APPENDIX 2-4

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

NAME
ADDRESS

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Ireland
T12 D23C

PHONE:
+353 21 242 7786

INTERNET:
www.statkraft.com

DATE: MARCH 2021

Ref: Proposed Coole Wind Farm

Dear Cllr,

As you will be aware, at Statkraft we are working to progress a wind farm in the Coole area of North Westmeath. As outlined previously, planning consent has been granted for a 13 turbine development and we have been endeavouring to establish how this proposal could work best in the area and deliver the most benefit. As part of this process, we have identified an opportunity to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of this development.

Further to our letter to you on the 30th November last, we are writing to confirm that we are now in a position to lodge the application for this revised proposal for planning consideration. The details remain fundamentally unchanged from the information provided in this previous letter, on our website and that detailed within the virtual consultation room which is accessible through the website.

As previously outlined, the proposed amendments to the blade length coupled with the addition of the two turbines will not only allow for a more efficient renewable energy project but will also allow for significantly increased benefits to be accrued locally from this proposal. Directly in relation to Westmeath County Council, this will mean that rates in the region of €500,000 per year would be payable to the local authority. One of the strengths of these particular annual commercial rates (which is currently relevant in many counties), is that they are insulated from fluctuations in economic cycles. These are dependable rates that would be payable in the long term.

Similarly, the community benefit funds available under the terms and conditions of the Renewable Energy Support Scheme (RESS), being Government required funding, will deliver a dependable long-term source of funding for the local community.

The revised Coole wind farm proposal will have the capacity to deliver very significant climate action. Along with having the potential to power c.66,000 houses with clean green renewable energy and displace c.100,000 tonnes of carbon per year, it has been designed to ensure that it will work well in the local area, delivering real and tangible benefits to the community. Further information is available on the project website www.coolewindfarm.ie and on the virtual consultation room which you can access through this website.

STRICTLY PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

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Date: 17th Nov 2020

RE: Coole Wind Farm update

Dear Resident,

Given the times that we are in, we hope that this letter finds you well. Covid-19 is presenting us all with challenges and this is also true for our consultation team and community liaison officers. Our preference has always been to meet and talk with people on a face to face basis however, currently this would not be appropriate. It is for this reason that we are contacting you via mail, to update you on proposals for the above project.

Since being granted planning permission for the 13 wind turbines that were previously presented for consideration, we have been working to establish the most efficient and effective means of progressing this proposal. During our assessments, along with identifying Mullingar as the most suitable grid connection point, we have identified ways in which a wind energy development in this area could deliver increased renewable energy outputs and increased local return.

It was established that whilst the permitted 13 turbine proposal could deliver significant amounts of renewable energy, a revised proposal, which would add two additional turbines and amend the length of the proposed rotor diameter, could increase the potential output of the wind farm significantly. The location of the 13 permitted turbine locations will remain significantly unchanged in this proposal and the grid connection point at Mullingar would also be included in a new application.

These changes are set out in the following table:

	Permitted	Proposed
Number of turbines	13	15 (2 additional turbines)
Tip Height	175m	175m – No Change
Blade length	Up to 70m	Increased by 7.5m
Output	Up to 50MW	Increased*
Green power to homes	c.36,000	c.66,000
Community Fund	c.€300,000 per year	c.€500,000 per year

**The wind farm will have a total power output of greater than 50MW. Based on the turbines currently available, the site is expected to have a total output in the region of 90MW however the final output will be determined prior to construction*

As mentioned above, 13 of the turbine locations will be as previously permitted. The 2 additional turbines will be located, one in the townland of Doon and one in the townland of Carlanstown. The grid route to connect the wind farm to the national grid will be included in this planning application.

In order to provide information on this proposal, and given the restrictions associated with living with Covid-19, we have developed a virtual consultation room which will be available online. This platform provides information on the planning application to be brought forward and can be accessed via the Coole wind farm project website www.coolewindfarm.ie.

This virtual consultation room will outline the following:

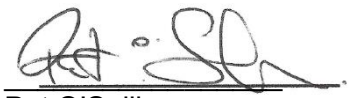
- An introduction to the proposal
- Information on Statkraft
- A proposed project layout map
- A proposed grid route map
- Information in the project EIAR
- Information on the proposed Community Benefit Fund
- Photomontages of what the project would look like
- Contact details

We would be very appreciative if you were to take the time to visit this consultation room and we would welcome any feedback that you might have on the proposal.

It is hoped that we will be in a position to submit this planning application for consideration before the end of the year. Given that the output of the proposal will be in excess of 50MW, it is envisaged the application will be determined as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) and as such, we will be required to submit the application directly to An Bord Pleanála. Westmeath County Council will have the opportunity to make their submissions in this process.

Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact our community liaison officer George O'Connor on 087 352 1511.

Best regards,



Pat O'Sullivan
Head of Communications
& Stakeholder Management

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best regards,

_____

Pat O'Sullivan
Head of Communications
& Stakeholder Management
For and on behalf of Statkraft Ireland Limited

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DATE 30/11/2020

Ref: Proposed Coole wind farm

Dear Deputy,

As you may be aware, at Statkraft we are working to progress a wind farm in the Coole area of North Westmeath. Whilst planning consent has been granted for a 13 turbine development, we are continuing to endeavour to establish how this proposal could work best in the area and deliver the most benefit. As part of this process, we have identified an opportunity to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of this development.

The main differences in what is now being considered, is the addition of two turbines, an increase in blade length by 7.5 meters and the inclusion of the grid connection. Details on this proposal are outlined in the attached letter (as sent to homeowners in the local area) and on our new virtual consultation platform. It should be noted that these changes would considerably increase the benefits that this wind farm can deliver.

In the context of the climate change and biodiversity emergency declared by the Irish government in May 2019 and the subsequent Climate Action Plan, this project has the potential to make a meaningful difference in delivering effective climate action. It also has the capacity to deliver significant near and long term benefits to both County Westmeath and the local communities.

In the broader context, this wind farm would deliver:

- Rates in the region of c.€540,000 annually payable to Westmeath County Council
- A significant development contribution payable to Westmeath County Council
- Local road improvements
- Enough renewable energy to power c.66,000 homes

In addition to the above and in the local context, this wind farm would deliver:

- A community benefit fund of c.€500,000 per year under the new RESS scheme for the local community which would represent a total local investment of c.€8,000,000 for the local area over a 15 year period
- Employment during construction
- Opportunities for local businesses in the supply chain

At Statkraft we believe that the transition to a low carbon economy can bring benefits to many counties and rural areas and as such, we are committed to developing suitable and appropriate projects that maximise local return.

In light of the current covid-19 restrictions, we have adapted our community engagement process to utilise online platforms to provide up to date information on this proposal. This has included the development of an online virtual consultation room which is accessible through the project website www.coolewindfarm.ie

For the avoidance of doubt, please note that this proposal would supersede and replace the consented 13 turbine development whilst making the changes outlined and allowing for connection of the wind farm to the national electricity grid system at the existing Mullingar substation.

We would be very appreciative if you could take the time to visit our virtual consultation room and we hope that the information provided will give you a good overview of what it is that we are considering however, should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,

Pat O'Sullivan
Head of Communications
& Stakeholder Management
For and on behalf of Statkraft Ireland Limited

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<Address>
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<Address> **<date>**

Dear <<<<<<<

Re: Proposed Coole area wind energy project

As you may be aware, in recent times Element Power has been working to progress a wind energy development in the Coole area of Westmeath. We have been engaging on a one-to-one basis with the local community in the environs of the study area over the past six months in relation to an area that we believe has the capacity to accommodate a wind energy project. In order to maximise the potential for community input, we began speaking to people in the area during the design stage of the development process in order to facilitate feedback from the local community which would inform the design team and ultimately, inform the final proposed project design.

At the outset, 25 wind turbine generators were considered on the study area. However following consideration of studies carried out as part of our Environmental Impact Assessment, engagement with the local planning authority and engagement with the local community, the proposed project has been reduced by almost 50% in scale to 13 turbines. The area in question is designated within the Westmeath County Development 2014 – 2020 as having a capacity for wind energy and the lands in question consist of cutover cutaway peatlands which is in line with the preferred location for wind farms in the county development plan. While sited in a sparsely populated area of bogland, these proposed 13 wind turbines generators are located within 1km of 12 houses, the nearest property would be located approximately 700m from the nearest proposed turbine.

During the public engagement process, we have provided the following to the local community:

1. An introductory leaflet
2. An information booklet
3. A leaflet informing on the revised design layout
4. A website which went live in November 2016 (www.coolewindfarm.ie)

A copy of these documents are enclosed for your information and we would invite you to visit our website at your convenience.

In the course of our extensive public engagement, we have been extremely encouraged at the appreciation of the scale of challenges facing the country in terms of climate change, global warming and finite fossil fuels as well as an openness to exploring the possibility of developing a suitable and

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appropriate renewable energy project in the area. Through combining our public consultation with our design process we have endeavoured to achieve a layout which would work best in the local area and local community. We are confident that our current layout has achieved this and we are again speaking to people in the local community regarding our revised proposals.

We are planning to have a public consultation event in Coole within the next six weeks and we would like to extend an invitation to you to join us at this event. We will send you a formal invitation once the date has been confirmed. Should it be the case that the date does not suit you for any reason, we will gladly make ourselves available to meet with you at another mutually convenient date thereafter. In the meantime, the enclosed documents along with our website provide all of the up-to-date project-specific information that we have available at this time and we trust that this will give you a good understanding of what we are working towards.

We would hope to be in a position to confirm the date for the public consultation in the coming weeks at which point we will be in contact again.

Best regards,

_____

Kevin O'Donovan

Chief Development Officer

Element Power Ireland

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6th February 2017

Dear xxx

Re: Proposed Cool Area Wind Energy Project

I refer to our previous correspondence on the 24th January last.

