

Cloncreen Wind Farm Project Newsletter

March 2021



Cloncreen Project Newsletter

Message from Cloncreen Wind Farm Project Team

Dear Resident,

Welcome to the latest edition of the Cloncreen Wind Farm project newsletter. First and foremost, on behalf of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Project Team, I hope this newsletter edition finds you safe and well in these challenging times. Due to the Covid-19 measures implemented by the Government on the 26th of December in relation to household visits, I am currently not in a position to visit homes in the locality and speak directly with residents to provide an update on the construction of the wind farm.

As per the Government guidance in relation to construction activity during the current Covid-19 restrictions in place; the repair, maintenance and construction of critical transport and utility infrastructure is permitted. During this period construction on the wind farm has been progressing well and we would like to thank all residents and businesses for their ongoing cooperation and support.

Inside this newsletter edition, you will find information on the chosen turbine supplier, key project highlights to date including the local economic benefit of the project and detail on what's planned next. Please be assured that I will make every effort to engage with you during the construction phase of the development and will communicate key project updates with you as they occur. Whilst I cannot call directly to your home to speak with you, I would welcome the opportunity of discussing with you over the phone any queries you have in relation to the construction phase of the project.


I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who signed up to our text messaging system as part of our last newsletter. This system will be used throughout the construction of the wind farm to keep you informed on key project activities. If you have not yet signed up, please visit: www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie to join.

In the meantime, I would like to extend best wishes to you during these challenging times and hope you stay safe and well.

Yours Faithfully,



Stephen Gonoude
Community Liaison



“To keep up to date
of on-going site activities- visit
www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie
to join our text message
alert system!”

Cloncreen Project Newsletter

Cloncreen Wind Farm Project Team- Who is involved?



Vestas wins turbine contract

Following a competitive international tender process, Cloncreen Wind Farm DAC has awarded the turbine contract for the 75MW Cloncreen Wind Farm to Vestas. The contract includes supply, installation and commissioning of 21 V136-3.45 MW wind turbines in 3.6 MW operating mode in combination with a 20-year Active Output Management 5000 service agreement, maximising power production while at the same time offering competitive levelised cost of energy. Once commissioned, Cloncreen will be the largest Vestas wind park in Ireland to date.

Commenting on the announcement, John Reilly, Head of Bord na Móna Renewable Energy, stated: *“The development of Cloncreen Wind Farm involves an investment by Bord na Móna of over €100m in low carbon electricity generation infrastructure in Co. Offaly. The project will make a significant contribution to the achievement of Ireland’s 70% renewable electricity target by 2030. It is one of the largest projects to clear in the recent RESS auction and we intend to see it as the first operational wind farm under the scheme. The supply installation and commissioning of the 21 V136-3.45 MW Vestas turbines will play a significant role in ensuring the successful delivery of this project. We very much look forward to working with Vestas over the coming months to deliver affordable, green energy, that enhances Ireland’s energy security”.*

Also commenting on the announcement, Nils de Baar, President of Vestas Northern & Central Europe stated: *“The Cloncreen project demonstrates the competitiveness of Vestas’s technology for the Irish market. We are proud to be part of Bord na Móna’s recent auction success, and we are excited to participate in Bord na Móna’s continued expansion of its wind energy project portfolio”*, commented Nils de Baar, President of Vestas Northern & Central Europe.

The project will feature a VestasOnline® Business SCADA solution, lowering turbine downtime and thus optimising the energy output. Turbine delivery is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2022, while commissioning is planned for the fourth quarter of 2022.

