



Lissinagroagh Wind Farm

NOVEMBER 2021



COILLTE

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Welcome to the second newsletter on the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm. This newsletter provides an update on the project development activities including the next steps, and a look ahead to the future Community Benefit Fund.

The climate change crisis is driving Ireland's need for renewable energy. Reports released in summer 2021 from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provide a stark warning that climate disruption is inevitable, irreversible and affects us all.

At Coillte Renewable Energy (RE) division, we want to play our part in helping Ireland generate at least 80% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and achieve a carbon neutral economy by 2050. Our aim is to develop renewable energy projects in a way that balances the needs of the local community with the need to transition towards a more sustainable world.

In addition to the climate emergency, the electricity network is under increased stress to meet supply needs. Green energy projects such as Lissinagroagh Wind Farm have never been more important.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Engagement with the local community is a core part of our project development programme. The role of our Community Liaison Officers (CLOs), Eamonn Keavney and Tom Costello, is to act as a point of contact for all queries, concerns, and indeed a source of further information.

Since the last newsletter, our CLOs have received a number of questions from local residents.

All queries have been responded to, either via email, over the phone or in a one-to-one meeting. We have also published a Frequently Asked Questions document at www.lissinagroaghwindfarm.ie. We would encourage you to review this FAQ document and, if you need further information, get in touch using the details on the back of this newsletter. If you do not have internet access, a hard copy can be posted to you.

COVID-19 PROTOCOL

Coillte's corporate policy is to continue observing safety protocols. Our CLOs will wear masks to hold conversations and answer your questions outdoors at all times and in a socially distant manner.

PROGRESS UPDATE

Project development work is ongoing with key baseline environmental and engineering surveys advancing well throughout the summer and autumn.

Here is a summary of progress to date:

- Field surveys, including ecology (habitats and flora; mammals; amphibians and reptiles; invasive species; marsh fritillary; aquatic ecology), ornithology including hen harrier, hydrology and hydrogeology, landscape, noise and more are progressing well. All surveys are expected to be completed by the end of 2021.



- Ground investigation works commenced in late September, including peat probes, shear vane tests, trial pits, boreholes and ground penetrating radar.
- Environmental Impact Assessment scoping is complete. This identifies all the factors that need to be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submitted with a planning application.
- Guided by information collected to date, approximately 18 wind turbines are now proposed across the development area. This compares with an estimate of 20 wind turbines in March 2021. The location of proposed wind turbines will be examined closely as part of the EIAR process. The team will share updates to the layout with the community in subsequent newsletters and on the project website, and a final layout will be shared in advance of any planning application.
- A proposal for the wind turbine delivery route is being finalised and local access options to the wind farm site are presently being assessed.
- Direct engagement continues to take place with stakeholders and the local community to provide information on the project and respond to queries.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

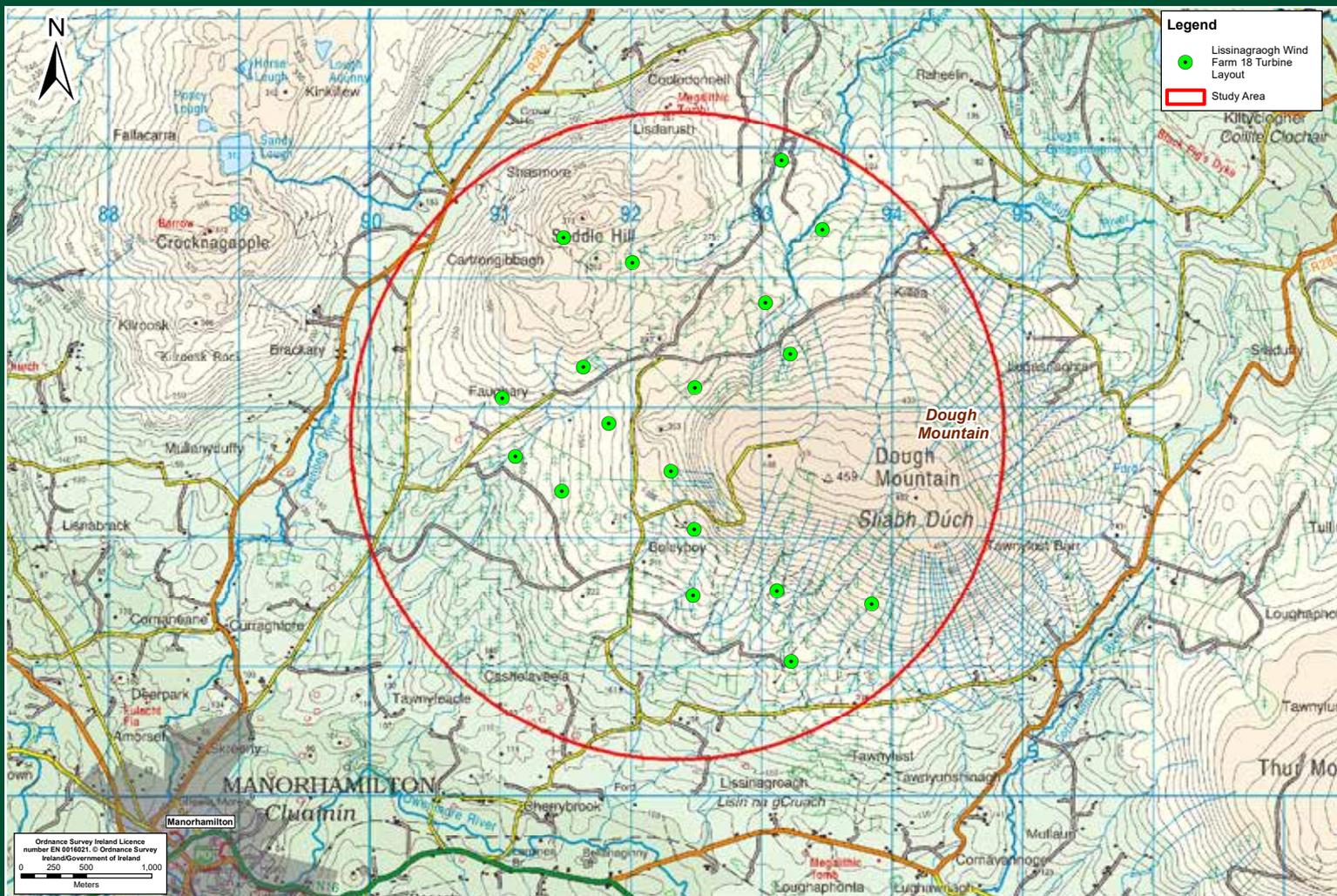
Lissinagroagh Wind Farm has the potential to bring significant positive benefits to local communities. The project will support local employment, it will contribute annual rates to the local authority and it will provide funding for community projects in line with the new Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS).

