Crumhach Wind Farm

Public Consultation

July 2025

Welcome

Crumhach Wind Farm Public Consultation

Thank you for visiting our public consultation event today. Please take your time viewing the information we have on display. If you have any questions or feedback, our project team is here to talk to you.

You can also fill out a feedback form or contact us via email or post after today's event. An online feedback form will also be available via our virtual consultation room until September 3rd.

The purpose of our public consultation is to provide you with information on our upcoming planning application for the proposed Crumhach Wind Farm, to update you on our current activities and plans and to provide an opportunity for the local community to give their input and feedback on our draft design proposals.

Our team is on hand to answer any questions you might have and listen to your feedback. You can also view all the information on display this evening in our virtual public consultation room, which can be found online at www.sserenewables.com/crumhachwindfarm **or by using the QR code below.**

Contact Us
Email us at clo@sse.com
Write to us at SSE Renewables, Red Oak South, South County Business Park, Leopardstown, Dublin D18 W688

Meet the Team

Garry Brides
Portfolio Project Manager,
SSE Renewables

Caroline Donnelly
Lead Consent Strategy Manager,
SSE Renewables

Martin Burns
Site Supervisor, Kingsmountain and Dunneill wind farms
SSE Renewables

Ruaidhrí Broughan
GIS Map Specialist
SSE Renewables

Conor Joy
External Relations Manager
SSE Renewables

Peter McWilliams
Business & Commercial Graduate
SSE Renewables

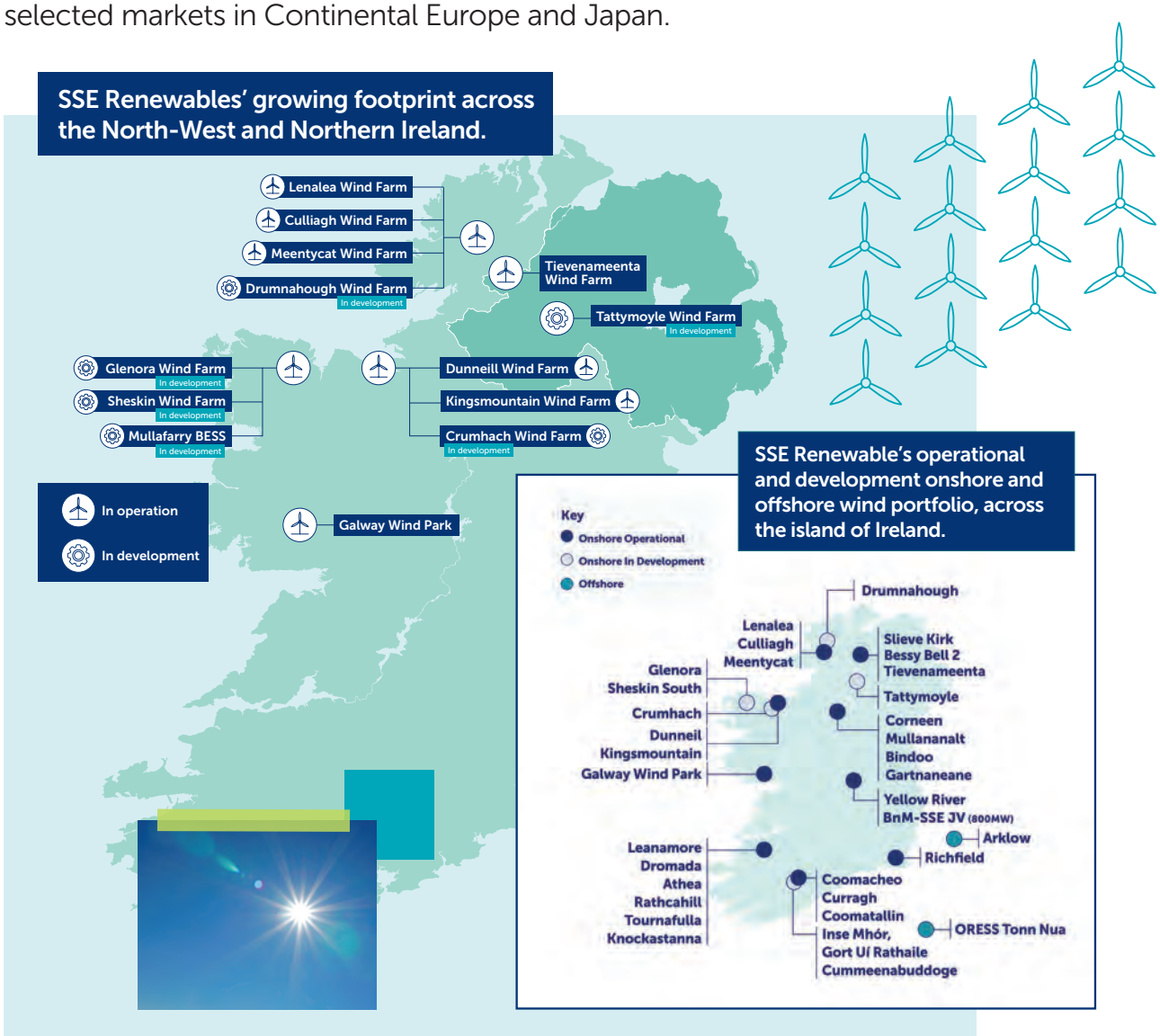
Brandon Taylor
Environmental Scientist
MKO

