Ballyfasy
Wind Farm

Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Newsletter 1
Winter 2024

A **FuturEnergy Ireland** and **ART Generation** Joint Venture

Manogate

Ballyfasy
Wind Farm

Welcome to our first Ballyfasy Newsletter

Manogate Ltd is actively exploring a wind farm development opportunity in the Ballyfasy area of Co. Kilkenny. Manogate is a company owned by FuturEnergy Ireland and ART Generation.

About the developers

ART Generation is an Irish renewable energy development company founded in 2002. The company has developed a substantial portfolio of more than 20 onshore wind farms and operates a number of wind farms. It has a large portfolio of Tier 1 onshore wind farm projects at various stages of development.

FuturEnergy Ireland is a leading Irish renewable energy developer established in 2021 as a standalone joint venture between Coillte and ESB. The company was formed to maximise the potential of Ireland's unique wind and land resources and to accelerate our transformation to a low carbon energy economy.

FuturEnergy Ireland is targeting the delivery of 1GW of renewable energy capacity, along with supportive energy storage facilities, by 2030.

Why onshore wind energy?

Climate action

The planet is warming at a dangerous rate: 2023 was the hottest year on record globally and in Ireland. To tackle this, urgent action is required. Ireland's climate action policy aims to significantly increase onshore wind energy, which is critical to achieving our legally binding carbon emissions reduction targets.

Wind energy makes sense for Ireland. Wind energy is a free, domestic natural resource, produced in abundance due to our location. It is a clean fuel source that does not pollute the air like power plants, which rely on the combustion of fossil fuels.

The Climate Action Plan 2024 clearly sets out an objective to almost double onshore wind deployments from nearly 5GW today to 9GW by 2030. This is critical to achieve the Government's legally binding carbon emissions reduction targets. If we can increase the amount of renewable energy, this can also support the electrification of heat and transport.

Accelerating the development of renewable energy projects such as Ballyfasy is vital to reduce carbon emissions and slow down the damage caused by climate change that is already beginning to devastate our planet and cost many lives.

Energy security

Ireland is highly dependent on imported energy, spending €1 million an hour on fossil fuels. As such, we are vulnerable to international price increases, which are directly impacted by escalating international shocks. This can have an inflationary effect on our economy, as experienced in 2022 at the start of the conflict in Ukraine.

EU and national energy policies are seeking to rapidly ramp up renewable generation capacity to reduce our dependance on imported fossil fuels and support more stable and affordable long-term energy prices. Projects such as Ballyfasy have the potential to support this strategy and can improve energy security and reduce costs in Ireland.

Why this site?

From preliminary studies and investigations, third-party consultants and the Ballyfasy team have pinpointed the proposed site as a favourable location for wind energy generation. The suitability of the study area can be attributed, in part, to the following:

- There are good annual average wind speeds in the study area.
- Setback distances from houses can be achieved to align with the latest government guidance. The project team has committed to a minimum setback of 720 metres between a habitable dwelling and a proposed turbine location.
- There is a network of existing forestry and farm roads within the study area that can be utilised.
- The study area is in an accessible location for connection to the National Electricity Grid via existing electrical substations.
- The site has good access from the M9 and the public road network.

The Proposed Development

Following assessments as part of Design Version 1, the project team is considering the study area under the following parameters:

- Associated foundations and hardstanding areas.
- An electrical substation with a control building and associated electrical equipment.
- Associated internal underground cabling and grid connection cabling.
- Temporary borrow pits to source construction stone on-site for road upgrade and construction.
- A permanent anemometer (meteorological) mast up to a height of 105 metres to measure wind speed and direction.
- Upgrade of existing and provision of new on-site access roads and associated drainage.
- Biodiversity enhancement and conservation areas;
- Temporary construction compounds.

