

Proposed Derrygreenagh Wind and Solar Energy Project





Introduction

BnM has operated in Ireland for over 90 years and has undergone transformative change to become a leading renewable energy provider supporting Ireland's journey to net zero by delivering secure, renewable energy for Ireland.

We are working with our landbank, strategic partners and local communities to expand our renewable energy infrastructure with a 5GW renewable energy pipeline. Ireland has committed to generating 80% of electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and BnM is working across wind, solar, biomass and biogas to help achieve this target and to provide energy security for industrial growth and future generations.

Supporting communities across Ireland has been a priority for BnM since it was first established, and today we continue to support businesses and local communities not only by safeguarding renewable energy supply, but also through our dedicated programme of community initiatives including community benefit funds, amenities, business accelerator programmes and education supports.

For more information about BnM visit: bnm.ie

BnM Energy Park

BnM's Energy Park offering is transforming approximately 3,000ha across BnM's landbank in counties Offaly, Westmeath, and Meath. It will be designed to enhance Ireland's security of energy supply, supporting the delivery of several of the State's climate, renewable energy, and enterprise objectives. BnM's Energy Park will be the location of low to zero carbon electricity generation from sources which will include wind and solar and will house battery energy storage facilities.

This Energy Park is one of the first of its kind in Ireland and will allow BnM to support large-scale industrial growth and development in Ireland, enhancing the national grid. The Energy Park will generate renewable energy to support a number of sectors that play a vital role in Ireland's social and economic development. BnM's Energy Park will also significantly contribute to and support associated enterprise, community initiatives, local amenities, and the local natural environment.

With direct access to Ireland's main motorway, electricity grid, natural gas, and high-speed fibre networks, BnM's Energy Park has the opportunity to co-locate a range of low to zero carbon energy generation assets with industrial-scale high demand energy users, reducing costs and emissions while bolstering the State's overall energy resilience and security.

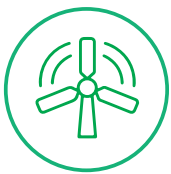
The BnM Energy Park will consist of Energy Generation Technology comprising of Wind and Solar PV Energy and a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS).



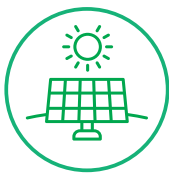
Proposed Derrygreenagh Wind and Solar Project

BnM intends to develop a wind and solar energy project across four bogs in the Derrygreenagh Bog Group, in counties Offaly, Westmeath and Meath. The proposed development is adjacent to the communities of Milltownpass, Rhode, Rochfortbridge and Tyrellspass.

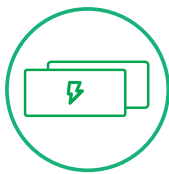
A draft layout has been developed for the proposed development, consisting of 25 turbines (180MW), up to 200MW of Solar PV and a 50–100MW Long Duration Battery Energy Storage System (to view draft layout map, please refer to pages 6 and 7).



**180MW
Wind**



**200MW
Solar**



**50–100MW
Battery
Storage**

The development of a wind and solar project on these bogs would continue the long tradition of energy production in a new increasingly sustainable form. BnM's peatlands offer several advantages for the development of onshore wind and solar, which include:

- Significant scale and are present in large blocks.
- Industrial, brown-field sites, suitable for redevelopment.

- Open, unenclosed landscapes with good wind characteristics.
- Linked by rail or road passageways, suitable for cable connection.
- Generally flat and well drained, with minimal dangers of land slippage.
- Proven delivery of this type of development, as demonstrated by Bruckana, Mountlucas, Oweninny, Cloncreen and Derrinlough Wind Farms and Timahoe North Solar Farm.



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.