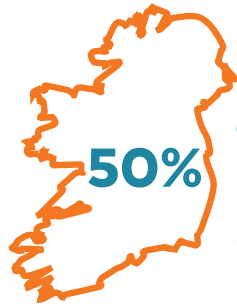
Cloncreen Project Newsletter

Project Highlights Since November



€4 Million

Direct investment of over €4 million in the Eastern and Midlands Region by the project



Over 50% of the project's workers resided in the Midlands Region*

*Offaly, Westmeath, Longford and Laois

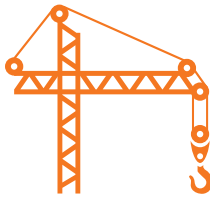


€1 Million

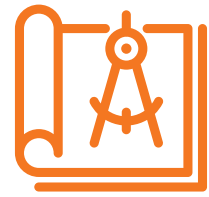
Direct investment of over €1 million in the Offaly Economy by the project



Over 9km of internal road network completed



Main Site Works Commenced

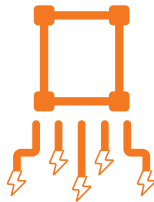


Construction Compound Completed



Vestas

Vestas Appointed as Turbine Supplier



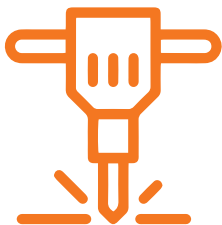
Substation Development Works Commenced



Community Action Plan Development Commenced

What's Next for the Project?

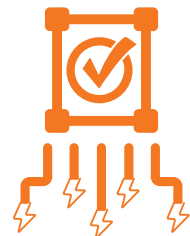
Over the coming months the key construction activities will include:



Commence Construction of Turbine Hardstands and Foundations



1st Large Foundation Pour Commences



Commence Construction of the Substation Platform and Substation Building

Cloncreen Project Newsletter

Contractors and Suppliers - Thank You

Thank You!!

Whether it's through employment or supporting local businesses, Bord na Móna is extremely proud to be an active partner with local suppliers and contractors to help deliver sustained economic benefits to the local community. In helping deliver a state-of-the-art project at Cloncreen, it is a testament to these local suppliers and contractors to have continued to deliver their supplies and services despite these challenging times. The Cloncreen Wind Farm Project Team would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the construction of the project during these challenging times. Thank You!



'Meet the Buyer' Event



Due to the public health restrictions in place due to COVID-19 we are still not in a position to hold the "Meet the Buyer" event. In the meantime, should you wish to express an interest in working on the wind farm development, or providing services or materials to the project, contractors/sub-contractors or Bord na Móna on the project, we continue to invite you to send an expression of interest to: cloncreenwindfarm@bnm.ie

Please state on your expression of interest which aspect of the wind farm development (civil, electrical, engineering services, civil engineering and construction, electrical engineering and construction, turbine supply and installation, and turbine operation and maintenance) you are interested in working on. Your expression of interest will then be forwarded to the relevant party for consideration. Please note that an expression of interest does not guarantee employment nor is it an offer of employment and has no legal effect. Bord na Móna is facilitating the transfer of expressions of interest only. It will be solely a matter for the relevant party how they deal with and respond to any expression of interest.

For the purposes of data protection, please note that the only personal data that we hold will be the details you submit on your "Expression of Interest" (Name, address, email, contact number etc). Your details will be stored in a secure encrypted database on the Bord na Móna servers for a period of six months. By sending this information to the project email you are consenting to Bord na Móna forwarding this information to the wind farm contractors. The wind farm contractors will be subject to relevant data protection legislation which includes the requirement to protect any personal data they held for the purposes of providing the service.

Cloncreen Project Newsletter

Meet some of our Project Team.....

Catherine Graham - Site Manager

Name: Catherine Graham

Native of: Cappincur, Co. Offaly

Job Title: Site Manager



How long have you worked in Bord na Móna?

I have worked in Bord na Móna for four years since January 2017, I started in Engineering Services in Boora in 2017 and came across to Powergen in early 2019 and have been working on the Cloncreen project since I made the move.

What is your role on Cloncreen Wind Farm?

I am the Bord na Móna Site Manager on Cloncreen Wind Farm - overseeing the works from the Clients point of view.

What has been the highlight of your career to date?

This is a tough one! I think I would have to say when Billy Hoey gave me the opportunity to join Bord na Móna in 2017. It was a huge step forward in my career, my goal always was to work in the energy industry from when I left college. The opportunity Billy gave me and the broad base of knowledge that I absorbed about the workings of Bord na Móna while in Boora have served me well and continue to do so.

