorty, Mullenataura, Commons, Glannasack, Knockananig, Coolnakilla, Kill-Saint-Anne North, and Rathcormack-Mountain. It is expected that the proposed development will have a generation capacity of approximately 100MW

The current design site layout (Design Iteration 2) is presented in Figure 1-2.

The proposed grid connection options being considered are shown in Figure 2-1.

### 1.1.3 The Applicant

The applicants for the proposed project are Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited (BRIL) and Coillte.

BRIL is a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable Partners, a global renewable energy company that develops, acquires, builds and operates utility-scale wind and solar power projects. BRIL has constructed and operates a portfolio of approximately 250 renewable power facilities in North America, Latin America and Europe with a combined installed capacity exceeding 10,000 megawatts.

The Irish business today consists of more than 400 megawatts(MW)of operating wind capacity across 23 wind farms in nine counties and employs approximately 110 people at its Ireland and U.K business headquartered in Cork.

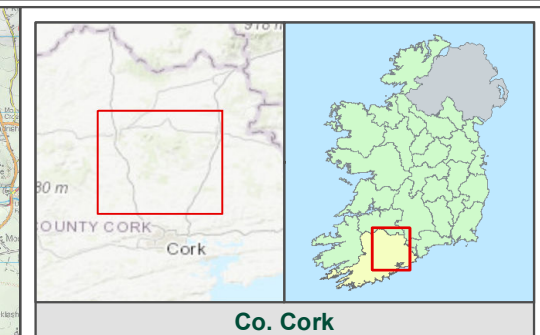
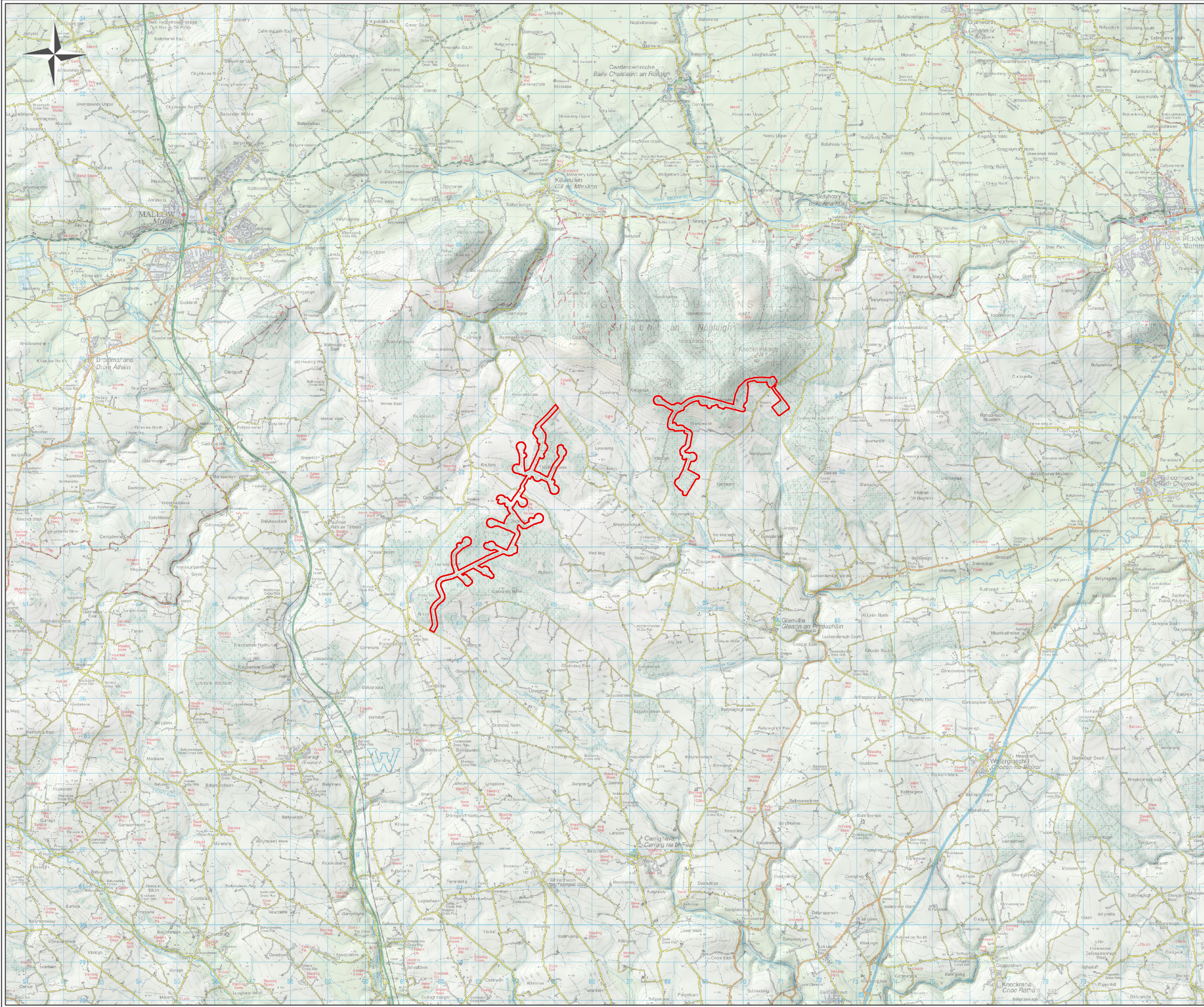
Coillte is a commercial forestry business in Ireland, owned by the state, and based in Newtownmountkennedy Co. Wicklow. Coillte manage approximately 7% of the country's land and operates three businesses, with the core business being commercial forestry. Coillte have developed a number of large scale renewable energy projects in Ireland including Galway Wind Park, Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm, Co. Roscommon, Raheenleagh Wind Farm, Co. Wicklow and Castlepook, Co. Cork.


#### **1.1.4 Purpose of the Report**

This is a scoping report prepared for the EIAR for the proposed CGEP comprising primarily of a wind farm and associated battery storage in north Co. Cork.


The purpose of the EIA scoping process is to identify the key points and issues which are likely to be important during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and to eliminate those that are not. The scoping process identifies sources or causes of potential environmental effects, the pathways by which the effects can happen, and the sensitive receptors, which are likely to be affected. It defines the appropriate level of detail for the information to be provided in the EIAR. In essence, the primary focus of scoping is to define the most appropriate assessment of significant effects related to the proposed development.

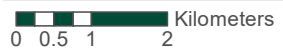




**Legend**  
 Proposed Development Boundary

<b>Figure Title</b>	Site Location
<b>Figure No.</b>	1.1
<b>Project</b>	Coom Green Energy Park
<b>Client</b>	Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte
<b>Scale</b>	1:100,000
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<b>Revision</b>	A
<b>Date</b>	15/09/2018

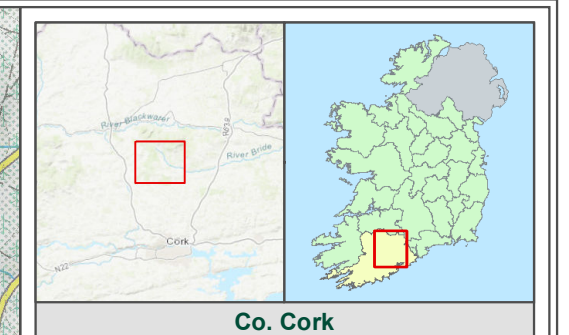
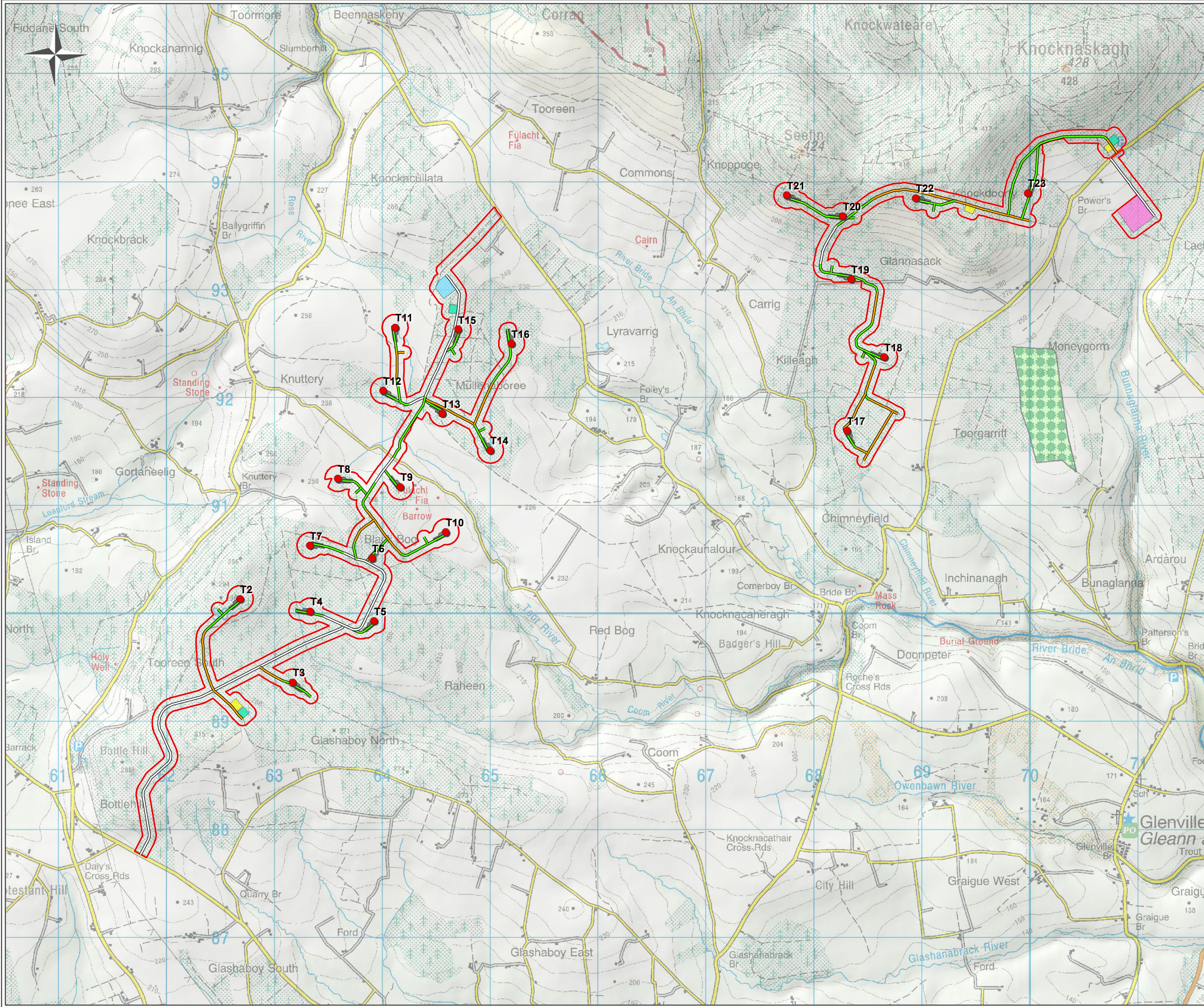
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[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  












**Legend**

- Proposed Turbine Layout
- ▭ Proposed Development Boundary
- ▭ Proposed Borrow Pit
- ▭ Proposed Temporary Compound
- ▭ Proposed Turbine Hardstanding
- ▭ Replanting Area

**Substations**

- ▭ Proposed IPP Substation at Knockacullata
- ▭ Proposed Grid Connection Substation at Lackendarragh

**Proposed Access Roads**

- Existing Road
- Existing Road Upgrade
- New Road

<b>Figure Title</b>	Current Design Layout
<b>Figure No.</b>	1.2
<b>Project</b>	Coom Green Energy Park
<b>Client</b>	Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte
<b>Scale</b>	1:35,000
<b>Page Size</b>	A3
<b>Revision</b>	A
<b>Date</b>	29/05/2019

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## 1.2 Planning Process for the Proposed Development

It is intended that the proposed development will be submitted for planning directly to An Bord Pleanála pursuant to the Strategic Infrastructure Development Act 2006 (as amended), subject to a pre-application consultation process with An Bord Pleanála. Pre-application consultation with An Bord Pleanála under the Strategic Infrastructure Development Act was commenced in December 2018 under An Bord Pleanála case reference number PL04.303322.

## 1.3 Environmental Impact Assessment and the Function of the EIAR

Under Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended, a planning application for a development which comes within a class of development specified under Schedule 2 of Part 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) in accordance with the 2014 Directive. Accordingly, as the proposed development will have more than 5 no. turbines and a generating capacity of greater than 5MW, an EIAR will be prepared for the project in accordance with the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The purpose of an EIAR is to provide a detailed description of the proposed development and outline potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the project. Where adverse impacts have been identified, mitigation measures are proposed and the residual impacts described.

## 1.4 Contributors to the EIAR

This Scoping Report has been prepared by Fehily Timoney & Company (FT) on behalf of BRIL and Coillte. FT is a planning, environmental and engineering consultancy based in Cork, Dublin and Carlow, specialising in civil and environmental engineering, environmental science and planning. FT is well established as a leading consultancy in wind farm development in Ireland.

FT will be designing and preparing the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for submission to An Bord Pleanála as described in Section 1.2 above.

Specialist contributors to the EIAR include:

- Macro Works who will prepare the landscape and visual impact assessment;
- John Cronin & Associates who will prepare the Cultural Heritage assessment;
- Inis Environmental Consultants who will be carrying out the ecological surveys and preparing the biodiversity section of the EIAR and the Natura Impact Statement.

## 1.5 Consultation

The stakeholder consultation process is being carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland-Guidelines for Community Engagement (available at: [www.dccae.gov.ie](http://www.dccae.gov.ie)). Comments on the scope of the EIAR can be submitted by email to [cgep@ftco.ie](mailto:cgep@ftco.ie) by Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

### Project Website

A project website has been set up to inform the public of the project (<https://coomgreenenergy.com>). The website is being used to notify members of the public of upcoming public consultation events and any changes in the design and layout as a consequence of consultations. It is also being used to inform members of the public of research and development in the renewable energy sector.

### Community Consultation

Since March 2018, the Project Team has been carrying out door to door consultation in the areas closest to the proposed development area to discuss the project with local residents. A Community Liaison Officer (CLO) has been appointed and is available for calls and meetings with members of the public.

As the design process progresses, one-to-one meetings will be ongoing with update leaflets/newsletters distributed in the local area to provide clear information on the main aspects of the project as it evolves. The Project Website will also display up to date information and will evolve with the project to provide a source of updated information as the project progresses.

The project team organised community information events in the area in November and December of 2018. Three community information events were held in total: in Glenville (28<sup>th</sup> November 2018), Mourneabbey (30<sup>th</sup> November 2018) and Whitechurch (5<sup>th</sup> December 2018). The objective of these events was to inform the local communities of the proposed development, to provide information pertaining to the proposed development and to seek feedback from the local community in terms of local knowledge and any issues that need to be addressed in the EIAR.

Feedback forms were available to attendees and over 50 no. feedback forms were completed from the first round of workshops. The main issues were recorded by the applicant and answers to the most prevalent questions were published on the project website.

A noise workshop presentation was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> of May 2019 in the Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel. An additional workshop presentation regarding engineering aspects of the project was held on the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2019 in the Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel. The purpose of the two workshop presentations followed feedback from community workshops held in November and December of 2018 where it was requested that more technical workshops be carried out.

These workshops were designed to provide attendees from the community with information on specific technical issues associated with the design and environmental impact assessment of the development from the experts who will be carrying out the work on behalf of the Applicant. The format of the events consisted of a presentation by the relevant expert followed by a Q&A session with members of the audience.

Feedback from the events were recorded and will inform the EIA process.

### Statutory and Non-Statutory Scoping and Consultation

A scoping letter was issued to statutory and non-statutory consultees in August 2018. The scoping letter outlined details of the applicants, the proposed development description, the location of the development and the proposed structure of the EIAR. The scoping letter was accompanied by maps showing the proposed development site location, study area boundary and indicative grid connection route options. The responses from this consultation have informed the ongoing design process in addition to informing the scope of the environmental assessments.

The function of this Scoping Report for the EIAR, is to inform consultees of the development with detailed layout design and to seek further feedback to inform the final design.



## 2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

### 2.1 Proposed Wind Farm

The proposed development will comprise of up to 22 no. wind turbines with a tip height of up to 169m, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, new access tracks and upgrading of existing access tracks, 2 no. substations including control buildings and battery storage; and associated ancillary works. The current layout, Design Iteration 2 (DI2), is illustrated in Figure 1.2. The layout of the proposed wind farm has been designed to minimise the potential environmental effects of the wind farm while at the same time maximising the energy yield of the wind resource passing over the site.

The electricity generated by the proposed wind farm will be transmitted by a collector system of underground cables to the proposed onsite substation. The proposed development will also comprise underground cables from the development to the National Grid connection point as well as improvements to the public road network for the delivery of turbine components.

### 2.2 Proposed Substations and Battery Storage

It is proposed to construct 2 no. onsite electricity substation compounds within the proposed development site as shown in Figure 2.1. These will provide a connection point between the CGEP and the proposed grid connection point at either the existing Barrymore substation or from a 'looped-in' connection to the existing Killonan-Knockraha 220kV overhead line.

It is also intended to include battery storage units within the substation compounds. One of battery storage's basic roles is to act as a power reserve, for when electricity generation drops below demand. The reserve capacity within the battery storage unit can then be called on at a moment's notice. There are large variations in system demand on the electricity grid, varying over the course of a day and over monthly periods. Because of these changes in demand the power generation and grid must deal with large transitions between lows and highs, not only over the course of a day or week but also second-by-second. Battery storage is a means of storing and releasing electrical energy just like a rechargeable battery, mobile phone or electric car. The unit comprises a group of battery racks which are sealed within the container and are monitored and controlled for performance, temperature and other safety factors. The containers are sealed, fireproof and house all the necessary control and safety systems.

### 2.3 Grid Connection

It is proposed to supply power from CGEP to the Irish electricity network via underground cable to either the existing substation located at Barrymore 110kV substation near Rathcormac, Co. Cork, or via a 'looped-in' connection to the existing Killonan-Knockraha 220kV overhead line (OHL) using a 220kV underground cable (UGC) to a 220kV substation located at the CGEP Project site.

The proposed grid connection options being considered are shown in Figure 2-1.

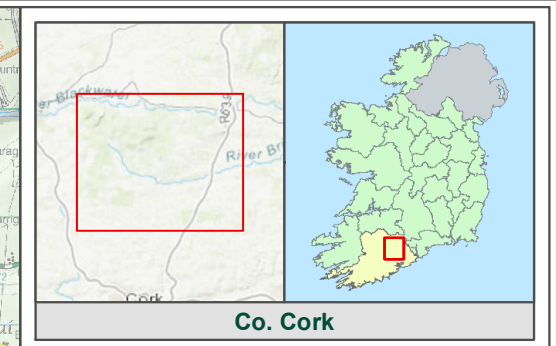
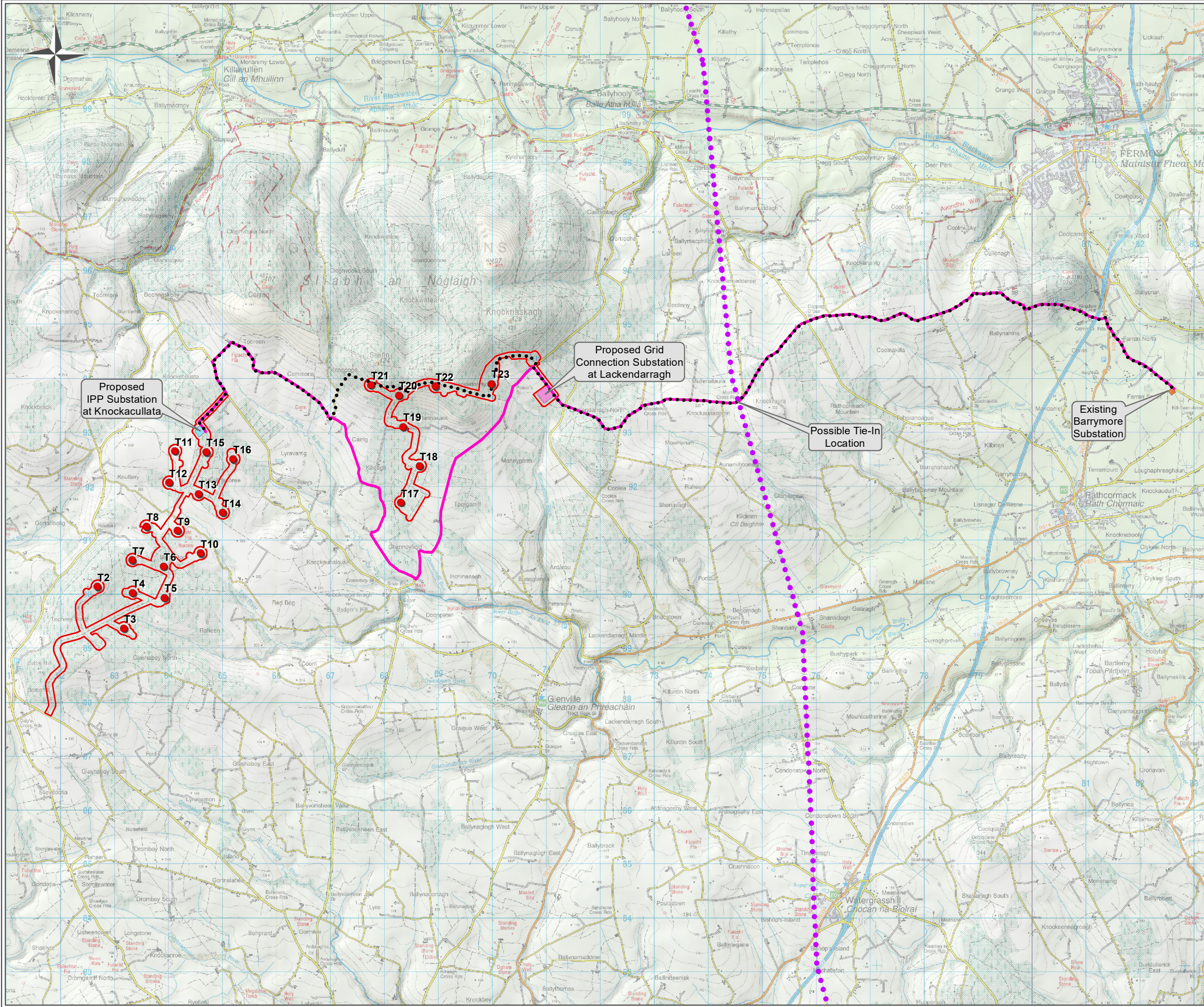
The proposed grid connection route will follow the route of existing public and private roads between the proposed CGEP site and the point of connection with the existing grid network.

