EIA Process & Consultation

All planning applications for a wind farm must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. This document is prepared as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process. The EIA process is the systematic assessment of the potential effects of a proposal on the environment, including effects on human activity. The outputs, are used to inform the decision making process.

We are currently in the midst of the EIA process. A number of independent consultants have been employed to complete the technical assessments needed for the proposed development in accordance with the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, as amended. The purpose of an independently produced Environmental Statement is to:

- Explain the need for the proposal and describe the physical characteristics, scale and design of the wind farm;
- Examine the existing environmental character of the site and the area in the vicinity of the wind farm;
- Predict possible environmental impacts of the wind farm; and
- Describe measures which would be taken to avoid, offset or reduce adverse environmental impacts.

The technical information being presented at this consultation event represents a summary of work done to date by independent consultants contracted by SSE Renewables to undertake these assessments.

The EIA process involves the following key stages:

Scoping	Consultation with relevant statutory consultees and other stakeholders to obtain views and input in to the assessment process.
Baseline Studies	Identification of existing environmental conditions through desktop studies, monitoring and field studies.
Assessment of Effects	Assessment and prediction of potential effects on the environment.
Assessing the Significance of Effects	Assessment of the significance of the effects at local, regional, national and international level.
Mitigation	Identification of measures to avoid or reduce significant negative effects.
Residual Impacts	Identification of residual effects which cannot be avoided through mitigation.

Where are we now?

SSE Renewables is still carrying out assessments and consultation prior to developing the final layout for Doraville Wind Farm.

Engagement with DoE Planning commenced in 2013. A Scoping Report was issued to DoE Planning on 27 August 2013. This report presented the broad scope of an Environmental Impact Assessment for the initial scheme, which at the time comprised 60 turbines.

The Scoping Report was issued to consultees for comment by DoE Planning and a number of consultee responses on the information have been received over the course of 2013/2014. These comments have informed the design process and further meetings have been arranged over the coming weeks with DOE Planning Service and consultees to discuss the revised proposal.

At present, the layout for Doraville Wind Farm has been revised to 43 turbines. This is likely to change further as a result of the consultation process. After the consultation period closes and the layout is finalised, the planning application and Environmental Impact Statement will be prepared in advance of a planning application submission by early 2015.

How can I be involved?

There are a number of ways that you can be involved the consultation process. Consultation will be ongoing throughout the development of the proposal, up to and including the submission of our application in the new year. We will consult in different ways so that all local communities, organisations and other interested parties can have their say, including:

- Public consultation event
- Public drop-in information events
- Written project updates to local residents, community groups and elected representatives
- Project update presentations to Local Councils
- Media engagement- press releases and formal adverts
- Project Leaflets
- Project Website updates
- Project questionnaires

What happens next?

The EIA and Planning Application are scheduled for submission in early 2015. The outline timetable for submission, together with key dates, is set out below:

- Consultation period opens on September 10th 2014;
- Additional consultation events and visits take place;
- Consultation comments are evaluated as part of the project design process;
- Consultation period closes at midnight on 26 November 2014;
- All consultation comments are collected, summarised and a report will be prepared to show how these comments have been addressed;
- Planning application and Environmental Statement scheduled for submission in early 2015.

Doraville Public Consultation Event, 10 September 2014. Information published is a summary of work done to date by independent consultants employed by SSE in the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process, in accordance with the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, as amended.

