Summer 2021

Proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm

Bord na Móna

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How many turbines are proposed for the development?
Resulting from the development of the draft wind turbine layout there are 50 turbines proposed for the Ballydermot Wind Farm project. For further information, please see page 6.

2. What height are the proposed turbines and how close are they to peoples homes?
The proposed turbines will have an overall blade tip height of up to 220 metres. For further information, please see page 6.

3. What setback distance has been applied from houses?
The turbine layout has been designed with a minimum setback distance of 4 times the tip height (880 metres) to the nearest house. For further information, please see page 6.

4. When will a planning application be lodged?
It is envisaged that a planning application will be lodged in Summer 2022 for the proposed development. It is intended to submit the planning permission application directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provisions of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. An initial approach is therefore being made to An Bord Pleanála seeking a determination in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, or otherwise, of the proposed wind farm development. For further information, please see page 9.

5. What land area will the proposed wind farm occupy?
The Ballydermot Bogs that form part of the proposed development area compromise circa 5,580 hectares. Only approximately 5% of this area will be used for turbine bases, crane hard-standings and access tracks, so much of the land area will not be required by the development. This means that it can be utilised for other purposes, such as biodiversity and amenity.

6. Where will the power from the proposed wind farm go?
The electricity generated by the turbines will be transmitted directly onto Ireland's National Grid which is managed by EirGrid for distribution around the country. The proposed development will make a significant contribution to Irelands Climate Action Plan 2019, which has a set a target of 8.2GW of onshore wind capacity by 2030.

7. What stage is the project at now?
The project team is conducting a number of onsite surveys including ecology surveys, ornithology surveys, aquatic surveys, heritage surveys and site investigation work. In addition to these site works, we are also looking to consult with the community on the draft wind turbine layout.

8. How can I provide feedback on the proposed development to Bord na Móna?
We encourage feedback through a number of channels including:

- Through the Project's Community Liaison Officers: Niall and James (please see page 13 for further details).
- Submission of a Feedback Questionnaire (please see page 10 for further details).
- Via the project's dedicated email address: **ballydermotwindfarm@bnm.ie**

Introduction

Bord na Móna is an Irish, semi-state climate solutions company helping lead Ireland towards a climate neutral future.

Bord na Móna has been serving communities for over 90 years, always rising to meet the needs of the day. It was founded in 1934 as The Turf Development Board to enhance national energy security through peat harvesting and became Bord na Móna in 1946.

Today, we've radically changed our approach to face an even greater challenge: climate change. We've ended peat harvesting and now focus on developing climate solutions in renewable energy, sustainable waste management, carbon storage, and biodiversity conservation.

Ireland has committed to ambitious climate goals and Bord na Móna's climate solutions are helping to achieve them. Our vision is to help Ireland reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. This means helping to remove the same amount of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere that are released.

To power a net zero future, we're expanding our renewable energy infrastructure. We've been constructing and maintaining large-scale infrastructure for decades. Today, we're using that experience to build renewable energy developments across the country. These developments are transforming the way we generate and consume energy.

Ireland has committed to generating 70% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030. We're working across wind, solar, biomass and biogas to help achieve this target and to provide energy security for future generations.

Irish Government Policy on Renewable Energy

Successive Governments have been developing policy to chart a course towards ambitious decarbonisation targets for Electricity, Transport, Built Environment, Industry and Agriculture. In March 2019, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action published its cross-party report entitled, Climate Change:

A Cross-Party Consensus for Action, which set out 42 priority recommendations in the area of climate action, including a target for 70 percent renewable electricity.

The Programme for Government 2020 details how energy will play a central role in the creation of a strong and sustainable economy over the next decade. The reliable supply of safe, secure, and clean energy is essential to deliver a phase-out of fossil fuels. To reduce emissions and decarbonise both Heat and Transport, electrification will play an important role in ensuring Ireland meets emission targets. This will create rapid growth in demand for electricity which must be planned and delivered in a cost-effective way.

The Irish Government supports the use of Ireland's wind resources to meet our renewable energy targets. Outlined below is some of the most recent relevant Irish Government Policy:

- Energy White Paper entitled Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015–2030.
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 as a landmark national milestone in the evolution of climate change policy in Ireland. The purpose of the act is pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.
- The Climate Action Plan 2019: This plan identifies how Ireland will achieve its 2030 targets for carbon emissions and puts the country on a trajectory to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The plan outlines that Ireland will move to 70% renewable electricity by 2030.
- Project 2040: National Development Plan 2018 – 2027 which outlines an additional 4,500 MW of renewable energy as an investment priority as part of strategic pillar No. 8 - Transition to a Low Carbon and Climate Resilient Society.
- Renewable Electricity Support Scheme to contribute to Ireland's 2020 renewable electricity targets and to deliver Ireland's renewable energy ambitions out to 2030.
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government is currently preparing an update to the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines and in December 2019 published revised draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines for consultation.
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is preparing a Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework to guide the development of renewable electricity projects in line with the objectives of Irish energy policy.
- Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021. Legislation designed to put Ireland on a path to net zero emissions, no later than 2050 and a 51% reduction in emissions by the end of the decade.