Connection will be sought under the Enduring Connection Process (ECP) grid access regime. The proposed grid connection route options are shown in Figure 2.1. The grid connection will be considered in the environmental impact assessment.

All grid connection cables will be underground. An element of overhead line works would be required for the 220kV loop-in option where the proposed underground cables from the development meet the existing overhead line (OHL) should this option be adopted.

A 220kV Loop-In from the existing overhead line would require a new 220kV line/cable interface mast to be installed on either side of an existing OHL tower. The OHL conductor will be terminated at the two new structures in order to facilitate the loop in to the new Coom Green Energy Substation. The existing OHL tower structure would then be dismantled and removed from the circuit.





**Legend**

- Proposed Turbine Layout
- Existing 220KV Overhead Line
- Proposed Cable Route Option 1
- Proposed Cable Route Option 2
- ▭ Proposed Development Boundary

**Substations**

- Existing Barrymore
- Proposed IPP Substation at Knockacullata
- Proposed Grid Connection Substation at Lackendarragh

<b>Figure Title</b>	Grid Connection Route Options
<b>Figure No.</b>	2.1
<b>Project</b>	Coom Green Energy Park
<b>Client</b>	Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte
<b>Scale</b>	1:70,000
<b>Page Size</b>	A3
<b>Revision</b>	A
<b>Date</b>	29/05/2019

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## 2.4 Turbine Delivery

A number of components will enter the country through the ports including the blades, tower sections and the nacelles. The turbines will be assembled on site, which will be delivered to site by special transport vehicles. A number of routes to site have been surveyed to determine the most appropriate turbine delivery route. There are 2 no. routes identified to transport the wind turbine components to the site:

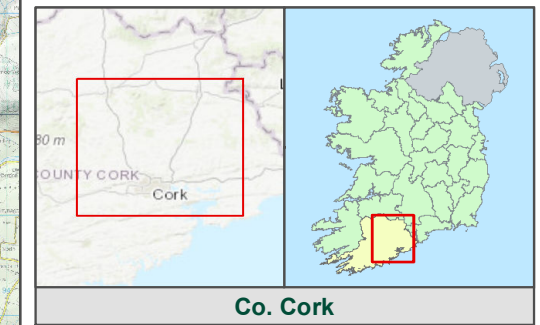
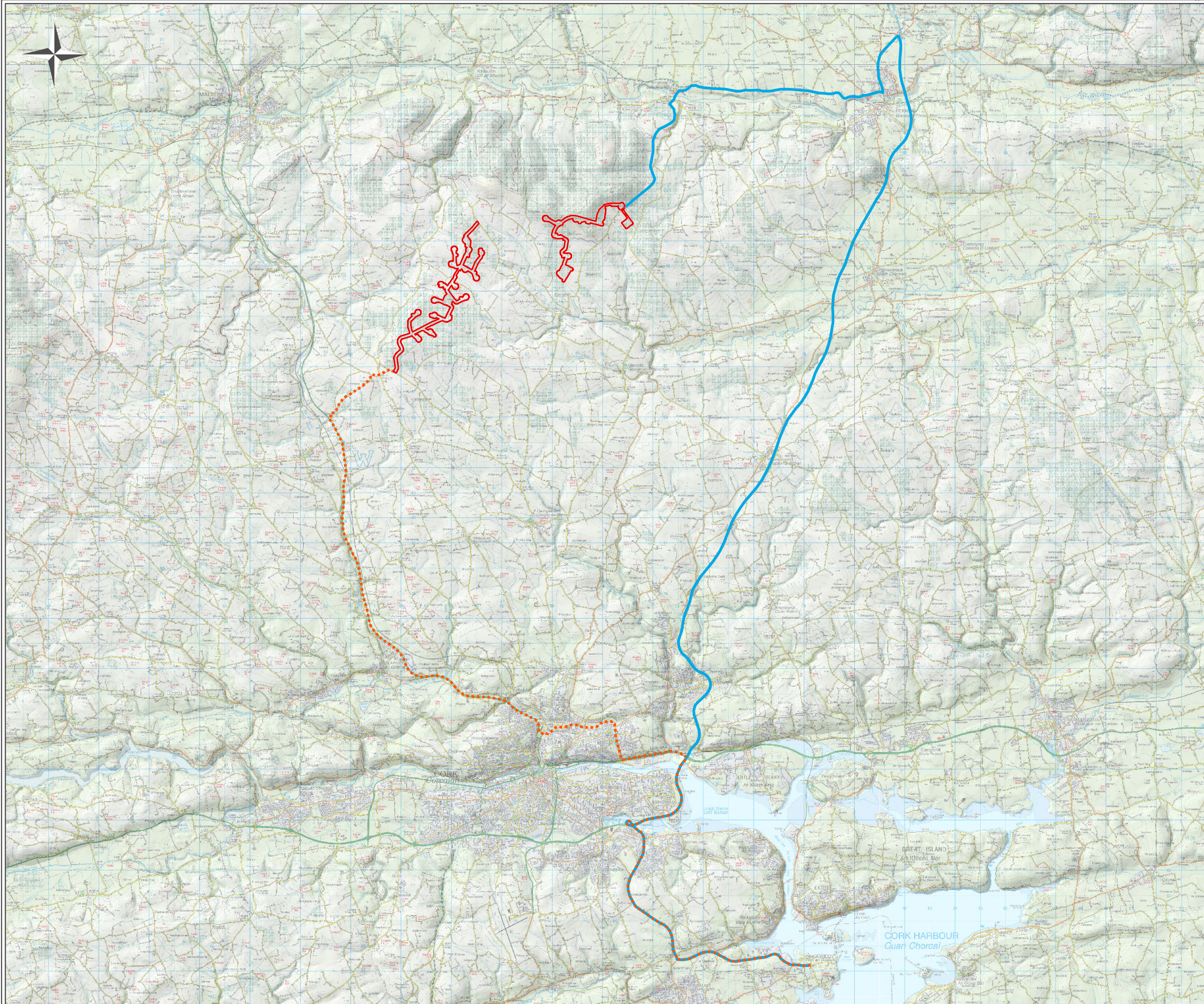
Route 1: The first route leaves the M8 Motorway at Junction 14, following the R639 Regional Road into Fermoy town and on to meet the N72 National Road. It continues on the N72 as far as a turn off just before Ballyhooly village. The TDR continues on this local road to the site entrance for the proposed Coom Energy Park.

Route 2: The second route leaves the N20 National Road at Lissavoura Cross Roads, following the Local Road to the top of Protestant Hill before going right, through Daly's Cross Roads as far as Bottlehill; the location of the site entrance.

The above routes are shown on Figure 2-2.







- Legend**
- Proposed Development Boundary
  - Proposed Turbine Delivery Routes**
  - Route 1
  - Route 2

<b>Figure Title</b>	Turbine Delivery Routes		
<b>Figure No.</b>	2.2		
<b>Project</b>	Coom Green Energy Park		
<b>Client</b>	Brookfield Renewable Ireland Ltd. & Coillte		
<b>Scale</b>	1:150,000	<b>Page Size</b>	A3
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## 3 STRUCTURE AND SCOPE OF THE EIAR

### 3.1 Contents of the EIAR - Statutory Requirements

The EIAR will be prepared in accordance with Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, which sets out the contents of an EIAR. In addition, the contents of Directive 2014/52/EU, which was adopted in the EU on 16 April 2014 will also be included in the preparation of this EIAR (the 2014 EIA Directive).

The purpose of the EIAR is to provide in particular:

- a) a description of the project comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the project;
- b) a description of the likely potential significant effects of the project on the environment;
- c) a description of the features of the project and/or measures envisaged in order to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment;
- d) a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment;
- e) a non-technical summary of the information referred to in points (a) to (d); and
- f) any additional information relevant to the specific characteristics of the wind farm project proposed.

The EIAR will identify, describe and assess the direct and indirect significant effects of the project on the following factors:

- (a) population and human health
- (b) biodiversity, with particular attention to protected species and habitats
- (c) land, soil, water, air and climate
- (d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape
- (e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d).

### 3.2 EIAR Methodology

#### 3.2.1 General

The EPA and the European Commission (EC) have published guidelines on the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, namely:

- Draft Advice Notes on Preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015);
- Draft Guidance on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2017);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Scoping (European Commission (EC), 2018);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EC, 2017);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018).

The EIAR team will have regard to these guidelines in the preparation of the EIAR.

The team will also have regard to best practice guidance for individual environmental topics. Regard will also be paid to the 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry' published by the Irish Wind Energy Association and the 'Wind Energy Development Guidelines' published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2006) or the latest adopted revision at the time of application.

There are two different EIAR structures which are commonly used and which the EPA guidelines accept as equally valid. The structure, which the EIAR team proposes to use for the EIAR for the proposed CGEP, is the grouped format structure.

Using this structure there is a separate chapter for each topic, e.g. air quality, biodiversity, hydrology. The description of the existing environment, the proposed development and the potential impacts, mitigation measures and residual impacts are grouped in the chapter. The grouped format makes it easy to investigate topics of interest and facilitates cross-reference to specialist studies.

Given the need to ensure that the EIAR is readily accessible to the general public, as well as to the statutory authorities, the EIAR team has proposed to structure the EIAR as described below:

- Non-technical Summary
- Introduction
- Site Selection & Consideration of Alternatives
- Description of the Proposed Development
- Policy and Legislation
- EIA Scoping, Consultation and Key Issues
- Air Quality and Climate Change
- Noise and Vibration
- Biodiversity
- Land, Soils and Geology (including hydrogeology)
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Population, Human Health & Material Assets
- Shadow Flicker
- Traffic and Transportation
- Archaeology, Architecture and Cultural Heritage
- Landscape & Visual
- Telecommunications & Aviation
- Interactions of the Foregoing

### 3.2.2 EIAR Chapter Structure

The broad methodology framework used in each chapter will include the following:

- Introduction
- Methodology
- Existing Environment
- Potential Impacts
- Mitigation Measures
- Residual Impacts

#### Introduction

This section introduces the environmental topic to be assessed and the areas to be examined within the assessment.

#### Methodology

Specific topic related methodologies are outlined in this section. This will include the methodology used in describing the existing environment and undertaking the impact assessment. It is important that the methodology is documented so that the reader understands how the assessment was undertaken. This can also be used as a reference if future studies are required.

#### Existing Environment

An accurate description of the existing environment is necessary to predict the likely significant impacts of a new development. Existing baseline environmental monitoring data can also be used as a valuable reference for the assessment of actual impacts from a development once it is in operation.

To describe the existing environment, desktop reviews of existing data sources will be undertaken for each specialist area relying on published reference reports and datasets to ensure the objectivity of the assessment. Desktop studies are also supplemented by specialised field walkovers or studies in order to confirm the accuracy of the desktop study or to gather more baseline environmental information for incorporation into the EIAR.

The existing environment will be evaluated to highlight the character of the existing environment that is distinctive and what the significance of this is. The significance of a specific environment can be derived from legislation, national policies, local plans and policies, guidelines or professional judgements. The sensitivity of the environment will also be described.

#### Potential Impacts

In this section, individual specialists predict how the receiving environment will interact with the proposed development. The full extent of the proposed development's effects and emissions before the proposed mitigation measures are introduced is outlined. Impacts from both the construction and operation phases of the proposed development are outlined. Interactions and cumulative impacts with other environmental topics are also included in this evaluation.

The evaluation of the significance of the impact is also undertaken. Where possible, pre-existing standardised criteria for the significance of impacts will be used in accordance with the guidelines set out in the EPA (2015) Draft Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Statements. Such criteria can include Irish legislation, international standards, European Commission and EPA guidelines or good practice guidelines. Where appropriate criteria do not exist the assessment methodology section states the criteria used to evaluate the significance.

#### Mitigation Measures

If significant impacts are anticipated mitigation measures will be devised to minimise impacts on the environment. Mitigation measures by avoidance, by reduction and by remedy can be outlined.

#### Residual Impacts

The assessment identifies the likely impact that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been put in place. These impacts are described in detail and assessment of their significance undertaken.

### 3.2.3 EIAR Report Structure

The structure proposed for the EIAR is as follows:

Volume 1 - Non Technical summary

Volume 2 - Main EIAR

Volume 3 - Appendices for the EIAR

Volume 4 - Photomontages and Visual Maps



## 4 ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN THE EIAR

### 4.1 Introduction

The EPA Advice Notes provide guidance on the topics which would usually be addressed when preparing an EIAR for different classes of development. The Advice Notes highlight typical issues, which would arise for each development class. Project Type 33 is 'installations for harnessing wind power for energy production (wind farms)'. The scope of the EIAR will have regard to the guidance provided on the issues to be addressed for a Project Type 33.

The EIAR will summaries International, European, National and Local Energy and Planning Policy, the challenges associated with Climate Change and the related need for the proposed development.

### 4.2 Alternatives Considered

The alternatives, which were considered, when developing the overall configuration of the proposed CGEP, will be described and the technology options for the project will be outlined in Chapter 2 Introduction and Project Rationale.

The principle alternatives studied with respect to the CGEP will be outlined under the following headings:

- *Locations* – This will include a discussion of the overall site selection process for the CGEP on a national, regional and local scale. It will include a site selection report which will be included in the EIAR outlining details of the criteria used to determine site suitability for wind energy development including:
  - Wind resource;
  - Proximity to residential dwellings;
  - Land Zoning in County Development Plans;
  - Established and Future Land-Use;
  - Ecological Conservation Designations;
  - Landscape Designations; and
  - Ease of Access etc.
- *Access* – Details of the criteria used to select the network of access tracks that will provide access from the public road network to the site (and to each turbine within the site) in addition to those that will provide internal connections (as an alternative to using public roads) between turbines will be outlined. This will include information on the availability of existing track, suitable ground conditions, terrain, local road infrastructure etc.
- *Connection to the National Grid* – Details of the criteria used to select the proposed grid connection route will be provided. This will include an assessment of alternative grid connection route options.

The reasons, including environmental and plan-led considerations will be explained.

### 4.3 Scheme Description

The EIAR will describe each element of the project including the following:

- Community Benefit Package
- Existing Environment
- Landownership
- On Site Wind Resource
- Turbine Layout

- Power Output
- Turbine typical components
- Access Tracks and Hardstandings
- Watercourse crossings
- Grid Connection
- Onsite substations
- Battery storage
- Electrical cabling
- Traffic Management
- Tree felling
- Replant lands
- Wind farms in proximity
- Construction overview
- Operation and lifespan
- Decommissioning

In a judgement in 2014, *O’Grianna v. An Bord Pleanála, Cork County Council and Framore Limited*, it was ruled that all planning permission should not be granted for a wind farm project requiring a grid connection unless the grid connection details are provided in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process.

Arising from this it is essential that the details of this project and its proposed grid connection should be provided in the EIA process, this will be set out in the Description of Development in detail in Chapter 3, while Chapter 2 will provide a detailed assessment of alternatives considered in relation to the preferred grid connection route.

The operating procedures and hours, staffing, monitoring, maintenance requirements, and the provision for decommissioning of the proposed CGEP will also be outlined.

If planning consent is secured for the proposed development, tree felling, site preparation works, upgrading of existing access tracks and the provision of new access tracks will precede all other activities. Drainage infrastructure will be constructed in parallel with the track construction. This will be followed by the construction of the turbine foundations and the provision of the hardstanding areas. In parallel with these works the on-site electrical works; sub-station and internal cable network; will be completed. The cable from the wind farm site to the proposed grid connection point will then be laid underground, primarily along public roads. Any works required to the public road network to facilitate turbine delivery will also be carried out.

#### 4.4 Construction Activities

CGEP will have a defined planning boundary to include not only the turbines themselves but all ancillary infrastructure such as transformers and crane hardstanding areas at each turbine, borrow pits, new and upgraded site tracks, on-site underground cabling and an on-site substation with toilet facilities. Details on all of these elements will be provided within the EIAR.

Information will be provided on the following aspects of the construction of the CGEP:

- Construction programme
- Construction sequence and methodology
- Drainage control measures
- Temporary site facilities
- Site preparation works
- Access road construction and upgrade
- Borrow pits and reinstatement works
- Cable installation on site

- Turbine foundation and associated hardstanding area construction
- Turbine delivery and installation
- Commissioning

The control measures that will be implemented to manage the risk of soil and water pollution, emissions of dust and noise, construction waste management and traffic impacts will be explained.

## 4.5 Consultation Programme

Outlined in Section 1.5 of this report are the primary consultation methods and events that have been conducted to date. Over the course of the final design and preparation of the EIAR, consultation will continue with the community, stakeholders and consultees. As part of the EIAR, full details of all consultation will be documented and assessed.

## 4.6 Environmental Aspect: Population, Human Health and Material Assets

### 4.6.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The Population, Human Health and Material Assets Chapter of the EIAR will assess the likely significant effects of the proposed development on Population, Human Health and Material Assets with a particular reference to the topics of population, human health, socio-economic activity, land-use, recreation, amenity and tourism, and material assets.

#### *Population*

The potential impacts of the proposed CGEP on population trends and statistics on population (density, age) will be addressed in this chapter.

#### *Human health*

The potential impacts on human health from the proposed CGEP will be assessed.

#### *Health and Safety*

Details relating to health and safety arising from the proposed construction, operation and decommissioning of the green energy park will be assessed.

#### *Socio-economic activity*

The potential impacts of the proposed CGEP on employment and the main economic activities of the region as well as property values will be addressed in this chapter.

#### *Land-use*

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed CGEP on land use.

#### *Recreation, amenity and tourism*

The assessment will address the potential impacts of the proposed CGEP on residential amenity, recreational facilities and tourism of the region.

#### *Material assets*

The potential impact of the proposed development on physical infrastructure including renewable and non-renewable resources as well as utility infrastructure will be assessed.

### 4.6.2 Assessment Methodology

#### *Population*

With the purpose of analysing population trends and statistics on the proposed area, population data from the Central Statistics Office will be obtained for the study area defined by electoral division. The statistics of this data is compared against county and state trends, density and age.

#### *Human health*

The assessment will contain a desk study review of the impacts of the operation of renewable energy developments on human health using published and verified sources of information.

#### *Health and Safety*

The assessment will contain a desk study review of the impacts of the operation of renewable energy developments on health and safety using published and verified sources of information.

#### *Socio-economic activity*

Data from the Central Statistics Office will be used to define the socio-economic baseline. The potential positive and negative impacts of the proposed CGEP on population, employment and economic activity both directly and indirectly, will be assessed.

#### *Land-use*

The main land uses in the area, which could potentially be affected by the proposed development, will be described using Corine 2018 land cover data and this data will be verified by subsequent walkovers and drive-by surveys.

#### *Recreation, amenity and tourism*

All areas of scenic beauty in addition to heritage, culture and leisure facilities in the areas will be identified. A review of the main recreational activities in the area likely to be affected will be conducted. Residential amenities and recreational facilities, such as forestry in public ownership, walking paths, sports facilities, will be recorded and potential impacts assessed.

An assessment will then be conducted for each element of the proposed CGEP to ascertain any potential impacts that may arise which could directly or indirectly affect recreational activity or an amenity. This assessment will be prepared giving cognisance to other disciplines such as cultural heritage and archaeology, hydrology and ecology.

A review will be conducted of a number of published studies and surveys which have been conducted both in Ireland by Fáilte Ireland and in the UK on the attitude of tourists to wind farms. A study of the potential impacts that the proposed development may have on the tourism of the region will be carried out by reviewing Fáilte Ireland surveys, appraising the existing patterns of the tourism within the county and appraising the impacts that wind farms have on tourism in other counties and countries.