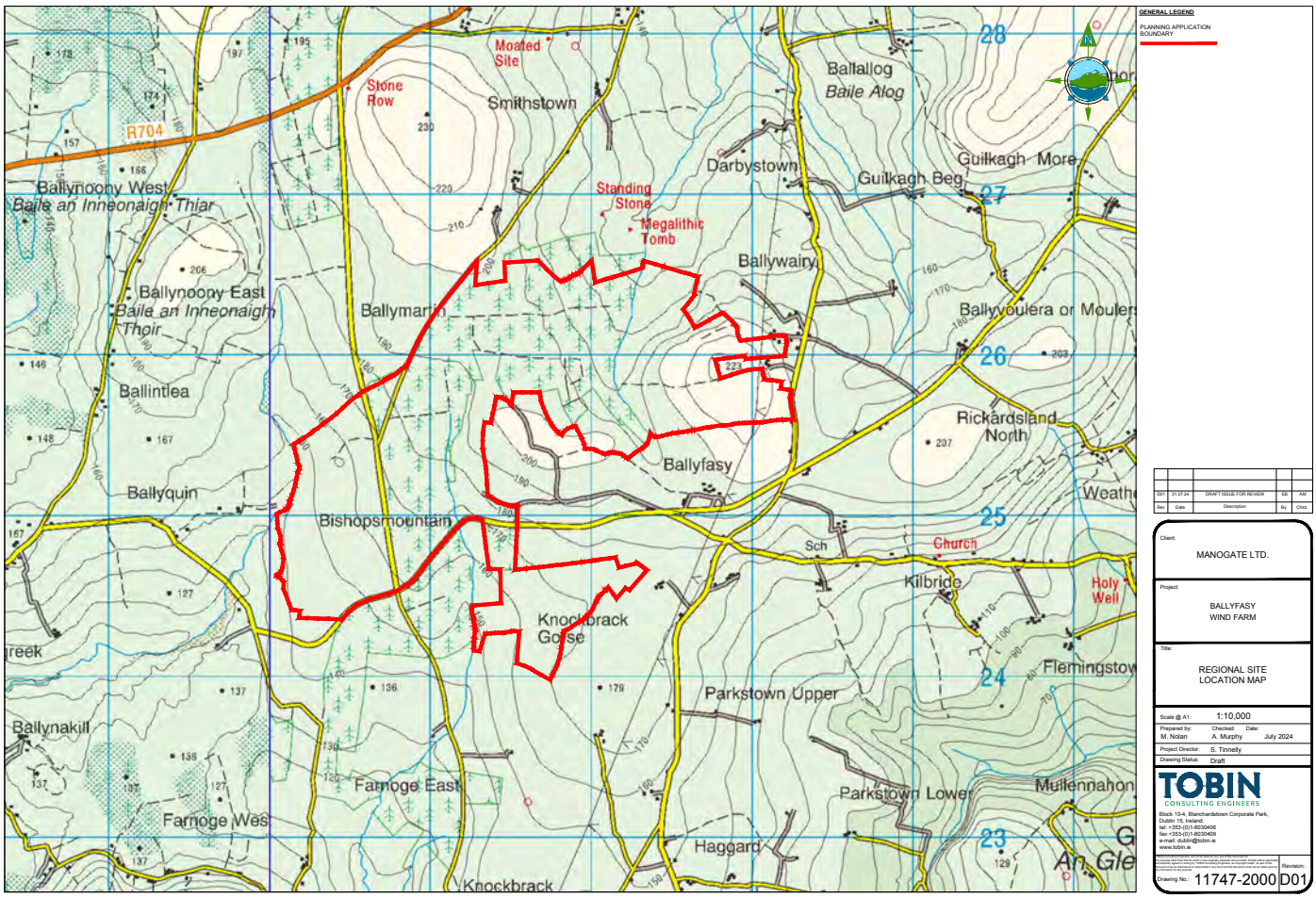

Figure 1. The proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm site study area

Our commitment to you

We believe in communicating with our neighbours from the earliest stage of project design all the way through the lifetime of this project. Our aim is to develop responsible wind energy projects in a way that respects the local community and environment.

From the outset, we will place a fundamental focus on inclusion and partnership with stakeholders. The Ballyfasy project team will keep the community regularly informed via newsletters, respond to phone calls and emails, and organise one-to-one meetings and community clinics as the design process progresses.

We will also upload all information onto the project website www.ballyfasywindfarm.ie.

We greatly welcome your feedback and engagement on the project. If you wish to speak to a member of the Ballyfasy Wind Farm team or would like to be included in updates, please subscribe on the project website or use the contact details on the back of this newsletter.