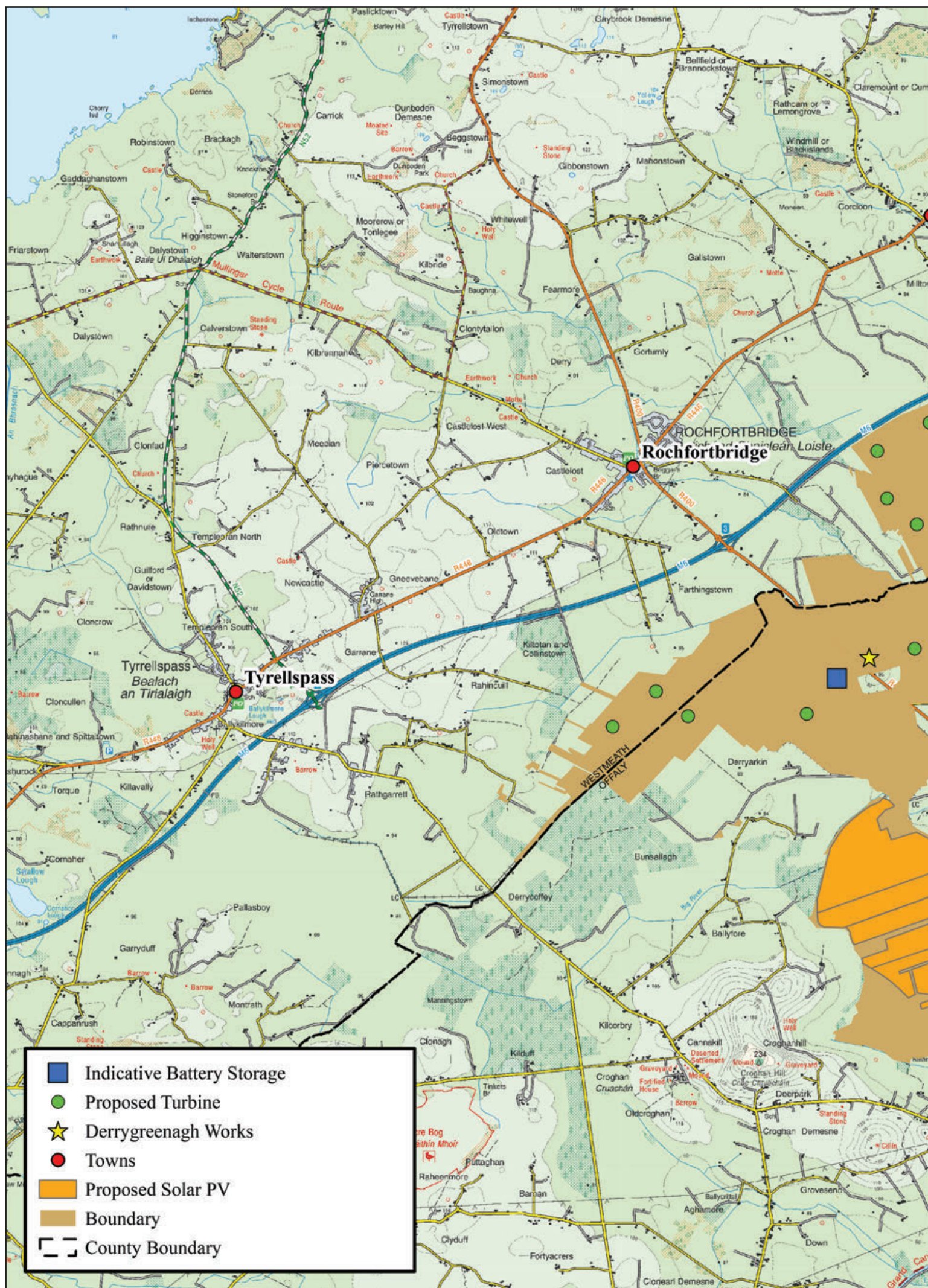
In March 2019, the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action published its cross-party report entitled, *Climate Change: A Cross-Party Consensus for Action*, which set out 42 priority recommendations in the area of climate action, including a target for 80 percent renewable electricity.

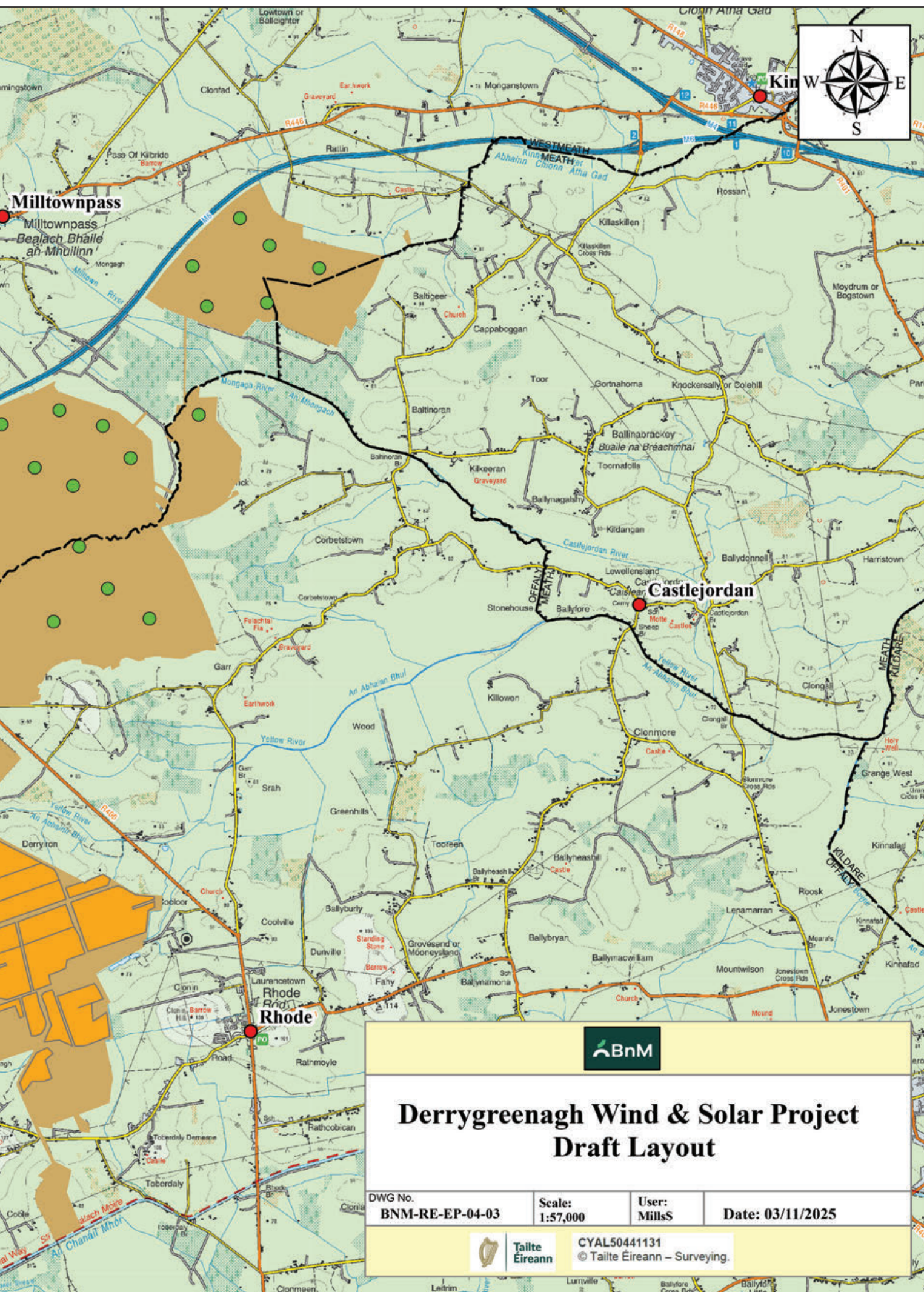
The Programme for Government 2025 details how energy will play a central role in the creation of a strong and sustainable economy over the next decade. The reliable supply of safe, secure and clean energy is essential in order to deliver a phase-out of fossil fuels. We need to facilitate the increased electrification of heat and transport. 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:

National legislation

- The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill 2021 will support Ireland's transition to Net Zero and achieve a climate neutral economy by no later than 2050. It will establish a legally binding framework with clear targets and commitments set in law, and ensure the necessary structures and processes are embedded on a statutory basis to ensure we achieve our national, EU and international climate goals and obligations in the near and long term.
- The Climate Action Plan 2025 provides a road map for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and reach net zero by no later than 2050. Central to achieving these goals is the strategic increase in the share of renewable electricity to 80% by 2030. This includes ambitious targets of deploying 9GW of onshore wind, 8GW of solar power, and at least 5GW from offshore wind projects. These measures are vital not only for reducing electricity sector emissions but also for enabling the broader electrification of other sectors, thus multiplying the impact on overall emissions.
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage 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 Climate, Energy and the Environment is currently finalising the Renewable Electricity Spatial Policy Framework to support the delivery of increased onshore renewable electricity generation which will provide direct economic benefits to counties and regions across the country.
- The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment via the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce is seeking to identify, coordinate, and prioritise the policies required to fast-track and increase deployment of onshore renewable electricity generation and supporting technologies and ensure that barriers to the implementation of those policies are removed or minimised to the greatest extent possible, in order to meet the 2030 Climate Action Plan targets.





Derrygreenagh Wind & Solar Project Draft Layout

DWG No. BNM-RE-EP-04-03	Scale: 1:57,000	User: MillsS	Date: 03/11/2025
 Táille Éireann CYAL50441131 © Táille Éireann – Surveying.			

Need for Wind Energy

Wind farms produce renewable electricity and assist in the offset of carbon emissions including those arising from other sectors, such as agriculture. The proposed project will contribute to both Ireland's and the European Union's renewable energy targets. It will also contribute to increasing the security of Ireland's energy supply and will facilitate a higher level of energy generation and self-sufficiency.



The National Development Plan 2021–2030 includes commitments to increase the share of renewable electricity up to 80% by 2030. It is acknowledged that wind energy will provide the main component of Ireland's renewable electricity at that time.

The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP) was approved by government on 15th April 2025. The CAP sets out an ambitious course of action over the coming years to address the impacts which climate may have on Ireland's environment, society, economic and natural resources. This Plan clearly recognises that Ireland must significantly step up its commitments to tackle climate disruption. The CAP identifies a need for 9GW of onshore wind generation. The CAP presents clear and unequivocal support for the provision of additional renewable energy generation and presents yet further policy support for increased wind energy.

Site Selection

In selecting a site for a wind farm there are several criteria that must be considered. Based on these criteria, some sites are more suitable for wind farms than others. The main criteria that we consider include:

- Aviation
- Grid Access
- Flooding Risk
- Proximity to Dwellings
- Supporting Infrastructure
- Cumulative Visual Impact
- County Development Plan
- Telecommunications Links
- Environmental and Ecological Sensitivities

Proposed Derrygreenagh Wind Farm



The proposed Derrygreenagh Wind Farm will be located across three bogs: Derryhinch, Drumman and Derryarkin which comprises of circa 2,100 hectares. Approximately 4% 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.

