

# Proposed Littleton Wind Farm





# Frequently Asked Questions

**1. How many turbines are proposed for the development?**

Resulting from the development of the draft wind turbine layout there are 14 turbines proposed for the Littleton Wind Farm project. For further information, please see page 5.

**2. What height are the proposed turbines and how close are they to people’s homes?**

The proposed turbines will have an overall blade tip height of up to 200 metres. For further information, please see page 5.

**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 (800 metres) to the nearest house. For further information, please see page 5.

**4. When will a planning application be lodged?**

It is envisaged that a planning application will be lodged in Autumn 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 7.

**5. What land area will the proposed wind farm occupy?**

Littleton Bog comprises of circa 1,020 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 Community Liaison Officer: Colm (see page 11 for further details).
- Submission of a Feedback Questionnaire (please see page 10 for further details).
- Via the project’s dedicated email address: [littletonwindfarm@bnm.ie](mailto:littletonwindfarm@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 have radically changed our approach to face an even greater challenge: climate change. We have ended peat harvesting and now our focus is 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 are expanding our renewable energy infrastructure. We have been constructing and maintaining large-scale infrastructure for decades. Today, we are 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 are 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 location for the proposed wind farm is shown in Figure 1 below. It is adjacent to the communities of Gortnahoe, Littleton, New Birmingham, Twomileborris and Urlingford.