#### *Material assets*

Information on the existing material assets within the receiving environment will be obtained and assessed in the context of the proposed development. The CGEP will also be considered under the material assets section in its own right as it will be classed as a renewable resource.

### 4.6.3 Receiving Environment

The proposed development is located c. 9.1km from the Mallow, c. 1.5km from Fermoy, and c. 16km from Cork City. Other settlements within the vicinity of the proposed development include Glenville, c. 4km from the site boundary, Grenagh which is c. 5.5 km from the site boundary and Rathcormac which is located c. 10.5km from the proposed development.

A survey of existing dwellings was carried out by FTC in April 2018. According to the house survey, there are 70 no. houses located within the initial 1.36km study area of which 30 comprise a mix of residential and commercial, and a further 2 receptors characterised as commercial only.

### 4.6.4 Potential Impacts

#### *Population*

The potential impacts arising from the proposed development on population during construction are likely to be slight positive, given the opportunities for enhanced employment opportunities associated with the proposed development. During operational phase these impacts would likely be reduced to imperceptible. The assessment will consider the potential impacts during all phases of the proposed development.



#### *Human health*

The potential affects arising from the proposed development can impact human health during construction, operational and decommissioning will be considered in this chapter. Once operational, turbines contribute to the production of renewable energy and for this reason, it is thought that the operational phase will deliver positive impacts to human health.

#### *Health and Safety*

If not properly designed and constructed, there is the potential for construction and operational activities associated with the proposed development to impact on the health and safety of employees associated with the development as well as the public. Best practice construction and environmental management measures will be employed to prevent the potential for accidents. The EIAR will be accompanied by a comprehensive Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan which will include detailed health and safety requirements during the construction, operation and decommissioning of the green energy park. With the implementation of measures outlined in the EIAR and oCEMP, it is anticipated that the proposed development is not likely to have a potential significant impact on human health and safety.

#### *Socio-Economics*

The proposed development will have significant long and short term benefits for the local economy including job creation, landowner payments, local authority commercial rate payments and a Community Benefit Scheme. These will be developed in full and considered in the EIAR.

#### *Land Use*

The proposed development will require land take for the access tracks, wind turbines bases and adjacent hard-standings and sub-station footprints. The current land uses will continue other than within this land take. Full details will be contained in this chapter of the EIAR.

#### *Recreation, Amenity and Tourism*

Potential construction impacts from the grid connection cables include full or partial closure of roads used within the area, while the cables are being installed. There may be disruption to access routes and walking paths, however any disruption will be mitigated where possible by maintaining access for people throughout, and where this is not possible, in minimising the impact, clearly communicating the timing and scope of works to the local community.

#### *Material Assets*

Utilities such as overhead power lines or telephone lines or underground services may require diversion or be temporarily disrupted during the construction of the wind farm or cable trench. This has the potential to impact on nearby dwellings and commercial / industrial activities. All potential impacts will be considered in full in this chapter.

## **4.7 Environmental Aspect: Shadow Flicker**

### 4.7.1 Aspects to be addressed

This chapter will address the potential effects on human beings of shadow flicker, i.e. the moving shadows cast by the turbine blades in times of direct sunlight.

### 4.7.2 Assessment Methodology

A shadow flicker assessment will be carried out using ReSoft Windfarm software (version 4.2.2.1) to predict the time and duration of shadow flicker on windows of habitable or permitted houses within 10 rotor diameter from a proposed turbine, as informed by the house and planning surveys.

The methodology used for the shadow flicker assessment will be performed in consideration of the "Wind Energy Development Planning Guidelines" DoEHLG (2006) and the Irish Wind Energy Association (2012) "Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry". This methodology includes:

- Calculation of sunshine factor based in the historical measurements from the closes Met Éireann meteorology station.
- Calculation of shadow flicker levels for the final turbine layout.
- Where exceedances are predicted, detailed mitigation measures, including an outline potential turbine shut-down will be proposed.

Cumulative impacts of the proposed CGEP and other schemes will be assessed. IWEA Best Practice Guidelines (2012, Section 6.3.4) states that *"any such wind farm developments within 2 km of the proposed development should be considered in a separate cumulative shadow flicker assessment"*. There are no other known proposed, consented or existing wind farms within this distance of the proposed CGEP.

Based on latest draft guidelines, a demonstration of the potential for the development to comply with zero shadow flicker and a curtailment analysis to demonstrate potential downtime will also be provided.

#### 4.7.3 [Receiving Environment](#)

The general receiving environment is rural. The majority of buildings in the vicinity of the proposed development are residential or agricultural buildings. A survey of existing dwellings was carried out by FT in April 2018 up to a distance of 1.36km from the proposed development boundary.

#### 4.7.4 [Potential Impacts](#)

Shadow flicker occurs at certain times of the year when the sun is shining and low in the sky, and where the movement of turbine blades cast moving shadows over areas in the vicinity of the turbines. These moving shadows can periodically reduce light coming from, for example, the window of a room, causing the light to appear to flicker.

For shadow flicker to occur, a number of conditions must be reached:

- That there is a sufficient level of sunlight shining at a low angle in the sky;
- That the turbine is directly between the sun and the dwelling, and;
- That the blades are turning and no screening is obscuring views.

CGEP will operate a zero shadow flicker policy for all dwellings in the area. In order to achieve this, a dedicated shadow flicker system will be installed at the green energy park to prevent shadow flicker impact from occurring at any house. The shadow flicker system will comprise of a programmed module that will monitor intensity of sunlight, position of the sun, and potential for flicker based on the location and height of houses.

The monitoring system will send a signal to the turbine that is anticipated to cause shadow flicker effect, instructing it to shut down temporarily for the duration of the impact. This system is highly effective in preventing shadow flicker and takes advantages of emerging technologies relating to wind farm technology.

## 4.8 Environmental Aspect: Noise and Vibration

### 4.8.1 Aspects to be addressed

The chapter will address noise and vibration impacts from the construction, operation and decommissioning of the proposed CGEP.

### 4.8.2 Assessment Methodology

The noise and vibration impact assessment will address impacts from the construction and operation of the CGEP as well as carrying out noise monitoring to quantify the baseline noise levels in the vicinity of the proposed development.

#### *Noise Monitoring*

The survey methodology will be based on the Institute of Acoustics Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise (May 2013) and the associated supplementary notes relevant to the baseline measurements and analysis.

The guidance states that at least two weeks monitoring is typically required to collect all necessary data. If insufficient wind data is collected after two weeks, the monitoring periods will be extended until such time as sufficient wind speed and direction data has been measured.

The noise monitoring will be carried out in accordance with ISO 1996 Parts 1 and 2, A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise, The Institute of Acoustics, May 2013 and the Supplementary Guidance Note 1: Data Collection, September 2014.

The data analysis and reporting will be carried out applying relevant sections from the IOA Good Practice Guide and the following supplementary notes:

- Supplementary Guidance Note 2: Data Processing and Derivation of ETSU-R-97 Background Curves, September 2014
- Supplementary Guidance Note 4: Wind Shear, July 2014

Three rounds of noise monitoring at 18 noise monitoring locations has taken place to characterise the noise environment in the vicinity of the proposed development.

Wind speed data was obtained from a permanent mast and a Lidar unit (the lidar unit was positioned at two locations, the location was dependent on where on site the noise meters were installed).

Data was measured for a minimum of two weeks and up to five weeks in some cases until such time as sufficient data had been deemed to be collected. The predicted noise levels will be assessed against the noise limits in the "preferred draft approach".

Following detailed engagement between the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government (DHPCLG) and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE), an emerging "preferred draft approach" to the Review of the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines was jointly announced on 13 June 2017.

The emerging "preferred draft approach" was outlined to update the general public, stakeholders and planning authorities on the progress made and timetable for conclusion of the Review of the 2006 Guidelines, in the light of the elapse of time since the review commenced in 2013.

The "preferred draft approach" proposes noise restriction limits consistent with World Health Organisation standards, proposing a relative rated noise limit of 5dB(A) above existing background noise within the range of 35 to 43dB(A), with 43dB(A) being the maximum noise limit permitted, day or night. The noise limits will apply to outdoor locations at any residential or noise sensitive properties.

### Data Analysis and Limit Derivation

The baseline noise measurements will be correlated with the standardised 10m height wind speed and rainfall data and then plotted to provide wind speed versus averaged background noise levels at each monitoring location. The averaged prevailing background noise level as a function of wind speed will be used to derive the daytime and night-time noise limits for increasing wind speeds and allow derivation of daytime and night-time noise limits based on the DoEHLG Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) and/or noise limits in accordance with the Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, draft issued in June 2017.

### Operational Impact Analysis and Mitigation Design

Operational noise predictions will be carried out to determine the noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive locations. Noise predictions will be carried out using International Standard ISO 9613, Acoustics – Attenuation of Sound during Propagation Outdoors. The noise modelling parameters and assumptions used will be in accordance with the recommended parameters in 'A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise', The Institute of Acoustics, May 2013.

It is proposed that the methodology in the Wyle Report is used to calculate the directivity. Calculating the directivity is not a trivial exercise and requires extensive work. The method requires octave band information from each turbine at each receptor.

The predicted operational noise levels from the proposed development as well as the cumulative predicted operational levels from all nearby operational and consented developments will be compared against noise limits derived using the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006 and the Review of the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006, draft issued in June 2017.

The noise predictions will also be assessed against the World Health Organisations Night noise guidelines for Europe (2009) which identifies a target of 40 dB L<sub>night</sub> outside night noise guideline. The L<sub>night</sub>, outside is the night-time noise indicator (L<sub>night</sub>) of Directive 2002/49/EC. It is the long-term average sound level determined over all the night periods (23:00 – 07:00) of a year. This requires long term wind speed data to be analysed during night-time periods. The data will be binned into various wind speeds and directions. This data in combination with the predicted noise levels for wind directions and wind speeds will be used to calculate a predicted L<sub>night</sub>, outside at each of the monitoring locations.

### Cumulative Impact

The predicted noise the proposed development and the other operational and consented dwellings will also be considered. It is proposed to depart from the above and apply the methodology outlined in the IOA guidelines. The potential cumulative impacts and the need to determine whether it is necessary to model the potential cumulative impacts will be appraised in accordance with the IOA guidelines. The IOA guidelines state... *"If the proposed wind farm produces noise levels within 10 dB of any existing wind farm/s at the same receptor location, then a cumulative noise impact assessment is necessary."* The IOA guidelines also state... *"Equally, in such cases where noise from the proposed wind farm is predicted to be 10 dB greater than that from the existing wind farm (but compliant with ETSU-R-97 in its own right), then a cumulative noise impact assessment would not be necessary."*

In addition to the cumulative impact from nearby operational and consented wind farms, part of the proposed development will be on Bottlehill landfill which is a licenced facility. Therefore, the noise impact from the proposed development within the licensed area in combination with the noise emissions from landfill activities will be considered as part of the cumulative assessment for the development.

### Construction Impact Analysis and Mitigation Design

Construction noise predictions will be carried out to determine the noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive locations. Noise prediction will be carried out using British Standard BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014, Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Part 1: Noise.

Predicted construction noise levels will be compared against noise levels in BS 5228:2009+A1:2014 Part 1. Where the impact significance identifies a requirement for mitigation, mitigation measures will be outlined.

### 4.8.3 Receiving Environment

A survey of existing dwellings was carried out by FTC in April 2018 to a distance of up to 1.36km from the proposed development boundary. No turbine will be located within 750m of a dwelling.

### 4.8.4 Potential Impacts

Potential impacts of potential noise nuisance will be addressed at the design stage by locating turbines at sufficient separation distances or by employing reduced turbine noise modes to comply with the noise limits in force at the time of application.

## 4.9 Environmental Aspect: Traffic and Transportation

### 4.9.1 Aspects to be addressed

The traffic impact assessment will address the traffic impacts on the road network from the construction and operation of the proposed CGEP. The assessment will include the supply of materials, plant and equipment, the turbine elements and the components of the sub-station. Traffic arising from the construction and operations workforce will also be addressed.

### 4.9.2 Assessment Methodology

A traffic impact assessment will be conducted in accordance with the Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) Guidelines, May 2014. Data collected from road traffic surveys along the delivery route will be used in the assessment.

A route survey will be carried out by a specialist transport consultant between the port of entry options and proposed site entrance locations. This survey will identify potential pinch points and locations that may require off site temporary upgrades to facilitate the safe transport of the turbines to the development site.

Auto Track vehicle swept path analysis (SPA) will be conducted for all internal tracks to ensure that they are adequate to allow delivery of turbine components while also minimising the required land take where feasible. SPA will also be carried out on pinch points identified in the transport route survey report.

The methodology for the traffic impact assessment will include a review of the traffic volumes and impacts which will be generated by the construction and operation of the wind farm. The traffic generated by the construction workforce, by the transport of materials and equipment as well as future maintenance-related activities will be predicted.

The traffic distribution pattern on the local road network during construction will be examined and impacts determined.

The potential disruption to the road network during the installation of the cables and the availability of alternative routes will be assessed, where required. Recommendations will be made to mitigate any potential traffic impacts on the road network.

### 4.9.3 Receiving Environment

A number of routes to site have been surveyed to determine the most appropriate turbine delivery route. There are 2 no. routes identified to transport the wind turbine components to the site:

Route 1: The first route leaves the M8 Motorway at Junction 14, following the R639 Regional Road into Fermoy town and on to meet the N72 National Road. It continues on the N72 as far as a turn off just before Ballyhooly village. The TDR continues on this local road to the site entrance for the proposed Coom Energy Park.

Route 2: The second route leaves the N20 National Road at Lissavoura Cross Roads, following the Local Road to the top of Protestant Hill before going right, through Daly's Cross Roads as far as Bottlehill; the location of the site entrance.

The proposed development is located in the vicinity of the Bottlehill Landfill and access to the site will primarily use the access for this facility from the N20 National Road. Coillte forest tracks will be used where possible and upgraded as necessary to serve internal access.

#### 4.9.4 Potential Impacts

The greatest potential for traffic impact from the proposed development is during the construction phase which will give rise to additional HGV traffic on the road network.

The turbines will be delivered to the site in components, typically comprising of loads for each of the towers: the rotor blades; the nacelle; the rotor hub; the turbine base; and the electrical components. The delivery route from the port into which the components are shipped, to the proposed wind farm site will use the national primary route network as much as possible. Modifications may be required to the existing local road network to cater for the delivery of the oversized loads.

Stone aggregate will be required for the upgrading of existing tracks and construction of new site road as well as the construction of turbine bases and hardstands. All of these activities have the potential to generate significant local traffic numbers. Borrow pits are currently proposed as part of the proposed development.

The nature of the local road network in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm site is such that widening/improvement works may be required to accommodate construction traffic. There will be an increase in local traffic during the construction of the wind farm; staff, including plant operators, electricians, engineers and trades people, will be commuting to and from the site each morning and evening. In addition, there is likely to be an increase in local traffic due to onlookers as the turbines are erected.

There will also be temporary traffic impacts from cable laying works on the public roads. These impacts will be managed through the implementation of suitable mitigation measures to reduce the nuisance being caused to local road users.

The cumulative impact of construction traffic will also be considered in terms of other developments in the area.

## 4.10 Environmental Aspect: Air Quality and Climate

### 4.10.1 Aspects to be addressed

The assessment will address the potential impacts on air quality due to construction equipment and activities and to emissions from traffic associated with the construction process. The potential impacts on air quality in the operational phase will also be addressed.

The climate in the immediate local area of a proposed development is known as the micro-climate whereas the climate of a large geographical area (global) is the macro-climate. The potential impacts of the CGEP on micro-climate and macro-climate will be addressed.

### 4.10.2 Assessment Methodology

Air quality monitoring conducted by the EPA at a number of locations in the vicinity of the site will be reviewed and levels compared with the air quality standards. To assess the impacts of construction dust emissions, the approach and assessment criteria outline in the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (NRA, 2008) will be used.

For the purposes of assessing the impact on air quality of emissions generated by construction traffic, the methodology described in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges 2007a (UK Highways Agency, May 2007) will be used. Parameters to be assessed will include oxides of nitrogen, particulates PM10 and PM2.5, carbon monoxide and benzene.

The potential micro-climatic impacts of CGEP will be assessed in relation to the micro-climatic baseline, the scale of the elements of the project and the nature of use of the surrounding environment. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation, which will not be required should the CGEP become operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

In terms of carbon losses and savings, the Scottish Windfarm Carbon Assessment Tool. will be used to estimate carbon savings as a result of the proposed construction and operation of the wind farm.

#### 4.10.3 Receiving Environment

In terms of micro-climate, CGEP is located in a mainly rural area, corresponding to air quality zone D, Rural Ireland, in the Air Quality Regulations SI 180 of 2011, as amended. The air quality is expected to be good.

The macro-climatic baseline is the future emission of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases, which would be produced by fossil fuel power generation in the country, in the absence of the proposed CGEP.

#### 4.10.4 Potential Impacts

The assessment will address the potential impacts on air quality due to construction equipment and activities and to emissions from traffic associated with the construction process. The potential impacts on air quality in the operational phase will also be addressed.

The construction phase of the proposed CGEP has the potential to generate dust emissions, which could give rise to nuisance for local residents.

To assess the impacts of construction dust emissions, the approach and assessment criteria outlined in the *Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes* (National Roads Authority, 2008) will be used.

Construction plant and equipment, and the traffic generated by the construction process, have the potential to give rise to emissions of oxides of nitrogen, benzene and particulates, which could impact on local air quality. The operation of the proposed CGEP is not expected to have a negative impact on air quality.

The proposed CGEP is expected to have a positive impact in terms of the nett reduction in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases as a result of the proposed wind farm. For the assessment of macro-climatic effects, the reduction in emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases from fossil fuel power generation when CGEP is operational, will be quantified and assessed in terms of Ireland's commitments under EU and international climate change treaties and protocols.

### 4.11 Environmental Aspect: (Biodiversity)

#### 4.11.1 Aspects to be addressed

This chapter of the EIAR will address the terrestrial and freshwater aquatic habitats and species, including those of conservation concern within and in close proximity to the wind farm; including along and in close proximity to the on-site cable routes; on and in close proximity to the sub-station, tree felling and any required replanting. It will also address the potential impacts on Biodiversity from the proposed underground cable between the wind farm and the grid connection as well as any proposed alterations to the public road network required for the delivery of turbine components.



In particular, the assessment will focus on:

- Natura 2000 sites i.e. Special Areas of Conservation designated under the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas designated under the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147 EC), within the zone of influence of the proposed development
- Other designated sites such as Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves and Refuges for Fauna or Flora (where applicable)
- Habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive
- Species listed in Annex II and Annex IV of the Habitats Directive
- Birds listed in Annex I of the Birds Directive
- The impact on any flight paths of bird and bat species
- Species protected under the Wildlife Acts
- Protected flora under the Flora Protection Order (2015)
- Red data book species
- And biodiversity in general.

#### 4.11.2 Assessment Methodology

Desk studies will be undertaken in which ecological databases, such as those of the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), EPA and NBDC will be consulted. The NPWS, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the main environmental non-governmental organisations have been or will be consulted.

Bird survey methods have been selected following a review of best practice guidelines, including guidance available from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), and following consultation with NPWS and other bodies such as BirdWatch Ireland. The ecological surveys commenced in 2016 and are ongoing at the site.

The works being conducted include the following elements:

- Ecological monitoring of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems according to current best practice, e.g. Irish Environmental Protection Agency (IRE), the Irish National Parks and Wildlife Service of Ireland (NPWS), the Irish National Roads Authority of Ireland (NRA), Chartered Institute of Ecological and Environmental Management (CIEEM), The Heritage Council of Ireland, Bat Conservation Ireland (BCI) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH)
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports and Natura Impact Statements (Article 6, E.U. Habitats Directive)
- Desktop studies including ecological data review and analysis
- Ecological Constraints Studies
- Ecology Surveys, including but not limited to:
  - Birds e.g. Vantage Point surveys targeting Hen Harrier and other receptors, Hen Harrier winter roost surveys, wintering wildfowl distribution surveys, General breeding bird transect surveys etc.
  - Mammals e.g. Badger, Otter, other von-volant mammals;
  - Bat surveys
  - Habitat and Botanical surveys
  - Aquatic Ecology including macro-invertebrates, fisheries, freshwater pearl mussel (where applicable), etc.
  - Other taxa. e.g. Butterflies such as Marsh Fritillary
- Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA)
- Statutory Compliance and Consultation, advice on conservation and legislation
- Biodiversity Action Plans and/or Species and Habitat Management Plans as applicable

For each mitigation measure the following will be provided:

- Details of how the mitigation will be secured and implemented
- Evidence of the degree of confidence in their likely success
- A timescale of when they will be implemented
- Details of how the mitigation measures will be monitored and how any mitigation failure will be addressed.

#### 4.11.3 Receiving Environment

The Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (side code: 002170) is located to the southeast of the development site. Other environmental designated sites include the Boggeragh Mountains NHA, Cork Harbour SPA, Ballyhoura Mountains SAC and Kilcolam Bog SPA.

#### 4.11.4 Potential Impacts

This chapter of the EIAR will address the nationally designated sites, terrestrial and freshwater (aquatic) habitats and species, including those of conservation concern on and in close proximity to the wind farm and including along and in close proximity to the proposed cable route and proposed transport routes.