About SSE Renewables

SSE Renewables is a leading developer and operator of renewable energy generation, focusing on onshore and offshore wind, hydro, solar and battery storage. Part of energy infrastructure company SSE plc, UK-listed in the FTSE100, it is delivering clean power assets to increase SSE's operational renewable generation capacity from 5GW today to up to 9GW by 2027 as part of a €24bn clean energy plan, the five-year Net Zero Acceleration Programme (NZAP) Plus. This includes delivery of the world's largest offshore wind farm in construction, the 3.6GW Dogger Bank Wind Farm, off the North-East coast of England.

SSE Renewables operates some of the largest onshore wind farms on the island of Ireland including the 174MW Galway Wind Park in Connemara and the 73MW Slieve Kirk Wind Park outside Derry City.

SSE Renewables has a team of over 2,000 renewable energy professionals with a passion for championing clean energy delivery, each based across the markets in which it operates. Its core market focus is on Ireland and the UK, with a growing international presence in carefully selected markets in Continental Europe and Japan.



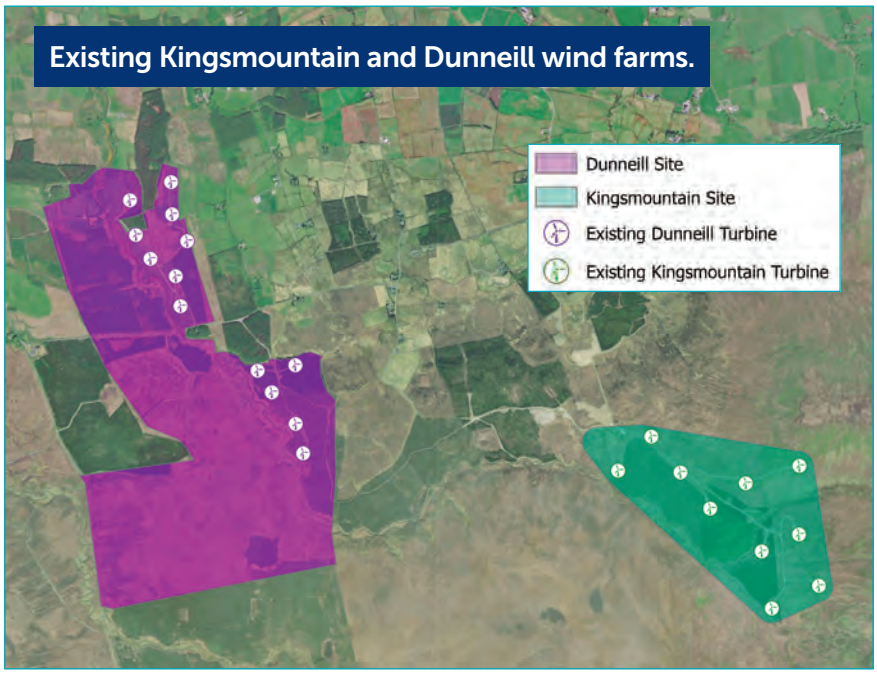
Crumhach Wind Farm Overview

In West Sligo we have operated our existing Kingsmountain Wind Farm since 2003, and the neighboring Dunneill Wind Farm since 2010.

Together, both wind farms constitute over 36MW of clean energy, powering Irish homes and businesses and removing harmful carbon dioxide emissions from Ireland's electricity fuel mix in addition to providing a significant economic boost to the region.

Through the proposed Crumhach Wind Farm we are now seeking to secure and extend our over two-decade long presence in Sligo.

Crumhach Wind Farm would involve the repowering of the Kingsmountain and Dunneill wind farms, in addition to greenfield development located in-between the existing wind farms and on lands located south-south-west of the existing wind farms, with part of the proposed development on Coillte lands. Repowering would involve the dismantling and replacement of turbine equipment, infrastructure on site such as roads and grid connection equipment being reused where possible.



