



## APPENDIX 13-1

*SITE DESCRIPTION*

## Appendix 13-1 Site Description

Coole Wind Farm  
Development, Co. Westmeath



## 13.1 Wind Farm Site

### 13.1.1 Site Description

A description of the turbine locations and associated infrastructure is presented here according to their location within distinct parcels of land. Field survey of the proposed turbines, hardstands and access tracks was carried out over a number of days in June and August 2016 and again in March 2017 in varying weather conditions. A reassessment walk-over survey of all proposed turbines and infrastructure in peatland and a walk-over of the proposed T14 and T15 and associated infrastructure was undertaken in September and October 2020.

#### 13.1.1.1 Turbines 1-4

Turbines 1-4 and associated hardstands and access tracks are located in Clonsura townland. This parcel of bog is located at the north-east side of the proposed development area and is surrounded to the south-west by a dense corridor of trees and the River Glore. The site is bound on the east and south also by dense overgrowth and woodland. In general the site is well screened at ground level. Clear views of the Rock of Curry and the Hill of Moat are visible from all areas within the site. This section of bog has been in peat production. Field inspection of this area was carried out in 2016 and 2017 and again in late September and early October 2020. In 2016/2017 the bog margins and peripheral areas were overgrown although the majority of proposed roads and turbines were located in an area where peat was freshly milled. Drier conditions were apparent on the second visit to this area on the 11th August and water levels in the drains were significantly lower. Relatively dry conditions also prevailed in 2020 when the reassessment survey was carried out.



Plate 1: Existing Access track along eastern site boundary looking north taken from south-eastern corner of site.

#### 13.1.1.1.1 Turbine 1

This proposed turbine is located at the north-west side of the site in an area of cut-over bog. All field surfaces were free of vegetation and drain sections were visible on the day of survey. No archaeological features or structures were noted in any of the drains examined or adjacent field surfaces in the area of the proposed turbine or associated hard stand.



*Plate 2: T1 (2020), looking SW towards turbine base and hardstand.*



*Plate 3: General view of T1 and associated hardstand (2020), looking NW.*

#### 13.1.1.1.2 **Turbine 2**

The proposed location of T2 was subject to a walk-over survey in 2017 and again in 2020. It is situated in bog, which was under production in 2017, to the south-east of T1. No archaeological features or trackways were noted in any of the drains examined or surfaces which were clear of vegetation in both 2017 and in 2020.



*Plate 4: Eastern end of proposed hardstand area of T2 (2020), looking ESE.*



*Plate 5: General view of T2 and associated hardstand (2020), looking WSW.*



Plate 6: Area of T2 (2017), looking NNE.



Plate 7: Existing road due for upgrade between T2 and T4, looking north-west.

#### 13.1.1.1.3 Turbine 3

This proposed turbine is situated at the southern side of the Clonsura parcel of bog. It was initially surveyed in 2016 and subsequently in 2020. On both occasions the field surfaces were clear of vegetation and drain sections were visible. Linking T4 and T3 is a largely existing track due for upgrade which extends around the bog margins from the north-east to the south, then turning to the north-west towards T3 and beyond same to T1. The existing tracks due for upgrade comprise largely vegetated areas with no bog surfaces or drains available for visual inspection. As they are located in the margins of the peatland, no peat production has taken place in these areas in recent years.



*Plate 8: General view of area of T3 and associated hardstand, looking NE.*



*Plate 9: Proposed turbine location, looking E.*



*Plate 10: Drain faces in area of hardstand, looking SW.*



*Plate 11: Existing track due for upgrade at east side of the Clonsura parcel looking NE.*





*Plate 12: Existing track due for upgrade at east side of the Clonsura parcel, looking SW.*



*Plate 13: Section of proposed road between T4 and T3 at south end of the Clonsura parcel, looking SW.*



*Plate 14: Existing track due for upgrade to SE of T3, looking SE.*



*Plate 15: Existing track due for upgrade to SE of T3, looking NW.*

#### 13.1.1.1.4 **Turbine 4**

T4 is situated towards the east side of the Clonsura parcel of bog to the south-west of an existing track. The proposed area of turbine 4 and its associated hardstand were subject to a walk-over survey in both 2017 and 2020. No archaeological finds or features were noted during either inspection.



*Plate 16: T4 (2020), looking NE.*



*Plate 17: Area of proposed hard stand for T4 (2017), looking SW.*



Plate 18: Drain section at T4 (2017), looking NNE.



Plate 19: General view of proposed access track to T4 (2020), looking SW.