Number of turbines: 25

The draft layout comprises 25 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 electricity substation, and an electrical connection to the National Grid (Transmission Network) in line with system operator requirements. Please see pages 6 and 7 for Draft Layout Map.

Height of turbines: 200m

The proposed turbines will have an overall blade tip height of 200 metres. 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 height of 200m.

Setback Distance: 800m

The turbine layout has been designed with a minimum setback distance of 800m to the nearest home from a turbine. This complies with the Draft Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2019) which proposes a setback distance of four times the tip height. Please see pages 10 and 11 to view the proximity map of homes within 2km of a proposed turbine.

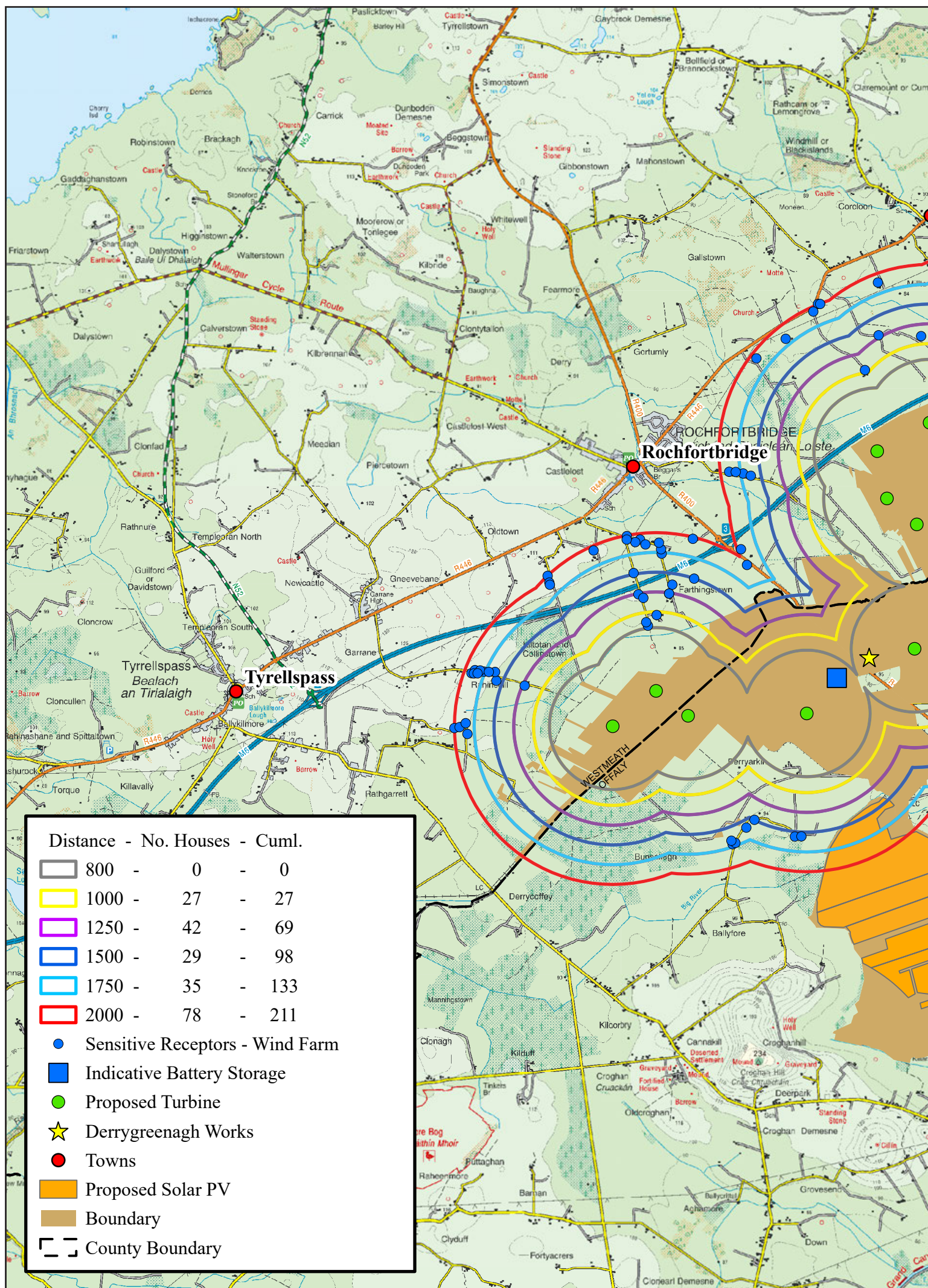
Wind Farm Output: 180 MW

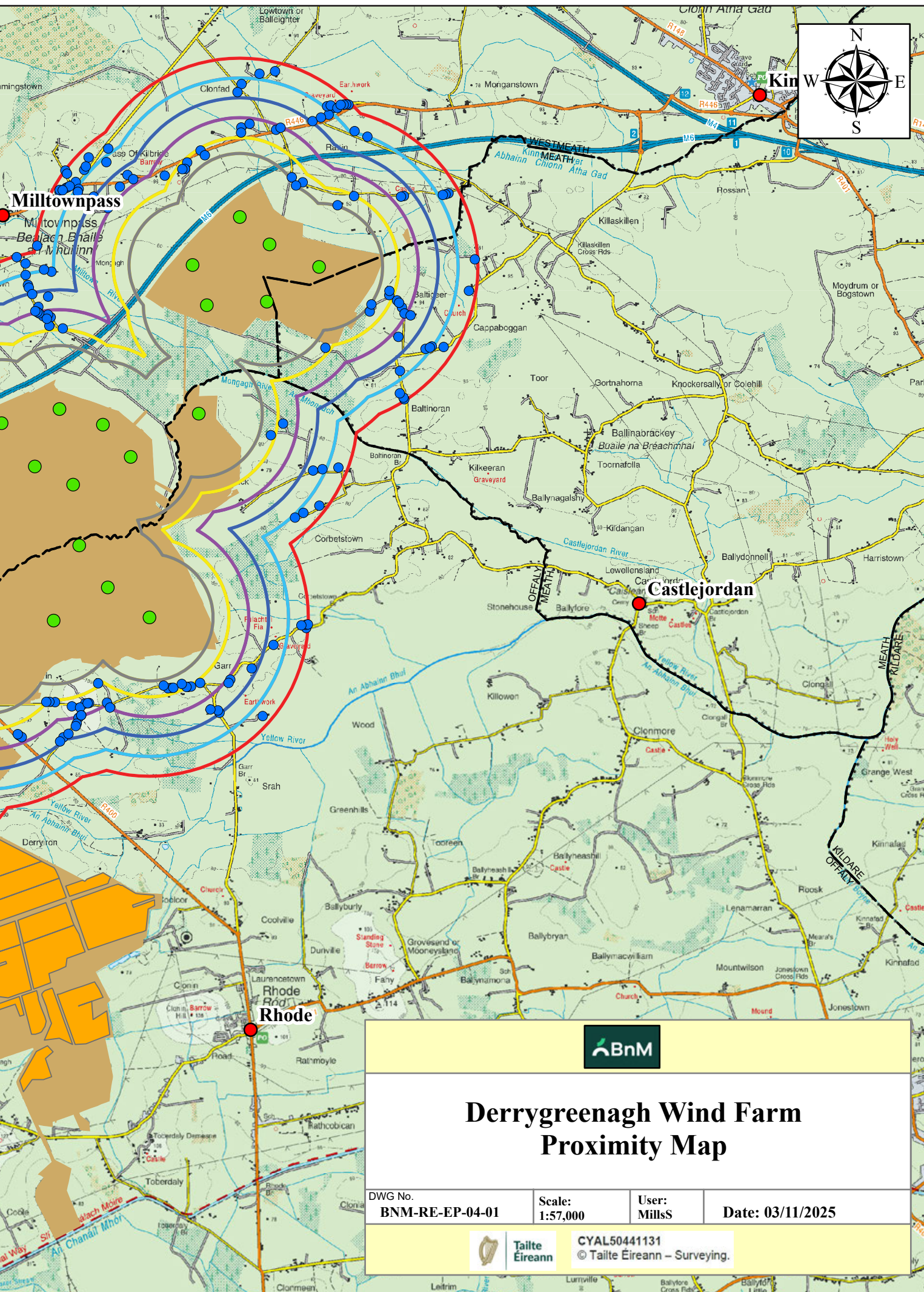
Studies of the site have indicated that it may be capable of accommodating approximately 180 MW of Wind Energy. When operational, the proposed wind farm may generate over 550,000MWh* of renewable energy per annum.

Battery Energy Storage System

As part of this development, it is intended to install in the region of 50–100 MW of Long Duration Energy Storage. This system can store and discharge electricity for extended periods—typically 4 hours or more. Battery Storage Systems are designed to store excess energy and aim to provide reliable, dispatchable power over prolonged periods, especially during times when intermittent renewables like wind or solar are unavailable.

*Based on an annual capacity factor of 35%





Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines in Ireland

In 2019, Revised Wind Energy Development Draft Guidelines were issued for public consultation. Key aspects of these Draft Guidelines included:

1. Noise Limits

Noise restriction limits consistent with World Health Organisation standards are proposed. The noise limits will apply to outdoor locations at any residential or noise sensitive properties.

2. Visual Amenity Setback

A visual amenity setback distance, of 4 times the tip height, between a wind turbine and the nearest residential property is proposed, subject to a mandatory minimum setback of 500 metres, as set out in the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines.