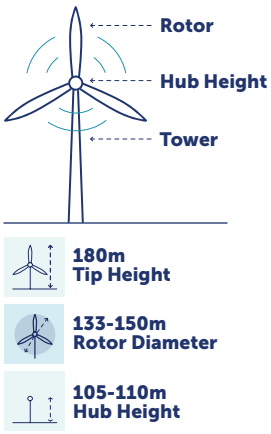
Existing Kingsmountain and Dunneill wind farms.

Repowering can provide several benefits including:

- **Continuing the productive use of existing wind farm sites and**
- **significantly increasing the clean energy produced at these sites.**

While the number and layout of turbines will be refined during the project design stage, the proposed development will likely comprise the removal of the 23 existing wind turbines from Kingsmountain Wind Farm (10 turbines) and Dunneill Wind Farm (13 turbines) and the construction of 17 wind turbines across the proposed site, in addition to an onsite substation. We are no longer proposing that a battery energy storage system (BESS) will be included as part of our forthcoming planning application. A decommissioning plan for the removal of the existing turbines will be agreed in conjunction with Sligo County Council.

It is our intention to submit a planning application in Q1 2026 for Crumhach Wind Farm, through the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) planning process, which is designed for large-scale developments of national importance. Under Irish planning law, renewable energy projects over 50MW are typically classified as SID and the planning application may be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála), rather than the local authority. This streamlined process ensures that projects critical to Ireland's energy and climate goals are assessed efficiently while still allowing for full public participation and environmental scrutiny.



Crumhach Wind Farm Overview & Biodiversity Net Gain

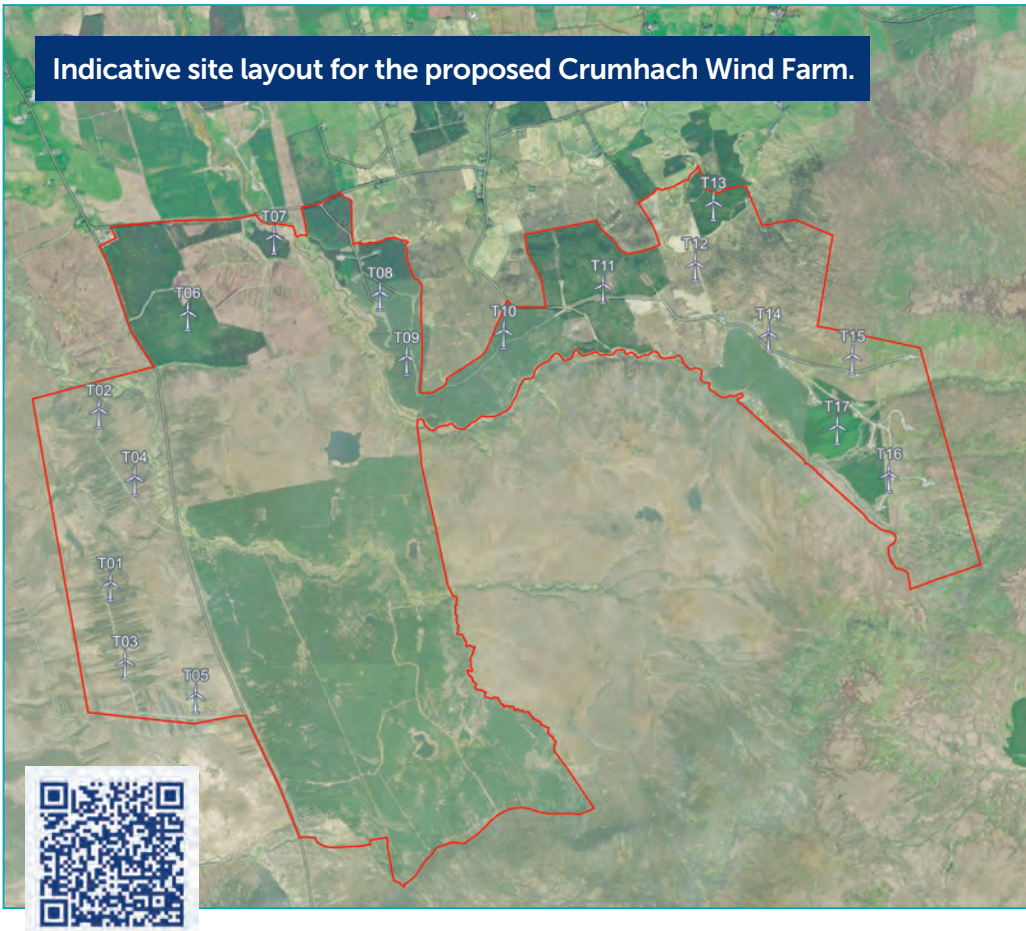
The draft layout for Crumhach Wind Farm comprises 17 turbines, with a maximum tip height of 180m. The wind farm will generate up to 100MW of energy, based on the current design proposals.