### 13.1.1.2 Turbines 5-9

Turbines 5-9 are located in the townlands of Doon and Camagh to the south-west of turbines 1-4. They are primarily situated in cut-over bog, with the exception of T5 which is situated in forestry. These areas were subject to a walk-over survey in 2017 and again in 2020.

#### 13.1.1.2.1 Turbine 5

Turbine 5 is located in forestry to the east of an existing access track in the townland of Doon, south of the parcel of land in which Turbines 1-4 are proposed to be located. Access to this area is currently gained via the aforementioned track which is proposed to be utilized as part of the development.



Plate 20: Existing access track to SW of T5, looking NE.

#### 13.1.1.2.2 Turbine 6

T6 is located in bog to the west of T5. This area was subject to a walk-over survey in 2016, 2017 and again in 2020. All field surfaces and drain sections were clear of vegetation and no archaeological features or finds were noted.



Plate 21: Proposed access road to T6 (2020), looking SW.



*Plate 22: Proposed road between T5 and T6 (2017), looking NW.*



*Plate 23: Hardstand and general view of proposed access track to T6 (2017), looking NE.*



Plate 24: T6 hardstand (2020), looking NE.



Plate 25: Proposed T6 turbine location, looking SE.

#### 13.1.1.2.3 Turbine 7

T7 is situated in the townland of Doon at the north-west side of the parcel of bog immediately south-west of Clonsura. A proposed access track extends along the north-eastern edge of the bog over a distance of over 600m. This area was subject to a walk-over survey in 2017 and again in 2020. All fields and drain sections were largely clear of vegetation at the time of both surveys and no archaeological structures or finds were noted in the area.



*Plate 26: Proposed access track to T7 (2020), looking NW.*



*Plate 27: General view of T7 and associated hardstand, looking SW.*





Plate 28: Proposed location of turbine base for T7, looking SE.



Plate 29: View in direction of T7 from SW end of proposed access road (2020), looking NE.

#### 13.1.1.2.4 Turbine 8

T8 is proposed to be located at the south-west side of this parcel of bog in Camagh townland. This area was subject to a walk-over survey in 2016 and again in 2020. On both occasions the field surfaces were clear of vegetation and suitable for a visual inspection. Some colonisation of drains was apparent on the 2020 visit. No archaeological finds or structures were noted.



*Plate 30: General view of T8 location in 2016, looking SW.*



*Plate 31: Proposed turbine base location for T8 (2020), looking NE.*



*Plate 32: Proposed hardstand area (2020), looking SE.*



*Plate 33: Proposed access track to T8 (2020), looking SE.*



Plate 34: Existing track due for upgrade between T8 and T9 (2016), looking SE.

#### 13.1.1.2.5 Turbine 9

T9 is situated in bog in Camagh townland to the south-east of T8. It was subject to a walk-over survey in 2016 and 2020. On both occasions the field surfaces and drain sections were largely clear of vegetation. No archaeological structures or items of archaeological potential were noted in this area.



Plate 35: General view of proposed turbine location and associated hardstand (2020), looking NE.



Plate 36: Proposed turbine location (2020), looking E.



Plate 37: Proposed access track to T9 from the NW (2016), looking SE.

### 13.1.1.3 Turbines 10-14

Turbines 10-13 are located in a separate parcel of bog to the south-west of turbines 5-9 and are separated from the latter by a public road. They are located in the townlands of Camagh and Monktown. T14 is situated immediately east of this parcel of bog in the townland of Doon and is in an area which has been planted with coniferous forestry. The general area of turbines 12-14 was subject to a site walk-over survey in 2016, 2017 and again in 2020 in varying weather conditions. No archaeological finds or features were noted during the walk-over surveys.

#### 13.1.1.3.1 Turbine 10

T10 is located at the north side of this parcel of bog. Field surfaces and drain sections were free of vegetation and no archaeological finds or structures were noted.



*Plate 38: General view of access track to T10 (2020), looking SW.*



*Plate 39: Proposed T10 location (2020), looking SW.*



Plate 40: General view of hardstand for T10 (2020), looking NE.

#### 13.1.1.3.2 **Turbine 11**

The proposed location for T11 is situated at the south-west side of this parcel of bog and was subject to a walk-over survey in 2017 and again in 2020. No archaeological finds or structures were noted.



Plate 41: General view of proposed location of T11 and associated hardstand, looking NW.



*Plate 42: Hardstand and turbine base (2020), looking NNE.*



*Plate 43: Location of T11 (2017), looking NE.*





Plate 44: Proposed turbine location (2020), looking NW.