The Proposed Location

The proposed site for the wind farm is shown in Figure 1 below. It is adjacent to the communities of Allenwood, Clonbullogue, Derrinturn, Edenderry and Rathangan.

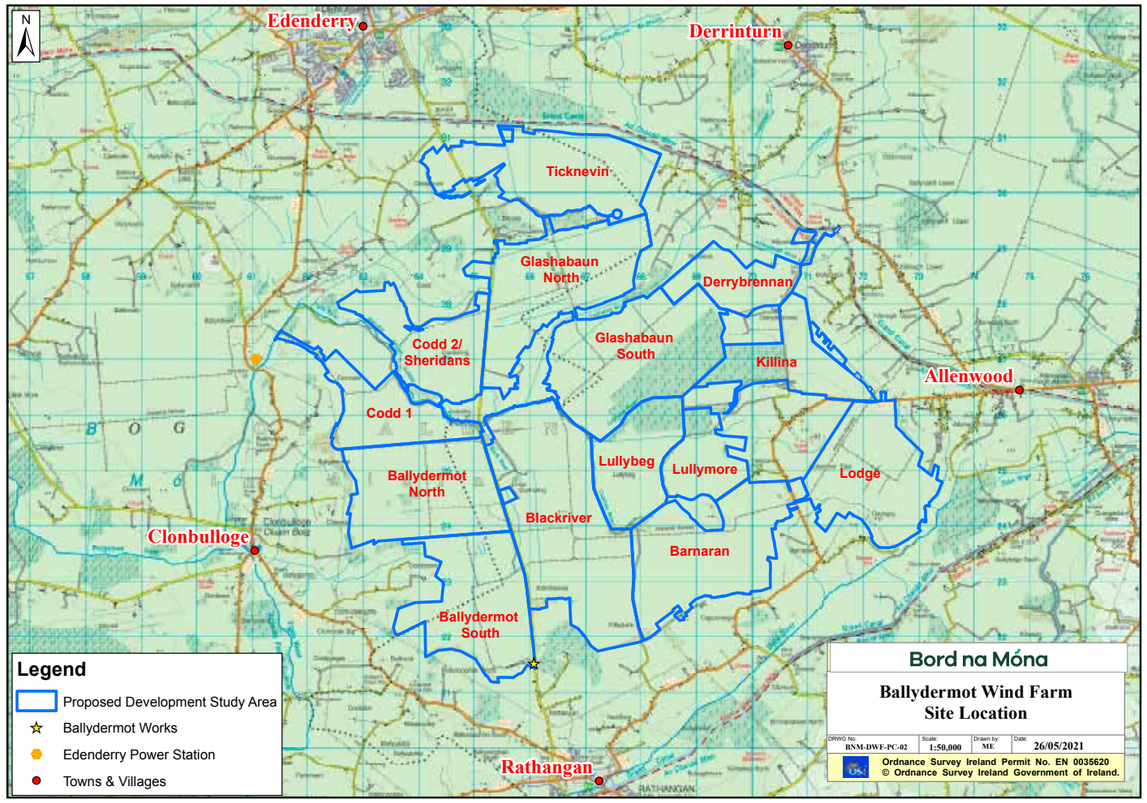


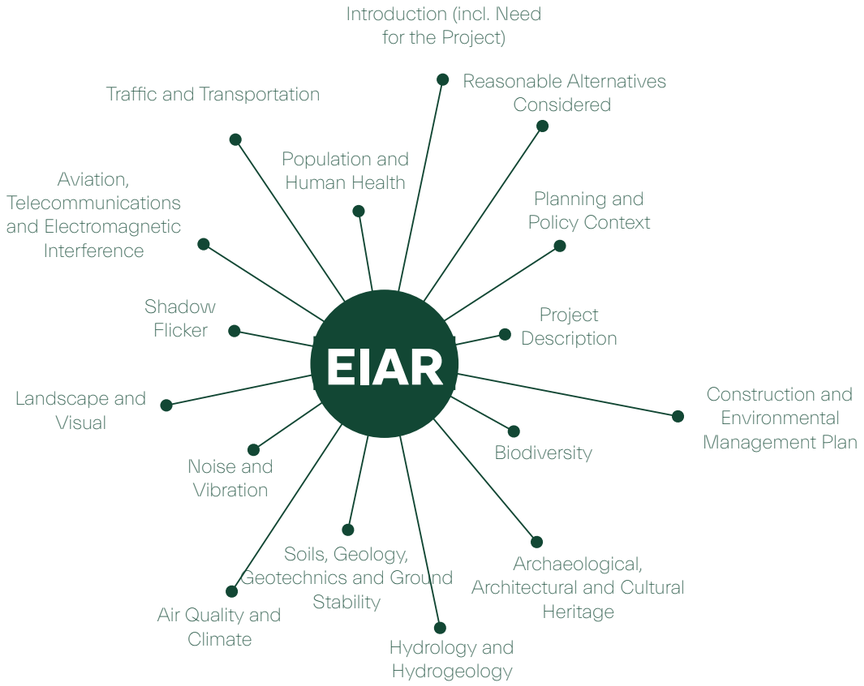
Figure 1 - Site Location Map

The proposed development will be located within the Bord na Móna Ballydermot Bog Group which comprises of circa 5,580 hectares. This Bog Group consists of 14 bogs, 12 of which have been identified as potentially suitable for the location of turbines (to view the draft layout map, please refer to pages 7 and 8).

It is envisaged the proposed development footprint would take up approximately 5% of the total site area for turbine bases, crane hard-standings and access tracks, meaning much of the land area will not be required by the development. This provides opportunity for the remainder of the site to be utilised for other purposes, such as biodiversity and amenity.

Site Layout Design

In designing a layout for the proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm there were several factors to be considered, including:



The Proposed Wind Farm

Number of Turbines - 50

The draft layout comprises of 50 wind turbines. Apart from the turbines themselves, the other principal components of the wind farm are the foundations to support the turbine towers, access, crane hard standings, underground cables between the turbines, an on-site electricity substation and an electrical connection to the appropriate node on the National Grid. Please see pages 7 and 8 for Draft Layout Map.

Height of Turbines - 220m

The proposed turbines will have an overall blade tip height of up to 220 metres. Within this size envelope, various configurations of hub height and rotor diameter may be used. The exact make and model of the turbine will be dictated by a competitive tender process, post planning and it will not exceed the maximum tip height of 220 metres.

Setback Distance - 880m

The turbine layout has been designed with a minimum setback distance of 880m to the nearest house from a turbine. This complies with the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019), which proposes a setback distance of 4 times the tip height.

Distance	No. of Houses	Cumulative
880m	0	0
1000m	45	45
1250m	130	175
1500m	189	364
1700m	226	590
2000m	321	911

Table 1. Setback Distance to Houses

Wind Farm Output: 240–270MW