3. Shadow Flicker

It is proposed that technology and appropriate modelling at design stage are adopted to eradicate the occurrence of shadow flicker and must be confirmed in all planning applications for wind energy development.

4. Consultation Obligations

Planning applications must contain a 'Community Report' prepared by the applicant which will specify how the final proposal reflects community consultation and the steps taken to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned and demonstrate adherence to community engagement codes of practice.

5. Grid Connection

From a visual amenity aspect, undergrounding of cable connections from wind farms to the transmission and distribution system is the most appropriate solution in general, except where specific ground conditions or technical considerations make this impractical.

6. Community Dividend

Wind farm developers will also be required to take steps to ensure that the proposed development will be of enduring economic benefit to the communities concerned.



Need for Solar Energy

Solar energy is essential to Ireland's climate and energy strategy, supporting legally binding targets under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021, which commits Ireland to a 51% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero by 2050. The Climate Action Plan 2025 sets a target of up to 8 GW of installed solar capacity by 2030, contributing to the goal of 80% renewable electricity. Solar power enhances energy security, diversifies Ireland's renewable mix, and provides cost-effective, scalable generation aligned with EU and national decarbonisation commitments.

Site Selection

In selecting a site for a solar farm there are several criteria that must be considered. Based on these criteria, some sites are more suitable for solar energy than others. The main criteria that we consider include:

- Grid Access
- Flooding Risk
- Proximity to Dwellings
- Supporting Infrastructure
- County Development Plan
- Land Orientation and Siting
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Environmental and Ecological Sensitivities

Solar Energy Development Guidelines In Ireland

There are currently no national guideline or code specifically dedicated to large scale solar farms. However, in 2023 - the Irish Solar Energy Association (ISEA) and Fehily Timoney Consultants produced "Best Practice Planning Guidance Report for Large Scale Solar Energy Development in Ireland". The aim of this Guidance Report *"is to assist potential developers, stakeholders and Local Authorities in site selection, preparation of applications for planning consent and considerations relating to construction, associated infrastructure and operational procedures from a planning and environmental perspective."*

These guidelines recognise that solar arrays are relatively low profile and so are "broadly compatible" in residential areas — provided there are appropriate separation distances and buffer zones. They do not prescribe a fixed statutory separation (setback) distance between solar farms and dwellings; however, it is recommended that a minimum separation distance of 22 metres should be considered a starting point. Please see pages 16 and 17 to view the proximity map of homes within 2km of the proposed solar farm.





Proposed Derrygreenagh Solar Farm

The proposed Derrygreenagh Solar Farm will be developed across Ballybeg Bog which comprises of circa 842 hectares. The proposed development at Ballybeg Bog would see the installation of rows (arrays) of solar PV panels on mounted frames across the site. The arrays would be angled and would run typically east to west across the site and will be installed at an appropriate distance. The arrays would be anchored into the ground using engineering piles. The proposed development would consist of circa 200MW of installed solar energy generation capacity. When operational, the proposed solar farm may generate over 190,000MWh* of renewable energy per annum.

What are Solar PV panels?

Solar PV panels are made from semiconductor materials which generate direct current (DC) electricity where there is sunlight/daylight. Even on cloudy days there is enough light for panels to produce electricity. Solar panels are already in use on the rooftops of both commercial and domestic buildings around the country.

*Based on an assumed capacity factor of 11%

What height will the solar farm be at?

The solar photovoltaic (PV) panels will be mounted on metal frames to a height typically 3m above ground level.

Will there be any noise from the solar farm?

There will be some daytime noise during the construction period, however, given the remoteness of the site and short duration of construction (approx. 24 months), it is considered that noise emissions will not be an issue. When operational, the solar panels themselves will not produce noise as they operate silently. The inverter/transformer stations and main substations will emit only a very low level of noise and will be fully assessed as part of the application.

What is the lifespan of the solar farm?

The solar farm will have a projected lifespan of 35 years and when a solar farm reaches the end of its operating lifespan they can be removed and recycled.

Strategic Infrastructure Development Planning Process Explained

For most large-scale projects, a key consideration 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).

The Project Team will need to go through a pre-planning consultation process with An Comisiún 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 and a Natura Impact Statement will be required as supporting documentation to the planning application. To learn more about the SID process please visit: www.pleanala.ie/en-ie/strategic-infrastructure-development