In addition to the turbines themselves, the development of a wind farm comprises several principal components. These include hardstand areas and access roads, underground cables to transport the green electricity to the substation, borrow pits for the sourcing of rock on site and spoil management areas. In addition, turbine delivery route upgrades, an on-site substation, and an underground electrical connection to the national electricity grid will be required. We anticipate that a planning application for an underground electrical connection will be submitted at a later date.

As the proposed development only takes up a small portion of the total site area, this means much of the land area will not be required for the wind farm. This provides an opportunity for the remainder of the site to be used for other purposes, such as ongoing farming and biodiversity enhancement.

SSE Renewables will implement its Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) plan, which is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was in pre-development. It focuses on the change in the biodiversity value of a site, comparing the pre and post construction biodiversity values to ensure a positive impact overall. This compliments the Sligo County Development Plan 2024-2030 which states "New development should contribute to the enhancement and restoration of biodiversity by demonstrating a site-specific biodiversity net gain as part of the planning process." SSE Renewables is committed to achieving BNG on onshore renewable energy sites consented from 2025 onwards. As Crumhach Wind Farm will be submitted for planning permission in early 2026, it is envisaged that the project will include biodiversity enhancement measures in line with SSE's commitments to BNG.

Further details on SSE's commitment to BNG, including the Positive for the Planet report and BNG toolkits, can be found at: www.sserenewables.com/sustainability/biodiversity-net-gain



Indicative site layout for the proposed Crumhach Wind Farm.

Project Benefits

Climate

Onshore wind farms, such as Crumhach Wind Farm are a vital part of Ireland's transition to a cleaner, more sustainable future. Crumhach will support Ireland's legally binding path to net-zero emissions no later than 2050. Expanding onshore wind energy helps meet this target by providing a reliable, low-carbon power source that reduces our dependence on fossil fuels, enhances energy security, and supports local and national climate goals.

Key Benefits

- **Provide up to 100MW of green, renewable energy.**
- **Prevent approximately 70,000 metric tonnes of harmful CO2 being released each year.**
- **Investment in the local economy and communities.**
- **Creation of approximately 80-100 jobs during the construction phase, with 2-3 jobs during the operational phase.**
- **Contribute to Ireland's binding climate targets.**
- **Annual community benefit fund which could be worth several hundred thousand euros per-annum.**

Economic

The project will bring significant benefits to the local and regional economy including:

- Creation of approximately 80-100 jobs during the construction phase, with 2-3 jobs during the operational phase.
- Anticipated commercial rates of over €2.5million per-annum to Sligo County Council, contributing towards services such as roads, local infrastructure and public services.
- Investment in the local economy through direct and indirect employment and supply chain involvement.

Community

Over its lifetime, Crumhach Wind Farm project will bring a range of benefits to the local community including an annual community benefit fund, once operational.

Site Selection

SSE considers numerous factors when choosing sites upon which to develop wind farms. The wind resource, or consistent windiness, is a primary consideration. We must also consider how the wind farm will be connected to the electricity grid. The size of the site, the area of ground available to develop on and access to the site for turbine components and construction are also amongst the key considerations in wind farm planning.

The site for the proposed Crumhach Wind Farm encompasses part of the footprints of the existing Kingsmountain and Dunneill wind farms, an area with

Meteorological mast installed at Crowagh Bog.

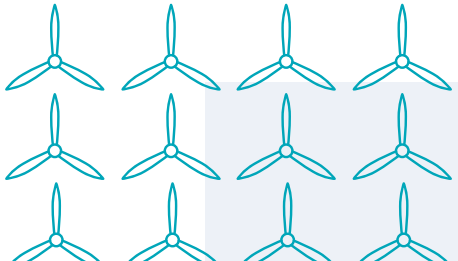
proven suitability for wind farm development, along with additional greenfield lands. In seeking to "repower" this site we are continuing the productive use of existing wind farm sites while at the same time significantly increasing the clean energy produced. A temporary meteorological mast was installed at Crowagh Bog in November 2024 to measure and collect data on wind conditions; this will also inform our planning application.

Furthermore, an updated constraints analysis was undertaken and included avoidance of environmental designations (Natura 2000 sites), avoidance of cumulative wind farm developments and a review of regional and local policies and objectives. Other factors considered included suitable windspeeds, low population density, reasonable proximity to available grid capacity, avoidance of large settlement areas and direct impacts on cultural heritage, access and constructability.

