



COILLTE

GROW · TRANSFORM · SUSTAIN

Lissinagroagh Wind Farm Project

Newsletter 1



What is contained within this Newsletter

This is our first Newsletter for the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm project in north County Leitrim. Within this Newsletter you will find:

- An Introduction to Coillte Renewable Energy;
- A background to why onshore wind is vital to Ireland's fight against Climate Change;
- Initial information about the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm Project including the wind farm study area;
- An outline of our project design process and key communication points; and
- Project team contact details.

PROPOSED LISSINAGROAGH WIND FARM



SECTION 1

INTRODUCTION

Who are we

Coillte's Renewable Energy business is tasked with harnessing the wind energy above Coillte forests. We aim to build responsible projects in a way that is good for society, for our neighbours and us. We acknowledge this is a challenge, but are determined to set standards in this area and to always challenge ourselves to be the best. We are committed to managing the design and development of projects in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders for the attainment of end results which are supported by all stakeholders.

As you may be aware, the Renewable Energy division in Coillte is currently finalising the formation of a new joint venture company to be owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB. The transaction recently received its approval from the Competition & Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) and is now seeking its final shareholder approvals. We are very excited by this very positive strategic development which will combine the respective strengths of both companies to help in the successful development of renewable energy projects in Ireland. We will keep you informed about this process as it concludes over the coming months, and share details of the new company name and corresponding contact details once they are available.

Why Renewable Energy and the role of Onshore Wind

Onshore wind energy makes sense for Ireland for many reasons. It is a clean fuel source which does not pollute the air like power plants that rely on combustion of fossil fuels, such as coal or natural gas. Unlike conventional power plants, wind turbines do not produce atmospheric emissions that cause acid rain or greenhouse gasses. Wind energy is a free domestic natural resource, produced in abundance in Ireland. As an operating wind farm occupies a relatively small proportion of an overall site area, approximately a 3% footprint, many other land uses can co-exist such as commercial forestry, farming, recreation and biodiversity management.

The Government declared in May 2019 that Ireland was in the midst of a climate and biodiversity emergency. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has stated that mean annual temperatures in Ireland have risen by 0.7° Celsius (C) over the past century and are likely to rise by 1.4°C to 1.8°C by the 2050s and by more than 2°C by the end of the century due to climate change. Climate change refers to the change in climate that is attributable to human activity arising from the release of greenhouse gases in particular from the burning of fossil fuels (coal, oil, peat) for transport, electricity generation and agriculture. As Ireland's largest landowner, Coillte has the capacity and with that the responsibility to contribute significantly to Ireland's efforts to combat climate change and reduce carbon emissions. Coillte's forestry business sequesters 1.1m tonnes of carbon annually. With a land asset suitable for wind farm development, this puts Coillte at the forefront of being able to deliver on the Government's Climate Action Plan (June 2019) announcing a target of 70% of Ireland's electricity from renewable sources by 2030.

A firm commitment from the Irish Government on Climate Action is forming part of climate change legislation currently being publicised by our policy makers;

- A target of net zero economy-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050.
- A target for the renewable share of electricity generation of 70% by 2030.
- Provision for five-yearly carbon budgets, consistent with the emissions reduction pathway to 2030 and 2050.
- The total onshore wind installed capacity in Ireland has reached 4100MW comprised of 350 wind farms and the Irish Government has recently 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 sources is a vital component of Ireland's strategy to tackle the challenges of combating climate change and ensuring a secure supply of our future energy needs.

The proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm project is being brought forward, in part, as a response to these challenges and we feel it has the potential to contribute greatly to this global cause.

The Project Team

The project team directly involved in the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm project includes a Coillte Project Manager (Emmet McLaughlin), and two Community Liaison Officers (Eamonn Keavney and Tom Costello) as well as a number of specialists in the areas of grid, planning and policy, wind resource and community engagement.

TOBIN Consulting Engineers have been appointed to carry out studies, design and preparation of the planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) on behalf of the project. TOBIN are a leading Irish engineering, environmental science and planning consultancy with offices in Galway, Dublin and Castlebar. TOBIN has wide ranging experience in all aspects of the feasibility assessment, environmental impact assessment, planning and design of wind farms and other energy related projects. The practice has over sixty-eight years' experience in conceptualising and delivering projects and currently employs 108 highly qualified staff.

SECTION 2

THE PROPOSED LISSINAGROAGH WIND FARM PROJECT

Why This Project Site?

Identifying a site suitable for a wind farm takes into consideration many different inputs. The suitability of the Study Area for this project can be attributed, in part, to the following characteristics:

- There are good annual average wind speeds in the Study Area.

How we will engage with people in the local area

As set out in section 3 of this newsletter, the design process for this project will take approximately a year. With this first newsletter, we hope to make people aware of the project in the wider area recognising that at this stage there is limited information available. As we move through design process, we will focus our initial engagement with our closest neighbours surrounding the proposed site (approximately 2km) as well as updating information as it becomes available on the project website (www.lissinagroaghwindfarm.ie). Once we have developed sufficient detail in the design after environmental studies and technical wind and site assessments, we will share this with residents and community members in the wider area using a combination of online and printed materials.