Plate 45: Proposed access track to T11 along western margin of the bog, looking NW.

### 13.1.1.3.3 Turbine 12

T12 is proposed to be located to the south-east of T11 in the same parcel of bog. It will be accessed via a proposed access road which will extend from the north-east over a length of c. 600m. Field surfaces were largely free of vegetation and some colonisation of drains was apparent. Colonisation of the SW end of the proposed access track to T12 was apparent. The turbine base and hardstand are proposed to be located in heather covered bog with over-grown field surfaces. No archaeological finds features were noted during field survey of this area in 2016 or 2020.



*Plate 46: General view of T12 and hardstand in 2016, looking SE.*



*Plate 47: Area of T12 and hardstand (2020), looking SW.*



*Plate 48: General view of NE end of proposed access track to T12, looking SW.*



*Plate 49: Proposed access track to T12, looking SW.*



*Plate 50: Proposed access track to T12 towards SW end of same, looking SW.*



*Plate 51: SW end of proposed access track to T12, looking NE.*

#### 13.1.1.3.4 **Turbine 13**

Turbine 13 is located towards the north-east side of this parcel of bog. All field surfaces and drain sections in this area were free of vegetation at the time of survey and no archaeological finds or features were noted.



*Plate 52: Proposed access track to T13, looking SSW.*



*Plate 53: As above, looking NNE.*



Plate 54: Proposed turbine location, looking E.

#### 13.1.1.3.5 Turbine 14

This proposed turbine is located in a tract of coniferous forestry immediately east of the parcel of bog within which T10-13 are located. This area was subject to a walk-over survey in 2016 and 2020.



Plate 55: Proposed access track to T14 (2020), looking S.



*Plate 56: Proposed access to T14, looking SSW.*



*Plate 57: General view of T14 and associated hardstand (2016), looking SE.*



Plate 58: General view of T14 and hardstand area (2020), looking SE.

#### 13.1.1.4 Turbine 15

T15 is situated in rough pasture north of the River Glore in the townland of Carlanstown. A proposed road extends through a number of pasture fields from the public road to the south-west, through the townland of Clonrobert. The site walk-over of T15 and the associated access road was carried out in October 2020.



Plate 59: Proposed access road to T15 through pasture field north of public road (Clonrobert Td.), looking NNE.





*Plate 60: Route of proposed access road to T15 through pasture, looking NE.*



*Plate 61: Route of proposed access road to T15, looking NE.*



*Plate 62: Proposed access road to T15 further to the north-east, looking NE.*



*Plate 63: Unnamed bridge indicated on 2<sup>nd</sup> edition 25-inch OS map to NW of the proposed access road to T15.*



*Plate 64: Route of proposed access road to T15 north of the River Glore, looking SW.*



*Plate 65: Area of T15 in pasture, looking ENE.*

#### 13.1.1.5 Substation and Compound

The proposed substation site is located adjacent to cut-over bog in an area occupied by coniferous trees and scrub. A proposed construction compound is located approximately 150m south of the substation which in turn is adjacent to an existing gravel track which gives access to the southern end of the portion of peatland in which turbines 10-13 are located. The proposed compound is also overgrown with grass and scrub.



*Plate 66: South-west end of proposed compound, looking north-west.*



*Plate 67: North-east end of proposed compound, looking north-west.*



Plate 68: Proposed access road to proposed substation at SW edge of bog, looking NW.

### 13.1.1.6 Proposed Link Road

The proposed link road extends through Coole townland from a public road (R396) north-west of the village. It traverses a number of green fields adjacent to an existing farm track before extending through a tract of coniferous forestry after which it reemerges into the overgrown margins of cut-over bog. This area was inspected over two days in August 2016 and March 2017. The areas of the proposed link road which extends through peatland were revisited in 2020 but were largely unchanged from the previous visits. No archaeological finds, features or structures were noted within the bog through which the proposed road extends, nor were any previously unrecorded monuments noted in the green fields further to the east. The remains of a ruined stone structure (indicated on the historic mapping for the area) is extant immediately adjacent to the proposed link road towards the eastern end of same.



Plate 69: Ruinous stone structure towards east end of proposed link road.