As you may recall we had advised you that we would be holding a public consultation event in the near future.

We are happy to confirm that this event will take place in Coole on the date and time below.

Venue : **Coole Community Hall**

Date : **Wednesday, 15th February 2017**

Time : **4pm to 8pm**

Should it be the case that this date does not suit you for any reason, we will gladly make ourselves available to meet with you at another mutually convenient date. Please email us at enquiries@elpower.com or phone us on 057-9361540 to arrange.

Best Regards,

Kevin O'Donovan

Chief Development Officer

Element Power Ireland

Coole Area Wind Energy

Development

Information Booklet

Introduction

Wind energy projects have been developed in Ireland over the past 20 years and are playing an increasingly important role in the provision of sustainable energy. We believe an opportunity exists in the north of County Westmeath and more particularly in the bog lands around the Coole area, to develop a wind energy project which would be of benefit to, not alone the country, but also this area of County Westmeath.

Renewable energy projects are required for our country's transition to a low carbon economy and the continued development of long term sustainable electricity generation in this country. Existing wind energy developments account for a very significant proportion of the electricity generated in Ireland with over 21% of all electricity in Ireland (SEAI Renewable Electricity in Ireland 2015) coming from wind turbines located in 23 of the 26 counties in the Republic of Ireland in 2015.

Ireland and the European Union

It is not only Ireland that is moving towards having a greater renewable energy mix in their electricity supply but rather all countries across the European Union. As part the EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009/28/EC) Ireland has committed to producing 40% of our electricity from renewable sources by 2020. Generating electricity from Ireland's abundant resource of wind is our best means of making this transition and achieving our targets. Currently we are not on track to achieve our targets and should more progress not be made, Ireland will incur fines estimated of €140 - €150,000,000 per annum for every 1% of shortfall. Our shortfall could range from anywhere from 1% to 4% equating to €140,000,000 to €600,000,000 in fines annually.

Element Power Ireland

Element Power Ireland is a company involved in the development, construction and operation of renewable energy projects in various locations around the country. We believe that wind power has real potential for the future and an ambition of ours is to play a meaningful role in developing Ireland's existing renewable energy sector to allow the country to reach its goals in a sustainable way. We aim to develop projects which will bring benefits not only to our country but also to the counties, regions and communities in the areas around these developments.

This Wind Energy Proposal

Having looked at various locations, an area based around the bogs in the Coole area has emerged as a location with the potential to support a wind energy development that could have the capacity to produce up to 90MW of renewable energy. This project would bring jobs, revenue and community benefits to the local area. In this information booklet we will endeavour to supply information regarding the need for renewable energy, our proposals in this area and set out where we are at in the development process.

Climate Change

The need to protect our environment from climate change for future generations is now well accepted all over the world. In global terms, 2015 was the hottest year on record as reported by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which monitors climate change. This was the highest average temperature recorded year since their records began in 1880 and smashed the previous record which was set in 2014!

"Globally 2015 was the hottest year on record"

Scientists agree that greenhouse gases and Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) emissions are directly responsible for this global warming. It has caused our changing climate and the extremes of weather that we now experience in Ireland and that we see and hear of all over the world.

Fossil fuels are not only polluting but they are also finite and expensive. The movement of the EU and Ireland towards low carbon economies including the move away from burning CO_2 emitting fossil fuels is a direct response to addressing climate change.

"Global warming has to be limited to below 2°C compared to the average temperature in pre-industrial times to prevent the most severe impacts of climate change and possibly catastrophic changes in the global environment" *– European Commission climate action*
(http://ec.europa.eu/clima/citizens/eu/index_en.htm)

No fuel is required for the operation of a wind turbine as it harvests power from the wind. A wind turbine can save the amount of CO_2 that is emitted during its own manufacture and construction in a matter of months after which time each turbine is effectively saving CO_2 for its 20 -25 year operational life.

"There's one issue that will define the contours of this century more dramatically than any other, and that is the urgent and growing threat of a changing climate." *— U.S. President Barack Obama, UN Climate Change Summit, September 23, 2014*

The need to combat global warming and climate change is clear. Each country, county and individual has an obligation to play their part in the necessary energy transition in order to provide a sustainable future for the generations to come. Whilst an important part of this transition is the move from fossil fuels to renewable energy such as the project proposed here, each household can play an important role in reviewing their own energy efficiency. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) provide information and funding to assist households and communities to play their part in this energy transition.

The EU long-term goal is to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 80-95% compared to 1990 levels by 2050.

Images from severe weather events in Ireland over recent years:



Wind Energy in Ireland

There are a number of reasons why wind energy is a good idea in Ireland.

1. Ireland has a world class wind resource which can help generate economic and local benefits.
2. Ireland is one of the most fuel import dependent countries in the EU, importing approx. 85% of its fuel to meet its energy requirements in 2014.
3. Ireland is committed to combating Climate Change by reducing carbon emissions and therefore reducing its dependence on Fossil Fuels.
4. Ireland has a legal obligation to diversify its energy sources by 2020 requiring the development of renewable energy to avoid substantial fines.

Ireland has committed to supplying 40% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020. In 2015 there was 2,400MW of wind energy installed across the country. EirGrid's Generation Capacity Statement, 2016 estimates that between 3,800MW to 4,100MW of wind energy will be required for Ireland to meet its 40% renewable electricity target. The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the Climate Change Advisory Council have both advised that the build out rate of wind farms needs to increase in order to meet this target.

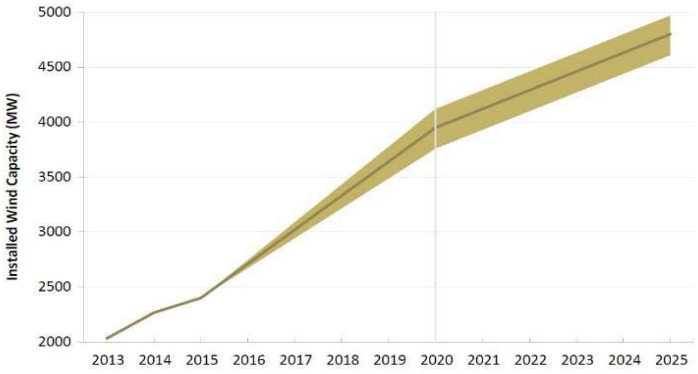
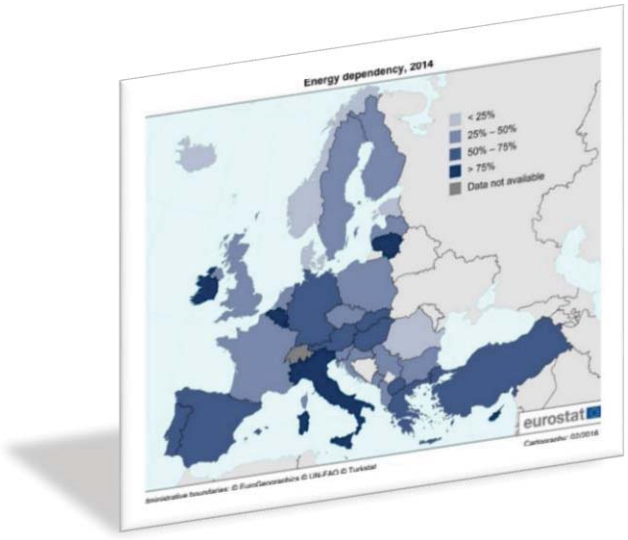


Figure 3-3 Shown in gold, the band of possible wind capacity requirements to meet the 2020 renewable target.

Wind capacity requirements - Figure extracted from Eirgrid's Generation Capacity Statement published February 2016



EU Energy Dependency map detailing Europe's most energy dependant countries. Ireland is indicated here as one of the few countries with greater than 75% energy dependency

If granted planning permission, a wind farm in the Coole area would help Ireland to reach its target of generating 40% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2020 whilst also reducing our 85% energy import dependency (SEAI 2014)

How the location of the proposed wind farm was identified

There is the opportunity for the development of a Wind Farm in the Coole region of north County Westmeath. Element Power Ireland has assessed various geographical areas and possibilities over the past number of years and we are now in a position to put forward a project which will consist of no more than 25 turbines supplying electricity to the Irish Grid system for use within Ireland.

A nationwide study was carried out to identify suitable lands for the purpose of a wind farm development.

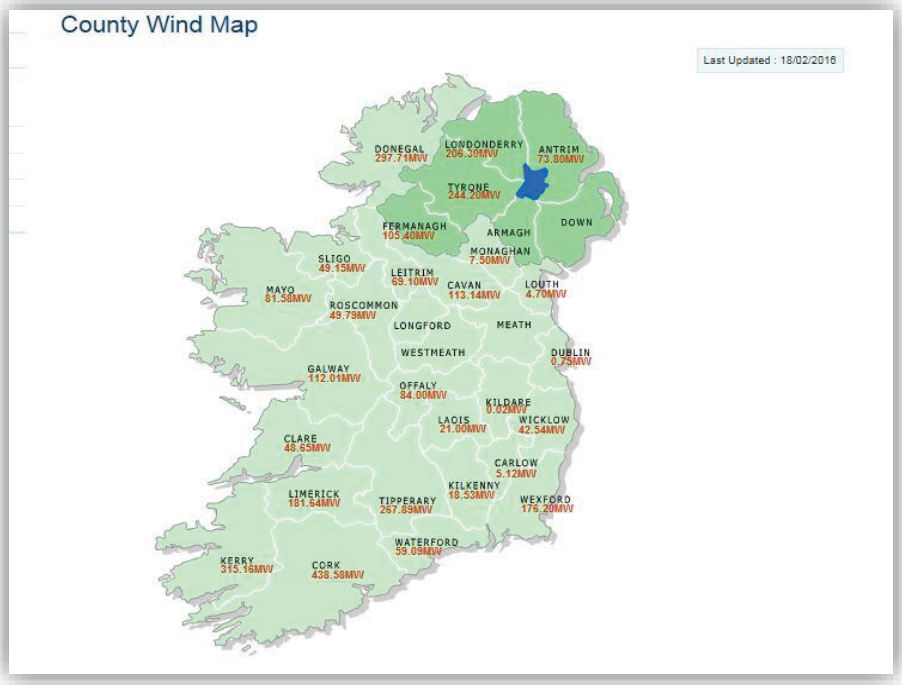
This involved using standard constraint analysis as follows:

1. Avoidance of environmentally designated areas
2. Avoidance of excessive cumulative wind farm developments
3. Identification of areas designated with a capacity for wind energy development under the County Development Plan
4. Suitable wind speeds
5. Avoidance of direct impacts on cultural heritage
6. Proximity to available grid capacity in the Irish grid system
7. Accessibility
8. Distance from large settlements and individual houses
9. Constructability

Having applied the constraints above to the island of Ireland, the area in north County Westmeath was deemed as having the potential to site a wind farm of up to 90MW.

