



Orsted



# Oatfield Wind Farm

Newsletter 1



# Who are we

The Ørsted vision is a world that runs entirely on green energy. Ørsted develops, constructs, and operates offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, renewable hydrogen and green fuels facilities, and bioenergy plants. Ørsted is recognised on the CDP Climate Change A List as a global leader on climate action and was the first energy company in the world to have its science-based net-zero emissions target validated by the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi). Ørsted's international headquarters are in Denmark, the country where we built the world's first offshore wind farm in 1991. Since then, we've expanded into onshore wind, solar power and energy storage, while pioneering the renewable technologies of tomorrow, such as green hydrogen, across Europe, North America and Asia.

Ørsted's Ireland and UK onshore headquarters is based in Cork City, from where we operate a 360 MW portfolio of onshore wind farms in local communities across the island. It's our ambition to grow our capacity significantly over the next decade to support the Irish government's emission reduction targets. To achieve this, we aim to develop more than 600

MW new onshore assets, repower existing assets, and grow our presence in Ireland's nascent energy storage market.

## What we do

Renewable energy is the most effective tool we've got in the fight against global heating. At Ørsted, we want to create a low-emission energy system that generates more than green power. What we do contributes to a planet where nature and people thrive.

Building green energy requires access to land and sea, which relies heavily on coexistence with the natural environment, other users, and local communities. It requires materials for construction, some of which are scarce. It requires a workforce with the right skills. In short, it requires us to look beyond gigawatt numbers alone to consider the long-term sustainability of what we do – for nature, for people, and for our business itself.

We know our impact on Earth's climate is positive. We believe our impact on nature and society can be positive too. And while we don't have all the answers, we're committed to taking action to find them. We continue to ramp up efforts to make sure our projects contribute positively to nature through our programme 'Energy projects with net-positive biodiversity impact'. This initiative sets the ambition to deliver a net-positive biodiversity impact from all new renewable energy projects in the coming years. In 2022, we launched a five-year global partnership with WWF, the Worldwide Fund for Nature, to set a new standard for biodiversity protection and restoration. We also initiated five new biodiversity pilot projects

– a key element of the biodiversity toolbox we are building to understand how we can improve biodiversity at an asset level. These projects allow us to learn from successes and failures, with the aim of scaling successful solutions. Examples include our large-scale restoration project of the Humber Estuary in the UK, our ReCoral project in Taiwan, and our 3D-printed reef project in Denmark.

We are strengthening our strategic approach through our programme 'Thriving communities', which aims to provide opportunities, grow local industrial ecosystems, design for coexistence, and share benefits through, for example, our annual community benefit schemes.

## Oatfield Wind Farm - Summer 2023

Accelerating the renewable energy transition brings a great opportunity and responsibility to do it right, and in a way that leaves no one behind. We welcome this opportunity and aspire to show how the build-out can bring opportunities and benefits to communities. Community support will be critical to sustaining the accelerated pace of the renewable energy build-out, and we want to ensure that local voices are heard and listened to.

## Our Plan

Ørsted are exploring the potential for developing a wind farm in the Oatfield, and Cortacullin areas, located to the northeast of Sixmilebridge, County Clare. Detailed ecological studies have been ongoing for a number of years here, while further environmental studies are commencing soon, to understand whether this area might be suitable for the development of a planning application for a wind farm development. These environmental studies, along with feedback from the local community and other stakeholders, will be used to inform the design of any project. Should the proposed project be feasible, our anticipated date for submission of a planning application is Winter 2023.

## Environmental Studies

Ecological assessments have commenced, and include bird surveys, aquatic habitat surveys and habitat and vegetation surveys. Detailed environmental studies to identify development constraints will begin soon. These constraints include setback distances from properties, watercourses, archaeological features, sensitive ecology and landscape areas and telecommunications links. Information gathered will be used to apply buffers during the iterative design phase, to those areas not suitable for the placement of wind turbines and site infrastructure.