*Plate 70: Route of proposed link road through pasture adjacent to existing farm track, looking SW.*



*Plate 71: As above, looking SW.*



*Plate 72: Proposed road where it extends into coniferous forestry, looking south-west.*



*Plate 73: Route of proposed link road along grassed-over bog margin, looking south-east.*



*Plate 74: Route of proposed link road through cut-over bog, looking NE.*

### 13.1.1.7 Proposed Borrow Pit

The proposed borrow pit is located in pasture in the townland of Mullagh and was inspected in March 2017 in dry sunny weather conditions. The proposed borrow pit comprises five fields divided by field boundaries. No previously unrecorded archaeological or cultural heritage sites were apparent on the day of survey. No trace of the small settlement indicated at the south-west end of the borrow pit area was visible.



*Plate 75: North end of proposed borrow pit area, looking SE towards proposed access road into same.*





*Plate 76: View from proposed borrow pit towards the Rock of Curry and Hill of Moat, looking NE.*



*Plate 77: Eastern side of proposed borrow pit, looking SE.*



*Plate 78: General view of proposed borrow pit site, looking NE towards Hill of Moat and Rock of Curry.*



*Plate 79: Southernmost field of proposed borrow pit, looking SE.*



*Plate 80: As above, looking west towards low-lying peatlands where turbines are proposed to be located.*



*Plate 81: Southern end of proposed borrow pit site, looking SW towards site of historic settlement (not extant).*

13.2

## Proposed Grid Connection Route

The Proposed Grid Connection Route was inspected in August 2016. The proposed route extends along public roads from the existing Mullingar substation.



*Plate 82: Entrance to existing Mullingar substation.*



*Plate 83: Stone wall, piers and cast iron gates at entrance to NIAH 15401915 at Irishtown townland along proposed Grid Connection Route.*



*Plate 84: Proposed Grid Connection Route in relation to gate lodges NIAH Reg. 15401913, RPS 019-237 looking NE.*



*Plate 85: Main entrance gates (NIAH 15401912) (RPS 019-236) to the Levington Park Demesne along proposed Grid Connection Route.*



Plate 86: Mound barrow WM019-030 at Irishtown, looking south-east.



Plate 87: Area of recorded monument WM012-088— ringfort at Portnashangan td.



*Plate 88: Church and graveyard WM006-061 and 001 at south end of Multyfarnham village to west of proposed Grid Connection route, looking NW.*



*Plate 89: Proposed Grid Connection Route where it extends along public road immediately adjacent to graveyard wall, looking north-north-east.*



Plate 90: As above, looking north.



Plate 91: General view of proposed Grid Connection Route along public road at Clonva td.





*Plate 92: Bridge on River Inny along proposed Grid Connection Route at Shrubbywood/Clonva td.*



*Plate 93: Proposed Grid Connection Route where it extends past church and graveyard (WM003-083, WM003-083001, 002 and 003) at Mayne.*



Plate 94: Proposed Grid Connection Route where it extends along existing gravel track to SE of proposed substation site.



Plate 95: Proposed Grid Connection Route in bog margin before connecting into proposed substation site.

13.3

## Proposed Turbine Delivery route – Junction Accommodation Works

A number of areas along the proposed Turbine Delivery Route require Junction Accommodation Works. They largely comprise green areas adjacent to the edge of public roads. No recorded archaeological or cultural heritage resources are located in any of these areas.

At the southern end of the proposed Turbine Delivery route a proposed Junction Accommodation Works area is located immediately south of the N4 National road. A protected structure (006-007) and NIAH structure (Reg. 15303008), St Mary’s RC church is situated on the northern side of the road, c. 70m north of the JA works.



*Plate 96: Junction accommodation works area at Joanstown on N4, looking W.*



*Plate 97: St Mary's RC church (PS 006-007 and NIAH Reg. 15303008).*

To the north in Culvin townland a narrow junction accommodation works area is located at the east side of the public road at the edge of a pasture field. It is situated to the SE of two protected structures (006-027 and 006-028) which are also listed in the NIAH (15400607 and 15400608) and form part of what once was Street and Rathowen railway station. It is now a level crossing.



*Plate 98: Level crossing at Streete and Rathowen railway station, looking S.*



*Plate 99: Junction accommodation works area to Se of level crossing, looking NNE.*

Further to the north-east in Boherquill townland a proposed junction accommodation works area is situated in the south-west corner of a pasture field at the junction of two public roads. No previously unrecorded features were noted in this area.



*Plate 100: JA works area at Boherquill, looking E.*

To the east of Boherquill at Corralanna townland a narrow junction accommodation works area is proposed at the northern side of the public road.



*Plate 101: JA works area at Corralanna td., looking E.*

Further junction accommodation works areas are proposed along the proposed link road which is described above in section 13.1.1.6 and also to the south-east of the proposed access road to T15, described in section 13.1.1.4 above.