Due to the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions we are currently unable to meet people face to face. However, we would greatly welcome your feedback and engagement on the project. If you wish to speak to a member of the Lissinagroagh Wind Farm project team or would like to be included in future information updates please subscribe on the project website, call the project on 1890 800 501 or email the project at lissinagroagh@coillte.ie

- The site is located in an area where there are existing wind turbines. It is considered that the landscape can accommodate additional wind turbine development.
- Setback distances from houses can be achieved to align with the latest government guidance. The project team has already committed to a minimum setback of 750 m between a habitable dwelling and a proposed turbine location.

- The Study Area is not designated as a NATURA 2000 site. It is not within a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area (SPA) nor a Natural Heritage Area (NHA), although some of these areas do exist nearby.
- There is a network of existing forestry and farm roads within the Study Area that can be utilised.
- The Study Area is in an accessible location for connection to the National Electricity Grid via existing electrical substations.

About the Project Study Area

The Study Area for the project is located within both forested Coillte and privately owned lands approximately 3 km north of Manorhamilton in north County Leitrim.

There are no NATURA 2000 sites, i.e. Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA), within the Study Area, however there are several within 1-2 km including Lough Gill SAC, Lough Melvin SAC and Glenade Lough SAC. Some of the qualifying interests of these NATURA 2000 sites, include.

- White-clawed Crayfish;
- Sea Lamprey;
- Brook Lamprey;
- River Lamprey;
- Salmon;
- Otter;
- Alluvial forests;
- Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation; an
- Natural eutrophic lakes.

The Dough/Thur Mountains NHA adjoins with the Study Area. This NHA contains an extensive area of upland blanket bog, with associated upland heath and grassland.

The Study Area also contains breeding hen harrier and the wind turbine layout will be sensitively positioned to avoid impacts on hen harrier activity.

There are two archaeological features within the site boundary which are both scheduled to be included in the next revision of the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP). These are a Cairn and a Cist.

The turbine layout avoids these monuments.

In addition, the Study Area is located partly within and adjacent to an Area of High Visual Amenity as defined by the Leitrim County Development Plan 2015 - 2021, therefore visual impact is a key consideration for the project team.

The key transport route in the area is the N16 national route which passes east-west through Manorhamilton. There are also several regional roads which also emanate from, or cross, the N16 in close proximity to Manorhamilton. The closest to the site is the R282. There are also several 'way-marked' walking routes in the area with potential views of the site. The closest of these is O'Donnells Rock loop walk which originates near Manorhamilton. At its easternmost point this walk connects to other key walking routes including the Leitrim Way and the Kingfisher Cycle Trail.

The Proposed Development

Following predominantly desk based project assessments as part of the Design Version 1 process the project team is currently considering the Study Area under the following parameters:

- Capacity for up to 20 wind turbines;
- Proposed overall turbine envelope height (when a turbine blade is pointing skyward) of up to 185 metres and associated foundations and hardstanding areas;
- An electrical substation with a control building and associated electrical equipment;
- Associated internal underground cabling and grid connection cabling;
- Temporary borrow pits to source construction stone on-site for road upgrade and construction;
- A permanent anemometry mast up to a height of 100 metres to measure wind speed and direction;
- Upgrade of existing and provision of new site access roads and associated drainage;
- Biodiversity enhancement and conservation areas; and
- A recreation amenity area;
- Temporary construction compounds.

The project will as part of its stakeholder engagement be consulting with EirGrid. At this stage, as part of the early options it is thought that the project may connect by underground cable to the national electrical grid at either the Srananagh 220 kV Substation or via a loop in connection to the Cathleen Falls – Srananagh Overhead Line.

SECTION 3

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES AND HOW WE WILL SHARE INFORMATION

Throughout the project development process outlined below our Community Liaison team are always available should you wish to contact us. You can email the team at lissinagroagh@coillte.ie or speak to a member of the team on 1890 800 501.

Spring 2021

Design Version 1
Project Newsletter 1 delivered to 5 km
Met Mast Planning Application
EIA Scoping report sent to prescribed bodies and uploaded onto website
Detailed environmental and engineering studies begin
Ecological Studies – ongoing
Website launched
Noise Study commences

Summer 2021

Design Version 2
Grid Connection Cable Route Assessments commence
Turbine Delivery Route Assessment commence

Site Investigations commence

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments based on Design Version 2