Early studies of the site have indicated that it may be capable of accommodating approximately 240–270 Megawatts (MW) of installed generating capacity – making it the largest proposed onshore wind farm in Ireland to date. Currently, the largest operational onshore wind farm in Ireland is The Galway Wind Park, co-developed by SSE and Coillte in Connemara's Cloosh Valley with an installed generating capacity of 169 MW. When operational, the proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm will generate a volume of electricity equivalent to the average annual electrical demand of circa 150,000 Irish homes*.

Planning Timeline

It is intended to submit a planning application in Summer 2022 for the proposed development. It is envisaged that the planning permission application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provisions of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006 (please refer to page 14 for more information on the wind farm development timeline process).

2nd Public Consultation: Summer 2021
Final Layout Publication: Spring 2022
Submission of Planning Application: Summer 2022

**based on Annual Capacity Factor across Ireland in 2019 of 29.3% and average household electricity consumption of 4,200kwH*

N

Legend

Dist.	-	No. Houses	-	Cum.
880m	-	0	-	0
1000m	-	45	-	45
1250m	-	130	-	175
1500m	-	189	-	364
1700m	-	226	-	590
2000m	-	321	-	911

- Sensitive Receptors
- Proposed Turbine Locations
- Proposed Substation Location
- Ballydermot Works
- Edenderry Power Station
- Boundary

Bord na Móna

Ballydermot Wind Farm Proximity Map

DRWG No.	Scale:	Drawn by:	Date:
BNM-DWF-PC-01	1:50,000	ME	26/05/2021

Strategic Infrastructure Planning Process Explained

For most large projects, a key issue is whether a development is Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) or not? Energy infrastructure which is considered SID* includes:

"An installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total output greater than 50 megawatts"

*(as outlined in the Seventh Schedule, Section 1 of the Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006).

SID Projects	Non-SID Projects
Planning Application to An Bord Pleanála	Planning Application to Local County Council
Environmental Impact Assessment Mandatory	Environmental Impact Assessment Mandatory in some cases

At this stage of the project, Bord na Móna estimate that the output of the proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm will be approximately 240–270MW. Consequently, Bord na Móna will need to go through a pre-planning consultation process with An Bord Pleanála to determine with certainty who the consenting authority will be.