This process helps to establish whether there is a 'developable area' or not, and where we could in theory place wind turbines and site infrastructure. Once complete, these studies will give a better understanding of the suitability of the area for a potential wind energy project. Wind energy projects undergo rigorous environmental analysis under a series of headings:

- Population and Human Health
- Biodiversity
- Land
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Climate
- Material Assets
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape





# Meet the team

Ørsted has extensive experience in the design, construction and operation of wind energy developments throughout Ireland, with projects brought from conception through to operation in counties Donegal, Cork, Kerry, Tipperary, Kilkenny, and Clare.

The Project Team directly involved in the proposed Oatfield Wind Farm project includes Project Managers from Ørsted (Fiona Maxwell and Patrick McMorrough) and Community Liaison Officers (Alan Barry and Aidan Stakelum) as well as a number of specialists in the areas of ornithology, grid, planning, noise, landscape and visual and wind resource, to name just a few.



**Fiona Maxwell and Patrick McMorrough**

Fiona and Patrick are Ørsted's Project Managers for the proposed Oatfield Wind Farm project. They are responsible for bringing renewable energy projects from their initial conception, through the Environmental Impact Assessment and planning process to consent.



**Aidan Stakelum and Alan Barry**

Aidan and Alan are responsible for developing community engagement strategies and stakeholder management plans to engage with new communities on Greenfield projects, as well as drafting communications material with the project development teams including drafting of leaflets, booklets, websites, social media and communications updates on project progress.

# Why Wind Energy

With the publication of the 'Climate Action Plan' in 2023, the Irish Government has made a firm commitment on climate action and is forming part of climate change legislation which includes:

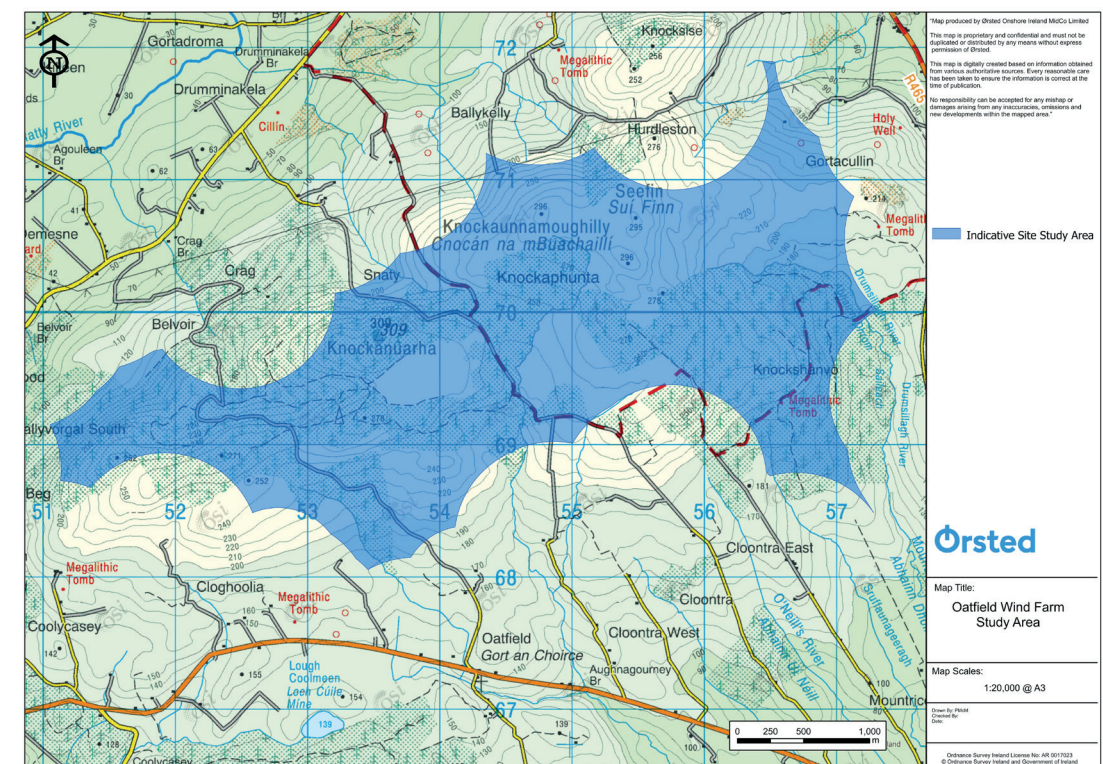
- A target of net zero economy-wide greenhouse gas, GHG, emissions by 2050
- A target for the renewable share of electricity generation of 75% by 2030
- Provision for five-yearly carbon budgets, consistent with the emissions reduction pathway to 2030 and 2050.