Project Newsletter 2 delivered to 5 km zone plus subscribers

Autumn 2021

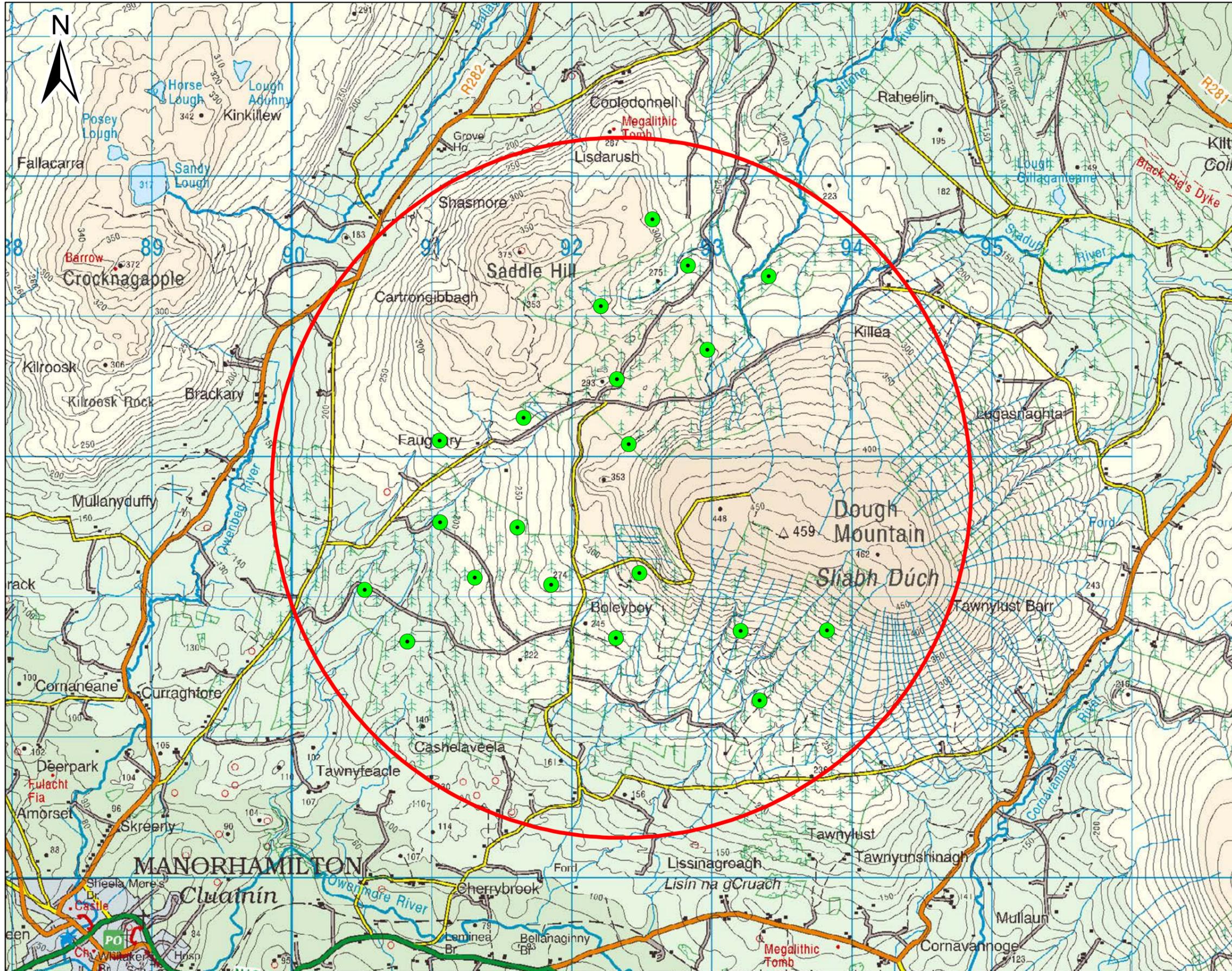
Design Version 3
Impact and mitigation assessments continue throughout Winter 2021
Project Newsletter 3 delivered to 5 km zone plus subscribers

Winter 2022

Final Presentation of Project to Public
Planning Document Amalgamation

Spring 2022

Target Planning Application submission date
Full Planning Application available on website

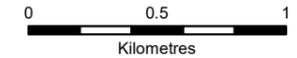


Legend

- Study Area
- Design Version 1 Wind Turbine Layout

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Issue	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
D01	11/03/2021	Draft	M.N.	M.McC



Client:



Project:
Lissinagroagh Wind Farm
 Title:
Regional Site Location Map

Scale @ A3:	1:25,000
Prepared by:	M. Nolan
Checked by:	M. McCarthy
Date:	March 2021
Project Director:	M. McCarthy

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Drawing No.: **Figure A** Draft: **D01**

SECTION 4

CONTACT US

We would encourage and welcome your input and comments on what you have read in this Newsletter. If you would like to be added to our mailing list to receive project updates either by post or email then please let us know.

Please get in touch either by e-mail or by phone as follows:

Phone: 1890 800 501

E-mail: lissinagroagh@coillte.ie

Website: www.lissinagroaghwindfarm.ie

PROPOSED LISSINAGROAGH WIND FARM





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