Irrespective of the Consenting Authority it is our view that an Environmental Impact Assessment Report will be required as supporting documentation to the planning application.

Community Engagement

Bord na Móna understands the importance of community engagement at every stage of the proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm development process. The proposed development will benefit from participation by all interested parties during each stage of the development.

We are constantly updating and adapting our communications channels to ensure the public are informed about the proposed development. This means continuing to use our traditional methods of communication in addition to a number of interactive online tools to ensure we engage on an ongoing basis through the following:

Community Engagement Clinics
Subject to Covid-19 restrictions, Bord na Móna intend to hold Community Engagement Clinics in the locality in July and August. In order to ensure the safety of both our employees and members of the public due to Covid-19, and that all social distancing requirements and Government health guidelines are adhered to, these Community Engagement Clinics will be held by appointment only. If you would like to find out more about the Clinics and avail of an appointment, please contact the clinic Co-Ordinator on 087–9460284 before **13th August.** Alternatively, you can visit the project website and complete the expression of interest form there.

A Feedback Questionnaire
Should you wish to submit any comments/suggestions on the proposed development, a feedback questionnaire can also be completed on the project website. For your convenience, we have included a paper-based copy of the questionnaire and a freepost envelope within the project information pack you received for the proposed wind farm.

A Virtual Consultation Room
As part of our Community Engagement activities, we have updated the Ballydermot Wind Farm "Virtual Consultation Room' that was launched last October as part of our Communication Tools for the project. The Virtual Consultation Room contains a number of interactive features including a 360° Photomontage viewer and a virtual 'fly by' video of the site location. Please feel free to visit the Virtual Consultation Room via the project's dedicated website **www.ballydermotwindfarm.ie.**

Benefits of the Development

The proposed development will give rise to a range of benefits at different levels. At a Local Level, benefits arising from the construction and operation of the proposed wind farm will include:

- Employment
- Amenity and Recreational Facilities
- The provision of a Community Benefit Fund
- Substantial rates paid to the relevant Local Authorities.
- Upgrading of the road infrastructure in the vicinity of the wind farm (as required).
- Payment of taxes from the project, and dividends from Bord na Móna to the State.

Employment

A large wind farm development of this scale would typically support 150–200 jobs at peak construction. There will also be indirect employment created through the sub-supply of a wide range of products and services including: gravel and graded stone for roads and hard stands, concrete and steel for turbine bases, building materials for sub stations, haulage of components from the ports to the site, accommodation, legal and financial services. Once complete the project will also support a number of long term, high quality technical jobs in operations and maintenance.

Amenity and Recreational Facilities

A high-level amenity plan will accompany the planning application. A draft version of the plan will be available for feedback over the coming months.

A good example of one of our existing wind farm amenity facilities is Mountlucas Wind Farm in North Offaly. The site consists of a 10km walkway / cycleway around the wind farm in addition to interpretative signage, outdoor exercise equipment and a learning hub which is utilised by various school and college groups for educational purposes and day trips. In 2020, the wind farm welcomed over 45,000 visits to its amenity facilities.

Community Benefit Fund

Similar to our existing wind farms, it is envisaged that an annual Community Benefit Fund will be set up for the proposed Ballydermot Wind Farm once the project is operational. As the project is at an early stage of its development, the exact nature and structure of a proposed Community Benefit Fund is not known at this time, albeit we would envisage it being similar in type to our existing Community Benefit Funds which include:

- A Community Gain Scheme – providing funding to local community and not-for-profit organisations
- A Near Neighbour Fund – providing an annual electricity contribution and once off support to carry out energy efficiency measures and/or education support to residents within a prescribed distance of a turbine.

How you can Get in Touch

The Ballydermot Wind Farm will benefit from participation by all interested parties during each stage of the development. There are a few ways you can get in touch with us:

Call Us
If you wish to make a comment or require further information about the proposed wind farm please call the project's Community Liaison Officers Niall (087–9951174) * or James (087–7087022) *.

Email Us
Email us any comments or queries via: ballydermotwindfarm@bnm.ie

Write to us
Ballydermot Wind Farm Communications Team, Bord na Móna, Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare

Join our Mailing List
Keep informed of all project updates by signing up to our project mailing list. Please visit the project website to complete the sign-up form: www.ballydermotwindfarm.ie

**9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays*

How long does it take to develop a wind farm?

6 – 9 months
Site selection & feasibility studies

24 months
Preparation of planning application

Up to 24 months
Planning Consent

12 - 18 months
Pre-construction studies, procurement and financial close

18 - 24 months
Construction of wind farm (including commissioning)

Typically 6 to 8 years