

Knockshanvo Wind Farm

Newsletter 1
Winter 2022



Welcome to the first newsletter for the proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm project

Within this newsletter you will find:

- An introduction to FuturEnergy Ireland and the project team
- An introduction to onshore wind energy and its vital role in tackling the climate and energy crises
- An overview of the Knockshanvo Wind Farm proposal
- An outline of our design process and our commitment to the community
- Next steps

About FuturEnergy Ireland

FuturEnergy Ireland is exploring the potential for a renewable energy project at Knockshanvo, located approximately 3km south of Broadford in Co. Clare.

FuturEnergy Ireland is a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB that launched in November 2021. Our ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and in doing so make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

This joint venture builds on the success of previous Coillte-ESB co-development projects Raheenleagh Wind Farm in Co. Wicklow and Castlepook Wind Farm in Co. Cork.

This newsletter is accompanied by a brochure on FuturEnergy Ireland that contains a detailed outline of what you can expect from us as we move through the project development cycle. You can download a copy of this brochure from www.knockshanvowindfarm.ie or request a hard copy by contacting one of our Community Liaison Officers, whose details can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Why onshore wind energy?

Climate action

Scientists are continuing to highlight the need for urgent action on climate change following a summer of heatwaves, droughts, poor crop yields, wildfires and floods, many of which have been directly linked to global warming.

One of the pillars of Ireland's climate action policy is to significantly increase onshore wind energy, which is critical to achieving our legally binding emissions reduction targets. The Climate Action Plan 2021 clearly sets out an objective to almost double onshore wind deployments from approximately 4,300 MW today to 8,000 MW by 2030.

If we can increase the amount of renewable energy on the electricity system, this can also support the decarbonisation of heat and transport through the electrification of these sectors by using electric vehicles and heat pumps.

Accelerating the development of renewable energy projects is vital to reduce carbon emissions and slow down the damage that is already beginning to devastate our planet and cost many lives.

Energy security

Ireland is highly dependent on imported energy, and as such is vulnerable to international price increases, which are rapidly rising due to the conflict in Ukraine.

This in turn is having an unprecedented inflationary effect across our economy. EU and national energy policies are seeking to rapidly ramp up renewable generation capacity, in order to reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and support more stable and affordable long-term energy prices.

Projects such as Knockshanvo have the potential to support this strategy and can improve energy security and reduce costs in Ireland.



View across the Knockshanvo forest

Local benefits

The FuturEnergy Ireland team has a strong track record of developing and delivering projects exclusively in Ireland, and is looking forward to exploring the full potential of the Knockshanvo project, including the important benefits the project could bring to Co. Clare.

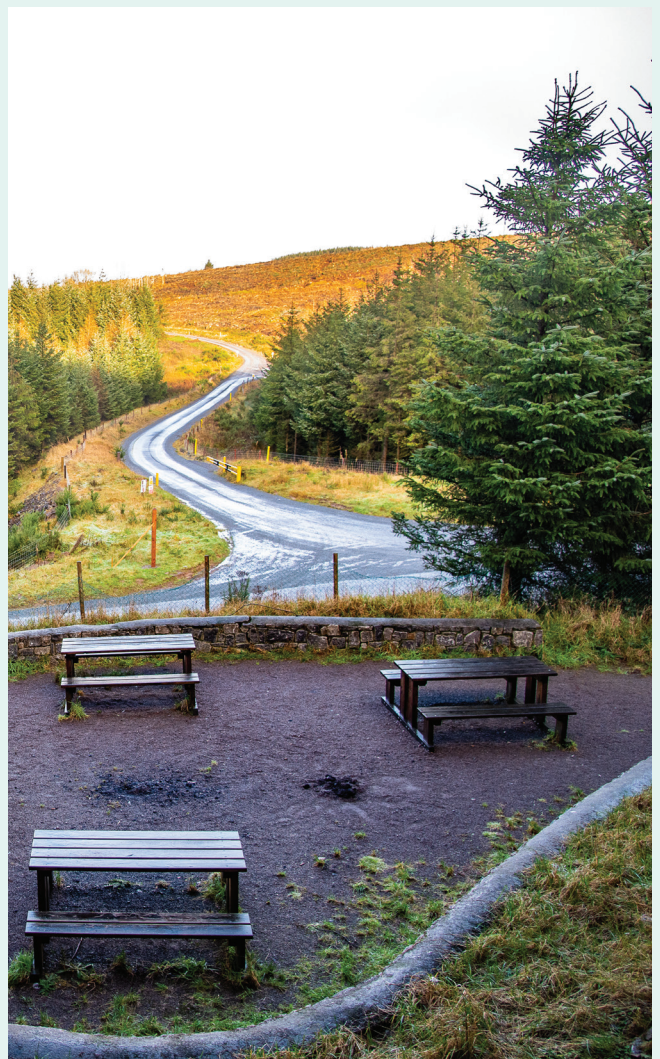
Our onshore wind farms will make a significant contribution to the local economy via rates contributions and a significant Community Benefit Fund. There is also the potential to include local recreational amenities in consultation with Coillte should this be of interest to the local community.