Within the site selection and design process, the following constraints and facilitators have been considered:

- **Wind Resource:** Consistent wind speeds are required for the development of a wind energy project. As the site of the proposed development contains two operational wind farms, it is proven as a suitable location for wind energy development.
- **Grid Capacity:** Ensuing capacity is a key driver in identifying a suitable location for a wind farm, because sufficient local capacity is needed to efficiently transmit the generated electricity to homes and businesses across the country.
- **Proximity to Sensitive Receptors:** The proposed turbines will have a minimum set-back distance of 720 metres (i.e. 4 times the proposed turbine tip height) from occupied dwellings and identified sensitive receptors.
- **Environmental Sensitivity and Designations:** Environmental sensitivity refers to the ecological sensitivity of a site based on proximity to sensitive areas within or around the site. While wind farm developments are not specifically precluded within Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs); out of an abundance of caution, such areas were omitted from consideration for Crumhach.
- **Landscape Capacity:** Detailed consideration was given to the capacity of the local landscape to receive a wind farm, including the potential for cumulative visual impacts, alongside other wind farms.
- **Access and Infrastructure:** It is preferred to use sites with good access and existing infrastructure in the form of internal wind farm and/or forestry roads and tracks.

The purpose of the site selection process was to identify the optimum location to accommodate Crumhach Wind Farm while minimising the potential for impacts on the receiving environment and sensitive receptors. The repowering of the Kingsmountain and Dunneill sites and inclusion of adjoining greenfield areas was considered the most environmentally prudent and economically sound option for developing Crumhach Wind Farm.