There are approximately 200 wind farms operating across the Island of Ireland. The contribution of each county is detailed in the Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) county wind map below.

Wind turbines currently supply electricity to the Irish grid system in 23 of the 26 counties in the Republic of Ireland. Wind energy at any one time can produce 50% of the electricity generated in this country and produce over 21% of the electricity generated in Ireland in 2015



Existing Wind Energy developments in Ireland by County (Source IWEA)

What are the main aspects of the project being proposed?

- A wind energy development which would feed into the Irish electricity grid system.
- 25 turbines or less with a maximum tip height of up to 169m.
- A potential output of up to 90MW.
- An onsite substation.
- Underground cable connection to the National Grid with no requirement for overhead lines.
- Materials sourced locally where possible.
- The provision for a community fund which would benefit the wider local area.

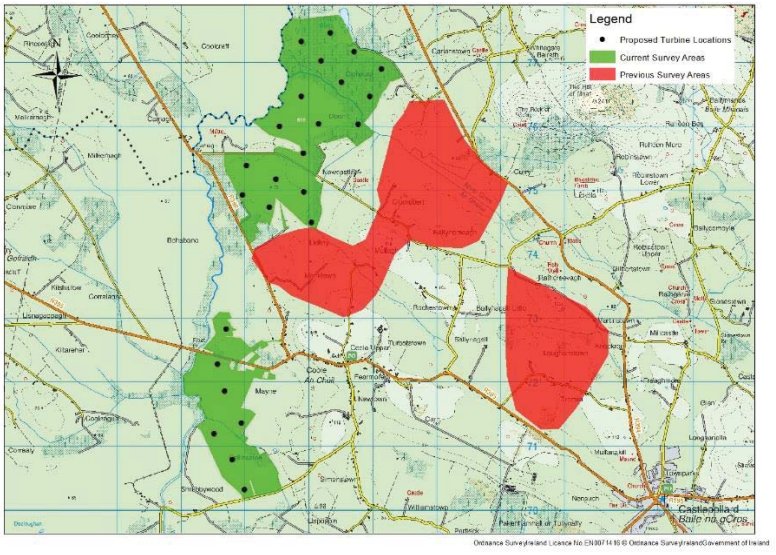
The design layout is based on up to 25 turbines with a tip height of up to 169m and will include access tracks, hardstandings, borrow pit, drainage works, underground electrical and communications cables between the turbines, an onsite electricity substation and an underground cable to connect the proposed development to the national electricity grid.

The evolution of the design

This area was initially considered for inclusion in the Greenwire Project. The intention then was that the energy would be used exclusively for export purposes. Based on the current need for further domestic wind energy developments in Ireland as outlined, this project is now proposed for connection into the Irish Grid system.

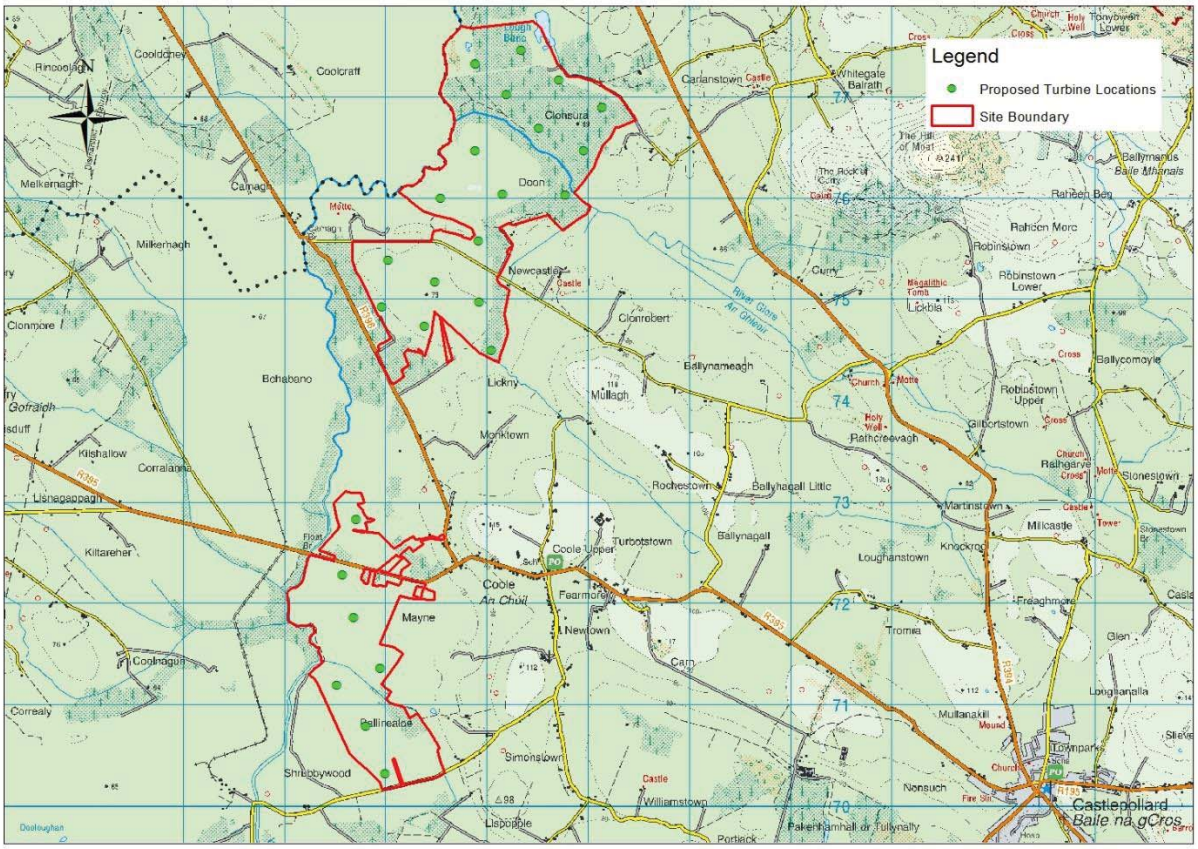
- *There is now a clear need for more domestic projects to help meet Ireland's 2020 targets.*
- *The area being assessed for a potential wind farm has reduced since the preliminary design was proposed.*
- *The tip height has reduced from 185m to a maximum of 169m.*

The area under consideration has been reduced since the initial stages of the project design.



What specific areas are being considered?

- There are two areas under consideration which centre on the bogs to the north and west of Coole village. These include the townlands of
  - Coole, Clonsura, Doon, Camagh, Lickny, Monktown & Mayne to the north.
  - Mayne, Ballinealoe & Shrubbywood to the west.



Map detailing the proposed turbine locations

How the design process works

The information detailed in this booklet is based on the current ***design layout***. The proposed project has progressed through the initial scoping and preliminary layout stages of the process to form this design layout. We are now seeking to provide information and consult with the public, local authorities and interested parties in order to inform the design process as it progresses.

The table below sets out a high level overview of the various design stages in the development process. This details the approximate percentage design in proposals at the different stages in the design process

The main difference between the design and preliminary layouts is the degree of confidence with which the overall layout and each proposed turbine location can be proposed.

High Level overview of the design stages within the development process

Design Stage	% Design	Description
Initial Scoping	0 – 40%	Based on high level information
Preliminary Layout	40% - 80%	Fluid and frequently open to change
Design Layout ***(Current stage)***	*80% - 100%*	Sufficiently fixed to allow meaningful discussion with the public/statutory authorities/interested parties etc. and detailed environmental assessment. .
Planning Layout	100%	Fixed for presentation to the appropriate planning authority. This will either be An Bord Pleanála or Westmeath County Council depending on the final planning layout.

The design layout identifies areas to be evaluated within the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and forms the basis for discussion and review with local communities, statutory bodies and interested parties. Feedback from these groups will influence the design which is ultimately presented to the consenting authority. The EIA is carried out on each individual location and the design layout as a whole.

We are interested in getting feedback from the local community regarding our proposals. This will inform the design process as it progresses.

Once feedback has been received and the detailed surveys are complete, the final planning layout will emerge from the design process. This will form the basis of the planning application and EIS.

Community Benefit Schemes

Whilst wind farms bring many benefits and opportunities, we would like to see benefits established for everyone in the community. Community Benefit Schemes are aimed at channelling funding from the wind farm to community groups that serve the population of the area. There is no prescribed mode of delivering this funding to the community. It can be provided directly to the community or indirectly through 3rd parties such as the Local Authority. This presents an opportunity for each community to have an input on how the funding should be administered, what community groups, services or facilities should benefit from it and how the maximum local benefit can be gained from the funding.