The Manogate Approach

Proactive engagement
We take a proactive approach to engagement, with dedicated Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) assigned to each project, which makes us accessible and easy to contact.

User-friendly, relevant and up-to-date information
We ensure that the local community is kept updated, informed and has access to project information, as soon as it is available, in a user-friendly format.

Constructive conversation
Open, honest engagement is key to our approach. We listen to feedback, seek to understand any concerns raised and address these to the extent possible during the pre-planning process.
This engagement continues throughout the lifetime of the wind farm.

Building relationships
The Ballyfasy project team is committed to strengthening partnerships with local communities now and into the future.

Manogate

Project development

It can take between six and 10 years from project initiation to operation of a typical wind farm project. This is due to the sequential process of obtaining planning permission, securing a grid connection agreement, the potential requirement for further planning permission for the grid connection works, securing project finance and a contract to sell the power.

As such, when we first advise the public that we are planning a project in an area, only a limited number of studies have been completed. The more detailed studies begin following project launch. To ensure all stakeholders are kept up to date, we are sharing the estimated project development timeline below.

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

Development timeline

Winter 2024

Distribution of Newsletter 1 to those within 2km of the site study area, political representatives and key stakeholders.

Launch of www.ballyfasywindfarm.ie, which includes Newsletter 1 and a list of FAQs.

Two Community Liaison Officers available to answer any queries.

Detailed environmental and engineering studies begin.

Site investigations start.

Spring 2025

Community engagement continues with the CLOs calling to houses to discuss the project.

Distribution of Newsletter 2 with a draft design layout.

Grid connection route assessment commences.

Turbine Transport Route assessment begins.

Landscape and Visual Impact assessments begin based on draft design layout.

Local workshops held on any issues raised by the community.

Summer 2025

Impact and mitigation assessments continue.

Distribution of Newsletter 3 with an updated design layout.

Project brochure delivered to 2km zone plus political representatives, key stakeholders and subscribers. The brochure will also be uploaded onto the website.

Virtual Tour goes live on the website, which includes a full set of photomontages.

Local community clinics take place.

Door-to-door engagement continues.

Target planning application submission date: Q2/Q3 2025

In addition to the specific engagements noted above, our CLOs are available throughout all stages to discuss any queries or concerns.

Meet the Team

The project team directly involved in the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm includes a project consultancy and a dedicated in-house team that includes specialists in areas such as grid, ecology, planning and community engagement.

Sandra Kelly
Project Manager

Sandra has 20 years' experience working in the engineering and project management sectors. For the past 13 years she has worked exclusively on renewable energy projects in Ireland. Sandra believes that wind energy development is the key enabler in securing Ireland's sustainable future.

Niall Barrett
Community Engagement Manager

Niall has a background in community and youth work. Most recently, he worked as a Community Liaison Officer on power transmission projects. Niall now brings his expertise in the non-profit sector to renewable energy.

Tom Whelan
Community Liaison Officer

Tom spent 38 years working in forestry, 25 of which were in Coillte in various roles from regional harvesting to tree surgery. This experience in public consultation and community engagement on forest management and operations is invaluable in his role as Community Liaison Officer.

Tom Boland
Community Liaison Officer

Tom joined the Forest and Wildlife Service in 1972 and moved to Coillte in 1989, where he was involved with training and safety management and in the procurement of felling licences. Tom now uses his extensive forestry experience and communications skills to work in the community on the development of wind farm projects.

TOBIN Consulting Engineers

TOBIN has been appointed to carry out studies, design and preparation of the planning application and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) on behalf of the project. The consultancy firm has an experienced team of planners, environmental scientists and other in-house specialists who work across the energy and environment market.

Areas of expertise are underpinned by the principles of sustainability, reducing carbon footprint, managing resource use, protecting biodiversity and improving quality of life with a focus on stakeholder involvement from the outset.

Contact us

We welcome your input and comments about this proposal. If you would like to subscribe to our mailing list to receive project updates, please get in touch.

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Call: Tom Whelan on 087 741 1122
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www.ballyfasywindfarm.ie

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