Why this project site?

The proposed site for Knockshanvo Wind Farm has been identified as a favourable site for wind energy generation. This can be attributed, in part, to the following:

- The majority of the study site has been identified as a 'strategic area' for wind energy generation in the Clare County Development Plan. A small section in the west of the site is located within areas designated as 'Acceptable in Principle' and 'Open to Consideration'.
- Good annual average wind speeds in the study area.
- The scale of the site is such that setback distances from houses are well in excess of national guidelines. The project team has committed to a minimum setback of 750 metres between a habitable dwelling and a proposed turbine location.

- The existence of a network of forestry roads within the study area which can be upgraded and used for project construction.
- The existence of a good national and regional road network around the study area, enabling easy access to the site.
- The study area is accessible for connection to the National Electricity Grid via underground cables to existing electrical substations. There is good capacity in the local electricity network.



The Proposed Development

The proposed renewable energy development is located 3km south of Broadford and 4km northeast of Sixmilebridge in Co. Clare. The study area is shown on the map below, denoted by the red boundary.

Initial assessments, as noted above, have been undertaken to identify this area as potentially suitable for development. Further detailed studies will need to be carried out to inform an initial draft design for the wind farm. These include archeology, hydrology,

noise, telcoms, aviation, landscape and visuals, wind measurement and bird, bat and other associated ecology surveys. Study updates will be included in future newsletters as part of our engagement.

The operating wind farm would occupy a relatively small proportion of an overall site area - an approximate 3% footprint - which means that many other land uses can co-exist such as commercial forestry, farming, recreation and biodiversity management.