The ecological evaluation of the site and its' flora and fauna will be assessed according to NRA (2009). Once the value of the identified ecological receptors (features and resources) is determined, the next step will be to assess the potential impact and resulting effect of the proposed development on the identified key ecological receptors.

This will be carried out with regard to the criteria outlined in various impact assessment guidelines (NRA, 2009; CIEEM, 2018). The impacts will be assessed under a number of parameters such as magnitude, extent, timing, frequency, duration and reversibility. The impact significance criteria detailed in the EPA guidelines (EPA, Draft 2017) will be used where applicable.

Potential impacts of the wind farm on flora and fauna include:

- Direct loss of habitat due to the footprint of the area;
- Secondary Damage to adjacent habitats during construction which could potentially be affected by construction activity;
- Impacts during construction on the ecology of water dependant habitats
- Impacts on water quality and thus secondary effects on Biodiversity both at a local level and regional level due to pollution run-off whether during or post construction;
- Impacts on aquatic species during construction or due to pollution events etc.;
- Effects on local wildlife, including loss of habitat, disturbance and displacement;
- The potential collision risk to birds and bats;
- The introduction of alien invasive species during construction;
- Displacement of bird species from limited breeding areas;
- Displacement or disturbance to breeding waders from areas within the proposed wind turbine envelope;
- Barrier effect on migrating birds, where applicable, whereby individual species' dispersal or migration routes are affected by the placement of turbines which effectively cause a barrier;
- Impacts on the conservation status or constituent parts of designated sites.
- Potential impacts associated with tree felling and any required replanting on designated sites, habitats, flora and fauna.

The potential for likely significant effects on European (Natura 2000) sites as a result of the proposed development will be appraised through the appropriate assessment process.

#### 4.11.5 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and if required a Natura Impact Statement will be prepared in respect of the proposed development, so as to enable the competent authorities to carry out an Appropriate Assessment as required by Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC ("the Habitats Directive") and section 177U and 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ("the 2000 Act"). The potential impact to European sites due to tree felling and any proposed replanting shall also be considered.

In compliance with the aforementioned provisions of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and section 177U of the 2000 Act, a Screening Appropriate Assessment of an application for consent for proposed development shall be carried out by the competent authority or authorities to assess, in view of best scientific knowledge, if that proposed development, individually or in combination with another plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

Where significant effects on a Natura 2000 site cannot be discounted during Stage 1 Screening for Appropriate Assessment, the Assessment must proceed to Stage 2 and a Natura Impact Statement prepared at which point a detailed, targeted assessment of the nature and potential significance of direct and indirect impacts arising from the proposed project must be completed and an appraisal as to whether the integrity of the Natura 2000 site would be adversely affected.

European sites, as defined in the 2000 Act, comprise both Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and other species, and are designated by Member States pursuant to the requirements of Council Directive 79/409/EEC, now Directive 2009/147/EU, on the conservation of wild birds ("the Birds Directive") and the Habitats Directive, respectively.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive envisages a two-stage assessment process, which is implemented into Irish law (with some additional requirements) by the provisions of sections 177U and 177V of the 2000 Act. Screening for AA in accordance with section 177U is the first stage of the AA process ("Stage One"), in which the possibility of there being a significant effect on a European site is considered. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on a European site are thereby excluded, or "screened out", at this stage of the process.

The first step in the screening process is to develop a list of European sites which may have the potential to be affected by the proposed development. Each relevant European site is reviewed to examine whether or not the proposed development is likely to have a significant effect on the European site.

The proposed development is located within the surface water catchment of the River Bride, a tributary of the River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford). The River Blackwater main channel and the River Bride are both designated within the River Blackwater (Cork/Waterford) SAC (site code: 2170). This is the primary European Site located close to the proposed development. Further to the east, the Blackwater Callows SPA (site code: 004094) is located east of Fermoy town. All European Sites within 15km of the proposed development will undergo consideration as to the potential for likely significant effects thereon.

For each European Site under consideration, the qualifying interests or special conservation interests of each European site will be identified and any potential for effects summarised under various headings for the purposes of the screening process:

- Direct effects refer to habitat loss or fragmentation arising from land-take requirements for development. Direct impacts can arise as a result of a change in land use or management, such as the clear-felling of forestry, creation of access roads and hardstanding's etc.
- Indirect and secondary effects may arise, for example, when a development alters the hydrology of a catchment area, which in turn affects the movement of groundwater to a site, and the qualifying interests that rely on the maintenance of water levels. Deterioration in water quality could occur as both an indirect and direct consequence of a particular development, which in turn changes the aquatic environment and reduces its capacity to support certain plants and animals.
- The introduction of invasive species can also be defined as an indirect (cross-factor) effect, which results in increased movement of vectors (humans, fauna, surface water), and consequently the transfer of alien species from one area to another.
- Disturbance to fauna can arise directly through the loss of habitat (e.g. otter holts) or indirectly through noise, vibration and increased activity associated with construction and operation.
- *Ex-situ* effects on supporting habitats or species for European Sites may occur and dependant on pathways may result in the likelihood of significant effects on European Sites.

During Stage 2 AA, the effect of the project on the integrity of the European site(s), as defined by its structure and function, and its conservation objectives is appraised. Potential impacts on species or habitats will be evaluated with respect to the scale, extent and nature of the impact, for example the area of habitat affected, changes in hydrodynamics, the percentage reduction in species density, potential changes in species distribution. The duration of the impact will be determined in terms of the duration of the works and also the amount of time required for the species and / or habitat to be replaced or to recover from the impacts. During Stage 2 of the AA process, mitigation measures can be developed to minimise effects on European Sites.

Mitigation measures will follow the mitigation hierarchy:

- Avoidance
- Reduction
- Remedy

For each mitigation measure the following will be provided:

- Details of how the mitigation will be secured and implemented
- Evidence of the degree of confidence in their likely success
- A timescale of when they will be implemented
- Details of how the mitigation measures will be monitored and how any mitigation failure will be addressed.

## 4.12 Environmental Aspect: Soils, Geology, Hydrogeology

### 4.12.1 Aspects to be addressed

The assessment will address soils, bedrock and groundwater underlying the wind farm.

### 4.12.2 Assessment methodology

The methodology for the soils and geology assessment will be in accordance with the guidelines published by the Institute of Geologists of Ireland in 2013, 'Guidelines for the Preparation of Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Environmental Impact Statements'.

At this stage, it is envisaged that the Preliminary Site Investigation (Phase 1) will consist of geophysics at turbine locations in order to provide a preliminary assessment of rockhead levels at each site, peat probing along access road routes to identify whether roads are likely to be floated or founded and trial pits at borrow pit locations to confirm the depth of overburden at borrow pit locations and potentially log the upper weathered rock deposits.

It is proposed to carry out exploratory rotary boreholes at selected locations along the proposed grid connection cable route where horizontal directional drilling (HDD) techniques being considered as a method of traversing existing watercourses and the M8 motorway, which cross the existing public road route between the development site and Barrymore substation.

Geophysics will be undertaken at the turbine locations and trial pits will be carried out at the proposed borrow pit locations.

The data gathered will be used to inform the final location of all turbines and associated infrastructure.

An earthworks balance calculation will be prepared for the overall development to assess where excavated material can be beneficially re-used. In addition, an assessment of the volumes of raw material will be made which will in turn be used to determine the number and size of borrow pits required.

#### 4.12.3 Receiving Environment

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) 1:100,000 scale bedrock geology map shows that the wind farm site is underlain by the Ballytrasna Formation which is described as a purple mudstone and sandstone.

The subsoils present at the proposed wind farm site are taken from the GSI online mapping and comprise:

- Glacial till derived from Devonian sandstones,
- Blanket peat; and
- Alluvium (A). Undifferentiated alluvial deposits occur along river channels.

The majority of the site is underlain by Glacial Till.

There is a karstic feature noted north of the site at Killavullen caves and an active sand and gravel quarry (Lyrevarrig) approximately 1km from the site. No geological heritage areas were identified in the vicinity of the site.

The underlying bedrock is noted as a Locally Important Aquifer, with vulnerabilities noted from High to Extreme.

#### 4.12.4 Potential Impacts & Mitigations

The potential impacts of the development of the wind farm on the geology, hydrogeology and slope stability are:

- The excavation and removal of soil and rock and interference with any existing site drainage is a potential direct permanent effect that, without mitigation, could alter the existing hydrogeological balance of the site;
- The construction of the turbines, hardstanding areas, access tracks, borrow pits and cable trenches has the potential to cause hydrogeological impacts by modifying the natural groundwater levels adjacent to the excavation. This in turn may deprive ditches and streams of their natural supply of water which may lead to reduced base flow and recharge to the bedrock aquifer;
- Areas which are underlain by peat deposits are susceptible to slope stability issues, including peat slides and bursts, when changes are made to topography, hydrogeology and hydrology of the site;
- The use of granular fill and other materials for the construction of the access tracks has the potential to have a permanent impact on the source quarries or borrow pits;
- Excavations have the potential to increase erosion and sediment release that could also have additional impacts on water quality due to sedimentation of water courses;
- Soil compaction may occur due to movement of construction and maintenance traffic;
- Removal of sub soils may result in the exposure of the underlying rock to sources of contamination and may increase the vulnerability of the aquifer, whether or not the rock is exposed;
- Chemical pollution may occur as a result of an accidental spillage or leakage of chemicals, runoff from vehicle washing facilities, unset concrete, storage of fuels or refuelling activities, etc. Chemical pollutants may enter the groundwater and have implications for ecology and any wells in the area, particularly those located down-gradient of the site.
- Sanitary waste arising from temporary construction compounds could lead to contamination of groundwater

At the substation, the potential impacts are the pollution of groundwater from an oil or fuel spillage during construction. The sub-station and the construction compound will have staff welfare facilities.

## 4.13 Environmental Aspect: Water Quality and Hydrology

### 4.13.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The assessment will address impacts on hydrology and water quality. The aspects of the hydrological environment that could be affected by the activities associated with the proposed CGEP will also be addressed.

### 4.13.2 Assessment Methodology

The emerging design layout will consider the sensitivities of the environmentally designated areas in the proximity of the site. A preliminary site visit will be undertaken to establish the constraints relating to hydrology and noting any hydrological features. The desk study will involve setting out the principles for surface water management, attenuation and treatment for the site specific land use at the site. Once the design layout is fixed, a further site visit will be scheduled in to undertake a walkover of the site, to identify all the streams crossed by the proposed layout and examine how overland flow will be accommodated and to identify suitable locations for the treatment of discharges.

Cumulative impacts will be addressed to assess the hydrological impact of neighbouring sites. Taking account of the sensitivity of the receiving environment, the treatment of the surface water run-off will concentrate on Silt Protection Controls (SPCs). Measures will also be considered to avoid any increase in flooding downstream.

A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) will be undertaken to assess the impact of the proposed development on downstream flooding. Liaison will be ongoing with the Geology department in-house to incorporate any relevant results emerging from the hydrogeological and geotechnical findings and in particular the peat stability assessment. This FRA will examine the requirements for the conveyance of flood flows at stream crossings. The FRA will include an assessment of flood history, hydrometric data (water levels and flows) for adjacent water body, surveyed site levels and rainfall data for extreme events. The FRA will take cognisance of climate change and extreme flood events as deemed appropriate. The capacity of downstream structures will be examined for the pre and post development scenarios. Siltation and pollution control will be examined along with attenuation, which will be incorporated into the proposed drainage system where required to mitigate any risk of an increase in flooding and to protect the downstream environmentally protected areas.

The methodology will include the following:

- Study of existing surface water/drainage features in the vicinity;
- Delineation of catchment boundaries;
- Catchment mapping;
- Establish constraints;
- Study of the proposed layout of the development;
- Examine grid connection route options;
- Assessment of the turbine delivery route (TDR);
- Liaison with in-house Geotechnical department for details on soil conditions on the site;
- Study of planning documents for adjacent developments;
- History of flooding and status of drainage in the neighbourhood;
- Existing Water Quality assessment;
- Study of the sections of forestry, examining details of planting and existing forestry drainage systems;
- Forestry felling assessment relevant to hydrology and water quality;
- Preparation of the overall hydrological, water quality and drainage impact assessment:
  - a. Potential impacts of the proposed development on hydrology (hydrodynamics and flooding)
  - b. Potential cumulative hydrological impacts of the proposed development with any neighbouring wind farms
  - c. Potential drainage into sensitive catchments
  - d. Potential impacts of the proposed development on water quality
- Consult with interested bodies, Inland Fisheries Ireland and relevant Local Authorities;

- Study of development plans;
- Site drainage investigation will involve identification of drainage sub-catchments, studying the requirement(s) of cross-drainage works, if any, exploring the infiltration potential of the soils in the area, etc.;
- Outline of mitigation measures for flooding and pollution of receiving waters;
- Design of site appropriate erosion and sediment control measures, development of erosion and sediment control procedures for implementation on site;
- Preparation of Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DoEHLG and OPW, November 2009, including a cumulative assessment with adjacent developments and Surface Water Management Plan in accordance with Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS) and the CIRIA SuDS Manual (C753) including the design of stream crossings;
- Design of site specific surface water drainage system and drainage infrastructure – to control flow of surface water on site during construction, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs);
- Preparation of Designer’s Risk Assessment – Drainage Element;
- Contribution to the Appropriate Assessment;
- Outline of residual impacts.

The Hydrology element of the EIAR and the FRA will inform the civil design of the site. A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) will be prepared as part of the Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP). A hydrological impact assessment and flood study will be incorporated into the SWMP, culminating in a Drainage/ Surface Water Management Plan for Erosion Control, Protection of Water Quality and mitigation of flood risk.

#### 4.13.3 Receiving Environment

The site lies within the Hydrometric Area 18\_Blackwater Munster and within the River Blackwater Catchment.

The Blackwater catchment includes the area drained by the River Blackwater and all streams entering tidal water between East Point and Knockaverry, Youghal, Co. Cork, draining a total area of 3,310km<sup>2</sup>. The largest urban centre in the catchment is Mallow. The other main urban centres in this catchment are Fermoy, Mitchelstown, Youghal, Kanturk and Millstreet. The total population of the catchment is approximately 109,030 with a population density of 33 people per km<sup>2</sup>.

Sub catchments associated with the proposed development areas include the following:

- Bride [Waterford]\_SC\_010
- Blackwater [Munster]\_SC\_080
- Blackwater [Munster]\_SC\_110

The majority of the site development area lies within the Bride [Waterford]\_SC\_010 sub catchment. Small portions of the western and north-western parts of the development area lie within the Blackwater [Munster]\_SC\_080 and Blackwater [Munster]\_SC\_110 respectively.

The following Water Framework Directive river sub basins are associated with the proposed development area:

- COOM\_010
- CLYDA\_030
- ROSS (KILLAVULLEN)\_010
- BRIDE (BLACKWATER)\_010
- BRIDE (BLACKWATER)\_020



In addition to the above, the proposed grid connection route passes through the following river sub-basins:

- BLACKWATER (MUNSTER)\_180
- BRIDE (BLACKWATER)\_030

The main waterbodies within the study area are the Toor and Coom rivers along with their associated tributary streams which flow east into the River Bride which is a main tributary of the Blackwater. The River Bride flows south between the two main development study areas. The Bunnaglanna and North Lackendarragh Streams have their headwaters in the Knocknaskagh Hill area near the eastern boundary of the development study area.

According to the Water Framework Directive Website, <http://watermaps.wfdireland.ie>, the River Bride (IE\_SW\_18\_1605), which is the major waterbody flowing through the western development area, is of good overall status but classified as "at risk".

In terms of flood risk, PFRA/CFRAMS: 1% AEP Fluvial Flood Extent mapping shows potential for flooding within a very small percentage of the SW area of the development study area. The proposed grid connection route crosses a fluvial flood zone in three locations. Pluvial flood zones are identified by PFRA/CFRAMS in 4no. locations within the energy park development study area but these are small and relatively isolated. There are 2no. pluvial flood zones in close proximity to the proposed grid connection route.

#### 4.13.4 Potential Impacts

The main potential impact from the construction of the energy park is the sedimentation of watercourses. Rainfall run-off containing silt could potentially lead to siltation and consequent physical effects on flora and fauna in aquatic habitats.

Sediment has the potential to arise from:

- Temporary spoil heaps from the excavations for the turbine bases; if left exposed, the spoil heaps could lead to an increase in silt-laden run-off draining off site.
- Haulage roads passing close to watercourses could allow the migration of silt-laden run-off into watercourses (crushable stone in site access roads could lead to heavy vehicles creating fines in the stone with a subsequent loss of sediment in the surface water run-off).
- Silt carried on the wheels of vehicles leaving the site could be carried onto the public road.
- Tree felling could lead to an increase in sediment in the surface water run-off.
- While the cable trench is open adjacent to a watercourse and at stream crossings, this could lead to an increase in the concentration of suspended solids in the watercourse.

In addition, possible impacts on water quality during construction activity include:

- Concrete operations could contaminate receiving waters.
- Runoff from vehicle washing facilities could lead to contamination of receiving waters.
- Refuelling activities could result in fuel spillages.

The potential impacts on hydrology and drainage that may arise from the proposed development of the CGEP include impacts on localised flooding patterns and downstream structures as well as cumulative hydrological impacts with neighbouring developments.

At the temporary compound, the potential impacts are the pollution of surface water from an oil or fuel spillage during construction.

During the operational phase of the CGEP, potential impacts on water quality will primarily arise from the use of lubricants, coolants and hydrocarbons in the operations of the turbine transformers as well as routine maintenance of all plant and equipment.

## 4.14 Environmental Aspect: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

### 4.14.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The assessment will address features and sites of archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage significance. The purpose of the study will be to assess the significance of the receiving cultural heritage environment and to identify and evaluate the magnitude of the impact of the proposed CGEP on the sensitivity of each cultural heritage feature within this environment and on the broader historic character of the landscape. Measures will be proposed to mitigate effects (where possible) so as to allow a fully informed decision to be made by the adjudicating authority.

### 4.14.2 Assessment Methodology

The content of the cultural heritage assessment will be based on current EPA guidelines and relevant national and international best practice guidelines. The assessment will identify the recorded and potential elements of the cultural heritage resource (including archaeology, built heritage, history and folklore) within a study area encompassing the proposed development areas, grid connection, borrow pits and site access routes.

A preliminary review of the recorded cultural heritage resource within the wider environs of the development area, including known archaeological sites and designated architectural heritage structure, was compiled at the outset of the design process by John Cronin and Associates (JCA). This identifies the nature, location and legal status of all recorded archaeological sites within the environs of the proposed development. There are no designated architectural heritage structures located within the close environs of the proposed development area. The archaeological consultants have continued to liaise with the project team as the development design has progressed and this included a review of grid connection options. The EIAR will expand on this preliminary review and will include a review of relevant publications, archaeological excavations in the region, cartographic sources, archival records, aerial and LiDAR imagery and other sources. A preliminary inspection of the proposed development area, including grid connection options, has been undertaken and further inspections will be carried out during the EIAR assessment.

### 4.14.3 Receiving Environment

There are no recorded archaeological sites located within the footprint of the proposed development while there are three recorded archaeological sites within distances of 100m-350m of proposed development areas. Surface traces of two of these sites (Barrow CO043-001---- and Fulacht Fiadh CO043-005----) have been removed by the modern forestry plantation but the potential exists for the survival of sub-surface archaeological features and/or artefacts at their locations. The third recorded monument (Ring Barrow CO043-004----) remains extant within an area of pasture adjacent to a forestry plantation. While no development works are proposed at the recorded locations of any of these sites, it is envisioned that their locations maintained within clearly signed exclusion areas for the duration of the construction phase.

There surrounding landscape contains a range of archaeological monuments and these will be reviewed and assessed in the EIAR. Island wedge tomb (National Monument 502) is approx. 2.3km to the west of the nearest proposed turbine location. The location of this monument will also be assessed during the Visual Impact Assessment carried out as part of the EIAR. A number of hilltop cairns and a recorded section of the Claidh Dubh routeway are located within forestry in lands to the north of the proposed development area. These sites will also be assessed as part of the EIAR.

There are no designated architectural heritage structures located within the close environs of the proposed development area. A review of historic maps indicates that prior to the creation of the extensive modern forestry plantations that now cover much of the development area, it comprised vacant upland heathland in recent centuries. The EIAR will include an assessment of any surviving vernacular structures and bridges within the environs of the proposed development, including the grid connection, as such structures are often of local cultural heritage interest and worthy of preservation by record or preservation in situ.

#### 4.14.4 Potential Impacts

The predicted impacts of the proposed scheme on both the recorded and potential elements of the cultural heritage resource within proposed development areas will be identified and clearly defined based on EPA criteria. The assessment will also address cumulative impacts and potential inter-visibility and sensitivity analyses of cultural heritage sites within the surrounding landscape.

Appropriate mitigation measures to minimise impacts on the cultural heritage resource will be formulated following consultation with both the client and the relevant local and national authorities. These may involve (1) the preservation *in situ* of identified sites within protected buffer zones and (2) undertaking pre-development site investigations and/or the supervision of ground works during the construction phase. It is noted that the forested nature of much of the development area will form a constraint for pre-development site investigations. While details on any required mitigation measures will await assessment, it is envisioned that potential impacts will be subject to constant assessment as the design and consultation process progresses.