There is potentially a Community Fund totalling up to €2million associated with the project which would be available for the Coole area should the current 90MW proposal be constructed in its entirety. The value of this fund would ultimately be directly proportional to the level of installed MWs. Element Power Ireland will be directed by feedback from the community on how the area might benefit the most from any proposals, we will explore these ideas with you.

- Suggestions on community projects to date include:
  - The rejuvenation of buildings in the local area
  - The development of a local amenity area with a walkway/cycle track through the bogs and forestry incorporating picnic areas, biodiversity areas etc.
  - The development of facilities and services for the elderly in the local area
  - The development of a fund to assist business startups and people who would like to start their own business in the local area
  - A scheme which would help homes in the area to reduce their energy usage by becoming more energy efficient. This would reduce householders energy bills in the long term
  - Grants towards buying electric or hybrid powered cars

Examples of groups benefiting from community funds:

Monaincha Wind Farm Community Benefits – Local school wind farm visit and school upgrades

Lisheen Mines Wind Farm Community Benefits – Moyne Athletics Club improvements

Other benefits this development will bring to the area

Apart from the substantial opportunities associated with the provision of a community benefit scheme, there are the additional benefits of local employment, rates to the local authorities and local infrastructure improvements which would also be brought to the area.

➢ Job Creation

It is estimated that approximately 120 jobs could be created during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the proposed project. It is important to recognise that many of the elements required for the construction of the wind farm are formed by skill sets which already exist in the local area. It is our experience in the construction of wind farms that the majority of the plant, labour and employment stem from the local area with specialist contractors being brought in to carry out the technical aspects of the work. Some of the areas of employment will include the following:

- Road building: machine drivers, quarries, lorry drivers, ground workers
- Engineers, steel fixers, surveyors, formwork and shuttering crews
- Crane drivers, foremen, haulage companies, engineers
- Electricians, electrical engineers, electrical contractors, traffic and transport engineers, wind analysts
- Plant and machinery hire, materials, goods
- Grounds maintenance, fencing materials & fencing contractors
- Logistics, travel and lodgings

➢ Long term jobs

Jobs will be created in the operation and maintenance of the wind farm. Although some of these jobs are specialised and require people with the necessary skills, other aspects may be of interest locally such as grounds maintenance. The upkeep of the wind farm roads and infrastructure will also be required.

➢ Local Authority Rate Payments

- On the current design annual rates in excess of €500,000 would be payable to Westmeath County Council

Rates are paid to the County Council by the wind farm developer. These are typically used for the provision of public services such as road upkeep, fire services, environmental protection, street lighting, footpath maintenance etc. along with other community and cultural support initiatives.

These rates would be paid annually to the Local Authority over the lifespan of the project.

€25,000 boost

By AMY LEWIS

COMMUNITY groups near Richfield Wind Farm have been boosted by a €25,000 payout which they recently received from SSE Airtricity.

The cheque presentation, which took place at the Stella Maris Community Centre in Kilmore Quay, will be distributed among local schools, art groups and community centres in the area. It brings the company's overall contribution to groups in the area to more than €200,000 since 2007.

The majority of the recipient groups will be putting this year's contribution from SSE towards improving their energy efficiency. St. Anne's GAA Club, Teach Sprael Community Childcare, Kilmore Quay Community Development Association, Fastnet Rovers AFC and Mulranikia Community Group will be using the money to install energy efficient lighting. Kilmore GAA Club will install some solar panels, while St Fintan's National School will use the funding to make their school porch draught proof. Meanwhile, St Anne's National School will install

Studies that will be carried out as part of the development process

An Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a statutory process involving in-depth studies of the potential impacts that a proposed project many have on the environment considering the environmental, social and economic aspects of that project. Any potential impacts of the proposed project will be assessed against the requirements of the EIA Directive 2011/92/EU (and amending Directive 2014/52/EU). Our EIA will consider the following:

➢ Human Environment	➢ Landscape & Visual
➢ Ecology including Ornithology	➢ Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology
➢ Hydrology	➢ Noise
➢ Shadow Flicker	➢ Air Quality & Climate
➢ Traffic & Transportation	➢ Telecommunications & Aviation
➢ Cultural and Archaeological Heritage	➢ Material Assets
➢ Health & Safety	➢ Civil Engineering & Roads

The results of the EIA will be presented within an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and submitted with a planning application for the proposed development. The EIS will detail all of the environmental baseline studies undertaken and investigate any potential impacts associated with the proposed Project. The significance of all impacts will be assessed and mitigation measures will be applied where necessary.

Feedback and aspects of the proposal to consider:

We would welcome feedback on all aspects of our proposal. The following are examples of areas that people might consider giving their thoughts on:

- The current survey areas
- The locations of turbines proposed on the current design layout
- Opportunities for the local area in terms of how maximum benefit could be realised should the project receive a grant of planning permission
- What an appropriate and suitable name might be for the wind farm giving it local context
- Concerns that you may have regarding the proposal

This is your opportunity to have an input in the design process

The feedback that we have received to date from our ongoing consultation has been very constructive and positive with people expressing a wide range of views on all aspects of our proposal. We will continue to work with the local community and we would like to encourage feedback and engagement throughout the design process.

Where can I find out more about Wind Energy?

1. Go visit a wind farm! If you want to really experience wind energy for yourself, without any doubts about the quality and accuracy of the information you are getting – Go visit a wind farm and talk to the people living in that area. The following are wind farms of a similar size, scale and setting to that proposed at Coole:
    - Mount Lucas Wind Farm near Daingean Co. Offaly.
    - Lisheen Wind Farm near Urlingford Co. Kilkenny.
    - Monahincha Wind Farm near Roscrea Co. Tipperary.
2. www.iwea.ie – Irish Wind Energy Association (IWEA) and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eqKZkcxeKR8
3. www.windenergy.ie – Wind Energy Facts
4. www.facebook.com – Irish Windfarm Information Group
5. www.seai.ie – Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland (SEAI)
6. www.un.org/climatechange – UN Climate Change Website
7. www.climatecouncil.ie – Ireland's Climate Change Advisory Council

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We will be launching a new website www.coolewindfarm.com to provide further information as we move through the design process. We plan to have this website online in November 2016.

Information is available from many sources in relation to wind energy however much of this can be inaccurate and misleading. This being the case, it is important to check the source of information. The most reliable and trustworthy information available is that which has been checked and verified by not just one individual but a group of experts. This is a defined process that all researchers utilise and it is called 'Peer reviewing'. We are happy to provide information or guidance to help direct you towards sources of genuine peer reviewed information should you request it.

Contact us:

Element Power
Axis Business Park
Clara Road
Tullamore
Co Offaly
Phone: 057 936 1540

Email: enquiries@elpower.com

Element Power Ireland Limited
will be holding a
Public Consultation Evening
on our proposal for a
Wind Farm
near
Coole
Co. Westmeath
in Coole Community Hall

on

Wednesday February 15th 2017
Doors open from 4pm to 8pm

elementpower

As part of our ongoing public engagement on our wind energy proposal centred around the townlands of Clonsura, Doon and Camagh in the Coole area, we will be holding a public consultation evening in Coole Community Hall, Coole as outlined above.

Since the proposed development partially concerns the Monktown, Clonsura, Doon and Camagh Coillte properties, representatives from Coillte will also be present. Members of the public are invited to attend where information will be available regarding the proposed project.

CLASSIFIEDS

t: 044 9346700 f: 044 9330596
e: fdesk@westmeathexaminer.ie

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WANTED
Land to Rent
1-25 acres
within a 10 mile radius of Delvin.
Phone 087-1270696.

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Part-time experienced OTC medicines assistant required for busy Mullingar pharmacy. Replies before 17/02/2017 to Box No: 11275, Westmeath Examiner, Blackhall Place, Mullingar.

PUBLIC NOTICES

lwetb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí
Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board

NOTICE OF COMPLETION OF AUDIT

The Comptroller and Auditor General has completed his audit of the accounts of the Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board for the 12 month period ending 31st December, 2015 and has reported thereon to the Minister for Education and Skills who has caused copies to be laid before both Houses of the Oireachtas.

A copy of the accounts of Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board together with the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General may be obtained from the undersigned by any person applying for the same and paying the sum of €10.

Signed: Dr. Christy Duffy, Chief Executive, Longford and Westmeath Education and Training Board, Marlinstown Business Park, Mullingar.

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Since the proposed development partially concerns the Monktown, Clonsura, Doon and Camagh Coillte properties, representatives from Coillte will also be present. Members of the public are invited to attend where information will be available regarding the proposed project.

EMPLOYMENT

DROMONE
intelligent innovation

APPRENTICE MECHANICAL AUTOMATION & MAINTENANCE FITTER

DROMONE is an Industry leading Irish company, developing hitch and coupler technology for the agricultural and construction markets. We are currently recruiting for the following vacancy:
Apprentice Mechanical Automation and Maintenance Fitter

Key responsibilities of the role include:
- Working with Specialised tooling / Machines
- Completing standard PM work on existing plant and equipment
- Dismantling, Repair/ make new parts and fitting of new parts when performing PM
- Maintain Quality, Safety and Environmental standards
- Keeping maintenance records & Report Writing
- Installation of Plant Equipment.

Skills and experience required:
- Educated to Leaving Certificate standard minimum.
- At least 1 to 2 years relevant Industry experience
- Knowledge of mechanical and electrical equipment
- Plan and organise their work in order to meet daily schedules and output targets
- Have an awareness of Quality, Environmental and Safety standards in the workplace
- Be punctual with an excellent attendance record
- Good attention to detail
- Ability to work well in a team as well as on their own initiative.
- Additional Experience in Arc and Mig Welding Fabrication an advantage.