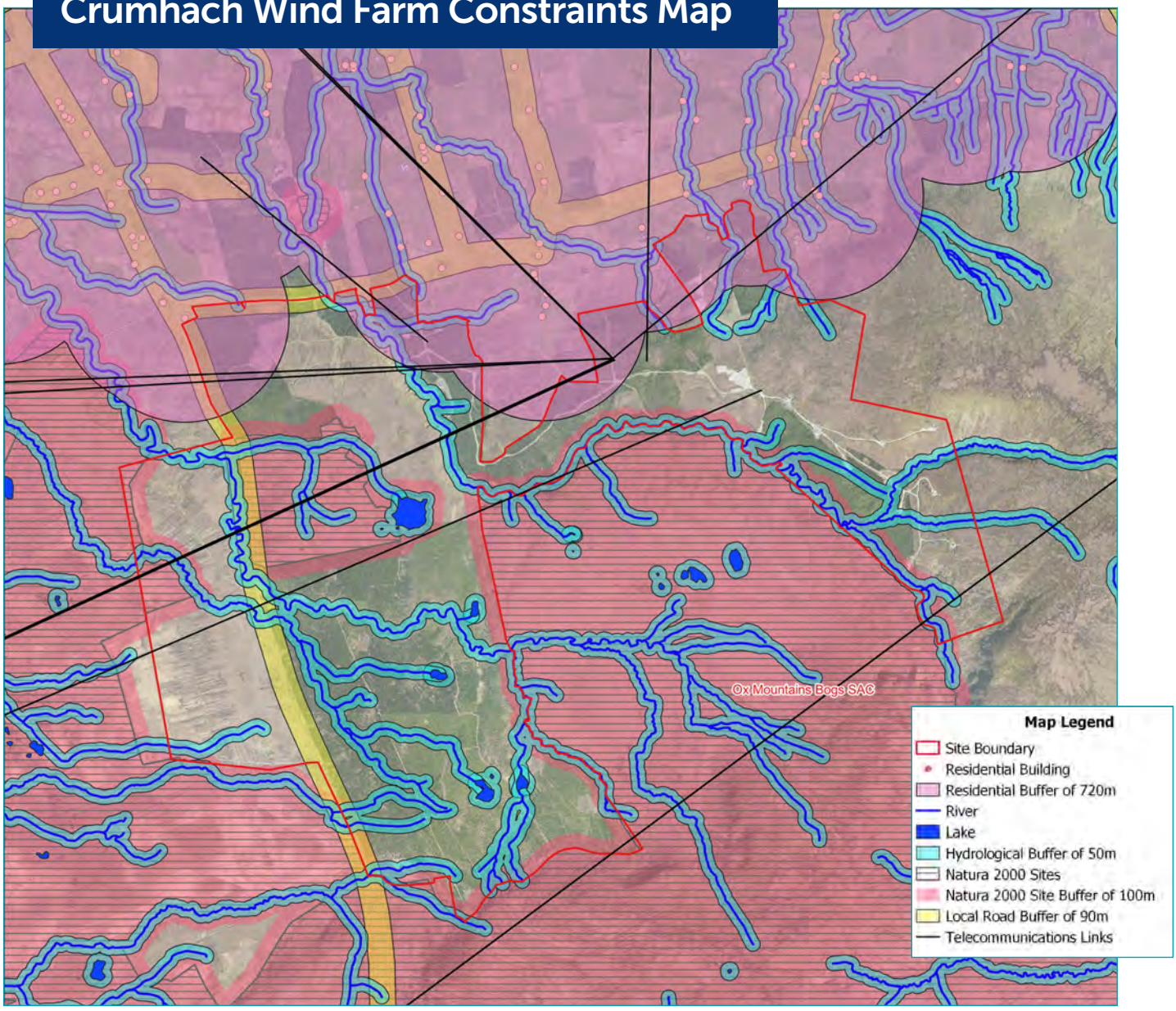
Environmental Impact Assessment

A key aspect of our planning application for Crumhach Wind Farm is the Environmental Impact Assessment of the project. This is the process of examining the anticipated environmental effects of Crumhach, through consultation, assessment and preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Scoping, which is the process of deciding what information should be contained in the EIAR and involves interactions with relevant consultees who are contacted to provide feedback as to what they would like to see included and assessed in EIAR, commenced in late 2024 and is ongoing.

The EIAR will be included in the final planning application which, we anticipate, will be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála) as a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) application in early 2026.

Crumhach Wind Farm Constraints Map



A detailed constraints mapping was undertaken which involved placing buffers around different types of constraints to clearly identify the areas within which no development works will take place. The constraints mapping included the following features and relevant buffers:

- 4X proposed turbine tip height buffer (720m) from residential buildings.
- Natura 2000 sites plus 100-metre buffer.
- Lakes/waterbodies plus 50-metre buffer.
- Telecommunication links plus operator-specific buffer, following consultation with all operators.
- Potential Annex 1 habitats.
- Local public road network plus proposed turbine tip height plus 10% buffer.
- Archaeological Sites or Monuments, 50-metre buffer, plus 'Zone of Notification' as required by the National Monuments Service.
- Rivers/streams plus 50-metre buffer.

In addition to desk-based studies, we are undertaking a wide range of field surveys to inform the baseline environmental characteristics of the site and surrounding area. These include:

- Ecological and ornithological surveys, including:
  bird surveys,
  habitat and vegetation classification,
  bat surveys,
  reptile surveys,
  terrestrial mammal surveys - badger, squirrel and otter.
- Peat probing surveys.
- Hydrology walkovers and surface water monitoring.
- Geotechnical assessments.
- Landscape and cultural heritage walkover surveys.
- Noise monitoring.
- Traffic count survey.

Grid Connection and Turbine Delivery Routes

Grid Connection

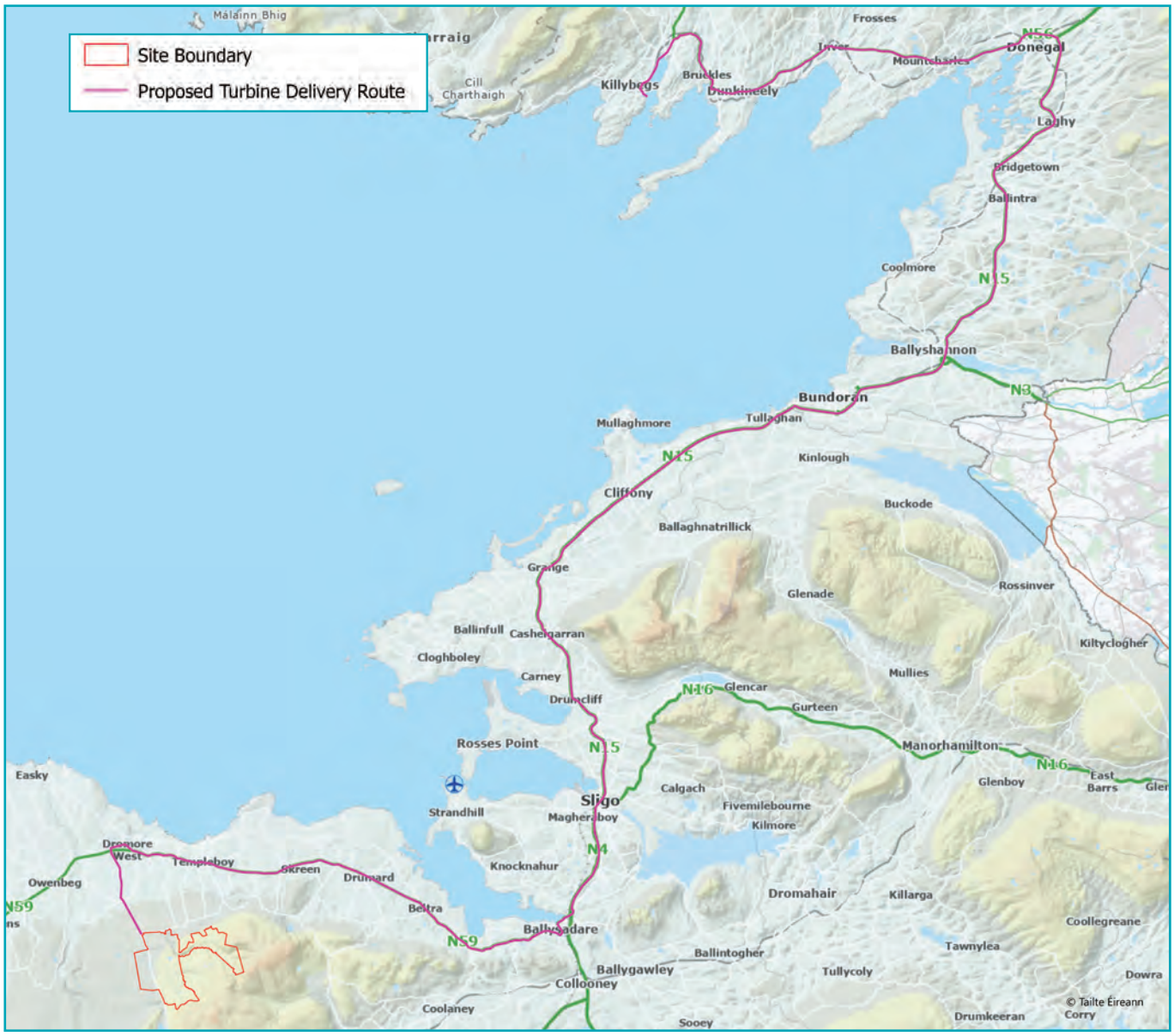
To ensure the power generated by Crumhach Wind Farm feeds into the national grid, a physical connection is required between the proposed onsite wind farm substation and a 110kV substation in the region.