RESS is a Government policy initiative to deliver on the national commitment to fuel our economy with 80% of renewable electricity by 2030. A key emphasis is that communities should benefit directly from all the renewable electricity projects being supported in the scheme.

One of the many important features of RESS is that all projects must establish a Community Benefit Fund to be used for the wider environmental, social and economic wellbeing of the local community.

It is acknowledged that those living in closest proximity to the project should be priority beneficiaries and that is why some of the fund is designated for “near neighbour” payments. However, it is also important that broader community benefits apply as well.

An important aspect of the RESS Community Benefit Fund is that communities will be at the centre of decision-making. The ‘Good Practice Principles Handbook for Community Benefit Funds’, published in July 2021 by the Department of the Environment, Climate & Communications, sets out how the funds should be used and managed.



Map of the proposed turbine layout at this stage of the design process

Based on RESS guidelines, for each megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by any future wind farm, the project owner contributes €2 into a community fund for the RESS contract period i.e. the first 15 years of operation. Further to this, Coillte RE commits to funding €1 per MWh for the remaining lifetime of the wind farm.

If Lissinagroagh Wind Farm is successfully constructed, Coillte RE will work with the community to establish a local committee and an administrator to plan and manage the fund, which is estimated to be at least €300,000 per year for the first 15 years and €150,000 per year thereafter. In the meantime, we would like to hear your ideas for potential projects, so please get in touch.

AMENITY & RECREATION

Coillte RE takes pride in providing quality amenity and recreation facilities on its wind farm developments. For an example of this, see Sliabh Bawn Wind Farm (www.sliahbawnwindfarm.ie). We will be exploring this possibility with members of the community near the proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm and investigating the site's potential for recreational activities such as walking and cycling.

Please contact our local CLOs to share your ideas and find out more about our approach.



Slabh Bawn Wind Farm in Co. Roscommon

NEXT STEPS

- Site investigations focusing on environmental and physical surveys will continue through autumn 2021.
- An updated draft turbine layout design will be issued in Newsletter 3, planned for early 2022.
- Baseline noise measurement survey data collection will continue into November.
- Landscape and Visual assessments of the site will be undertaken in December.
- Assessments to determine a suitable location for the potential installation of a temporary 80 metre wind monitoring mast.

It is intended that an application for planning permission will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála (ABP).

It is a regulatory requirement to submit an application to ABP when a wind farm is greater than 50 MW. In this instance, wind farms are typically considered a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). We anticipate to start a formal engagement process with ABP in the coming months to confirm that this wind farm will be SID. Following this consultation, we expect to be in a position to submit the planning application for this project in mid-2022.

During the project design and environmental assessment, consultation will be carried out with An Bord Pleanála along with the local planning authority, Leitrim County Council, as a statutory consultee.

Coillte Renewable Energy division (**Coillte RE**) is in the very late stages of transitioning to a new stand-alone joint venture company, in conjunction with the ESB. Once established, this new joint venture company will be owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB. The transaction has received an approval from Ireland's Competition Regulator and is now seeking its final shareholder approvals. Subject to receipt of such approvals, the business establishment is expected to take place in Q4 2021. Following the transition, there will be no change to the team identified above, although the business will operate under a new name, to be announced in due course.

CONTACT US

We welcome your comments and feedback on any aspect of this project. Please get in touch with our dedicated CLOs by phone or email if you would like to be added to our mailing list for future newsletter updates.

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