Please email your CV to: recruitment@dromone.ie
Closing date for applicants: Friday 24th February 2017

VACANCIES EXIST FOR CARE ASSISTANTS IN A BUSY NURSING HOME

Full-time & Part-time positions available

• With FETAC Level 5 in Care of the Older Person

Please send CV to Brigid Moran, Sancta Maria Nursing Home, Parke, Kinnegad, Co. Meath
Email: sanctamarianh@gmail.com

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Ideally you will be based in the East Midlands Region.
A full clean driving license is required.
Written application with C.V. should be forwarded in confidence to:
homegarden@mail.com

The Proposed Project

Key Features

- 13 wind turbines proposed
- Max tip height 175m
- Locations - Clonsura, Doon, Camagh and Monktown
- The townlands of Maine and Ballinealoe have been removed from consideration
- A substation adjacent to the Abbeylara Road

Next Steps

- A public consultation meeting with the details of the proposed project for consideration
- We would still like to welcome feedback on the proposed community benefit aspect of this project should it gain planning approval
- We would like to meet with anyone who would like further information on our proposals

Please visit our website for further information:

www.coolewindfarm.ie

Through our design works with input of those living locally, we hope to have achieved a suitable and appropriate project which will work for this area.

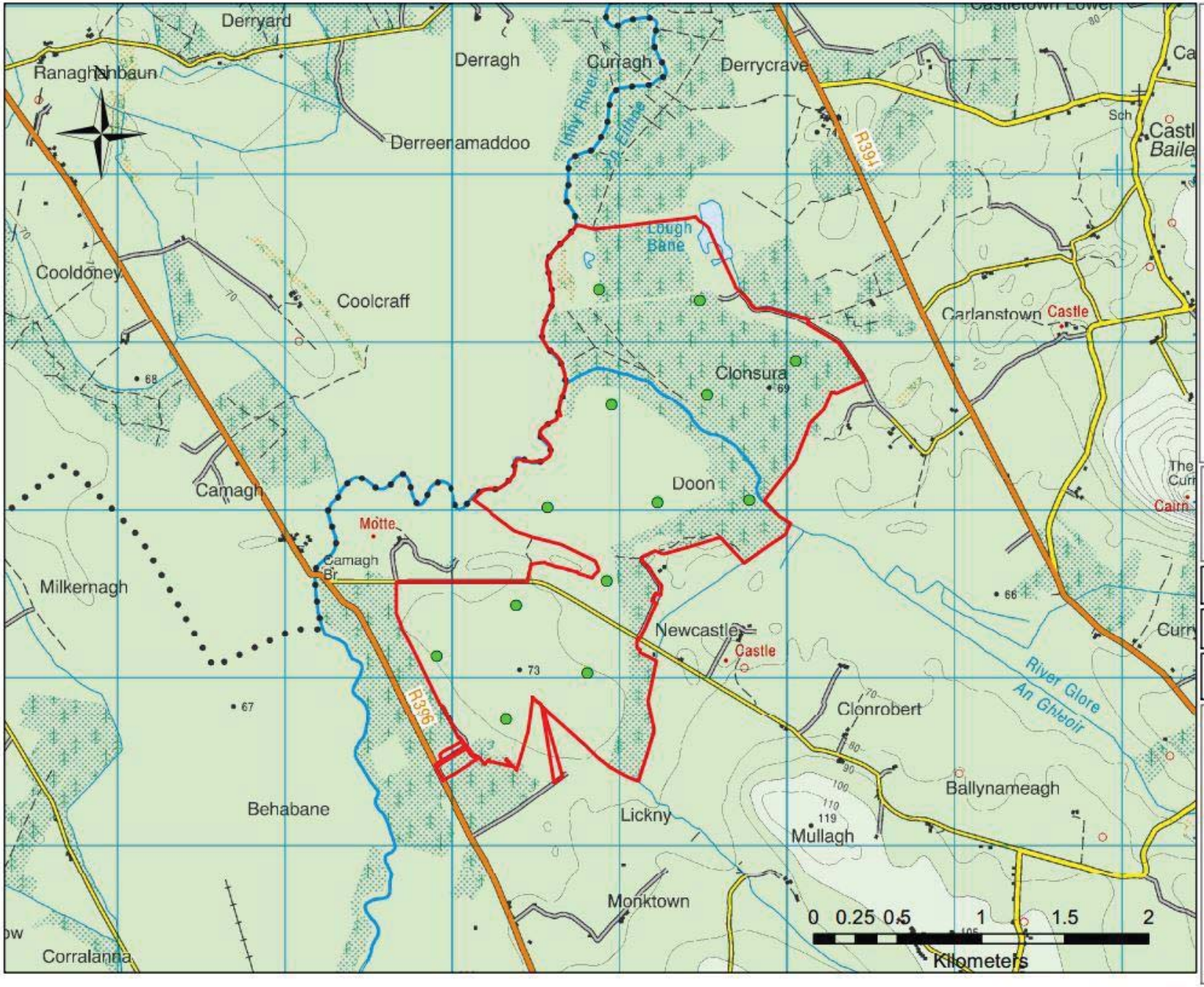
For further information:

Phone - 057 936 1540

Email: enquiries@elpower.com

www.coolewindfarm.ie

Coole Area Wind Farm Revised Layout



Legend

- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Site Boundary

TITLE OF FIGURE:

Coole Area
Revised Layout

Figure 1 Rev A

DATE: 16/01/2017

SCALE: 1:30,000 @ A4

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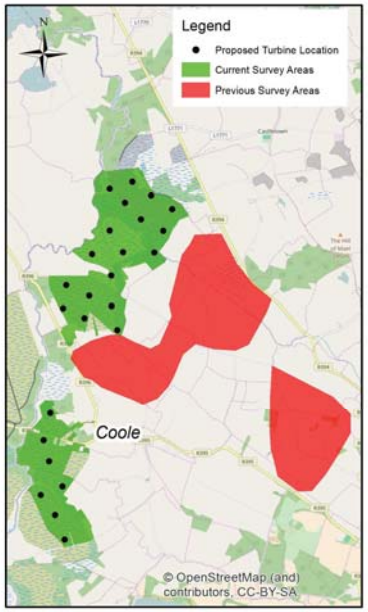


The areas being considered have reduced since we first approached the public on this project. We have now reached a point of having a design layout on which we would like to share and invite your input

We would like to meet

and share ideas

To arrange a meeting:

Please Call

057 936 1540

Quote ref. No

Email:
enquiries@elpower.com

Coole Area Wind Energy Opportunity

We would like to meet to discuss the proposal that we are working on –

This is your chance to:

- *Be informed*
- *Have your input*
- *Identify opportunities*

About us

Element Power is a renewable energy development company with a strong track record in developing sustainable projects which provide long term benefits for Irish Energy requirements and local communities.

We had previously proposed an energy export project in this area however we are now progressing a plan for a domestic project which would feed into the Irish Electricity Grid System.

Element Power are committed to developing appropriate and sustainable projects that bring benefit to local communities.

As part of developing an appropriate project we want to hear from you – the people who live in the area.

Energy - A changing world

The 'Energy World' is changing. Ireland for its part is moving towards a low carbon economy and this will change the way we use and view energy. Bord na Móna have committed to ceasing peat production by 2030. Denmark have banned new oil and gas fired central heating. We need to look at our Island's ability to adapt and the options available to us as individuals.

What is being considered?

An area that is considered to have potential for a wind energy development consisting of a wind farm with up to 25 turbines has been identified on the bogs to the north and west of Coole.

We are currently progressing proposals in relation to this project and would like to consult with you regarding our proposals at this stage.

What stage are proposals at now?

- A design layout has been established and is being worked on to test the suitability of all locations
- The study area has been reduced in size
- This area is now based around the bogs of Clonsura, Doon, Camagh, Mayne and Ballinaloe
- The individual turbine locations and proposed layout are now being assessed.

What can you expect at a meeting?

- Details on our design layout as it stands at this time.
- Details on potential locations of individual turbines in your area.
- An opportunity to advise how you think your community can gain most from the proposal.
- General information regarding the need for the project and how this location was identified.

Community Benefit

Element Power would like to develop new ways to direct increased gain towards local communities and people.

Annual funding of up to €85,000 per annum or €2,000,000 over the life of the project could be set aside for the local area.

Schemes we have previously proposed include:

- Energy Efficient Homes Schemes
- Educational Support Schemes
- Local Enterprise Schemes

COOLE WIND FARM

Why consider renewable energy?

Fossil Fuels and the Future Energy Challenge

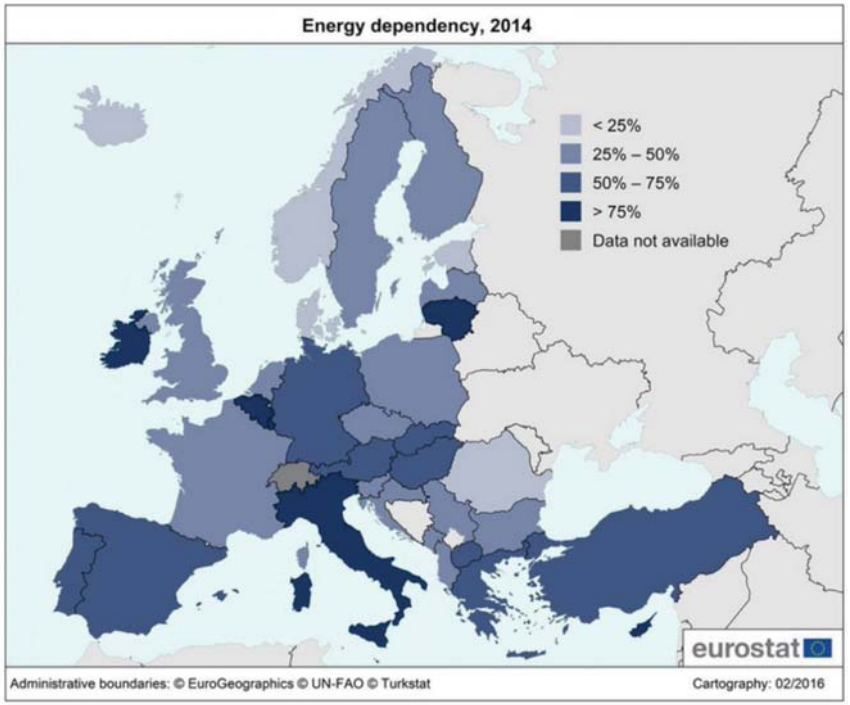
The way we as a people harness and use energy will be challenged in the coming years. The world is heavily dependent on depleting fossil fuel reserves and the population of the world continues to grow. In Ireland, we import approximately 85% of our energy requirements through oil and natural gas.