The existing Kingsmountain and Dunneill wind farms connect to the national grid via Cunghill 110kV substation and the project is investigating reusing this underground connection together with a new 110kV connection. A separate planning application will be made for the grid element of this project in the future.

The proposed grid connection for the wind farm will be designed and constructed to meet ESB Networks standards. The cable will be installed in a similar manner to existing utilities in the area, such as other high voltage cables and water mains.

The existing electrical infrastructure that connects the Kingsmountain and Dunneill wind farms to the national grid can be reused should the project decide to, and therefore no work is required on this existing infrastructure.

Indicative grid connection route (top) and turbine delivery route maps for Crumhach Wind Farm (bottom).



Turbine Delivery Route

The proposed turbine component delivery route will utilise the R263 regional road from Killybegs to its junction with the N56 national road, which provides access to Donegal Town.

From Donegal, the turbine delivery route continues on the N15 national road through Sligo Town. After Sligo, the turbine delivery route continues west onto the N59 national road passing through Ballysadare, Templeboy and Dromore West after which it uses the local road approaching the proposed wind farm site from the north.

Traffic Management

The delivery of the wind turbine components and all other construction materials to the proposed development site will be assessed as part of the traffic and transports section of the the Environmental Impact Assessment Report which will form part of our planning application. A Traffic Management Plan will be developed and agreed with Sligo County Council and An Garda Siochána prior to construction commencing on site.

Noise and Shadow Flicker

Noise

Strict planning guidelines on wind turbine noise exist to ensure the protection of residential amenity in the vicinity of proposed wind farms.

Sources of noise during operation of a wind farm are primarily aerodynamic (from the movement of blades through the air) and, to a lesser extent, mechanical noise. Modern wind turbines are designed to minimise both aerodynamic and mechanical noise.

The effects of noise are being assessed as part of the formulation of a Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), which will be included in our planning application and will comply with wind farm planning guidelines. Independent noise consultants are undertaking a noise assessment to consider the impact of the proposed turbines on nearby residential properties. A background noise survey has been carried out at a number of locations around the wind farm site, which will allow appropriate noise limits to be established in accordance with the guidelines. Predicted noise levels will be calculated and compared to these limits, and if necessary, design changes or other mitigation measures proposed to ensure that the wind farm can be operated within the limits. If the proposed wind farm is consented and built, noise levels will again be measured during commissioning of the wind farm to verify compliance with the specified limits.

Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker is the name given to a phenomenon caused when the sun is behind the turbine blades, casting a moving shadow over a small opening in a building such as a window, which creates a flickering effect within the building.

A shadow flicker assessment will be carried out as part of the EIAR for Crumhach Wind Farm. If these results identify shadow flicker to be possible at certain times, the turbines will be equipped with a shadow flicker control system that will ensure that the relevant turbine(s) will be shut down as required to mitigate the effect.