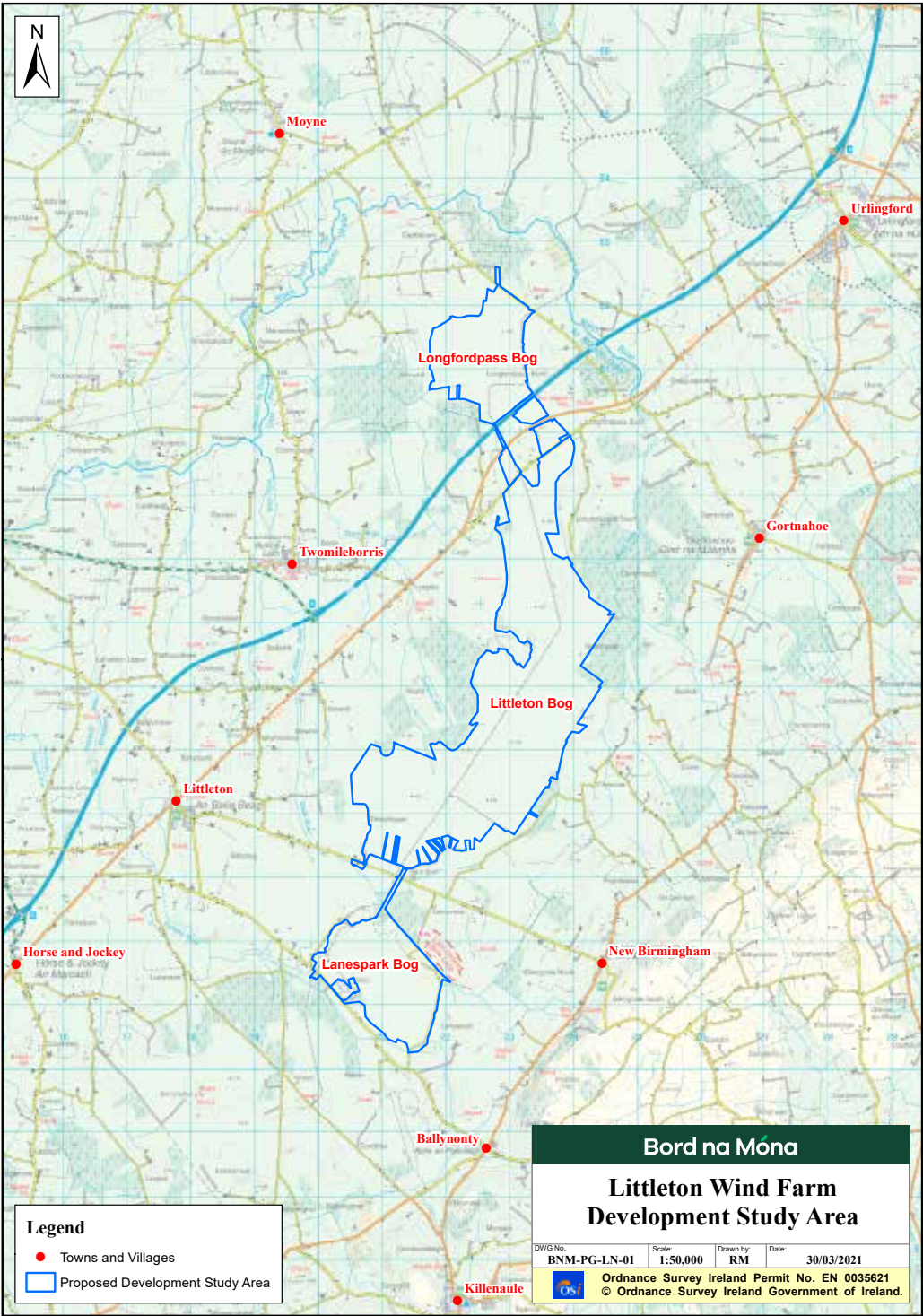


Figure 1 - Site Location Map

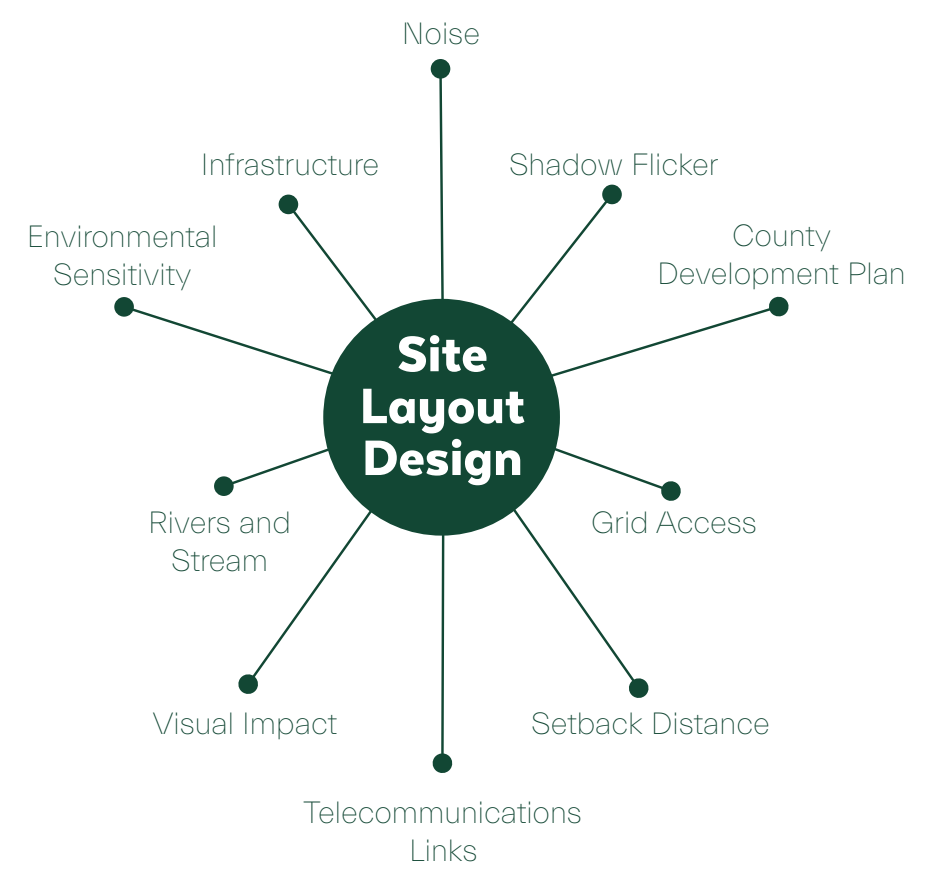
The proposed development will be located across the Bord na Móna Littleton Bog Group in Co. Tipperary which is circa 1,020 hectares. A draft layout, consisting of 14 turbines has been developed for the proposed wind farm (to view draft layout map, please refer to pages 6).

