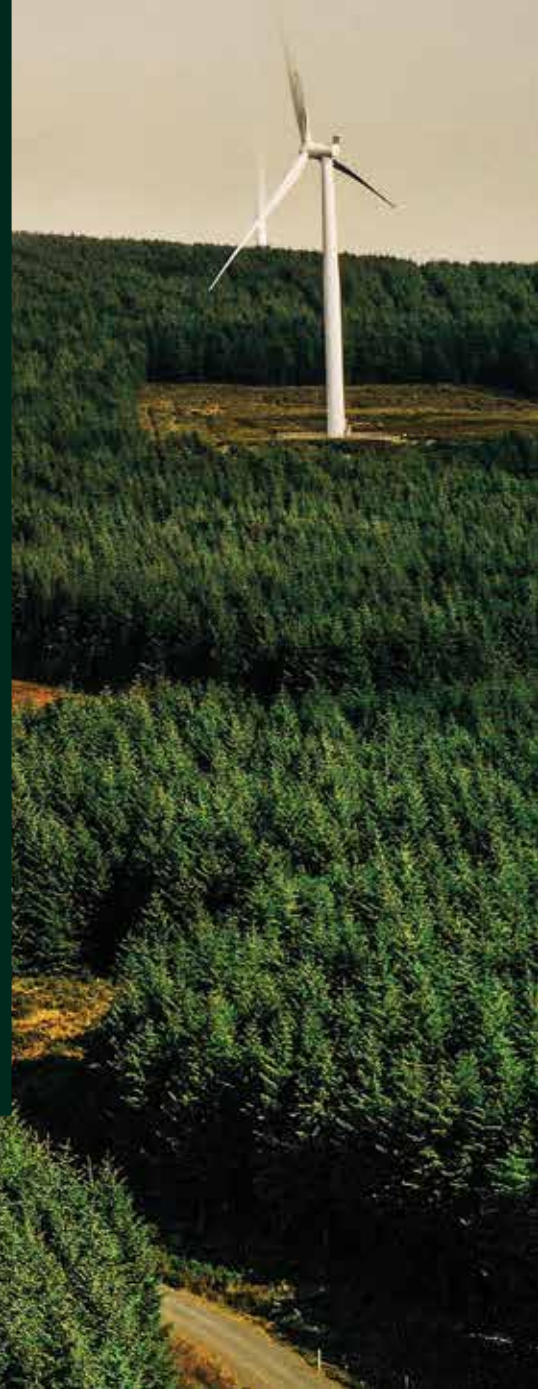


Scart Mountain Wind Farm

Newsletter 2
Spring 2023



Introduction

FuturEnergy Ireland is exploring the potential for a renewable energy project located 4km northeast of Cappoquin in an area known as Scart Mountain in Co Waterford.

Since we issued our introductory newsletter in autumn 2022, our Community Liaison Officers have been listening to your feedback and finding answers to your questions. We have responded to all questions in an extended Fact File, available to view at www.scartmountainwindfarm.ie. If you would like a hard copy, please contact us.

To discuss any aspect of this project in more detail, please get in touch with your local Community Liaison Officers John O'Halloran and Liam Cleary, whose contact details are on the back of this newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.

Project Update

Initial Turbine Layout

Guided by an initial desk-based review, surveys and available information, the first design layout (right) consists of 17 wind turbines. If this design is adopted, these turbines would generate enough clean electricity to power around 61,000 homes and save approximately 105,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions per annum, which would have otherwise been created by the generation of electricity from fossil fuels.

Further detailed environmental studies, including field surveys, are now underway as set out in the section below. These studies could result in the identification of further development constraints that in turn may lead to a reduction in turbine numbers. The project team will issue a second draft design layout once sufficient progress has been made with these studies.

The location and alignment of site infrastructure, such as site roads, crane hardstands and the substation, will be developed following the completion of the second design layout.

The final layout will reflect the iterative design process and include any changes required following completion of all site surveys, site investigations and analysis. It will also incorporate community and general stakeholder feedback where possible.

The final layout provides the basis of the planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).