As statutory consultees the NMS (via the Development Applications Unit) and Cork County Council (CCC) will be consulted in relation to required mitigation measures as part of the formal EIAR consultation process.

### 4.15 Environmental Aspect: Aviation and Telecommunications

#### 4.15.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The rotating blades of a wind turbine can occasionally cause interference to electro-magnetically-propagated signals. Such interference could, in theory, affect all forms of electromagnetic communications including:

- Satellite communications
- RADAR
- Cellular radio communications
- Aircraft instrument landing systems
- Air traffic control
- Terrestrial microwave links
- Television broadcasts

In addition, it is possible that houses in the immediate vicinity of the turbines could require some remedial measures in relation to television reception.

The EIAR will include an assessment of any such potential impacts.

#### 4.15.2 Assessment Methodology

An evaluation of the possible effects that the proposed development could have on aviation and existing telecommunications networks will be conducted. A study will be undertaken to analyse the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operator's point-to-point microwave radio links.

This evaluation will include the generation of GIS based telecommunications constraints mapping for the areas affected. The purpose of this mapping is to identify potential negative impacts on the telecommunications network and facilitate the selection of optimum sites and turbine locations by avoiding telecommunication links where possible, and thereby limiting any potential negative impacts on service providers in the area.

The proposed assessment methodology will include:

- Consultation with Irish Aviation Authority, Commission for the Regulation of Utilities, emergency services
- Consultation with telecommunications operators to gather the necessary data
- Preparation of constraint mapping

- Analyses of the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operators' point-to-point microwave radio links and apply appropriate buffer distances around links and masts where required
- Discussions with telecommunications operators identifying potential clashes. Operators to provide feedback on initial assessment and to provide information on the importance of the links identified.
- Further specialist investigations will be carried out if the telecommunications operators identify potential impacts.
- Where necessary, mitigation measures to be agreed with operators including:
  - Turbine relocation
  - Telecommunications link relocation
  - Underground fibre optic cables to replace microwave link
  - Submission of final detailed layout to telecoms operators.
  - Agree any layout alterations following final detailed assessment by telecoms operators, or agree suitable mitigation measures if necessary.

Impacts on aviation will be addressed following detailed discussions with the Irish Aviation Authority.

In relation to the cables, mapping of telecommunications cables, which could potentially be affected by the installation of the CGEP cables, will be obtained and potential impacts assessed.

#### 4.15.3 Receiving Environment

In terms of the receiving environment, links will be identified within a suitable buffer distance of the turbines, following consultation with network providers.

#### 4.15.4 Potential Impacts

An evaluation of the possible effects that the proposed development could have on aviation and existing telecommunications networks will be conducted. A study will be undertaken to analyse the impact of the turbines on telecommunications operator's point-to-point microwave radio links.

This evaluation will include the generation of GIS based telecommunications constraints mapping for the areas affected. The purpose of this mapping is to identify potential negative impacts on the telecommunications network, and facilitate the selection of optimum sites and turbine locations by avoiding telecommunication links where possible, and thereby limiting any potential negative impacts on service providers in the area.

The Irish Wind Energy Association 2012 guidelines, "*Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry*", indicate that wind turbines within 20 km of a radio navigation aid have the potential to cause electro-magnetic interference with these signals. It is possible that houses in the immediate vicinity of the turbines could require some remedial measures in relation to television reception. In practice, such measures are not difficult to implement, are relatively inexpensive and if necessary will be undertaken by the developer in conjunction with RTÉ.

### 4.16 Environmental Aspect: Landscape and Visual Impact

#### 4.16.1 Aspects to be addressed

The Landscape chapter describes the landscape context of the proposed CGEP and assesses the likely landscape and visual impacts of the scheme on the receiving environment. Although closely linked, landscape and visual impacts are assessed separately. **Landscape Impact Assessment (LIA)** relates to changes in the physical landscape brought about by the proposed development, which may alter its character. **Visual Impact Assessment (VIA)** relates to assessing effects on specific views and on the general visual amenity experienced by people. **Cumulative landscape and visual impact assessment** is concerned with additional changes to the landscape or visual amenity caused by the proposed development in conjunction with other developments (associated or separate to it), or actions that occurred in the past, present or are likely to occur in the foreseeable future.

Aspects to be addressed in the report are:

- Receiving environment, covering details on:
  - wider landscape context
  - localised site context.
  - Landform, landcover, land use patterns and trends
  - key/unique landscape elements and features
  - defining attributes of the wider landscape
- Landscape character, covering details on:
  - Character as outlined in CDP
  - Associated landscape values
  - Sensitivity levels within the landscape
  - Statutory designations
  - Landscape designations
  - Scenic/amenity routes
  - Views and prospects
  - Features of natural and built heritage
- Landscape Policy Context:
  - Relevant policy objectives within Cork CDP and LAPs
  - Relevant policy objectives within neighbouring counties within the 30km Study Area (Objectives appendicised).
- Visual context:
  - Zone of Theoretical Visibility
  - Viewshed Reference Points (Detailed findings appendicised).
  - Route Screening Assessment (Detailed findings appendicised).

Residential Amenity Assessment will be assessed with detailed findings in an Appendix as part of the Population and Human Health Chapter of the EIAR.

Assessment of these aspects will ultimately inform potential landscape, visual and amenity aspects, residual impacts, and in turn appropriate mitigation measures to ensure impacts are not significant.

#### 4.16.2 [Assessment Methodology](#)

The Landscape and Visual Assessment of the CGEP will be undertaken in accordance with the Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment publication entitled 'Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment' – Third Edition (2013). This is recognised as the principal best practice guidance for landscape and visual assessment of all forms of development in Ireland and the UK.

Regard will also be given to the overarching Environmental Impact Assessments guidelines and advice notes set out by the EPA:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Guidelines on the Information to be contained in the Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, Draft 2017)
- EPA Advice notes on current practice in the preparation of Environmental Assessment Reports (EPA, Draft 2015)

Other relevant LVIA and wind energy specific guidance that will be considered includes;

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006).
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Siting and Designing Wind Farms in the Landscape (version 3a – 2017)
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Developments (2012).
- Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) Visual representation of wind farms: Best Practice Guidelines (version 2.2 - 2017).

Production of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment involved baseline work in the form of desktop studies and fieldwork comprising professional evaluation by qualified and experienced Landscape Architects. This entailed the following:

### **Desktop Study**

- Establishing an appropriate Study Area from which to study the landscape and visual impacts of the proposed CGEP – 20km in this instance, in accordance with the Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2006;
- Review of a Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps, which indicates areas from which the development is potentially visible in relation to terrain within the Study Area;
- Review of relevant County Development Plans, particularly with regard to sensitive landscape and scenic view/route designations;
- Selection of potential Viewshed Reference Points (VRPs) from key visual receptors to be investigated during fieldwork for actual visibility and sensitivity;
- Consultation with the local community and the Local Authority in respect of sensitive VRP locations to be included in the assessment.

### **Fieldwork**

- Recording of a description of the landscape elements and characteristics within the Study Area.
- Selection of a refined set of VRP's for assessment. This includes the capture of reference images and grid reference coordinates for each VRP location for the visualisation specialist to prepare photomontages.

### **Appraisal**

- Consideration of the receiving landscape with regard to overall landscape character as well as the salient features of the study area including landform, drainage, vegetation, land use and landscape designations.
- Consideration of the visual environment including receptor locations such as centres of population and houses; transport routes; public amenities and facilities and; designated and recognised views of scenic value.
- Consideration of design guidance and planning policies.
- Consideration of potentially significant effects and the mitigation measures that could be employed to reduce such effects.
- Estimation of the significance of residual landscape impacts.
- Estimation of the significance of residual visual impacts aided by photomontages prepared at all of the selected VRP locations.
- Estimation of cumulative landscape and visual effects in combination with other surrounding developments that are either existing or permitted.

#### 4.16.3 Receiving Environment

The site of the proposed CGEP is contained in productive rural landscape of rolling farmland and forestry between the settlements of Mallow to the northwest and Cork City to the south. The site is contained on the southern slopes and foothills of the Nagles Mountains with the Blackwater River Valley contained on the northern side of this range. There are a number of small settlements within the study area as well as a dispersed rural population. The N20 national primary route runs between Cork and Mallow to the west of the site and the N73 national secondary road runs along the Blackwater Valley in an east-west direction.

#### 4.16.4 Planning and Policy Context

##### **The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006)**

The Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006) provide guidance on wind farm siting and design criteria for a number of different landscapes types. The proposed CGEP is considered to principally contained within an area that identifies with the 'Hilly and Flat Farmland' landscape type.

##### **Cork County Development Plan 2014-2020**

A landscape character assessment is incorporated within the Cork County Development Plan and divides the county into 16 No. Landscape Character Types (LCTs). The site in question is situated between two Landscape Character Types; LCT 10b – 'Fissured Fertile Middleground' and LCT 13b – 'Valleyed Marginal Middleground' (**Figure 1.4-1.6** refers). LCT 10b – Fissured Fertile Middleground is recognised as having; Medium landscape sensitivity; Low Landscape Value; and County Landscape Importance while LCT 13b is recognised as having; Medium landscape sensitivity; Medium Landscape Value; and Local Landscape Importance. It should also be noted that LCT 5 'Fertile Plain with Moorland' borders LCT 13b immediately to the north and is identified as having a '*Very High*' landscape value, a '*Very High*' landscape sensitivity, and a '*County*' landscape importance.

In terms of Wind Energy development, the site is contained in an area that is '**Open to Consideration**', whereas, immediately to the north of the Nagles ridgeline within the Blackwater Valley context, wind energy is 'Normally Discouraged'.

In terms of scenic designations, Scenic Routes are indicated in the Cork County Development Plan 2014 online map browser. Designated Scenic Routes that occurs within the study area include:

- **S2:** Local Roads adjoining Kilworth Mountains Views of the Araglin River Valley, distant views of the Galtee, Kilworth, Knockmealdown Mountain Ranges & Cairn Hill.
- **S3:** N8 National Primary Route between Moorepark and Mitchelstown. Views of the Galtee, Nagle, Kilworth & Knockmealdown Mountain Ranges.
- **S4:** R667 Regional Road, section of local road & R666 Regional Road between Kilworth & Fermoy. Views of the Blackwater, Funchion & Argalin River Valleys
- **S5:** R666, Regional Road from Coolalisheen Bridge to Ballyalacken. Views of the Blackwater River Valley.
- **S6:** Local Road to Coolbaun. Views of pastoral landscape & the Bride River Valley.
- **S7:** N72 National Secondary Route between Bellvue Cross and Kilbarry overlooking Blackwater valley. Views of the Blackwater River Valley & distant Mountain Views
- **S8:** Local Road between Glenabo Bridge & Ballynahina. Distant views of the Blackwater and Bride River Valleys & local views of wooded valley.
- **S9:** N72 National Secondary Route between Cregg Castle, Castlehyde & Fermoy. Views of the settlement of Fermoy, the Blackwater Valley, the eastern slopes of the Nagle Mountains & demesne walls, characteristic of the area.
- **S10:** N72, National Secondary Route from Renny Lower through village of Ballyhooly. Views of the Blackwater Valley & the northern slopes of the Nagle Mountains.
- **S11:** Local Road at Carrigacunna through Nagle Mountains to Ross River Valley to Fiddane Bridge. Views of the Nagle Mountains.



- **S12:** Local Road between Knuttery and Bottlehill. Views of rolling landscape.
- **S13:** Local Road from Craig Cross Roads to County Boundary. Views of the Ballyhoura Mountains & the Awbeg Valley.
- **S14:** N72 National Secondary Route between Mallow and Roskeen Bridge. Views of the Blackwater valley.
- **S19:** R579 Regional Road from Glenaknockane towards Donoughmore. Views of Boggeragh Mountains & rural uplands.
- **S37:** Local Road & R618 Regional Road between Leemount and Macroom via Coachford. Views of the Lee Valley & reservoir, rural landscape & the Sullane River.
- **S39:** Local Road & R617 Regional Road between Clogheen, Tower and Blarney and the road to Blarney Lake. Views of the settlements of Ballincollig, Tower & Blarney, Blarney Castle & the Lee Valley.
- **S40:** Section of Local Road between Blarney and Grenagh. Views of wooded banks of the River Martin & Putland Bridge.
- **S41:** R639 Regional Road & Local Road from Dunkettle to Glanmire and eastwards to Caherlag and Glounthane. Views of the Estuary & Harbour, wooded landscape, open countryside & hillsides.
- **S42:** Local Road at Forest-town, N.W. Carrigtwohill and Westwards to Caherlag. Views of the Harbour, open countryside & tree lined hillsides.
- **S43:** R626 Regional Road between Lisgould and Carrigogna. Views of wooded landscape & intermittent views of open countryside.
- **S44:** Local Road between Monaleen Bridge, Ardlash & Gurteen Cross Roads. Views of hills & rural landscape.

All of these designated scenic routes were investigated during the desk study stage (using ZTV maps) and those not precluded due to terrain screening were further investigated for actual visibility during fieldwork. Each of the remaining relevant scenic views will be represented by viewpoint/s for the purpose of the visual impact assessment.

#### 4.16.5 Completed Baseline Work

In terms of 'mitigation by avoidance' design work completed to date, Macro Works has prepared Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) maps, which indicate from where in the surrounding landscape turbines may be visible. 'Reverse ZTV maps', which highlight turbines that may be potentially visibility from important key receptors have also been prepared from scenic designations within the Blackwater Valley and from the top of Blarney Castle. These maps along with preliminary 'wireframe' photomontages from many of the same key receptors have influenced the design iterations to date. The ZTV maps also informed the preliminary selection of viewpoint to inform the LVIA from throughout the study area.

Fieldwork has been undertaken and photography has been captured at a broad selection of potential viewpoints. The final assessment set of viewpoints is likely to be a slightly refined subset of this and subject to any scoping comments from the Planning Authority.

#### 4.16.6 Potential Impacts

The proposed wind turbines will be large moving structures with the potential to have significant landscape and visual impacts. The development of wind farms, including associated infrastructure such as tracks and ancillary buildings also has the potential for significant physical impact on the landscape within the site.

The significance of both landscape impacts and visual impacts is assessed on the basis of weighing visual/landscape receptor sensitivity (i.e. value and vulnerability) against landscape / visual impact magnitude (i.e. scale and nature of change). Consequently, the greatest potential for significant impacts to occur is in respect of highly sensitive receptors, especially where such receptors are in close enough proximity to the proposed development that they may experience a high magnitude of change.

In this instance the key sensitive receptors are considered to be the high sensitivity landscape of the Blackwater Valley and viewers contained within its designated scenic setting. Blarney Castle is also an internationally renowned and heavily visited tourist/heritage asset, albeit a considerable distance from the site. Contrastingly, local residents are relatively sensitive receptors that are in close enough proximity to the proposed CGEP that the magnitude of visual change could result in significant visual impacts. There are also two scenic route designations in close proximity to the site that are of relatively high sensitivity and from which viewers could experience a high magnitude of visual change resulting in significant impacts.

Aside from the potentially significant impacts outlined above, there is a considerable number visual receptors within the wider context of the study area (roads, residents, settlements, heritage and amenity areas) where non-significant visual impacts will occur.



## 5 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS, INDIRECT IMPACTS AND INTERACTION OF EFFECTS

### 5.1 Aspects to be Addressed

The cumulative impact of the proposed CGEP with other projects which are either existing, permitted or pending planning permission, or for which there is information in the public domain, at a sufficient level of detail to allow assessment, will be addressed. Indirect effects and effects in different environmental media will be addressed.

The cumulative effects from the construction of the wind turbines, cabling and haul route alterations will also be assessed. Cumulative assessment will be assessed under each individual chapter heading.

### 5.2 Cumulative Assessment Methodology

The assessment methodology will be based on the EPA guidance and the EU guidelines, 'Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions', published by the Office for Official Publications of the European Communities in May 1999. Cumulative impacts will also be assessed in accordance with the Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) guidance on Assessing the Cumulative Impact of Onshore Wind Energy Development (March, 2012). Other key guideline documents used for carrying out the cumulative impact assessment include the following:

- Draft Advice Notes on Preparing Environmental Impact Statements (EPA, 2015);
- Draft Guidance on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2017);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EC, 2017);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018).

As part of scoping the studies required to assess the impacts of the proposed CGEP in the different environmental media, the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions will be examined and any such potential impacts will be identified. Where the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions is identified, such impacts and interaction of impacts will be included in the scope and addressed in the baseline and impact assessment studies for each of the relevant environmental media and aspects of the project. The cumulative and indirect impacts and interaction of impacts will be presented in the chapters of the EIAR which address the most relevant environmental media.

The matrix and expert opinion approaches, as outlined in the EU Guidelines, will be used in the identification of the potential for significant cumulative and indirect impacts and interactions. A matrix of potential interactions will be prepared.

#### 5.2.1 Receiving Environment

Cumulative impacts will be assessed for other projects which are either existing, permitted or pending planning permission, or for which there is information in the public domain, at a sufficient level of detail to allow assessment.

### 5.2.2 Potential Impacts

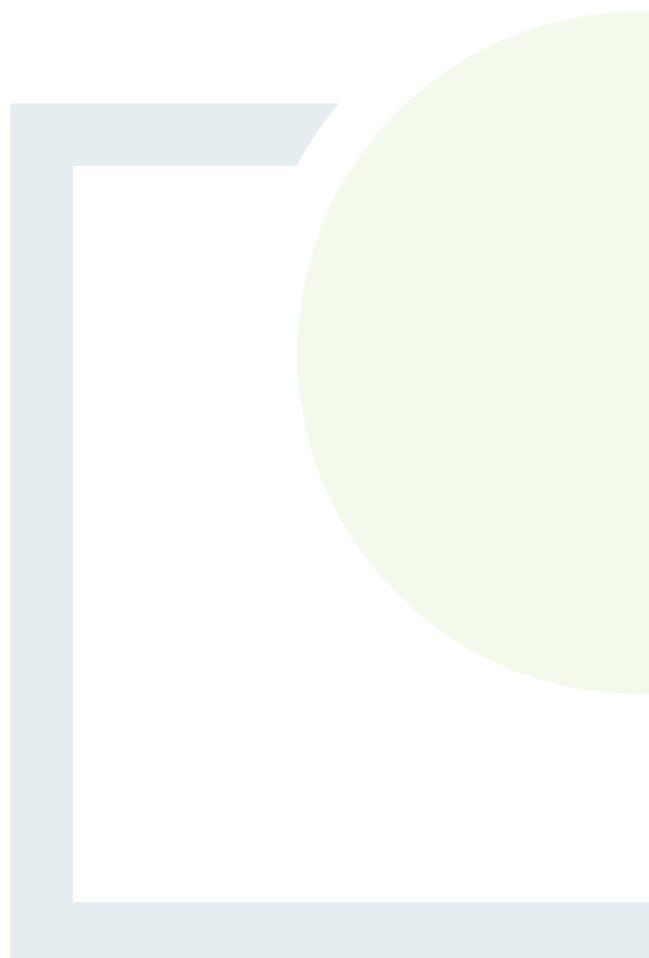
If other projects of a similar scale and type are under construction at the same time as proposed CGEP, there would be a cumulative increased demand for construction materials and skills, and there would be potential for increased construction traffic, dust and noise. The proposed CGEP has the potential to reduce Ireland's reliance on fossil fuel power generation and assist in it meeting its EU targets for renewable energy generation. Once operational, the cumulative effects with other wind farms and solar farms in area will be a positive one due to the replacement of fossil fuel energy production with clean, green energy.



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

## APPENDIX 5.3

An Bord Pleanála  
Correspondence



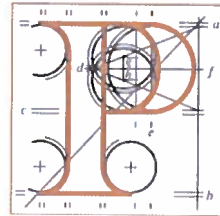




Our Ref: ABP-303322-18

PA Reg Ref:

Your Ref: Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited and Coillte



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Eamon Hutton  
Fehily Timoney & Co.  
Core House  
Poulacluff Road  
Cork

Distribution

05 JUN 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Date: 30 May 2019

Re: Wind farm of up to 27 no. wind turbine generators and up to 2 no. substation compounds with battery storage units along with ancillary and electrical infrastructure.  
Bottlehill, Mullensaboree, Knockdoorty, Glannasack, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above mentioned pre-application consultation request.

The Board intends to hold a pre-application consultation meeting and the arrangements are as follows:

Date: **Wednesday 5th June 2019**

Time: **11am**

Venue: **The offices of An Bord Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.**

Please note that it is intended that the first meeting will be essentially for the purpose of facilitating the Board's consultation team to obtain information from the prospective applicant in relation to the proposed development and that it is the Board's intention that a subsequent follow-up meeting would also take place. The latter meeting would cover, as considered necessary, advice on procedures involved in making an application and in considering such an application, and would also refer to the considerations related to the proper planning and sustainable development or the environment which may, in the opinion of the Board, have a bearing on its decision in relation to the proposed application.

Having regard to the above please be advised that the following information should be submitted by you at the first meeting:

Details of the nature of the issues on which advice is sought from the Board in respect of the proposed development application having regard to section 37B(3) of the Planning and Development 2000 Act, as amended and to article 210 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as inserted by Article 41 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2006.