It is envisaged the proposed development footprint would occupy 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 Littleton Wind Farm several factors were considered including:



## Biodiversity

Extensive surveys are ongoing to determine the habitats and species that occur within the site and the wider hinterland area. Features that are sensitive from a biodiversity perspective are constrained out at design stage. The surveys include breeding and wintering bird surveys, habitat surveys, bat, mammal and aquatic surveys, amongst others. A full description of the biodiversity of Littleton Bog and the surrounding area will be addressed in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) that will accompany the planning application for the proposed development, in particular the following chapters: Biodiversity; and Ornithology (birds).



## The Proposed Wind Farm

### Number of Turbines - 14

The draft layout comprises of 14 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 appropriate node on the National Grid. Please see pages 6 for Draft Layout Map.

### Height of Turbines - 200m

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

### Setback Distance - 800m

The turbine layout has been designed with a minimum setback distance of 800m 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.

Table 1 depicts the number of houses within a range of setback distance bands from the proposed turbine layout (refer to the Draft Layout Map on pages 6).

Distance	No. of Houses	Cumulative
800m	0	0
1,000m	30	30
1,250m	25	55
1,500m	26	81
1,750m	36	117
2,000m	39	156

Table 1. Setback Distance to Houses



### Wind Farm Output: 60–80MW

Early studies of the site have indicated that it may be capable of accommodating approximately 60–80 Megawatts (MW) of installed generating capacity. When operational, the proposed Littleton Wind Farm will generate a volume of electricity equivalent to the average annual electrical demand of circa 45,000 Irish homes\*.

### Planning Timeline

It is intended to submit a planning application in Autumn 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 12 for more information on the wind farm development timeline process).