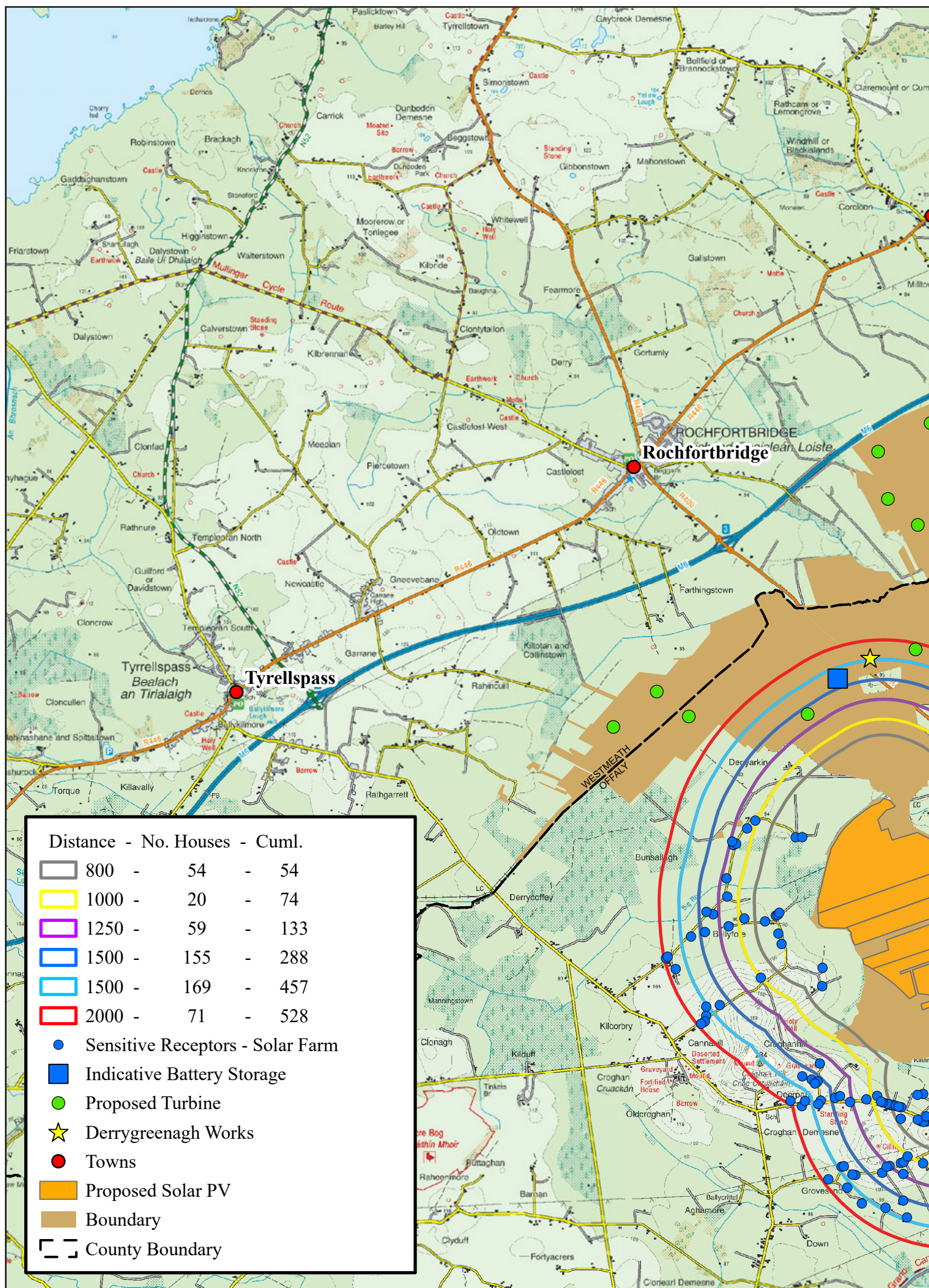
SID Projects	
Planning application to An Comisiún Pleanála.	Environmental Impact Assessment mandatory.
Non-SID Projects	
Planning application to local County Council.	Environmental Impact Assessment mandatory in some cases.