With regard to the above, please provide four copies of any written documents or other materials which you intend to submit at the meeting.

Teil  
Glao Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost

Tel (01) 858 8100  
LoCall 1890 275 175  
Fax (01) 872 2684  
Website www.pleanala.ie  
Email bord@pleanala.ie

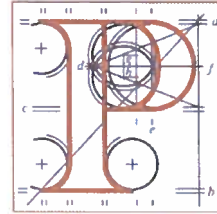
64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

Our Ref: ABP-303322-18

PA Reg Ref:

Your Ref: Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited and Coillte



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.

Distribution

28 JUN 2019

Job No:

Correspondence No:

Comment:

Jim Hughes  
Fehily Timoney & Co.  
Core House  
Poulacluff Road  
Cork

Date: 27th June 2019

Re:

Wind farm of up to 27 no. wind turbine generators and up to 2 no. substation compounds with battery storage units along with ancillary and electrical infrastructure.  
Bottlehill, Mullensaboree, Knockdoorty, Glannasack, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the meeting of the 5th June 2019.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,

Fergal Kilmurray  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737266

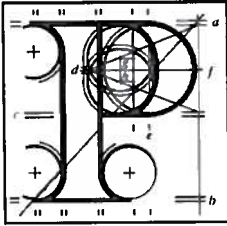
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An  
Bord  
Pleanála

## Record of Meeting ABP-303322-18 1<sup>st</sup> meeting

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	ABP-303322-18 Wind farm of up to 27 no. wind turbine generators and up to 2 no. substation compounds with battery storage units along with ancillary and electrical infrastructure, Bottlehill, Mullensaboree, Knockdoorty, Glannasack, Co. Cork.		
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application consultation		
<b>1<sup>st</sup> / 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting</b>	1 <sup>st</sup>		
<b>Date</b>	5/6/2019	<b>Start Time</b>	11 a.m.
<b>Location</b>	Cathal Brugha Room	<b>End Time</b>	1.05 p.m.
<b>Chairperson</b>	Brendan Wyse	<b>Executive Officer</b>	Fergal Kilmurray

<b>Attendees</b>		
<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>		
<b>Staff Member</b>	<b>Email Address</b>	<b>Phone</b>
Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning		
Karla McBride, Senior Planning Inspector		
Ellen Morrin, Senior Administrative Officer		
Fergal Kilmurray, Executive Officer	f.kilmurray@pleanala.ie	01-8737247

<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>		
Jim Hughes Fehily Timoney		
Trevor Byrne Fehily Timoney		
James Dineen Brookfield Renewables		
Claire Deasy Brookfield Renewables		
Kieran O'Malley Coillte		
Sinead O'Malley Coillte		

The meeting commenced at 11 a.m.

#### **Introduction:**

Following introductions, the representatives of the Board referred to the request received from the prospective applicants on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to enter into pre-application consultations.

The Board advised the prospective applicants that the instant meeting essentially constituted an information-gathering exercise for the Board; it also invited the prospective applicants to outline the nature of the proposed development and to highlight any matters it wished to receive advice on from the Board.

The Board mentioned general procedures in relation to the pre-application consultation process as follows:

- The Board will keep a record of this meeting and any other meetings, if held. Such records will form part of the file which will be made available publicly at the conclusion of the process. The record of the meeting will not be amended by the Board once finalised, but the prospective applicants may submit comments on the record which will form part of the case file.
- The Board will serve formal notice at the conclusion of the process as to whether or not the proposed development is Strategic Infrastructure Development. It may form a preliminary view at an early stage in the process as to whether the proposed development would likely constitute strategic infrastructure.
- A further meeting or meetings may be held in respect of the proposed development.
- Further information may be requested by the Board and public consultations may also be directed by the Board.
- The Board may hold consultations in respect of the proposed development with other bodies.

- The holding of consultations does not prejudice the Board in any way and cannot be relied upon in the formal planning process or any legal proceedings.
- The Board's representatives advised the prospective applicants that the pre-application consultation is not a scoping process for an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The Board's representatives said that having regard to the documentation already received by the Board, it had been noted that the view of the prospective applicants was that the proposed development would constitute Strategic Infrastructure Development.

### **Presentation by the prospective applicant's:**

The prospective applicants gave an overview of the proposed development as follows.

- The prospective applicant, BRIL, is a subsidiary of Brookfield Renewable Partners, a global renewable energy company that develops, acquires, builds and operates utility-scale wind and solar power projects, and Coillte is a commercial forestry business in Ireland, owned by the state.
- The site is located in N Cork and to the S of the N72 Mallow to Fermoy road. The mainly upland area comprises the townlands of Bottlehill, Mullenaboree, Knockdoorty and Glannasack and it is part of a high-level proposal to develop a Renewable Energy Park in North Cork, to provide a variety of renewable energy technologies.
- A preliminary design and Environmental assessment was carried out for:
  - Up to c.35 Wind turbines (since revised)
  - Access tracks
  - Borrow Pits (3 no. Identified)
  - Turbine Delivery Routes
  - Substations (2no. On-site)
  - Battery Storage
  - 2 x underground electricity grid route options:
    - Barrymore 110kv substation, Rathcormac to E of M8
    - Loop in to 220kv overhead line near Knockroura which runs N-S
- Solar development will not feature as part of this application.
- Constraints based studies maps of the development boundaries were submitted with the presentation.
- Following desktop studies and community and statutory consultation, a 22 wind turbine layout is now proposed, with a tip height of 167 metres.
- A site layout map Figure 3.1 submitted with the presentation shows the proposed cable route, grid connection and proposed roads access.
- Bottlehill is occupied by the completed but not yet operational landfill site.
- The 3 borrow pits would be located to the SW of Bottlehill, N of Mullensaboree, and NW of Knockadoory.
- The main substation proposed for the eastern side of the site shown on site layout map Figure 3.1.2 submitted with the presentation.
- The most likely grid connection route for the 110kv line will be from Barrymore substation, as Eirgrid have indicated that this would be the preferred option.
- The cable route will be drilled under motorways/bridge crossings.

- The site of the proposed development is situated in a low density residential area (c.178 houses within 2km), with a turbine setback of 750 metres from dwellings.
- Having regard to the Seventh Schedule threshold and Section 37A(2) criteria, the prospective applicant's contends that the proposed development is Strategic Infrastructure Development.

In relation to the relevant provisions of the Cork Development Plan the prospective applicants indicated that all site constraints in relation to landscape designations and scenic routes have been considered. Four turbines in the preliminary design located at the ridge height at the Blackwater Valley an SAC, have been removed, and turbines located in areas of Medium Landscape value have been stepped down.

The prospective applicants provided details of community consultations and indicated that further consultations will also be held.

Statutory consultees have also been engaged, including the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. EIAR Scoping report to issue to the statutory bodies shortly.

- **Planning History** - 16no. Turbine wind farm in vicinity of site (P01/6654 ABP Ref. 04.128917), refused by Cork County Council and ABP in 2002, and a single turbine (ABP. PL04.241037) north of Moneygorm (in vicinity of site) tip height 100m, granted by ABP. Regarding the (P01/6654 ABP Ref. 04.128917) refusal, the policy and scenic routes have changed. The zoning for the area in relation to wind energy has changed from No Wind Energy Strategy to an Area Open for Consideration for Wind Energy

The prospective applicants provided details of EIAR surveys and studies carried out to date. Extensive desk top studies and field surveys have been carried out over the past 3 years.

The prospective applicants indicated that it would be intending to lodge the application circa September 2019.

## Discussion

The following matters were discussed:

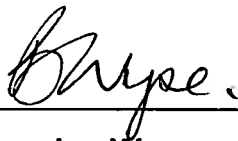
- The Board representatives advised that the preliminary view is that proposed development would constitute strategic infrastructure development.
- The Board representatives advised that any application should address in particular, the potential impacts arising from the following:
  - Visual impacts from along the scenic routes and other sensitive locations,
  - Recorded Monuments, and Protected Structures along the delivery routes, and at Ballyhooly ACA,
  - Alternative grid connections,
  - Peat Stability drainage and water management,
  - Proximity to Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchment,
  - The road network including bridges, scenic routes and narrow rural roads, and,

- The application should also address community gain and issues arising from consultations with TII, NPWS, IFI & the local authority.
- The prospective applicants said it has had one meeting with the local authority, and that they had concerns in relation to the impact of the proposed development on the Blackwater Valley Ridge. The prospective applicants said it would request a second meeting with the local authority.
- The prospective applicants raised the issue regarding landowner consent for the grid connection along the public road and whether two separate applications would be advisable. The Board's representatives indicated that further consideration should be given to this matter.

## **Conclusion**

The Board's representatives concluded the meeting, indicating that a record of the meeting would be forthcoming, and that the Board will wait for the prospective applicants to revert for a second meeting.

The meeting concluded at 1.05 p.m.



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**Brendan Wyse**

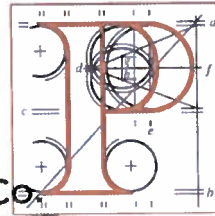
**Assistant Director of Planning**

*26 June 2019*



**Our Case Number:** ABP-303322-18

**Your Reference:** Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited and Coillte



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Distribution

**23 AUG 2019**

Fehily Timoney & Company  
Core House  
Pouladuff Road  
Cork  
Co. Cork

Job No:  
Correspondence No:  
Comment:

**Date:** 22nd August 2019

**Re:** Wind farm of up to 27 no. wind turbine generators and up to 2 no. substation compounds with battery storage units along with ancillary and electrical infrastructure.  
Bottlehill, Mullensaboree, Knockdoorty, Glannasack, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Bord Pleanála to refer further to the above-mentioned pre-application consultation request.

Please find enclosed a copy of the written record of the meeting of the 7th August 2019.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

Please quote the above-mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

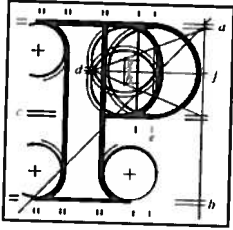
Yours faithfully,

Fergal Kilmurray  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-8737266

Encls PC07

**Teil** (01) 858 8100  
**Glao Áitiúil** LoCall 1890 275 175  
**Facs** Fax (01) 872 2684  
**Láithreán Gréasáin** Website www.pleanala.ie  
**Ríomhphost** Email bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde 64 Marlborough Street  
Baile Átha Cliath 1 Dublin 1  
D01 V902 D01 V902



An  
Bord  
Pleanála

**Record of Meeting**  
**ABP-303322-18**  
**2nd meeting**

<b>Case Reference / Description</b>	ABP-303322-18 Wind farm of up to 27 no. wind turbine generators and up to 2 no. substation compounds with battery storage units along with ancillary and electrical infrastructure, Bottlehill, Mullensaborree, Knockdoorty, Glannasack, Co. Cork.				
<b>Case Type</b>	Pre-application Consultation				
<b>Meeting No:</b>	2	<b>Location</b>	Parnell Room		
<b>Date</b>	07/08/2019	<b>Start Time</b>	11.00 am	<b>End Time</b>	12.35 pm

<b>Attendees</b>	
<b>Representing An Bord Pleanála</b>	<b>Representing the Prospective Applicant</b>
Brendan Wyse, Assistant Director of Planning (Chair)	Jim Hughes, Fehily Timoney
Karla McBride, Senior Planning Inspector	Trevor Byrne, Fehily Timoney
Ellen Morrin, Senior Administrative Officer	James Dineen, Brookfield Renewables
Fergal Kilmurray, Executive Officer Email: <a href="mailto:f.kilmurray@pleanala.ie">f.kilmurray@pleanala.ie</a> Phone: 01-8737266	Claire Deasy, Brookfield Renewables
	Kieran O'Malley, Coillte
	Richard Barker, Macro Works Ltd

**Introduction:**

Following introductions, the representatives of the Board stated that they had received the prospective applicant's comments in relation to the record of the 1st meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019, and the comments on the record will form part of the case file. The Board enquired if the prospective applicant intended to close the pre- application consultation today. The prospective applicant said that they envisaged that this would be the final meeting and indicated that it is intending to lodge the application in October 2019.

**Presentation by the prospective applicant:**

The prospective applicant gave an overview of the presentation submitted by email to the Board on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019 which included:

- Total of 22 turbines in three areas at Bottlehill, Mullensaborree and Knockdoorty with separate accesses to the SW and NE .
- Turbines will be c.169m high with a combined c.105MW output
- Proposed Grid Connection substation would be at Lackendarragh.
- A preferred grid connection route for the 110kv line will be to the existing Barrymore substation.
- The proposed delivery routes have remained the same with temporary nodes at some locations.
- No significant changes to the proposed development have occurred since the last meeting, except for some minor changes to the turbine locations.

The prospective applicant gave a summary of actions taking in relation to points raised by the Board, since the first meeting with the Board on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019 as follows.

**Environmental Impact Assessment:**Visual Impact

- Maps and a detailed Contextual Analysis included in the presentation described the visual impacts from along the scenic routes and other sensitive locations.

- Blackwater Valley Scenic Designations (Scenic Views S9, S10 & S14) - Mitigation by Avoidance
- Scenic Views SV11 & SV12 adjacent to site. The value of these view is the vastness.
- The Cork County Development Plan contains 118 Designated Scenic Routes
- Further consultation with Planning Authority, meeting held in June 2019 to discuss scenic routes and other sensitive locations with photomontages
- LVIA Viewpoints VP2, VP4 and VP6 submitted to illustrate some of the mitigation measures in relation to the avoidance of the Blackwater Valley Ridge
- View of permitted Derragh and Cleanrath wind farms as seen from Scenic Route S26 submitted to show an example of a wind farm in a SAC.

Recorded Monuments, and Protected Structures along the delivery routes, and at Ballyhooly ACA

- Detailed assessment of the proposed turbine delivery route with a focus on the potential for impacts on designated cultural heritage assets are being carried out as part of the EIAR.
- Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) record numerous archaeological sites and designated architectural structures within lands adjacent to the relevant sections of the TDR
- TDR does not appear to require works which would have the potential to impact on unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological features or deposits.
- The proposed delivery route diverts to the south east of Ballyhooly Village and does not extend into the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). The route follows a local road extending outside the east edge of the ACA and contains two bridges that, while not included in the SMR or RPS, are listed in the NIAH. The route also extends in the vicinity of the Ballyhooly Lodge to the south of the bridges which is also listed in the NIAH. The proposed transport of turbines will not require any interventions to these structures.

### Grid Connections

- Eirgrid advised that Barrymore 110kV substation was the most likely connection option.
- Eirgrid also advised that a new 220kV substation near the Knockraha – Killonan 220kV OHL could be feasible.
- Cable Route for full assessment in EIAR will be at Barrymore.

The Board representatives inquired whether the grid connection will be included in the red line boundary. The prospective applicant stated that it will not be included.

### Peat Stability drainage and water management

- Peat stability risk is considered low risk on the site.
- Preliminary site investigations have been completed at the majority of proposed infrastructure locations. With respect to the risk posed from peat stability within the development boundary a review of the requirement for peat landslide hazard and risk assessment was carried out in accordance with the Scottish Executive – Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments (2017).
- Limited areas of peat deposits have been identified (typically peaty topsoil) with maximum thicknesses of between 0.2 – 0.4m. However, given that slopes  $>2^\circ$  are present within the site, a preliminary peat stability assessment is in preparation. The assessment combines infinite slope stability analysis with the potential probability of contributory factors to peat failure.
- Intrusive S.I to include Geophys, boreholes and trial pits near completion.
- In terms of drainage and water management, the design shall include an outline drainage design, a stormwater management plan as well as a soil management plan, which shall be prepared as part of a comprehensive Outline Construction and Environmental Management Plan (oCEMP).

## The road network including bridges, scenic routes and narrow rural roads

- The road network will be maintained by completing pre-construction surveys and post-construction surveys to assess and quantify any impact on the road structure.
- Any defects created by the project would be remedied by the prospective applicant, in agreement with Cork County Council Roads Department.
- The turbine delivery routes have been chosen with a view to minimising the impact on the road network used. Improvement works such as road widening shall be either fully reinstated to original condition or adopted by the local authority as permanent road network improvements under agreement with Cork County Council.
- A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be agreed with Cork County Council in advance of construction and a comprehensive Outline TMP (oTMP) shall be included in the planning application.
- The TMP will ensure that local narrow roads are not used where unsuitable for the delivery of construction materials to the site by identifying designated haul routes. This is to limit the use of narrow local roads by the development.
- Cork County Council have been consulted in relation to the bridge crossing at Ballyhooly. Follow up consultation has taken place with Cork County Council Roads Department, TII and Direct Route to discuss the TDR and proposed development.
- The route is not expected to require the construction of road diversions or new bridge crossings which would have the potential to impact on unrecorded, sub-surface archaeological features or deposits.

## **Appropriate Assessment**

### Proximity to Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchment

- Freshwater Pearl Mussel surveys have been completed within morphologically suitable habitat within the study area.
- The project is predominantly located within the River Bride sub-catchment. Only the Blackwater (Munster) main channel holds historic records of this species.

- No FPM were recorded in any of the watercourses surveyed, no watercourses directly affected by the project support this species.
- The Project is indirectly connected to the Blackwater (Munster) main channel with hydrological pathways for impacts arising via indirect or secondary project effects on tributaries of the main channel, none of which support FPM.
- The Project will include design measures and effective mitigation to ensure ecological Status, in terms of WFD status, will not be deteriorated and future restoration where appropriate will be achievable.

The prospective applicant stated that the Freshwater Pearl Mussel is no longer listed as a Qualifying Interest for the Blackwater River SAC although this omission has not yet been reflected in the Conservation Objectives for the site.

### **Consultations & Community Gain**

- Carried out door to door consultation with residents living within 2km of the proposed development.
- Issued letter to recently elected public representatives, local councillors, MEP's and TD's. informing them about the project and offering to meet to discuss further if they so wished.
- Follow up consultation with Planning Authority to discuss scenic views raised during ABP SID Pre-APP meeting on 5th June 2019
- Follow up consultation with Cork County Council Roads Department, TII and Direct Route.
- Follow up consultation meeting request made to IFI.
- NPWS Consultation
  - Consultation with the DAU commenced in 2017 (letter issued November 2017). (No formal response on Biodiversity has been received to date.)
  - A pre-planning meeting was formally requested in January 2019.
  - IEC has since this, formally contacted the DAU via email in 2019, requesting whether any written observations are forthcoming.
  - A complete chronology has been maintained of all correspondence and efforts are continuing to obtain some formal response.
- Consultation meetings with Eirgrid in June 2016, March 2017 & July 2018



- Community Gain:
  - The current guidelines require a fund of €1,000/MW to be available annually to the local area. Based on the Irish Government's draft publication relating to rules around future market support mechanisms (RESS: Renewable Electricity Support Scheme) it is anticipated that for projects to qualify for such support, an annual community fund of €2/MWh should be made available to the nearest community.
  - This will be provided if the project is successful at the competitive RESS auction

**Discussion:**

The following matters were discussed:

The Board representatives inquired whether there were any significant changes to the road delivery route.

The prospective applicant responded;

- There were no significant changes to the route and no major works were required on the road.
- A number of nodes along the route will be assessed
- There will be a temporary widening of narrow roads and some hedge removal which will be reinstated.
- Night time delivery of turbines to the site with Garda escort.
- Due to hold a meeting with the TII on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2019 to discuss direct route.
- A Traffic Management Plan will identify the preferred haul routes.

The Board representatives inquired about the bird and bat surveys, migratory birds and the status of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.

The prospective applicant responded that they had data for 3 years of Bird and Bat surveys. No nesting of the Hen Harrier or occupancy by the Merlin were found on site and no significant flight paths were identified. Roost surveys show low usage by

bats. The site does not lie within the flightpath of any migratory bird species. The project will be designed to ensure the protection of Freshwater Pearl Mussel downstream of the works, notwithstanding its change in status as a Qualifying Interest for the SAC. The conflict between the older NPWS Conservation Objectives document and the more recent removal of Qualifying Interest status will be addressed in the EIAR and NIS.

**Procedures:**

Procedures in relation to the making of a formal planning application were given by the Board as follows:

- An application can only be lodged after formal notice has been received by the prospective applicant from the Board.
- The application must be made by way of full completion of an application form to the Board.
- The Board requires as a minimum that the public notice of the application would be in two newspapers circulating in the area to which the proposed development relates, one of which should be a national newspaper. A site notice in accordance with the protocols set out in the Planning and Development Regulations must also be erected. The date of the erection of the site notice is to be inserted; otherwise it should contain the same information as the newspaper notices and should remain in place for the duration of the period during which the public can make submissions to the Board.
- The documentation relating to the application is to be available for public inspection at the offices of the relevant planning authority and the offices of An Bord Pleanála. In this regard, the requirements in terms of the number of copies of the documentation to be lodged with the relevant planning authority and the Board is as follows:

Planning Authority – 5 hard copies and 2 electronic copies.

An Bord Pleanála – 3 hard copies and 7 electronic copies.