We all need to think, not only about how we use electricity but also about how it is going to be generated!

- Ireland imports approx. 85% of its fuel to meet its energy requirements
- Long-term, Ireland cannot rely on imported fossil fuels to produce our electricity and heat our homes
- Unless action is taken there will be an increasing global demand for oil and gas from an ever decreasing reserve
- It is estimated that there will be an additional 1 million people living in the Republic of Ireland by 2050. That equates to an increase of over 20% in terms of people – all with a demand for electricity

What other countries are doing:

- Denmark has taken steps towards banning the installation of any new oil fired central heating in new buildings and in existing buildings where natural gas or community heating is available as part of their move towards a low carbon economy
- Great Britain is progressing Nuclear Energy proposals as part of its answer to the challenges ahead
- Saudi Arabia (which has the second largest oil reserves in the world) launched a blueprint for its long-term goals called Vison 2030. One of these goals is to achieve near total government independence from oil revenues by 2030



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COOLE WIND FARM

Global Warming and Climate Change

> Global warming has to be limited to below 2°C compared to the average temperature in pre-industrial times to prevent the most severe impacts of climate change and possibly catastrophic changes in the global environment
>
> ***- European Commission Climate Action***

Global Warming is a very real and immediate threat to our way of life. 2015 was the hottest year on record, as reported by The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration which monitors climate change - this was the highest average temperature recorded since their records began in 1880 and smashed the previous record which was set in 2014.

Examples of extreme weather events in Ireland over the past number of years:

- **Extreme winter** temperatures and harsh winters
- **Extreme rainfall** causing severe flooding all over the country including along the river Shannon and towns such as Athlone
- **Prolonged repressed temperatures** leading to the fodder crisis in agriculture, resulting in the importation of foodstuffs from the UK
- **Severe Atlantic storms** leading to extensive coastal damage all along the western sea board

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Addressing the issues

In order to replace fossil fuels, a mix of renewable energies will be required. There is no one renewable energy which can provide 100% of our energy needs. It is important to work to identify the locations which are best suited for each type of renewable energy.

GOVERNMENT

There is an onus on Government to plan a path forward for our country towards **a low carbon sustainable future with increased energy security.**

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A local authority by nature needs to **protect the present and future wellbeing of its people.** County Westmeath is in the fortunate position of not having legacy issues in terms of electricity production from fossil fuel sources and the pollution associated with them. It is well placed to play a part in providing for the renewable energy needs of not only the county but the country through providing for the **development of suitable and appropriate renewable energy projects** which can address the energy needs within the county and country.

INDIVIDUALS

As individuals we need to:

1. **Assess our own carbon footprints.** This is not only to protect the environment but also to protect our own situations into the future. Element Power would like to work with and assist individuals who are interested in reducing their energy requirements and carbon footprints.
2. We need to **assess each opportunity that arises on its merits.** Not all projects that will be put forward for consideration will be appropriate but where this is the case the opportunity should not be missed.

The future deserves our time and effort to consider "The difference of one" - The difference that each one of us can make!

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How was this location decided upon?

An area which has the potential for a suitable and appropriate wind energy project, which is in line with the policies of County Westmeath's County Development Plan, was identified in the Coole area.

The following aspects were considered:

- The area is based around boglands in line with the policies of the county development plan
- The proposed project is located outside of environmentally designated areas
- There is no previous wind farm development in the area
- There are suitable wind speeds
- There are no direct impacts on cultural heritage
- There is suitable access to the Irish grid system
- The location is accessible from a construction view point
- The area allows for separation from settlements and individual houses
- The site is suitable from a constructability point of view

Feedback from engagement with those in the local community, local authority and other bodies helped to inform the design process as it developed. The area under consideration ultimately reduced and the number of proposed turbines has also reduced from 25 turbines to the current 13 turbine layout.

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How this proposal has developed

- While this proposal is to produce electricity for the **Irish Domestic Grid**, it was originally considered for an export project
- Our first public consultation event was held in 2013. As our proposals developed after this, we worked to engage with those in the local community and **take on board the views and thoughts of those living locally**
- **We commenced engagement during the design stage** with the local community, local authority and other interested parties while changes to the design could still be made
- Our early design consisted of a much larger project
- Feedback from the consultation process informed the design team and these considerations along with our Environmental Impact Assessment and technical appraisals led to the proposed project reducing from 25 turbines to 13 turbines
- As a result of local feedback, consideration was given to the design approach with regard to developing the wind farm layout in terms of setback from the nearest houses. The design team worked to maximise opportunities to increase the setback distance within the site constraints
- Local views regarding the appropriate use of local roads were also taken on board
- **Environmental impact assessment and studies** have been carried out over the past number of years. These studies, which are ongoing will form part of any planning application

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COOLE WIND FARM

The proposed Coole Wind Farm

Coole Wind Farm at a glance:

- The project would supply renewable electricity to the **Irish Electricity Grid System** for use in Ireland
- With an output of up to 50MW, this proposal would have the **capacity to power 32,000 houses**
- It will comprise of up to **13 wind turbines**
- The maximum tip height will be **175m**
- There will be an onsite **substation** located adjacent to the R396 near the proposed site entrance
- All **cabling will be placed underground**
- We have worked to maximise the setback distance to dwelling houses
- **Associated works will include** access tracks, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, a local borrow pit, drainage works, temporary site compound, underground electrical and communications cables between turbines and an underground cable to connect the proposed project to the existing Mullingar 110kV substation
- **Rates payments of up to €300,000** per annum payable to Westmeath County Council
- **Local roads will be upgraded**
- There will be approximately **75 jobs created during the construction, operation and maintenance** phases of the proposed project

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COOLE WIND FARM

Wind farms in Ireland

Wind farms have been developed in Ireland since the 1990s and there are currently over 200 wind farms in operation producing over 20% of our electricity requirements. We would recommend that anyone with an interest in this proposal should visit a wind farm to get a real first-hand experience of what these developments are really like and if possible talk to the people who are living there. As there are many different models of community benefit this may be a good opportunity to explore how the Coole area might extract the maximum benefit possible from our proposal should it be granted planning permission.

Examples of existing wind farms:

MEENWAUN WIND FARM, CO OFFALY

- Under construction
- 4 turbines (10MW)
- 169m tip height
- Examples of community schemes being explored here include a Greener Homes Scheme and a Neighbourhood Watch type scheme

MONAINCHA, CO TIPPERARY

- Commenced operation in 2014
- 15 turbines (36MW)
- 150m tip height
- Local groups and organisations have benefited from this project including funding towards local school amenities, neighbourhood security initiatives and sporting organisations

MOUNT LUCAS, CO OFFALY

- Commenced operation in 2014
- 28 turbines (80MW)
- 150m tip height
- An amenity cycleway and walkway has been developed around this wind farm which is used by people both near and far in the area
- Other organisations that have benefited from this project, include the local GAA Club, a local cycling club and other local village amenities

LISHEEN WIND FARM, CO TIPPERARY

- Permitted in 2006 and commenced operation in 2009
- 30 wind turbines (60MW)
- 140m tip height
- An example of how the community maximised the benefit to this area was to invest the Community Benefit in capital projects. This led to the facility that is the Moygowna Athletics Clubhouse and track

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COOLE WIND FARM

Community Benefit for the Coole area

We are firmly of the belief that it is the local people who best understand the needs and requirements of the local community. All too often the opportunity to realise the maximum local benefit from an opportunity are missed. During our discussions we asked that people consider what their aspirations for the local area are and how the local area might realise the maximum benefit should our proposals reach fruition.

It is envisaged that a community fund in excess of €1.25 million will be available to the local Coole area over the lifetime of the project.

ASPIRATIONS EXPRESSED BY PEOPLE IN THE LOCAL AREA INCLUDE:

- The development of facilities for the elderly in the area and specifically the continuation of previous plans for nursing home facilities in the local area
- Improvements to the local broadband services in the area
- Financial assistance for local community buildings such as the local National School, Church and Hall
- Supports for existing local groups such as the mother and toddler group and the Tidy Towns
- Development of new services such as local adult computer classes, women's fitness classes and a 'Men's Shed'
- Assistance for the community in providing a local amenity and recreation area
- The development of all-weather sports facilities in the area
- An energy efficiency scheme for homes in the local area
- A community educational scheme
- A community enterprise scheme

Element Power would like to work with the community to identify achievable goals and work towards securing these objectives.

If you would like to get involved in exploring and developing these ideas, we would like to talk to you. Working together ideas can become reality!