What did you want to be when you were at school?

I always wanted to be some type of engineer to be honest, that or something in sports. Although I used to look at things when I was younger, for example a door and wonder why the blocks do not fall down through the gap, what's keeping that up. Obviously now I know it is as simple as a lintel! I was and probably still am a very inquisitive person I want to understand how things work. Also, every aptitude test I ever took pointed towards a career in Maths or Engineering.

What did you study at third level and where?

I studied Civil Engineering in college. I completed an ordinary degree in Athlone IT and my honours degree in NUI Galway.

What was your first job?

I worked like many other Cappincur natives in Dunnes Stores, Church Rd, Tullamore.

What are your Hobbies?

I am the current secretary of Cappincur GAA. I play in the centre for Tullamore Ladies Rugby team, and I am also the manager of Tullamore Rugby's U18 Girls team. So, I am kept very busy, I also love hiking and anything that gets me outdoors.

What is the most challenging part of the job?

So far, I have found the most challenging part of the job has been the coordination between Bord na Móna existing interfaces and the Contractors works. You need to be a good communicator to ensure everyone is on the same page and that the works run smoothly.

What is the most enjoyable part of your job?

I am an outdoors girl, I always was. From very small I would be outside pucking a ball against the gable end. So, to have a job that allows me the best of both worlds is amazing.

These are strange times to be living in what are you most looking forward to when things go back to normal?

I cannot wait for freedom! Freedom of travel & freedom to have a few pints in The Old Harbour Bar without having to eat a pizza!

Cloncreen Project Newsletter

Meet some of our Project Team.....

Aaron Hughes -Machine Operator

Name: Aaron Hughes

Native of: Clara, Co. Offaly

Job Title: Machine Operator (Healions)



What is your role on the construction of the Cloncreen Wind Farm?

My role on the construction of Cloncreen Wind Farm is a Machine Operator – building the roads.

What is the most enjoyable part of your job?

The most enjoyable part is seeing the lorries travel across the bog on roads I have built.

What did you want to be when you were at school?

When I was at school, I wanted to drive machinery like diggers and tractors.

What was your first job?

My first job was working on a farm.

What is the most interesting job you have worked on so far?

The most interesting job I have worked on to date was during the harvest season while in Australia.

What are you most looking forward to when things go back to normal?

Being able to move around more freely and being able to meet up with friends and family!

Progress to date



Cloncreen Project Newsletter

Community Benefit Fund

As outlined in our previous newsletter edition it is envisaged that prior to 1 July 2021 that the Minister (or a nominated body) will be publishing “A Good Practice Principles Handbook” in relation to the Community Benefit Fund. This handbook will lay out a range of principles and guidance on these Community Benefit Funds. As more guidance and information becomes available to us on how these funds should be structured, we will continue to keep the local community and near neighbours informed.

Community Action Plan Development

Bord na Móna has enlisted the services of Offaly Local Development Company (OLDC) to develop a Community Action Plan in conjunction with the local Community. This plan aims to identify what local resources and amenities currently exist in the area and what additional resources and/or services may be required by the community in the future. By commencing this plan now, it will enable the community to set out a roadmap of future plans for the continued development and enhancement of the area assisted with the support of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund*.

The key stages involved in the development of the plan include:

We are here



A Kick-off meeting was held in December with members of the Cloncreen Wind Farm Amenity Forum Working Group and wider community stakeholders. In recent weeks, the group has been busy meeting over Zoom and making plans on how best to gather the opinions and thoughts of the wider community on the development of this Community Action Plan. If you have any ideas or suggestions on the future development of your community or would like to find out more about this initiative, please contact **Ciara from OLDC on 087 7427014**.

UN Sustainable Development Goals



*subject to compliance with the Fund's finalised terms and conditions

Cloncreen Project Newsletter

Register for Project Updates

As part of our commitment to community engagement, we are keen to keep the local community and other interested parties up to date on developments of this project and, to provide opportunities to share feedback.