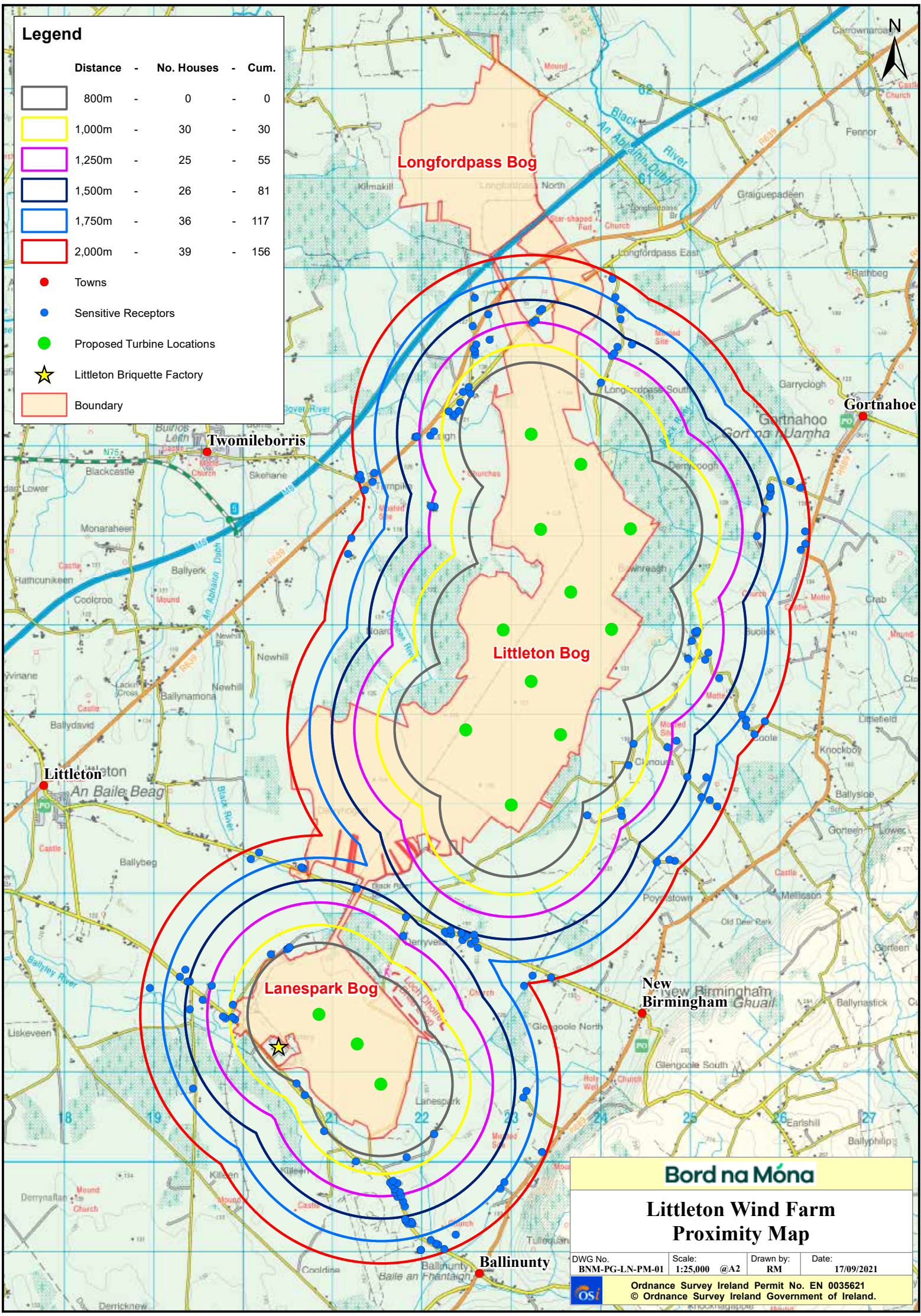
**2nd Public Consultation:** Autumn/Winter 2021

**Final Layout Publication:** Spring 2022

**Submission of Planning Application:** Autumn 2022

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





## 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 Littleton Wind Farm will be approximately 60–80MW. 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.





# 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 Authority.
- 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 80–100 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 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 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 Littleton 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.





# Community Engagement

Bord na Móna understands the importance of community engagement at every stage of the proposed Littleton 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 Sessions

Subject to the proposed further easing of Covid-19 restrictions (*currently scheduled for the 22 October*) we intend to hold a series of Community Engagement Sessions in late November in the locality. While we do not have a schedule of fixed dates at this time (*due to pending confirmation of the easing of restrictions mentioned above*), once known, details of these Sessions will be advertised via local media or alternatively, if you have signed up to our project mailing list you will receive a letter via post with these details. If you would like to find out more about the Sessions and/or register your interest in attending, please contact the Project's Community Liaison Officer Colm (087 414 3305) or, visit the Project website ([www.littletonwindfarm.ie](http://www.littletonwindfarm.ie).) where you can join our mailing list.

## 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 Littleton Wind Farm "Virtual Consultation Room" that was launched last Spring 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.littletonwindfarm.ie](http://www.littletonwindfarm.ie).

# Get in Touch

The Littleton Wind Farm will benefit from participation by all interested parties during each stage of the development. There is 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 Officer Colm**  
+ 353 (0)87 414 3305\*

## Email Us

Email us any comments or queries via:  
[littletonwindfarm@bnm.ie](mailto:littletonwindfarm@bnm.ie)

## Write to us

Littleton 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.littletonwindfarm.ie](http://www.littletonwindfarm.ie)

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





## Notes