The Irish Government also published 'Project Ireland 2040: National Development Plan 2018 – 2027', which outlines the need for an additional 3,000 - 4,500 MW of renewable energy as an investment priority. The further development of renewable energy projects is a vital component of Ireland's strategy to tackle the challenges of combating climate change and ensuring a secure supply for our future energy needs. The proposed Oatfield Wind Farm project is being explored, in

part, as a response to these challenges and we feel it has the potential to contribute greatly to this global cause.

The recent energy crisis in Europe has highlighted the risks associated with a reliance on energy and fossil fuel imports. Installing wind farms such as this one, will help to secure Ireland's energy independence and help to shield us from the high energy costs driven by volatile fossil fuel prices. In 2022, wind generation across the island of Ireland displaced a total of almost €2.6 billion worth of fossil gas and carbon credits (1), helping to curtail some of the spiralling energy costs seen and reduce the potential financial burdens seen by everyday people on their bills. Taking advantage of Ireland's abundant wind resource by developing indigenous renewable energy generators is an important step in securing Ireland's future as a secure and independent country.

1. Baringa. Cutting Carbon, Cutting Bills - Analysis of savings in gas consumption delivered by wind farms in 2022. Wind Energy Ireland. [Online] 29 06 2023. [https://www.windenergyireland.com/images/Article\\_files/20230120\\_Cutting\\_Carbon\\_Cutting\\_Bills.pdf](https://www.windenergyireland.com/images/Article_files/20230120_Cutting_Carbon_Cutting_Bills.pdf).





# Community

We seek to be good neighbours in the communities in which we develop and operate projects. Engagement with the local community will be a key activity for the Project Team. The Project Team will be meeting with the local community to ensure that information is made available and that queries are responded to in a transparent and efficient manner.

We are committed to ensuring that local communities share in the economic opportunity that this potential project can bring and will offer a community benefit programme to support community development, in line with government policy and guidelines, should the development become an operational wind farm. The total fund per annum will depend on the final power output of a completed project.

Oatfield Wind Farm

## Invitation

### Community Consultation Event

Dear Resident,

You are invited to attend Ørsted's pre-application community consultation event for the proposed Oatfield Wind Farm on:

Wednesday August 23rd between 4pm and 7.30pm in Dagger's bar, Ardnacrusha.

If you are unable to attend, please feel free to contact us directly at the details listed below for further information on the project, or visit our website at:

Community Liaison Officer: [Alan Barry 086 1030464](tel:0861030464)  
 Email: [alanb@orsted.com](mailto:alanb@orsted.com)  
 Website: <https://orsted.ie/renewable-energy-solutions/oatfield>

# Project Milestones



We are here



### Summer 2023

Further newsletters with progress updates on environmental studies and surveys, information on the potential Community Benefit Fund and an updated turbine layout design.

- Community engagement begins with community liaison officers Aidan and Alan calling to houses in the locality
- Baseline noise monitoring commences
- Landscape and visual assessments begin
- Public information evening held

### Autumn 2023



Newsletter 2 is issued with progress updates on environmental studies and surveys and a turbine layout design.

### Q4 2023



Newsletter 2 is issued. A public information evening is held.

### Winter 2023



Anticipated date for submission of planning application to consenting authority





## **CONTACT US**

We welcome all engagement and interaction with you on all aspects of the proposed Oatfield wind farm project.

**You can contact us by email:**

astak@orsted.com, alanb@orsted.com

or call a member of the project team on:

Aidan: 0861037437, Alan: 0861030464

or write to us at:

**Ørsted Floor 5, City Quarter, Lapps Quay,  
Cork City, Ireland**

or visit our project community consultation webpage at:

**<https://orsted.ie/renewable-energy-solutions/oatfield>**