Mar a deirtear as Gaeilge - Ní Neart Go Cur Le Chéile

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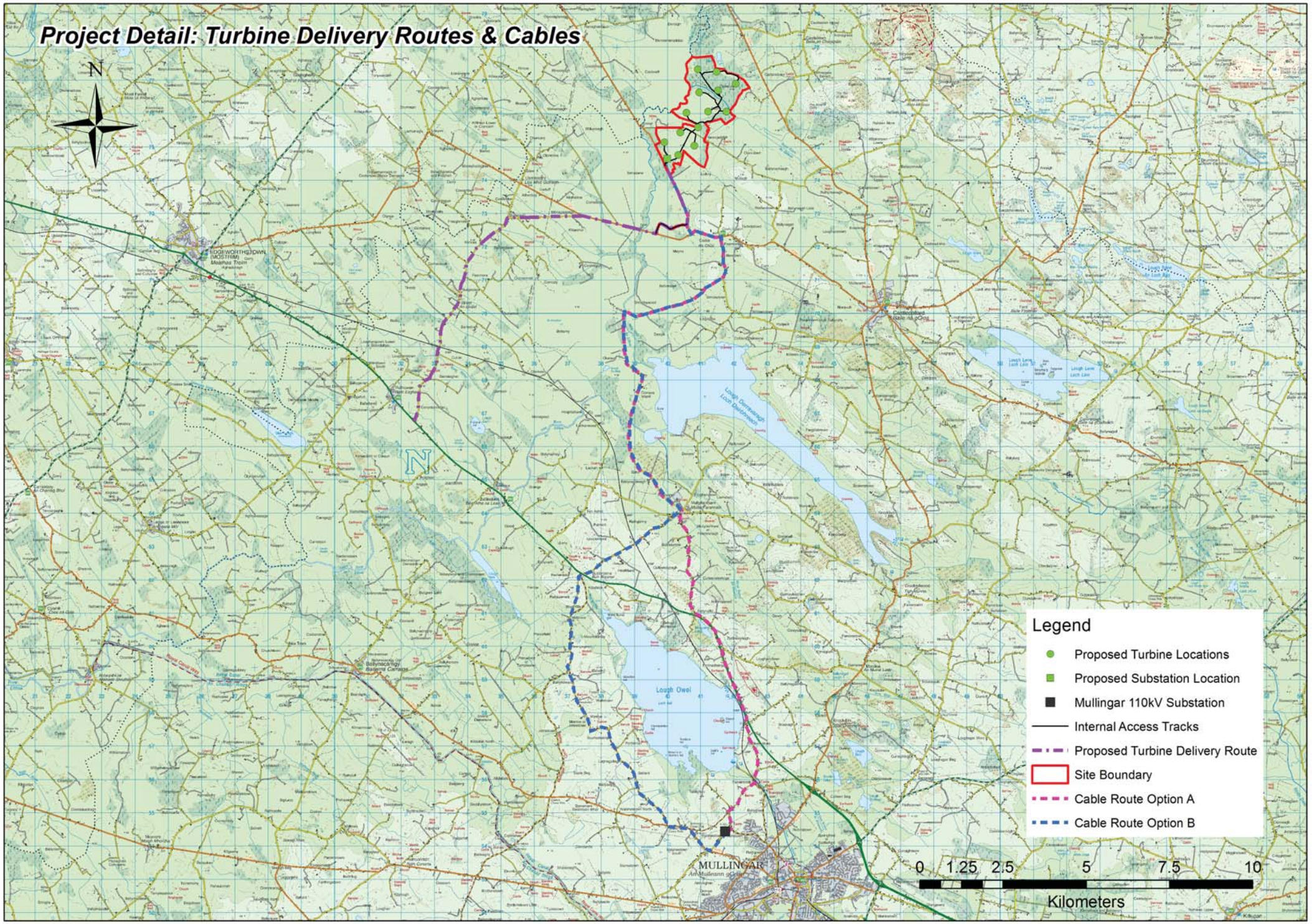
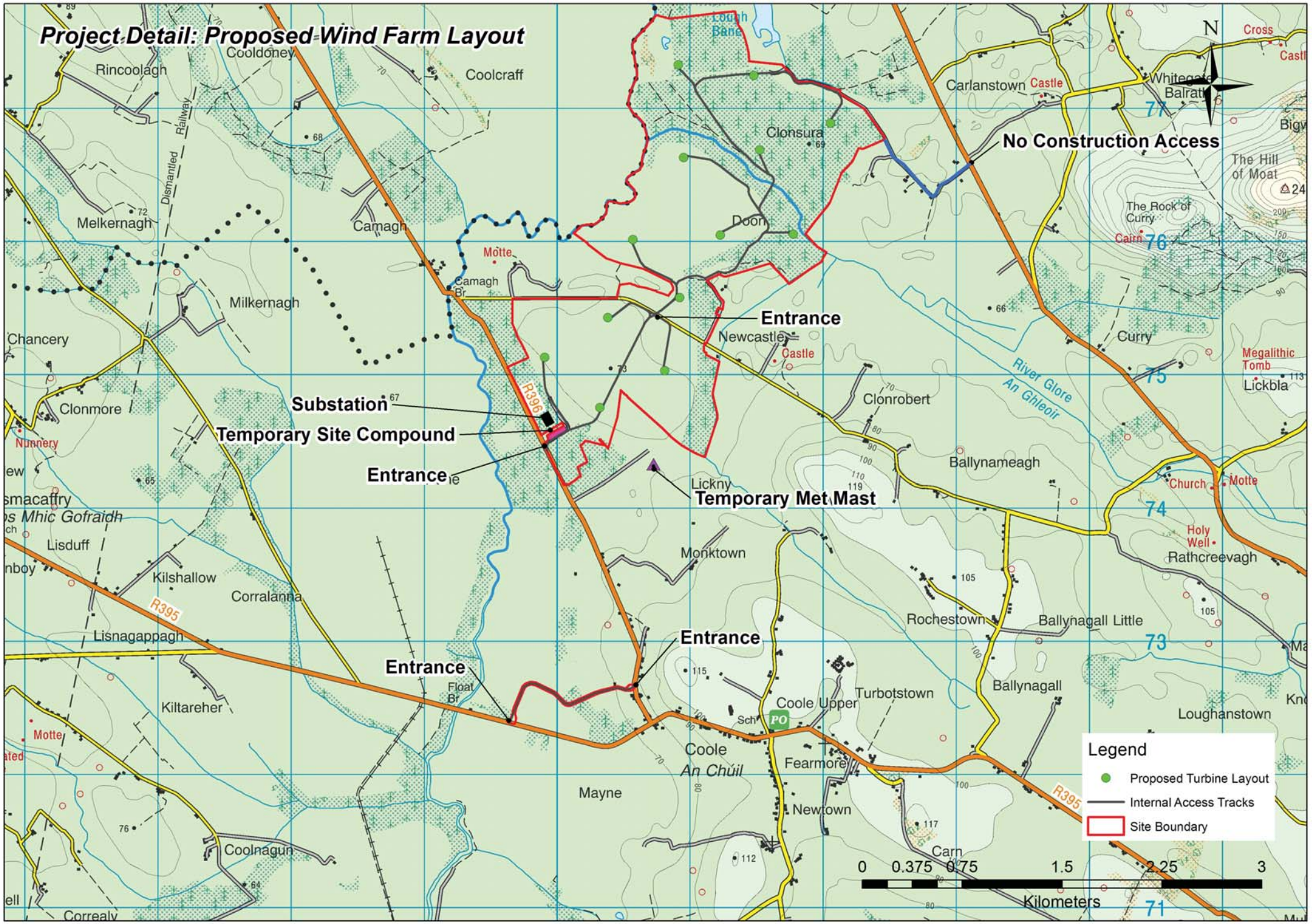




Coole Area Wind Energy Development

Information Booklet

October 2017

Considering opportunity, promoting engagement, striving for sustainability

elementpower

Introduction

Element Power Ireland is one of a number of companies including Bord na Móna, SSE and the ESB involved in the development, construction and operation of renewable energy projects in various locations around the country. We believe that wind power has real potential for the future and an ambition of ours is to play a meaningful role in developing Ireland's existing renewable energy sector to allow the country to reach its goals in a sustainable way. We aim to engage with communities to develop renewable energy projects which will bring benefits not only to our country but also to the counties and communities around them.

Site Location Map

Coole Wind Farm at a glance

- Electricity would be supplied to the Irish Electricity Grid System for use in Ireland
- It will comprise of up to 13 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 175m
- With an output of up to 50MW, this could power over 36,000 Irish homes
- There will be No Shadow Flicker at any house in the area
- We have worked to maximise the setback distance to dwelling houses
- All cabling will be placed underground
- There will be an onsite substation
- A local borrow pit will be used to source material – No blasting or explosives will be used on this project
- Associated works will include access tracks, turbine foundations and hardstanding areas, drainage works, temporary site compound, underground electrical and communications cables between turbines and an underground cable to connect the proposed project to the existing Mullingar 110kV substation
- Rates payments of up to €300,000 per annum will be payable to Westmeath County Council
- An inclusive Community Benefit package is being developed which will allow a wide range of individuals and organisations benefit from the proposed wind farm including an option for community investment & ownership
- There will be approximately 75 jobs created during the construction, operation and maintenance phases of the proposed project

Why Consider This Project?

Developing suitable and appropriate renewable energy projects is of fundamental importance to our country's future. Addressing our dependency on fossil fuels and moves towards becoming a low carbon economy are essential for protecting our energy supply and limiting the effects of climate change on our environment for the generations that follow us. We believe that an opportunity exists to develop a wind energy project which will work well in the Coole area and we have spoken to those in the local community in order to allow their feedback influence the ultimate form that this proposal will take.

"2016 was the hottest year on record setting a new high for the 3rd year in a row"

Climate Change and Global Warming

Climate change and global warming has the potential to have massive and permanent ramification for our climate and way of life. Scientists agree that if action is taken now to limit the rate of increase in global temperatures the worst of the effects can still be avoided.

"Global warming has to be limited to below 2°C compared to the average temperature in pre-industrial times to prevent the most severe impacts of climate change and possibly catastrophic changes in the global environment"
– European Commission climate action

97% of Scientists now agree that Climate Change is directly as a result of human activity and more specifically the release of carbon from the burning of fossil fuels. Action on climate change is being taken at government level across the EU. **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** director general Laura Burke has stated "We are an island nation, vulnerable to climate change. We've a great deal to gain by becoming a leader in moving to a low-carbon economy." Hopefully this will happen!