Environmental Surveys and Studies

The environment is extremely important to us. Thorough studies and surveys in and around the site are essential to design a wind farm that respects the surrounding environment. The following field studies are progressing well:

Biodiversity

An initial survey of the habitats on the proposed wind farm site has been carried out that identifies areas which may be sensitive. Further detailed surveys will be carried out to inform the siting of turbines and other infrastructure such as roads, substation, borrow pit(s), construction compound(s) and so on. This will ensure that the final turbine layout is designed to minimise the potential for environmental impacts.

Ornithology

Bird surveys are ongoing on the site year-round to identify the species that are using the study area. These surveys are building up a large dataset that can be used to carry out a robust assessment of the proposed development.

Hydrology & Water Quality

An initial site walkover was carried out to identify all primary constraints on site. Additional validation studies will be carried out once the second design iteration is produced to ensure that any and all localised constraints or risks at that stage are identified.

Geology and Soils

An initial field study was carried out to identify all primary constraints. Detailed site investigations will be carried out after the second design layout to validate ground conditions at the specific turbine locations and ensure constructability.

Noise

Suitable locations from which to carry out background noise surveys were identified by acoustic consultants. These surveys will occur over several weeks to measure the current background noise levels of the area. This baseline monitoring will facilitate an accurate noise impact assessment for the proposed project.

Noise and vibration assessments will be undertaken for the operational, construction and decommissioning phases of the proposed development in accordance with established best practice methodologies. The cumulative impact with other wind farms will also be considered. For more information, please see our updated Fact File on the project website.

Cultural Heritage

A site survey will be carried out to identify any features of archaeological or architectural heritage and previously unknown features that may be near the proposed infrastructure. Subsequent turbine layout design iterations will take these into consideration and an exclusion buffer will be applied.

Telecommunications, mobile and television

Telecom providers have been contacted to find out if there are any telecom links present in the site area. The wind farm layout is designed to avoid impacts to these links.

Environmental Impact Assessment Scoping and Consultation

Environmental Impact Assessment scoping is complete. This identifies all the factors that need to be considered in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) submitted with a planning application.

More than 35 organisations are being consulted including Waterford County Council and the Environmental Protection Agency. The project team will continue to engage with consultees throughout the EIA and design process.



The planning application

When a wind farm is expected to have a capacity greater than 50MW, An Bord Pleanála must be consulted to determine whether the project is a Strategic Infrastructure Development.

The project team will meet with An Bord Pleanála and will continue to engage following updated design versions of Scart Mountain Wind Farm. If the project is classified as Strategic Infrastructure Development, an application for planning permission is expected to be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála.



Wind energy: the benefits

Renewable energy developments bring many local, national and global benefits. The proposed Scart Mountain Wind Farm would:

- Deliver clean, green renewable electricity.
- Lower Ireland's carbon footprint.
- Contribute towards Government climate targets.
- Improve our nation's energy independence.
- Build our economic security.
- Provide a substantial Community Benefit Fund.
- Make significant local rates contributions.
- Create employment.
- Support Ireland's growing energy needs.
- Strengthen our green economy.

Estimated timeline

Sometimes, for reasons beyond our control, timelines may change. If this should happen, we commit to being open and honest and will keep the community informed through letter-drops and via the project website.

The project's Community Liaison Officers will be available throughout all stages to discuss any queries or concerns.

Spring/Summer 2023

- Progress updates on the environmental surveys and studies.
- Newsletter 3 with information on the potential Community Benefit Fund and the second turbine design layout.
- Noise monitoring begins.
- Landscape and visual assessments commence.
- Community engagement continues with CLOs John and Liam calling to houses in the locality.
- Progress the third and final design layout and proceed with Environmental Impact Assessments.
- Information webinar with a Q&A session for the local community.

Summer/Autumn 2023

- Detailed project brochure and virtual exhibition with all project information including updates from study reports, photomontages and a final turbine layout map.
- Local community engagement clinics.

Autumn/Winter 2023

- Planning application target: late 2023.



Contact Us

We welcome your comments and feedback on any aspect of this project. Furthermore, please call or email if you would like to be added to our mailing list.

Community Liaison Officers

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