Community Benefit Fund

If consented and constructed Crumhach Wind Farm would include an associated community benefit fund anticipated to be worth several hundred thousand euros annually, implemented in accordance with government best practice.

SSE plans to conduct multiple local consultation events to disseminate information regarding this fund, adhering to current government guidelines. These events would also facilitate the expression of interest from community members to join a community benefit fund committee.

This committee will be established to ensure the effective allocation of funding in alignment with community needs, with a primary focus on developing a community funding strategy consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Since 2004, the Kingsmountain and Dunneill Community Fund has contributed over **€654,000** to local groups in the vicinity of the existing wind farms. In May, SSE marked two decades of community investment in the North-West by awarding funding to 14 local groups.

Presentation of funding linked to the existing Kingsmountain and Dunneill Community Fund, which took place in the Old Schoolhouse, Templeboy in June 2024.

Groups Supported by our Kingsmountain and Dunneill Community Funds

- In 2023/24 Dromore West Community Council received **€2,000** to fit a protective steel cage for recently fitted solar panels and tables for the hall.
- We provided funding of **€1,500** in 2021/22 to the Mayo Beekeepers Association to facilitate the delivery of biodiversity workshops to local school children on the importance of bees as pollinators of many trees and flowers that provide vital habitat for various wildlife.
- Templeboy Aughris Rural Action (T.A.R.A) received **€18,500** of funding over 9 years supporting projects such as lighting and repairs to the WWI Lookout Post on Aughris Head, coastal planting, and the installation of a bench and defibrillator with signage and secure mounting along the coastal walk.
- St. Mary's National School, Templeboy, received **€35,000** over 13 years for a range of projects that support a lasting legacy in education, well-being, and sustainability.
- St Farnan's GAA & LGFA have been awarded **€40,800** over 20 years from both funds which have supported the delivery of several projects including lighting, energy efficiency upgrades, and the replacement of unsafe goal posts and netting. The fund also supported new jersey's and training gear as well as expert led sessions on key social issues such as mental health, addiction and gambling.

Community Engagement & Project Timeline

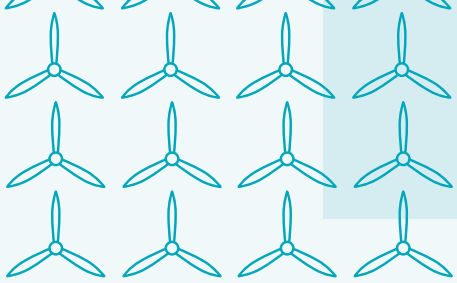
Community Engagement

Our commitment is to engage inclusively with all our stakeholders. Through open and early dialogue, we aim to design and build projects that contribute to local sustainable development, while supporting and enhancing a sense of community spirit and solidarity.

Our Project Manager and Community Liaison Officer for Crumhach visited near neighbours within 2km of the proposed new wind farm in April 2024 and we have sent regular communications out to all households within 4km of the proposed Crumhach Wind Farm. We have also engaged with a wide variety of additional stakeholders in the locality, County Sligo and the North-West more widely.

What happens next?

The feedback we receive from the community will be examined by our project team once our public consultation closes on September 3rd. This may have an impact on how long the development process takes. That said, we aim to submit a planning application for Crumhach to An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála) in Q1 2026. The statutory consultation period for formal comment and submissions will open once the planning application has been lodged. This will be publicised through the required notices at the site entrance and newspaper advertisements. Outlined on the right is an indicative timeline encompassing the development of Crumhach Wind Farm from our initial outreach with near neighbours to potential commercial operations date.



Indicative Timeline

Initial outreach and door-to-door visit to near neighbours.
April 2024

Environmental scoping with statutory and other consultees commences.
September 2024

Meteorological Mast installed at Crowagh Bog.
November 2024

Pre-Application Public Consultation
July-September 2025

Anticipated confirmation from An Coimisiún Pleanála (formerly An Bord Pleanála) regarding Strategic Infrastructure Development status for Crumhach Wind Farm.
Q4 2025

Indicative Planning Submission Date
Q1 2026

Expected Planning Decision Date
2027

Construction Start Date
2029

Commercial Operations Date
2031

Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to visit our public consultation event.

We hope you found the information useful.

We welcome your feedback and any queries on the proposed planning application for Crumhach Wind Farm. Please feel free to contact us via the contact details provided below. You can also fill out a feedback form or contact us via email or post after today's event. An online feedback form will also be available via our virtual consultation room until September 3rd.

Contact Us

Email us at clo@sse.com

Write to us at

SSE Renewables,
Red Oak South,
South County Business Park,
Leopardstown,
Dublin D18 W688

Follow us on our social media channels

Visit our website: sserenewables.com/crumhachwindfarm