Don't forget to visit our dedicated project website: www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie to stay up to date with the development.

If you haven't done so already but would like to receive project news via...

Post: Join our mailing list by visiting www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie or email cloncreenwindfarm@bnm.ie and completing the short sign up form.

Text: Join text message alert system by visiting www.cloncreenwindfarm.ie or email cloncreenwindfarm@bnm.ie and completing the short sign up form.

Battery Storage

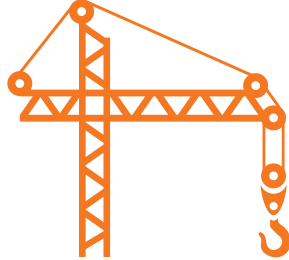
In line with national renewable energy targets supporting the transition to low carbon energy systems, Bord na Móna is considering the development of a maximum 25MW of battery energy storage at Cloncreen on the proposed wind farm site. This facility would complement the wind farm in providing essential grid stabilising services while also enabling energy storage during periods of high wind generation, for later release back to the grid at times of low wind. Availability of battery energy storage will allow better utilisation of wind generating assets helping avoid output restrictions of turbines during periods of high wind. The proposed battery development would consist of up to 28 low level modules and ancillary equipment located on a 100m x 40m stoned compound.

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Project Timeline

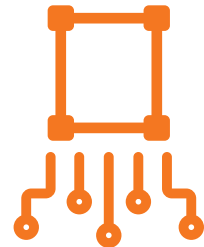
Spring/Summer 2021

- Construction of Access Roads and Turbine Base Civils On-Going
- 110kV Substation Construction Commences
- 110kV Cable Civil Works Commences
- Community Engagement



Autumn/Winter 2021

- Construction of Access Roads and Turbine Base Civils On-Going
- 110kV Substation Construction On-Going
- 110kV Cable Civil Works On-Going
- Community Engagement



2022

- Turbine Base Civil Works Complete
- Wind Turbine Deliveries
- First Power Generation
- Wind Farm Operational
- Community Engagement



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Frequently Asked Questions

How many turbines will be erected and what size are they going to be?

Cloncreen Wind Farm will consist of 21 V136-3.45 MW Vestas wind turbines in 3.6 MW operating mode which will have an overall tip height of 170m. Within this size envelope, the turbines will have a rotor diameter of 136m and a hub height of 102m.

When will the wind farm become operational?

Turbine delivery is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2022, while commissioning is planned for the fourth quarter of 2022. When operational the wind farm will have an installed generating capacity of 75MW which will power approximately 55,000 homes per annum*.

I am interested in employment, where can I find out more about possible job opportunities?

As outlined, due to COVID-19 restrictions we are still unable to hold the Meet the Buyer event. If you wish to express an interest in working on the wind farm development, please send an expression of interest to cloncreenwindfarm@bnm.ie and it will be forwarded to the wind farm contractors for consideration.

Will there be a Community Benefit Fund available like there is at other wind farms in the region?

The Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment's new support mechanism for renewable electricity, the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS) will provide support to renewable electricity projects in Ireland. The first of the RESS auctions was held in July 2020 and Cloncreen Wind Farm was successful on its offer quantity of 75MW. A condition of RESS-1 participation is that the wind farm must establish an annual Community Benefit Fund for the duration of RESS-1 (15 Years). The fund value will vary each year as it will be calculated based on the annual output of the wind farm. Cloncreen Wind Farm will make an annual contribution of €2/MWh (of Loss-Adjusted Metered Quantity) into a Community Benefit Fund for the duration of the RESS Contract.

Will there be social and recreational amenities at Cloncreen with access like what can be found at Mountlucas?

Similar to Mountlucas Wind Farm, amenity facilities (such as utilising the internal road network for walkways/cycleways) will be incorporated as part of the Cloncreen project. Approximately 21 km of internal road network will be constructed as part of the development. In addition, to enhance the amenity potential of the site, the Project Team are continuing to develop a wider amenity plan for the wind farm.

**based on average household consumption of 4,200kwh*