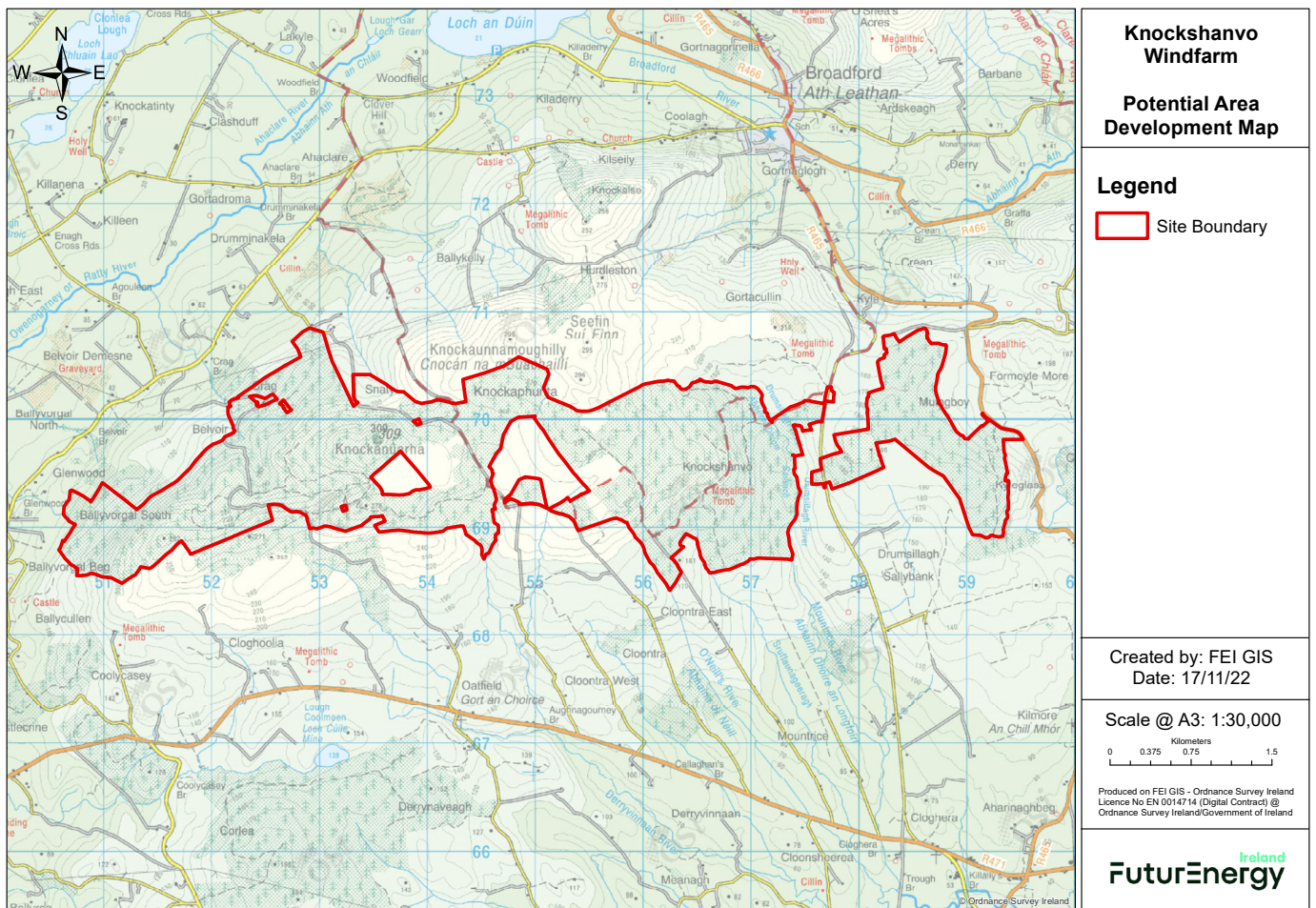


Figure 1 The proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm site study area

Development Timeline

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.

Within the overall development cycle, the task of designing a wind farm can take between 12 and 18 months. At FuturEnergy Ireland, we believe in speaking to the local community at a very early stage in the development process.

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.



Winter 2022

Project Launch

- Distribution of an introductory newsletter (Newsletter 1) to residents within 4km of the project study area.
 - Launch of project website www.knockshanvowindfarm.ie.
 - Detailed environmental and engineering studies commence.
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Spring 2023

- Installation of baseline noise monitors at key locations.
 - Installation of a temporary 80 metre meteorological mast.
 - Publication of Newsletter 2, which includes progress updates and a preliminary design layout. The layout will be refined as the project progresses.
 - Detailed environmental and engineering studies continue.
 - Baseline noise monitoring commences.
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Summer 2023

- Publication of Newsletter 3, which contains progress updates and information on the Community Benefit Fund.
 - Detailed site investigations commence.
 - Landscape and Visual Assessment.
 - Community Information webinar.
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Autumn 2023

- Publication of a detailed brochure and a virtual exhibition on the website with all project information including updates from study reports, photomontages and a final layout map.
 - Local community engagement clinics.
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Winter 2023

- Planning application target: December 2023.
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In addition to the specific engagements noted above, our CLOs are available throughout all stages to discuss any queries or concerns.

The Team

The in-house project team for the proposed Knockshanvo Wind Farm includes a project manager and two Community Liaison Officers. The project team also works with an engineering consultant and in-house specialists in areas such as grid, ecology, stakeholder management and planning.

From the outset, we commit to carrying out the design process by placing a focus on open, honest engagement. We have assigned two dedicated Community Liaison Officers (CLOs) to this project, recognising that conversation with well-informed points of contact is the only way to build a relationship with communities.

Our CLOs will keep the community regularly informed via newsletters, respond to phone calls and emails, and organise one-to-one meetings with team specialists and at community clinics as the design process progresses.

We urge you to contact the CLOs with any questions or concerns that you might have. They are there to help.

COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICERS



Kevin Donnellan

Kevin has 43 years' experience in forestry management. Highlights include working on Coillte's dual FSC/PEFC certification, on biodiversity programmes and on the EU Life funded blanket bog habitat restoration project. Kevin has a keen interest in forest recreation and is looking forward to building a strong relationship with the local community in the Knockshanvo area.



Christy O'Dea

Christy spent 43 years working as a forest manager for Coillte and previously for the Forest Service. In his role as Community Liaison Officer in Co Clare, he values the collaboration with local communities and building respectful relationships with the forests' neighbours.

PROJECT MANAGER



Sandra Kelly

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 is a key enabler to securing Ireland's sustainable future.

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback and engagement. If you wish to be included in project updates, please email, phone or subscribe at www.knockshanvowindfarm.ie. All information will be uploaded onto the project website, which means there is no reason to miss out on the latest newsletter.

Email: knockshanvo@futureenergyireland.ie

Call: Kevin on 087 431 5976 or

Christy on 087 395 8867

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FuturEnergy Ireland

A Coillte and ESB joint venture company