- The Board also requires the prospective applicant to provide a stand-alone website containing all of the application documentation. The address of this website is to be included in the public notice.
- The public notice of the application is to indicate that the application documentation will be available for public inspection after 5 working days from the date of the publication of the notice so as to ensure that the documentation is in place for such inspection.
- The time period for the making of submissions by the public is to be at least seven weeks from the date the documents become available for inspection (not from the date of publication of the public notices). The Board requires that the public notice must indicate the deadline time and date for the making of submissions to the Board. The Board said that it can offer administrative advice on procedural matters relating to the public notice which would include the confirmation of last dates for the making of written submissions.
- The service of notice of the application on any prescribed bodies must include a clear statement that the person served can make submissions to the Board by the same deadline as specified in the public notice.
- The service letter on the planning authority with the necessary copies of the documents should be addressed to the Chief Executive and should also alert the authority to the Board's requirement that the application documentation be made available for public inspection/purchase by the planning authority in accordance with the terms of the public notice (copies of any newspaper/site notices should be provided to the planning authority). It is the Board's intention that all of the application documentation will remain available for public inspection during the currency of the application.
- The depositing of the application documentation and the making of the application to the Board should take place immediately after the publication of the notice and the completion of the service requirements. The application documentation should include a copy of all letters serving notice of the application on prescribed bodies and the local authority, copies of the actual newspaper notices as published and the site notice.

- The fee for lodging an application is €100,000. The fee for making a submission in respect of an application is €50 (except for certain prescribed bodies which are exempt from this fee). There is an existing provision enabling the Board to recover its costs for processing any application from the applicant. In addition, it was pointed out that the legislation also enables the Board direct payment of costs or a contribution towards same to the planning authority and third parties.
- The Board also drew the prospective applicant's attention to the fact that the EU(Planning and Development)(EIA) Regulations 2018 requires applicants to register EIA development on a central portal on the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government's website prior to lodging an application for planning permission. An acknowledgement from the Department in this latter regard will be required to accompany the planning application to the Board.

**Conclusion:**

The record of the meeting will issue to the prospective applicant and it will then be a matter for the prospective applicant to submit any comments on this if it wishes to do so. Following this, the prospective applicant may seek a further meeting with the Board or request closure to the pre-application process.

If closure to the pre-application process is requested, the reporting inspector will complete the report and recommendation which will be forwarded to the Board for determination. A decision will then issue to the prospective applicant.



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**Brendan Wyse**

**Assistant Director of Planning**

*22 Aug. 2019*



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Our Ref: P1306/JH/MG

The Secretary  
An Bord Pleanála  
64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1

10 September 2019

**Re: Pre-application Consultation Request - Coom Green Energy Park**  
**ABP Ref: ABP – 303322-18**  
**Applicant: Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited and Coillte**

Dear Sir / Madam,

We refer to your correspondence dated the 22nd August 2019 containing the written record of the SID pre-application consultation meeting (meeting no. 2) on the 7<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

On behalf of the applicant we seek to formally close the pre-application consultation process and seek your formal determination as to whether the project as described constitutes Strategic Infrastructure Development. We would also be obliged if you would send on a list of statutory and prescribed bodies to be consulted prior to submitting the application to ABP.

We agree with the record of meeting as issued save for 3 items.

**Item No. 1:**

Bullet point 3, Page 5, *"The turbine delivery routes have been chosen with a view to minimising the impact on the road network used. Improvement works such as road widening shall be either fully reinstated to original condition or adopted by the local authority as permanent road network improvements under agreement with Cork County Council"*.

We would also like to advise ABP that temporary works on private lands will be required at the Silversprings junction on the N8/R635 **in Cork City** so to accommodate turbine delivery and same will be included in the application for consent.

Cont'd...

**CORE HOUSE, POULADUFF ROAD, CORK, IRELAND**

**T: +353 21 4964133 F: + 353 21 4964464 E: info@ftco.ie W: www.fehilytimoney.ie**

**Directors:** Eamon Timoney David McHugh Bernadette Guinan

**Company Secretary:** Sinéad Timoney

Registered in Ireland, Fehily Timoney & Company Ltd. Number 180497

Registered Office: Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork. VAT Registration Number: IE6580497D





Page 2

**Item No. 2:**

Last paragraph Page 7 states:

*"No nesting of the Hen Harrier or occupancy by the merlin were found on site and no significant flight paths were identified".*

The above is slightly inaccurate, it is submitted that no turbines are located within 500m of actual or historical hen harrier nest sites.

**Item No. 3:**

Bullet point 6 & 7 Page 3 states:

*"LVIA Viewpoints VP2, VP4 and VP6 submitted to illustrate some of the mitigation measures in relation to the avoidance of the Blackwater Valley Ridge.*

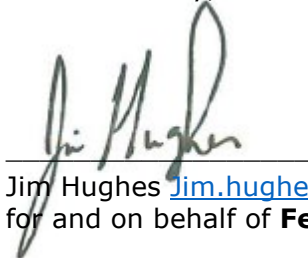
*"View of permitted Derragh and Cleanrath wind farms as seen from Scenic Route S26 submitted to show an example of a wind farm in a SAC".*

It should be clarified that VP2 and VP4 were shown to illustrate mitigation effectiveness from the Blackwater Valley, VP6 relates to a scenic view close to the site.

View of permitted Derragh and Cleanrath wind farm is an example of a view from a Cork County Council scenic route not a SAC.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned and we would appreciate that a meeting is scheduled at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,



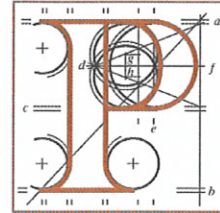
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Jim Hughes [Jim.hughes@ftco.ie](mailto:Jim.hughes@ftco.ie)  
for and on behalf of **Fehily Timoney and Company**



**Our Case Number:** ABP-303322-18

**Your Reference:** Brookfield Renewable Ireland Limited and Coillte



**An  
Bord  
Pleanála**

**FEHILY TIMONEY & Co.**

Distribution

05 NOV 2019

Trevor Byrne  
Fehily Timoney & Co.  
Core House  
Poulacluff Road  
Cork

Job No:  
Correspondence No:  
Comment:

**Date:** 4th November 2019

**Re:** Wind farm of up to 27 no. wind turbine generators and up to 2 no. substation compounds with battery storage units along with ancillary and electrical infrastructure.  
Bottlehill, Mullensaboree, Knockdoorty, Glannasack, Co. Cork.

Dear Sir,

Please be advised that following consultations under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board hereby serves notice under section 37B(4)(a) that it is of the opinion that the proposed development falls within the scope of paragraphs 37A(2)(a) (b) and (c) of the Act. Accordingly, the Board has decided that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of section 37A of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Any application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Bord Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Please also be informed that the Board considers that the pre-application consultation process in respect of this proposed development is now closed.

Attached is a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development.

In accordance with section 146(5) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, the Board will make available for inspection and purchase at its offices the documents relating to the decision within 3 working days following its decision. This information is normally made available on the list of decided cases on the website on the Wednesday following the week in which the decision is made.

The attachment contains information in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of An Bord Pleanála under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.

If you have any queries in relation to the matter please contact the undersigned officer of the Board.

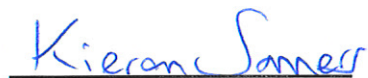
Teil	Tel	(01) 858 8100
Glao Áitiúil	LoCall	1890 275 175
Facs	Fax	(01) 872 2684
Láithreán Gréasáin	Website	www.pleanala.ie
Ríomhphost	Email	bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
D01 V902	D01 V902



Please quote the above mentioned An Bord Pleanála reference number in any correspondence or telephone contact with the Board.

Yours faithfully,



Kieran Somers  
Executive Officer  
Direct Line: 01-873 7250

PC09

Teil  
Glao Áitiúil  
Facs  
Láithreán Gréasáin  
Ríomhphost

Tel (01) 858 8100  
LoCall 1890 275 175  
Fax (01) 872 2684  
Website www.pleanala.ie  
Email bord@pleanala.ie

64 Sráid Maoilbhríde  
Baile Átha Cliath 1  
D01 V902

64 Marlborough Street  
Dublin 1  
D01 V902

## **Judicial review of An Bord Pleanála decisions under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended**

A person wishing to challenge the validity of a Board decision may do so by way of judicial review only. Sections 50, 50A and 50B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as substituted by section 13 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006, as amended/substituted by sections 32 and 33 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 and as amended by sections 20 and 21 of the Environment (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2011) contain provisions in relation to challenges to the validity of a decision of the Board.

The validity of a decision taken by the Board may only be questioned by making an application for judicial review under Order 84 of The Rules of the Superior Courts (S.I. No. 15 of 1986). Sub-section 50(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 requires that subject to any extension to the time period which may be allowed by the High Court in accordance with subsection 50(8), any application for judicial review must be made within 8 weeks of the decision of the Board. It should be noted that any challenge taken under section 50 may question only the validity of the decision and the Courts do not adjudicate on the merits of the development from the perspectives of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and/or effects on the environment. Section 50A states that leave for judicial review shall not be granted unless the Court is satisfied that there are substantial grounds for contending that the decision is invalid or ought to be quashed and that the applicant has a sufficient interest in the matter which is the subject of the application or in cases involving environmental impact assessment is a body complying with specified criteria.

Section 50B contains provisions in relation to the cost of judicial review proceedings in the High Court relating to specified types of development (including proceedings relating to decisions or actions pursuant to a law of the state that gives effect to the public participation and access to justice provisions of Council Directive 85/337/EEC i.e. the EIA Directive and to the provisions of Directive 2001/12/EC i.e. Directive on the assessment of the effects on the environment of certain plans and programmes). The general provision contained in section 50B is that in such cases each party shall bear its own costs. The Court however may award costs against any party in specified circumstances. There is also provision for the Court to award the costs of proceedings or a portion of such costs to an applicant against a respondent or notice party where relief is obtained to the extent that the action or omission of the respondent or notice party contributed to the relief being obtained.

General information on judicial review procedures is contained on the following website, [www.citizensinformation.ie](http://www.citizensinformation.ie).

Disclaimer: The above is intended for information purposes. It does not purport to be a legally binding interpretation of the relevant provisions and it would be advisable for persons contemplating legal action to seek legal advice.

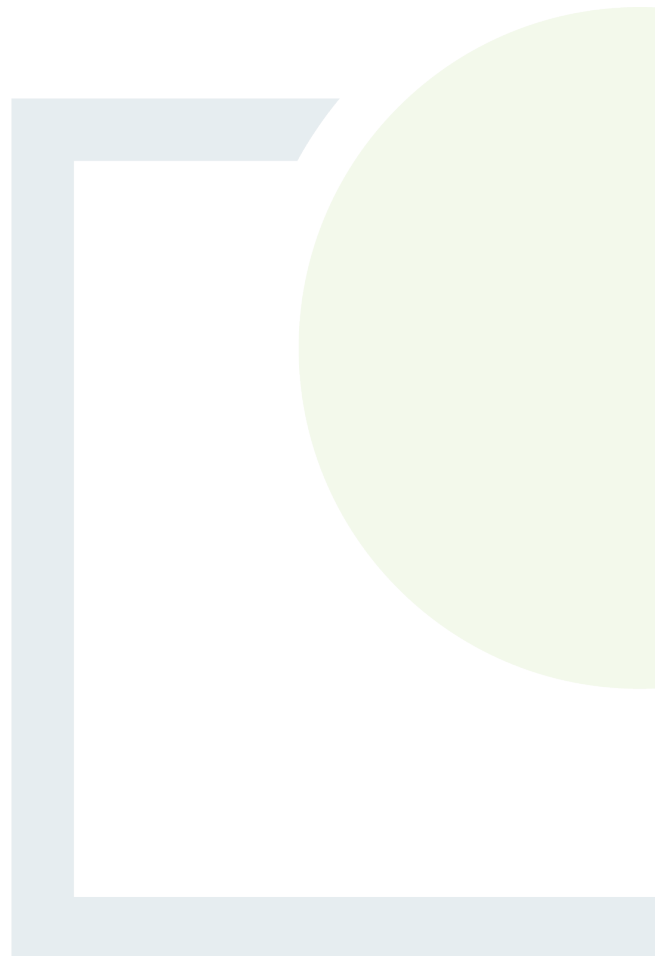




CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & PLANNING

## APPENDIX 5.4

Advertisements for Public  
Consultation Events







## **PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Brookfield Renewable Ireland and Coillte are jointly planning a renewable energy project known as the Coom Green Energy Park. It would be located in the Bottlehill and Glannasack areas in County Cork and is likely to consist of a wind farm with up to 27 wind turbines, a solar farm and battery storage.

The project team will shortly be holding community engagement sessions to present information on some key technical aspects of the project. In response to community feedback, the project team will present information on the following project areas:

Noise, Visual Impact, Ecology, Traffic and Transportation, Grid and Energy Storage and Community Benefit Funding.

### **The public information sessions will take place as follows:**

- **Wednesday, November 28th, 2018, Holy Family Centre, Glenville, 5pm to 9pm.**
- **Friday, November 30th, 2018, Mournabbey Community Hall, 5pm to 9pm.**
- **Wednesday, December 5th, 2018, Whitechurch Community Centre, 5pm to 9pm.**

Interested members of the public are invited to meet with the Coom Green Energy Park Project Team who will be available to provide details about the project.

### **For further information:**

**email [info@coomgreenenergy.com](mailto:info@coomgreenenergy.com)**  
**or [www.coomgreenenergy.com](http://www.coomgreenenergy.com)**







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**For further information:**  
**email [info@coomgreenenergy.com](mailto:info@coomgreenenergy.com)**  
**or [www.coomgreenenergy.com](http://www.coomgreenenergy.com)**



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SESSIONS



Brookfield Renewable Ireland and Coillte are applying for permission for a renewable energy project known as the Coom Green Energy Park. It would be located in the Bottlehill and Glannasack areas in County Cork and is likely to consist of a wind farm with up to 27 wind turbines, a solar farm and battery storage.

The project team will shortly be holding community engagement sessions to present information on some key technical aspects of the project. In response to community feedback, the project team will present information on the following project areas:

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- **Wednesday, December 5th, 2018**  
**Whitechurch Community Centre, 5pm to 9pm**

Interested members of the public are invited to meet with the Coom Green Energy Park Project Team who will be available to discuss the project.

For further information: email [info@coomgreenenergy.com](mailto:info@coomgreenenergy.com)  
or [www.coomgreenenergy.com](http://www.coomgreenenergy.com)





Dear Kevin and all,

Thank you for your email which Tom O'Donnell has forwarded onto me.

I am arranging the technical workshops on behalf of the project team and I apologise that we haven't sent any information on sooner. Finalising the dates took some time as we were concentrating on the latest layout, whilst organising the availability of the technical experts and trying to avoid scheduling during the Easter weeks.

I am pleased to confirm that we have taken into account your suggestions as set out in your email of the March 25th and we have arranged an agenda, starting on Thursday May 9th. All sessions will take place at the Blarney Woollen Mills Hotel from 7:00pm. Please see below the list of topics and dates. We are working to complete the latest revision to the layout and will be putting it up on the website ahead of the first workshop –we will let you know when it has been uploaded.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Topic</b>
Thursday May 9	Noise
Tuesday May 14	Engineering: Grid/Construction/Transport/Storage
Tuesday May 21	Community Benefit
Tuesday May 28	Ecology
Tuesday June 11	Visual

To ensure the workshops are effective we would like to keep attendance to 20 participants, to include 2-3 representatives from each of the Community Groups and the NVTA, in the first instance. You might kindly advise of the name of attendees from these groups in advance of the workshops.

We look forward to meeting you all and in the meantime if you have any further queries please feel free to come back to me or any member of the project team.

Kind regards,  
Liz Casey

**Liz Casey**  
**Brookfield Renewable**  
Floor 5, City Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork, Ireland  
T : 021 422 3600  
E : [info@coomgreenenergy.com](mailto:info@coomgreenenergy.com)  
[www.brookfieldrenewable.com](http://www.brookfieldrenewable.com)





## **PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSIONS**

Brookfield Renewable Ireland and Coillte are jointly exploring the potential of a renewable energy project near the Bottlehill and Glannasack areas in County Cork.

The project team will be holding public information sessions on the key technical aspects of the proposed Coom Green Energy Park project including Noise, Visual Impact, Ecology, Traffic and Transportation, Grid, Energy Storage and Community Benefit.

**The public information sessions will take place as follows:**

- **Tuesday, October 8th, 2019**  
**Mourneabbey Community Hall from 6pm to 9pm**
- **Thursday, October 10th, 2019**  
**Holy Family Centre, Glenville from 6pm to 9pm**

Interested parties are invited to call in anytime during these hours to meet with the Coom Green Energy Park Project Team who will be available to provide details about the proposed project. Fehily Timoney and Company are assisting in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), as well as the planning application, and will also have representatives present to provide information.

**For further information: [www.coomgreenenergy.com](http://www.coomgreenenergy.com)**







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**For further information see [www.coomgreenenergy.com](http://www.coomgreenenergy.com)  
or contact [info@coomgreenenergy.com](mailto:info@coomgreenenergy.com)**



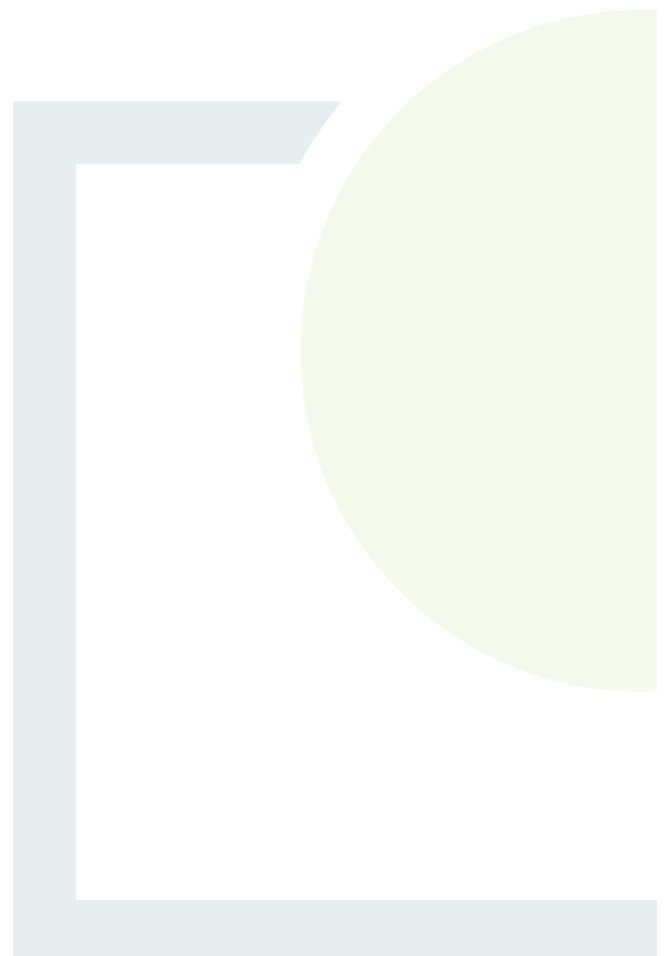


**FEHILY  
TIMONEY**  
— 30 YEARS —

CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,  
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## APPENDIX 5.5

Further Correspondence







**From:** [Ita Daly](#)  
**To:** [Coom Green Energy Park](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork  
**Date:** Wednesday 9 September 2020 15:36:10  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

Dear Eamon,

Please advise if the proposed Energy Park is in the vicinity of a COMAH establishment?

If it's not in the vicinity of a COMAH site, we have no remit in providing technical advice in terms of planning, strategic infrastructure or EIAR.

For any future planning related queries for development in, or in the vicinity of a COMAH establishment, you can email the COMAH unit directly at [LandUsePlanning@hsa.ie](mailto:LandUsePlanning@hsa.ie)

Many thanks  
Ita

---

**From:** WCU <[wcu@hsa.ie](mailto:wcu@hsa.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 9 September 2020 14:58  
**To:** Land Use Planning <[LandUsePlanning@hsa.ie](mailto:LandUsePlanning@hsa.ie)>  
**Subject:** FW: Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork

---

**From:** Coom Green Energy Park <[cgep@ftco.ie](mailto:cgep@ftco.ie)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 8 September 2020 09:37  
**To:** WCU <[wcu@hsa.ie](mailto:wcu@hsa.ie)>  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a letter regarding design amendments to the proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork. As a prescribed body for Strategic Infrastructure Development stakeholder consultation, we wish to invite you to make comments or observations on the proposed amendments to the project. Attached you will find maps and coordinates of the proposed development as well as a description of the amended design. Please note, we have previously contacted you as part of the EIAR scoping process for the CGEP in June 2019.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton

**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 4133



[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)



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\*\*\*\*\*

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This footnote also confirms that this email message has been swept for the presence of computer viruses.

\*\*\*\*\*

**From:** [Minister of State](#)  
**To:** [Coom Green Energy Park](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork  
**Date:** Tuesday 8 September 2020 11:40:52  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[ATT00001.txt](#)  
[ATT00002.htm](#)

---

Dear Mr Hutton,

On behalf of Mr Peter Burke T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Local Government and Planning, I would like to acknowledge receipt of your email and attached letter in relation to the Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork, which has been forwarded to him by Minister Darragh O'Brien.

