

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **1. When can we see the final layout?**

We are now consulting the local community on the draft turbine layout. This is an ongoing consultation. The final layout will be available nearer planning application which is planned for early 2021.

### **2. Will there be benefits provided to individual households?**

This will depend on the community benefit scheme put in place by the local windfarm.

Some Windfarms operate a 'proximity payment' scheme where households living close to wind farm would receive direct benefits. One of the requirements of the RESS (Renewable Energy Support Scheme) scheme is that any onshore wind farm in the RESS must pay a minimum of €1,000 to each household located within a 1 kilometre radius of the project. This is the case with Bracklyn Windfarm.

### **3. Where will pylons be located?**

There will be no pylons going over-ground or power cable lines overhead on the windfarm. The windfarm cables for Bracklyn Windfarm will be underground.

There will be 2 grid connection end masts located in the townland of Coolronan, Co Meath.

### **4. County Westmeath has low lying land, why build here?**

Previous to selecting a windfarm site, there are extensive surveys done in the area. There is also an Anemometer Mast which is currently 80 meters high and been erected to collect wind speeds. Wind turbine technology has changed over the last few years and this allows flat low land areas to work really well with new turbine types.

## **5. What about local wildlife in Bracklyn?**

Surveys are ongoing by independent ecologists and ornithologists and will form part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). These also include bat monitors that are installed on site and bird surveys that have been ongoing over the last few years. This forms part of the Environmental Impact Assessment report and will be shared as part of the planning process.

The independent studies feed into the final design of the turbine layout.

## **6. What impact will the wind farm have visually?**

Every care has been taken when deciding the location of a wind turbine.

The proposed development will be subject to a comprehensive landscape and visual impact assessment which will assess the likelihood for significant adverse effects on the landscape and sensitive receptors.

The visual impact studies provide observations on the turbine layout and photomontages from various vantage points and will be shared as part of the planning process.

## **7. Will the value on my property change?**

At a European and UK level, wind farms have not impacted property values in the local areas. This is a reasonable assumption based on the available literature. The opposite has often been the case in previous developments we have been involved in where extra income to land owners together with substantial community benefit funds will help support local community projects and ensure that residents benefit directly from the renewable energy development which in turn will have a positive effect on property values in that area as there will be more income in circulation.

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