Fossil Fuels and Energy Import Dependency

The world is heavily dependent on depleting fossil fuel reserves and the population of the world continues to grow. The way we as a people harness and use energy will be challenged in the coming years.

It is estimated that there will be an additional 1 million people living in the Republic of Ireland by 2050. That equates to an increase of over 20% in terms of people – all with a demand for electricity.

Ireland is one of the most fuel import dependent countries in the EU, importing approx. 88% of its fuel to meet its energy requirements in 2015.

This said, Ireland is committed to combating Climate Change by reducing carbon emissions and therefore reducing its dependence on Fossil Fuels. We have a legal obligation to diversify our energy sources by 2020 requiring the development of renewable energy to avoid substantial fines.

We have a world class wind resource which can help meet the required targets and generate economic and local benefits.

Harnessing wind energy is a very efficient and effective way of converting an abundant natural resource to electricity

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) have stated that in 2015 wind energy:

- Avoided €238 million in fossil fuel imports
- Reduced CO_2 emissions by 2.67 Mt

Studies have been carried out which confirm that the proposed wind farm would generate enough green electricity to displace the amount of carbon used during the construction of the wind farm within approximately 10 months of operation. After this, all electricity generated would displace carbon which otherwise would be released from burning fossil fuels.

Developing an appropriate project

From an early stage in the design process we have sought feedback from those living in the areas closest to the proposed wind farm. We have endeavoured to address concerns expressed and allowed the views of local people to influence the final design.

Whilst we are aware that we may not be able to fully satisfy everyone, we will continue to work to design and develop a project which reflects what people are telling us would work best in this area.

During our meetings with people we asked them to consider how they thought that a wind farm could work best in the area and how the maximum benefit could be brought to the local area should it be granted planning permission. Taking this feedback on board we made significant changes to the design proposed.

Changes made include:

- A reduction in turbine numbers which saw the 25 initially proposed reduced to 13 turbines
- A commitment to eliminate Shadow Flicker at all homes
- An increase in the initially proposed setback distance
- The elimination of blasting or any use of explosives during construction
- Consideration of local views in terms of site access and the roads to be used including a commitment that no traffic will be allowed to use the road in front of Coole National School
- The development of a community benefit scheme which was guided by the views of people in the area
- The development of a Local Business Support Scheme.

Consultation

Common Issues raised

Noise and Proximity
In designing this project we have worked to increase the setback distances from houses to 700m and over. It cannot be said that there is no noise from wind turbines however we would encourage anyone who has an interest or concern about noise to visit a wind farm and to talk to the people who live there. There are no noise issues with properly developed and operated wind farms such as those we are involved with.

Shadow Flicker
We have committed to **Zero Shadow Flicker** at all homes in the area eliminating this as an issue.

Blasting and material extraction
Blasting will not be carried out on this project. In order to minimize traffic on the local roads we have committed to sourcing the material required for construction from local sources where possible. We have identified an area of suitable material which is approximately 1.5km from the proposed wind farm in the townland of Mullagh. While talking to people in the local area we were advised that blasting would not be viewed as an appropriate extraction method. In light of this we can confirm that no explosives will be used on this project.

Wind farms in the rural landscape
In terms of assessing the appropriateness of turbines in any landscape, the height and scale of the turbines being proposed and the nature of the landscape in question require serious consideration. Guidance contained within the wind energy guidelines states that taller turbines are more suited to flat bog land type landscapes such as the area being considered in Coole. This is partly because these types of landscapes are normally broad, open and considered to be able to accommodate higher tip heights but also due to the fact that hedgerows, trees and other visual obstructions provide effective screening of the turbines. This is not to say that turbines will not be seen anywhere however it is true to say that the wind farm will work well in the local landscape.

What will this bring to the area?

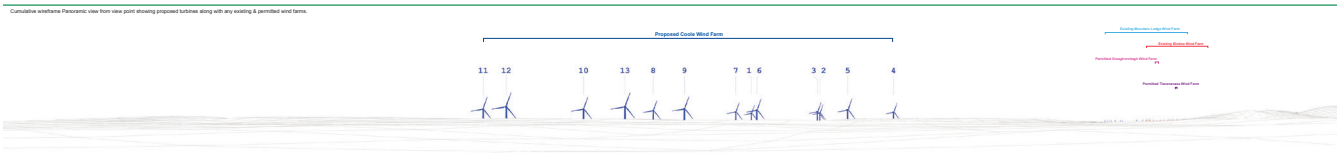
We are aiming to develop a project which will not only bring the environmental benefits of generating green electricity but will also bring real and tangible benefits to the local area. Through talking to people in the local area, we have developed a community benefit proposal (based on the current proposal being granted planning) which includes the following:

- **Community Ownership** - Local people will be able to invest in the project and get a return from the wind farm
- **A Community Benefit Fund** of up to €1.2m will be available for the local communities
- **Environmental and Economic Sustainability Scheme** [For those closest to the wind farm]
  – Household Dividend
  – A Greener Homes Scheme
- **Jobs** – Local businesses will be assisted in seeking to secure valuable contracts during construction and operation
- **Rates in the region of €300,000/ year -** A number of Local Authorities are now seeking to increase their funding through raising the Local Property Tax. In terms of Westmeath, the rates payable from this wind farm could offset a Local Property Tax increase of approximately 5% for each household in the county!
- **Local road improvements -** Upgrades will be carried out to local roads which would be used during construction.

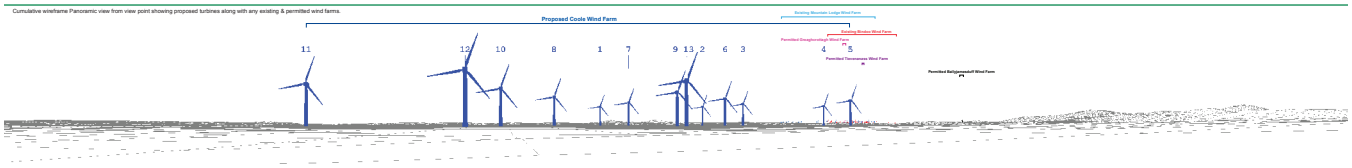
All too often opportunities for community development can be missed. This project offers an opportunity to bring real and tangible benefits to the area. If you have ideas on how the community benefit fund could be best used please contact us and let us know.

What would this project look like from the villages?

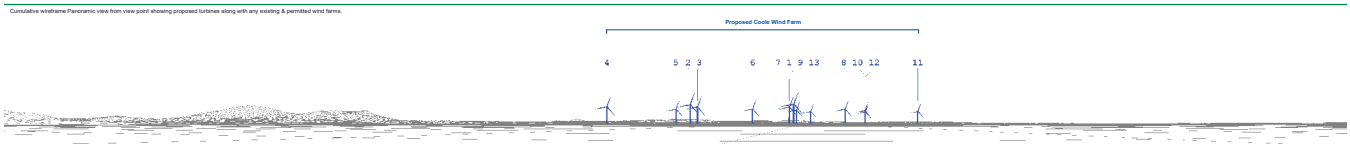
Coole Village – Photo location 3.0km to wind farm



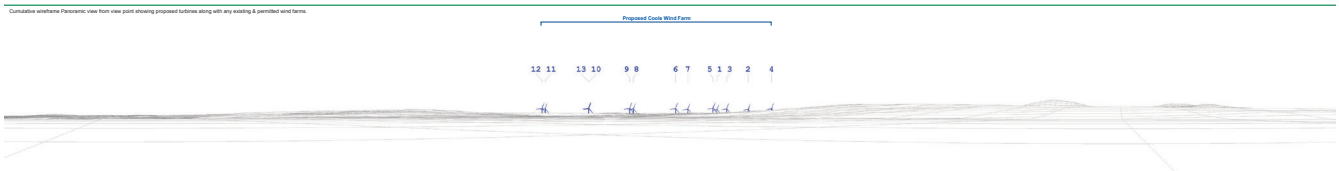
Coole – R396 1.3km to wind farm



Finea view – 3.8km to the wind farm



Castlepollard view – 7.2km to the wind farm



Note – We will be making these and other photomontages available on our website so that they can be viewed at a larger resolution. Please visit www.coolewindfarm.ie for further information

Where can I find out more about this project?

- You can contact us on our email contact details below and we will have our Community Liaison Officer call you back to provide you with accurate information and deal with any query you may have
- Visit our Website – **www.coolewindfarm.ie**
- Call our office in Tullamore to arrange to meet with one of our team
- You will be able to view the full planning files in the Westmeath County Council buildings after the planning application has been submitted

When is this project likely to be submitted for planning?

An application was lodged for this project to Westmeath County Council in June of 2017. We were subsequently advised of an issue in the processing of the application. In light of this and in the interests of full and proper consultation we are preparing to resubmit the application to the local authority for consideration. It is our intention to do so during October 2017. We would hope that this project will be looked on favourably within the planning system and that it will be deemed to be a suitable and appropriate project which can bring much local benefit as well as helping us towards becoming a low carbon economy and achieving our renewable energy targets.

> *"Climate change is a fundamental problem that we must solve and not merely pass on to the generations to come. We can't let our children and grandchildren look back on this critical period in time and say that we failed them." - Mary Robinson*

Information / Misinformation

Information is available from many sources in relation to wind energy however much of this can be inaccurate and misleading. Unfortunately there is also much information put into the public domain aimed at misrepresenting individual projects. This being the case, it is important to make sure that the images or information that you have to hand are accurate. We are happy to provide accurate information on this project or guidance to help direct you towards sources of genuine peer reviewed information should you request it.

Contact us

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