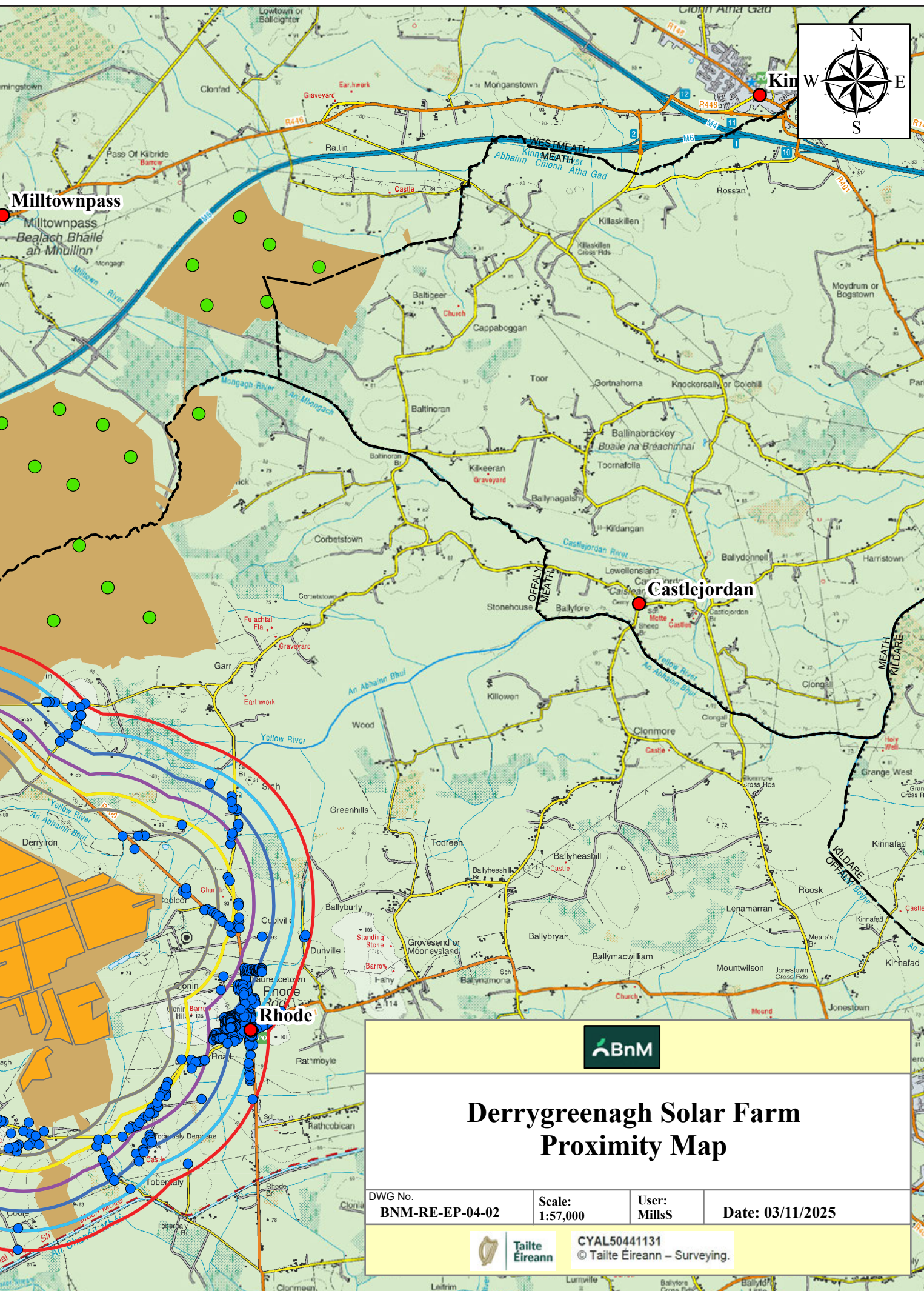
What is included in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)?

Due to the nature and scale of the proposed development an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will need to be carried out. As part of this process, an environmental baseline for the proposed development site will be established through fieldwork and other baseline surveys.

All of this information will be described and documented in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) which will accompany the planning application documentation submitted to the appropriate Consenting Authority for consideration. The EIAR will comprise the following as a minimum:







Derrygreenagh Solar Farm Proximity Map

DWG No.	Scale:	User:	Date:
BNM-RE-EP-04-02	1:57,000	MillsS	03/11/2025



Táille Éireann

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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 development will include:

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

Employment

A large wind and solar development of this scale would typically support up to 300 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 substations, 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, and we would welcome any feedback or proposals the community may have with respect to amenity. A good example of one of our existing wind farm amenity facilities is Mountlucas Wind Farm in North Offaly. The site consists of a 20km walkway / cycleway around the wind farm in addition to interpretative signage, outdoor exercise equipment and a learning hub which is utilized by various school and college groups for by appointment tours.

Community Benefit Fund

Like our existing wind and solar farms, it is envisaged that a Community Benefit Fund will be set up for the proposed development 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 electricity contribution and once off support to carry out energy efficiency measures and/ or education support to residents within a prescribed distance.
- **An Educational Scholarship Fund** – providing funding to local students to pursue third-level qualifications, including apprenticeships.

At a Regional Level, the new development will help to supply the rising demand for electricity, resulting from renewed economic growth in the Midlands region. During construction, additional employment may be created in the region through the supply of services and materials to the project.

At a National Level, the new development will play a significant role in contributing to the country's national renewable electricity production and carbon emissions reduction targets by 2050, while also supporting a growing economy and population. During operation, the project will eliminate the need to generate the equivalent amount of electricity from fossil fuels, and it will therefore help to reduce total national greenhouse gas emissions. In doing so, it will reduce our dependence on external energy sources and help improve our energy security of supply.

How you can get in touch



The proposed development 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:

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 that our Community Relations Team will be delivering to homes within the vicinity of the proposed development over the coming weeks.

Call us

If you wish to make a comment or require further information about the proposed wind farm please contact the project's Community Liaison Specialists James on 087 7087022 or Padraig on 087 0643734.

Email us

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

Write to us

Derrygreenagh Wind and Solar Project
Bord na Móna Powergen Ltd,
Main Street, Newbridge, Co. Kildare, W12 XR59

Join our mailing list

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

*9am to 5pm Monday to Friday excluding bank holidays.