Kind regards,

**Erica Daly**

Minister of State Burke's Office

Please note: The Minister is a Designated Public Official under the Regulation of Lobbying Act, 2015

---

**From:** Coom Green Energy Park [<mailto:cgep@ftco.ie>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday 8 September 2020 09:25  
**To:** Minister <[MINISTER@housing.gov.ie](mailto:MINISTER@housing.gov.ie)>  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a letter regarding design amendments to the proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork. As a prescribed body for Strategic Infrastructure Development stakeholder consultation, we wish to invite you to make comments or observations on the proposed amendments to the project. Attached you will find maps and coordinates of the proposed development as well as a description of the amended design. Please note, we have previously contacted you as part of the EIAR scoping process for the CGEP in June 2019.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

---

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t: +353 21 496 4133

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**From:** [Ministers Office](#)  
**To:** [Coom Green Energy Park](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork  
**Date:** Tuesday 8 September 2020 09:44:49

---

Ref: CCAE-MO-02532-2020

8th September 2020

Dear Mr. Hutton,

On behalf of Mr Eamon Ryan, TD, Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment, I wish to acknowledge receipt of your correspondence dated 8th September 2020.

I will ensure your correspondence is brought to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely,

Dean Maher

*"D'fhonn is go gcuirfead feidhmeanna na Roinne i gcrích, agus seirbhísí ar fáil, ceanglaíonn an Roinn Cumarsáide, Gníomhaithe ar son na hAeráide agus Comhshaoil go soláthróidh custaiméirí sonraí pearsanta áirithe. Féadfar do shonraí pearsanta a mhalartú le Ranna Rialtais eile agus le gníomhaireachtaí eile in imthosca áirithe de réir dlí. Tugtar sonraí iomlána sa bhFógra um Príobháideacht Sonraí atá ar fáil [anseo](#), nó i bhfoirm chruachóipe arna iarraidh sin."*

*"The Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment requires customers to provide certain personal data in order to provide services and carry out the functions of the Department. Your personal data may be exchanged with other Government Departments and agencies in certain circumstances where lawful. Full details can be found in the Data Privacy Notice, which is available here or in hard copy upon request"*



**From:** [Bernadette O'Shea \(Contractor\)](#)  
**To:** [Coom Green Energy Park](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork  
**Date:** Tuesday 8 September 2020 09:44:50  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

---

A Chara,

Your correspondence on September 1st has been forwarded for attention.

Regards

---

**From:** Coom Green Energy Park <cgep@ftco.ie>  
**Sent:** Tuesday 8 September 2020 09:07  
**To:** Wexford Receptionist <REC\_WEX@epa.ie>  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a letter regarding design amendments to the proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork. As a prescribed body for Strategic Infrastructure Development stakeholder consultation, we wish to invite you to make comments or observations on the proposed amendments to the project. Attached you will find maps and coordinates of the proposed development as well as a description of the amended design. Please note, we have previously contacted you as part of the EIAR scoping process for the CGEP in June 2019.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 4133

[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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as a private company limited by shares. Registration No. 180497. Registered office: Core House,  
Pouladuff Road, Cork, Ireland

**From:** [Coom Green Energy Park](#)  
**To:** [Eamon Hutton](#)  
**Subject:** FW: EIAR Scoping in relation to Proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork. TII Ref: TII20-110843. Your Ref: P20-009/Lett/EH/CF  
**Date:** Friday 11 September 2020 12:00:33

---

---

**From:** INFO <Information@tii.ie>  
**Sent:** Thursday 10 September 2020 15:16  
**To:** Coom Green Energy Park <cgep@ftco.ie>  
**Subject:** EIAR Scoping in relation to Proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork. TII Ref: TII20-110843. Your Ref: P20-009/Lett/EH/CF

**Dear Ms. Hutton,**

Thank you for your letter of 7 September 2020 regarding EIAR Scoping in relation to the proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) wishes to advise that it is not in a position to engage directly with planning applicants in respect to proposed developments. TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines, as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads. Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at [www.TII.ie](http://www.TII.ie).

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

With respect to EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the National Roads Network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, *inter alia*, to the following:

- Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office' with regard to the locations of existing and future national road schemes in the vicinity of the subject development site. TII would highlight that the proposed development is located in close proximity to a study area for a future national road scheme, the N20/M20 Cork to Limerick scheme. The N20/M20 Project Office, is located in Lissanalta House, Dooradoyle, Limerick.
- TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the existing national road network (and junctions with national roads) in proximity to the proposed development.
- The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads.
- The developer should have regard to any Environmental Impact Assessment and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the areas concerned. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes' (National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006).

- The EIAR should consider the 'Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 (SI 140 of 2006)' and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Scheme's (1<sup>st</sup> Rev., NRA, 2004)).
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. TII's Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of the TII's TTA Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- In relation to haul route identification, the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route, including where temporary modification to the road network may be required. Consultation with relevant PPP Companies and MMaRC Contractors may also be required. All structures on the haul route should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal load proposed.
- In relation to cabling and electricity grid connection routing, the scheme promoter should note locations of existing and future national road schemes and develop proposals to safeguard proposed road schemes. In the context of existing national roads, alternatives to the provision of cabling along the national road network, such as alternative routing or the laying of cabling in private lands adjoining the national road, should be considered in the interests of safeguarding the investment in and the potential for future upgrade works to the national road network. The cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII, any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. Consultation with relevant PPP Companies and MMaRC Contractors may also be required. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network and/or motorway network where applicable.

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practise.

I trust that the above comments are of assistance in your EIAR preparation.

**Yours sincerely,**

**Tara Spain**

Head of Land Use Planning



Transport Infrastructure Ireland

Parkgate Business Centre  
Parkgate Street  
Dublin D08 DK10

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**From:** [Crystal Leiker](#)  
**To:** [Eamon Hutton](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Further Consultation : Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) Design Change, North County Cork  
**Date:** Monday 5 October 2020 17:02:48  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[65043c68-44fa-47b1-ab82-7e33d473e191.png](#)

---

Hi Eamonn,

Please see further consultation response from 2RN / RTE for your chapter.

Kind Regards,

**Crystal Leiker**  
**Planner**

---

**From:** Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>  
**Sent:** Monday 5 October 2020 15:22  
**To:** Crystal Leiker <crystal.leiker@ftco.ie>; Coom Green Energy Park <cgep@ftco.ie>  
**Cc:** Johnny Evans <Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie>; windfarms@rte.ie  
**Subject:** RE: Further Consultation : Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) Design Change, North County Cork

Hi Crystal,

The change of Turbine location has had no impact on our earlier statement that there will be no impact to 2rn's fixed linking but there is a risk of interference to DTT viewers receiving from Mullaghanish.

We would therefore ask that a Protocol be signed should the site go ahead.

Regards

**Matthew Craig**

Project Engineer

Projects and Coverage Planning

2RN

Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland

D24 WK28

Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261

Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

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**From:** Crystal Leiker <[crystal.leiker@ftco.ie](mailto:crystal.leiker@ftco.ie)>

**Sent:** 28 September 2020 15:37

**To:** Johnny Evans <[Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie](mailto:Johnny.Evans@2rn.ie)>; [johnny.evans@rte.ie](mailto:johnny.evans@rte.ie)

**Cc:** Coom Green Energy Park <[cgep@ftco.ie](mailto:cgep@ftco.ie)>

**Subject:** FW: Further Consultation : Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) Design Change, North County Cork

Greetings,

Coom Green Energy Park Limited intend to apply for planning permission for a renewable energy development referred to as the Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP) located in North County Cork. Your company was previously contacted in relation to potential impact on telecommunications infrastructure.

A redesign of elements of the CGEP project has been undertaken in recent months. The key changes to the development layout are associated with the relocation of 8 no. turbines, adjacent the Bottlehill Landfill Site. I have attached a KMZ file which includes the locations of the 22 no. proposed turbine (this can be opened in the google earth app) and I have attached a list of the ITM coordinates of the turbines below. Please note that the numbering of turbines begins at T2- there is no T1.

Please consider the location of the revised turbines with respect to your company's infrastructure. If any potential issues arise, or if there is any further information I can provide you with regarding the proposed project, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please ensure that we have a further response, if any from your company no later than 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

Turbine ID	ITM Coordinates	
	X	Y
T2	562583	590234
T3	563227	589449
T4	563039	589951
T5	563936	589713
T6	564212	590214
T7	563907	590734
T8	563567	591306
T9	564146	591247
T10	564550	590806
T11	564002	592625
T12	563969	592119
T13	564515	591909
T14	564961	591567
T15	564661	592686
T16	565156	592556



T17	568267	591705
T18	568612	592430
T19	568206	593193
T20	568229	593738
T21	567708	593928
T22	568905	593906
T23	569943	593950

Kind regards,



**Crystal Leiker**  
Planner

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 9519/ +85 8152 383  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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**From:** [Environmental Co-ordination \(Inbox\)](#)  
**To:** [Coom Green Energy Park](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork.  
**Date:** Thursday 5 November 2020 11:17:51  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[COOM Green Energy Park.docx](#)

---

Good morning

Please see attached reply from our division regarding the above.

Regards

Breeda

**Breeda Hennebry** | *Clerical Officer, An tAonad um Chomhordú Timpeallachta, An Rannóg um Athrú Aeráide agus Beartas Bithfhuinnimh,*  
*Environmental Co-ordination Unit | Climate Change & Bioenergy Policy Division | [environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:environmentalco-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie)*  
**An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara**  
*Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine*  
**Lárionad Gnó Grattan, Bóthar Bhaile Átha Cliath, Port Laoise, Co Laoise, R32 K857**  
Grattan Business Centre, Dublin Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laoise, R32 K857  
T +353 (0)57 868 9914  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

---

**From:** Finegan, Derek  
**Sent:** 08 September 2020 09:51  
**To:** Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox)  
**Cc:** McGoldrick, David  
**Subject:** FW: Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork

Hello,

Please see query below received to our information email address, for direct reply. If this is not relevant to your area please let me know.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

Derek Finegan  
Clerical Officer, Communications Division An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine An Teach Talmhaíochta, Sráid Chill Dara, Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 WK12 Agriculture House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
D02 WK12 T +353 (0)1 607 2973  
[www.agriculture.gov.ie](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie)

---

**From:** Coom Green Energy Park [<mailto:cgep@ftco.ie>]  
**Sent:** 08 September 2020 09:37  
**To:** [Info@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:Info@agriculture.gov.ie)  
**Subject:** Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached a letter regarding design amendments to the proposed Coom Green Energy Park (CGEP), County Cork. As a prescribed body for Strategic Infrastructure Development stakeholder consultation, we wish to invite you to make comments or observations on the proposed amendments to the project. Attached you will find maps and coordinates of the proposed development as well as a description of the amended design. Please note, we have previously contacted you as part of the EIAR scoping process for the CGEP in June 2019.

Kind regards,  
Eamon Hutton



**Eamon Hutton**  
Project Planner

---

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
Core House, Pouladuff Road, Cork, T12 D773  
t: +353 21 496 4133  
[www.fehilytimoney.ie](http://www.fehilytimoney.ie)  

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolais san ríomhphost seo, agus in aon ceangláin leis, faoi phribhléid agus faoi rún agus le h-aghaidh an seolaí amháin. D'fhéadfadh ábhar an seoladh seo bheith faoi phribhléid profisiúnta nó dlíthiúil. Mura tusa an seolaí a bhí beartaithe leis an ríomhphost seo a fháil, tá cosc air, nó aon chuid de, a úsáid, a chóipeál, nó a scaoileadh. Má tháinig sé chugat de bharr dearmad, téigh i dteagmháil leis an seoltóir agus scríos an t-ábhar ó do ríomhaire le do thoil.



**CGEP - Correspondence with NPWS/DAU**

*January 2020*

**Table 1-1: Chronology of formal Biodiversity related consultation both issued to and received from Development Applications Unit (DAU)/ NPWS.**

Date	Consultees	Action	Response
13/01/2020	Development Applications Unit (DAU)	An email requesting any observations regarding biodiversity on the project was sent to Manager DAU.	NONE RECEIVED
26/03/2019	Development Applications Unit (DAU)	An email requesting any observations regarding biodiversity on the project was sent to Manager DAU.	NONE RECEIVED
14/02/2019	NPWS	An email requesting a consultation in March/ April was issued to Dr Good.	An email from Dr Good was received on 14/02/2019 stating a meeting could not be guaranteed: <i>"Howard,                      Priority workload has increased in the last month, and especially in the last week, so I can't guarantee any meeting unfortunately.                      With apologies                      Jervis."</i>
13/02/2019	NPWS	An email requesting a consultation before submission of the planning application was sent to Dr Good (NPWS Divisional ecologist).	An email was received on 14/02/2019 from Dr Good stating that he was unable to attend any pre-planning meetings: <i>"Howard,                      Unfortunately, due to a waiting list of priority cases until mid-March, I will be unable to attend any pre-planning meetings.                      With apologies for any inconvenience.                      Slán go fóill,                      Jervis."</i>



Date	Consultees	Action	Response
08/01/2018	Development Applications Unit (DAU)	An email requesting a pre planning consultation, with a meeting agenda and proposed attendees attached, was sent to Manager DAU.	<p>A receipt of consultation was received on 09/01/2018 from Sinéad O' Brien, advising a turnaround for consultation of six weeks from date of receipt:</p> <p><i>"Our Ref: G Pre00256/2017 (Please quote in all related correspondence)</i></p> <p><i>A Chara</i></p> <p><i>On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I acknowledge receipt of your below email.</i></p> <p><i>In the event that the NPWS is in a position to facilitate your meeting request, you will receive a co-ordinated heritage-related response by email from Development Applications Unit (DAU) on behalf of the Department.</i></p> <p><i>The normal target turnaround for pre-planning and other general consultations is six weeks from date of receipt. In relation to general consultations from public bodies under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 to 2011, the Department endeavours to meet deadline dates, where requested.</i></p> <p><i>If you have not heard from DAU and wish to receive an update, please telephone the direct line number below or email manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie.</i></p> <p><i>Le meas</i></p> <p><i>Sinéad O' Brien"</i></p>
13/11/2017	Development Applications Unit (DAU)	A consultation letter containing the project description and map of the proposed CGEP/ grid connection was sent to Manager DAU.	<p>A receipt of consultation was received on 18/12/2017 from Sinéad O' Brien, advising a turnaround for consultation of six weeks from date of receipt:</p> <p><i>"Your Ref: INIS DAU Bottlehill Consultation</i></p> <p><i>Our Ref: G Pre00256/2017 (Please quote in all related correspondence)</i></p> <p><i>A Chara</i></p> <p><i>On behalf of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, I acknowledge receipt of your below consultation. I apologise for the delay in reply but unfortunately I have been out of the office for the past couple of months on sick leave.</i></p> <p><i>In the event of observations, you will receive a co-ordinated heritage-related response by email from Development Applications Unit (DAU) on behalf of the Department.</i></p>

Date	Consultees	Action	Response
			<p>The normal target turnaround for pre-planning and other general consultations is six weeks from date of receipt. In relation to general consultations from public bodies under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 to 2011, the Department endeavours to meet deadline dates, where requested.</p> <p>If you have not heard from DAU and wish to receive an update, please telephone the direct line number below or email manager.dau@ahg.gov.ie .</p> <p>Le meas</p> <p>Sinéad O’ Brien”</p>



**From:** [Crystal Leiker](#)  
**To:** [Lyndsey Crowley](#); [Des Corbett](#)  
**Subject:** RE: GIS Data Analysis  
**Date:** Wednesday 25 November 2020 15:38:23  
**Attachments:** [ba49e008-de4a-47e4-aed4-67d8c1e53cbe.png](#)

---

Hi Lyndsey,

Thank you very much for your feedback on this project. I will record this in our scoping responses. Should you have any other queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,

**Crystal Leiker**  
**Planner**

**From:** Lyndsey Crowley <[lyndsey@novatelecom.ie](mailto:lyndsey@novatelecom.ie)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday 25 November 2020 15:34  
**To:** Des Corbett <[des.corbett@novabroadband.ie](mailto:des.corbett@novabroadband.ie)>  
**Cc:** Crystal Leiker <[crystal.leiker@ftco.ie](mailto:crystal.leiker@ftco.ie)>  
**Subject:** Re: GIS Data Analysis

Hi Crystal,

We have taken another angled view at this, I'm sure you can appreciate that this took time to delve into.

There is a small percentile of customers that we do anticipate that will be affected particularly south facing.

As this percentage is quite small we are not looking at pursuing mitigation measures with Croom Green Energy.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Lyndsey



**Lyndsey Crowley - Network Development Manager**  
[lyndsey@novatelecom.ie](mailto:lyndsey@novatelecom.ie)

**Nova Telecom** Office: 021 237 3469  
<http://novatelecom.ie>

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our office). VAT No. IE6404966A.

On Tue, 24 Nov 2020 at 12:46, Des Corbett <[des.corbett@novabroadband.ie](mailto:des.corbett@novabroadband.ie)> wrote:

Hi Crystal.

We can not yet confirm that any of these measures will work to mitigate the significant interference that the development will cause to our network infrastructure.

We need more time to investigate what mitigation measures will work and specialist knowledge relating to Wireless radio transmission is required at this stage.

Sincerely

Des

**Des Corbett** / CEO

Nova Telecom / Nova Broadband

087 6466134

+353-21- 2373469 / [www.novatelecom.ie](http://www.novatelecom.ie)

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On Tue, 24 Nov 2020 at 08:35, Crystal Leiker <[crystal.leiker@ftco.ie](mailto:crystal.leiker@ftco.ie)> wrote:

Hi Des and Lyndsey,

Can you please confirm if our standard mitigation measures as outlined in the email below are acceptable to Novatel? We are keen to close this out if possible.

Kind Regards,

**Crystal Leiker**  
**Planner**

---

**From:** Crystal Leiker

**Sent:** Monday 2 November 2020 15:17

**To:** Lyndsey Crowley <[lyndsey@novatelecom.ie](mailto:lyndsey@novatelecom.ie)>  
**Cc:** Des Corbett <[des.corbett@novabroadband.ie](mailto:des.corbett@novabroadband.ie)>  
**Subject:** RE: GIS Data Analysis

Hi Lyndsey,

Many thanks for getting back to me. As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the planning application, we would like to present the following standard mitigation measures, which the applicant would commit to implementing post-planning to ensure no disruption to your services in the area. These include:

**Technology Upgrade:** Replacement of the existing telecommunications service equipment with another less affected type

**Diverting telecommunications links** - The possibility of diverting telecommunication links to another telecommunications tower in the vicinity can be investigated.

**Special Purpose Mitigation Tower** - the possibility of diverting the existing links and consolidating the existing towers to one tower can be explored.

**Relocation of telecommunications equipment** - The possibility of moving telecommunication equipment to another telecommunications tower in the vicinity can be investigated.

**Wind Turbine Tower** – To mitigate interference the turbine tower could be utilised as a transmitter/receiver (hop point).

**Combination** – The possibility of providing a mix of the above or alternative solution could be explored.

This would involve a detailed pre-construction study and design of a bespoke technical solution in agreement with yourselves.

If you could confirm that this approach is agreeable to Novatel, it would be much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

**Crystal Leiker**  
**Planner**

**From:** Lyndsey Crowley <[lyndsey@novatelecom.ie](mailto:lyndsey@novatelecom.ie)>  
**Sent:** Monday 2 November 2020 14:53  
**To:** Crystal Leiker <[crystal.leiker@ftco.ie](mailto:crystal.leiker@ftco.ie)>  
**Cc:** Des Corbett <[des.corbett@novabroadband.ie](mailto:des.corbett@novabroadband.ie)>  
**Subject:** Re: GIS Data Analysis

Hi Crystal,

I have completed this.

I can see only some turbines have changed but are still in the same vicinity.

The outcome unfortunately is still the same; this will have an impact at our NGL transmitter affecting 20% of our coverage here.

If you require any further information please let me know.

Lyndsey

These

[Redacted]

**Lyndsey Crowley - Network Development Manager**  
[lyndsey@novatelecom.ie](mailto:lyndsey@novatelecom.ie)

**Nova Telecom** Office: 021 237 3469  
<http://novatelecom.ie>

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On Tue, 27 Oct 2020 at 10:58, Crystal Leiker <[crystal.leiker@ftco.ie](mailto:crystal.leiker@ftco.ie)> wrote:

Hi Lyndsey,

I am following up on the below and attached query. Have you been able to confirm whether the revised layout has an impact on Novatel infrastructure nearby?

Kind Regards,

**Crystal Leiker**  
**Planner**

**From:** Lyndsey Crowley <[lyndsey@novatelecom.ie](mailto:lyndsey@novatelecom.ie)>

**Sent:** Tuesday 20 October 2020 11:27

**To:** Crystal Leiker <[crystal.leiker@ftco.ie](mailto:crystal.leiker@ftco.ie)>

**Cc:** Des Corbett <[des.corbett@novabroadband.ie](mailto:des.corbett@novabroadband.ie)>

**Subject:** GIS Data Analysis

Hello,

I received your email.

I'm working doing GIS analysis. This is a timely process.

I will get back in touch with you with our results before the end of the week.

Regards,  
Lyndsey

**Lyndsey Crowley - Network Development Manager**  
[lyndsey@novatelecom.ie](mailto:lyndsey@novatelecom.ie)

**Nova Telecom** Office: 021 237 3469  
<http://novatelecom.ie>

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