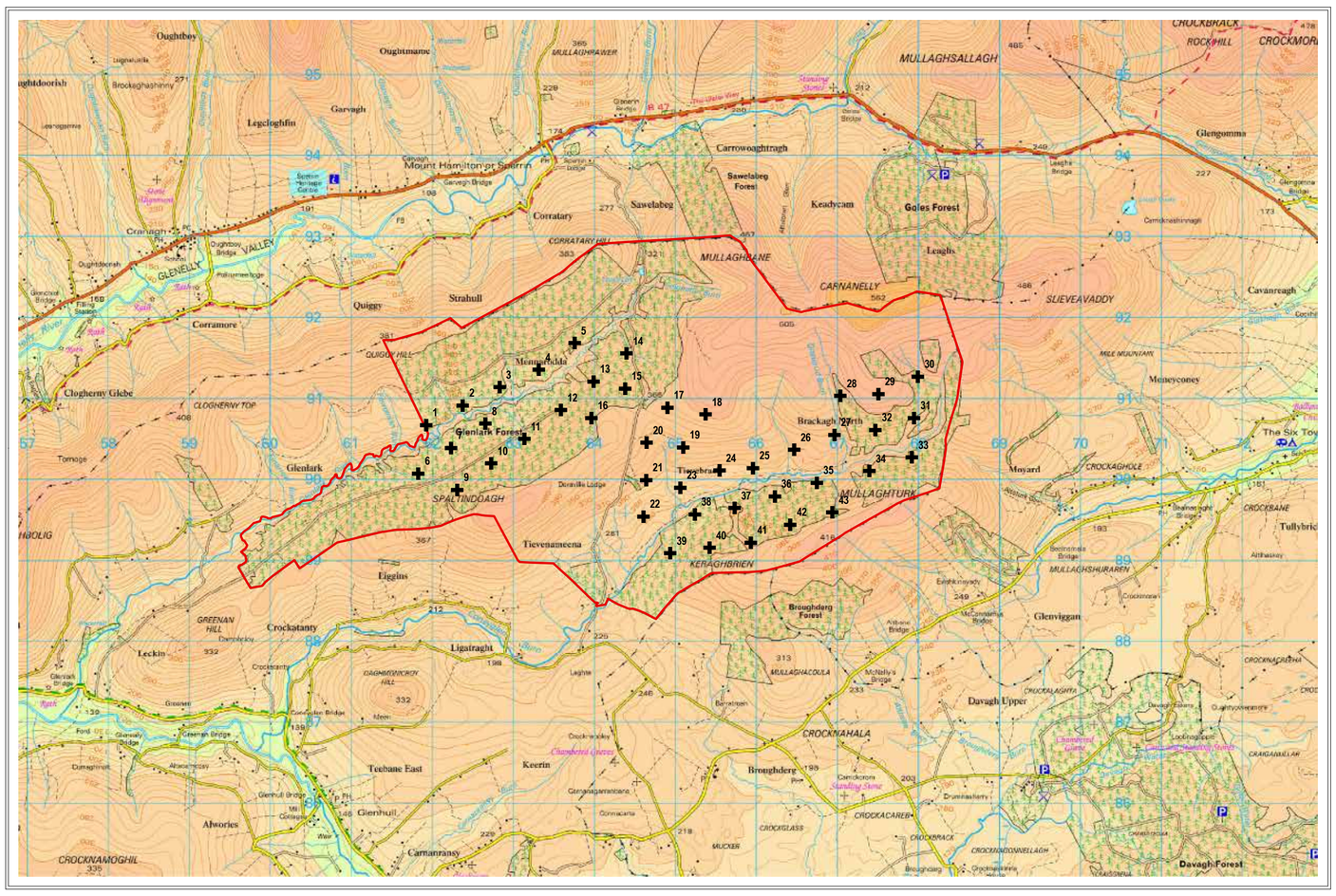
Doraville Wind Farm

The site lies within the Sperrin Mountains of County Tyrone and is situated over the head of two valley systems, Glenlark River and Coneyglen Burn. The entirety of the site is within the Omagh District Council area, but it borders Cookstown, Magherafelt and Strabane District Councils. Settlements in the area include:

- Broughderg, Co. Tyrone is 2.5km south
- Cookstown, Co. Tyrone is 18km South East
- Cranagh, Co. Tyrone is 4km North West
- Draperstown, Co. Derry is 10.5km East
- Dunnamanagh, Co. Tyrone is 21km North West
- Gortin, Co. Tyrone is 13km South West
- Greencastle, Co. Tyrone is 8km South
- Maghera, Co. Derry is 19km North East
- Magherafelt, Co. Derry is 21km East
- Moneymore, Co. Derry is 19km South East
- Moneyneany, Co. Derry is 9km North East
- Newtownstewart, Co. Tyrone is 22km West
- Omagh, Co. Tyrone is 23km South West
- Park, Co. Derry is 11km North
- Plumbridge, Co. Tyrone is 13.5km West
- Six Towns, Co. Tyrone is 5km East
- Tobermore, Co. Derry is 16km North East

The Doraville area is characterised by typical upland geomorphology, including extensive areas of bog and occasional peat hagging. Both sides of the Glenark River valley are forested with coniferous plantations and there are further areas of forestry along the southern and eastern boundary of the site.

Doraville Wind Farm Interim Layout



About Doraville

The site represents a unique opportunity as it has the potential to be the biggest single wind farm in Northern Ireland. The layout will be subject to an iterative design process informed by the constraints that arise as part of the EIA process and stakeholder consultation.

A wind farm of this size will require connection to a strong node on the Northern Ireland Transmission System. It is anticipated that Magherafelt 275kV substation will be utilised. The grid connection will be subject to a separate planning application process.

Land use at the Doraville site primarily comprises commercial forestry and sheep grazing. There are two main areas of forestry (Sitka Spruce) plantation within the site boundary. The remaining areas of the site are predominantly used for rough grazing.

Current Wind Farm Proposal

The proposed development at Doraville is still under consideration. During the scoping phase of the development up to 60 turbines were being considered. As new constraints have been identified on the site, this number has been revised downward to 43 turbines. Turbine tip heights are likely to be between 125m and 140m, and may comprise turbines of differing heights, but the selection of the candidate turbine has not been made.

At present, SSE Renewables is currently carrying out additional surveys and modelling that will inform the final layout. The purpose of this Open Day is to solicit your opinions about the current proposal and its design, and to gain any local knowledge that may be of use, so that these can be considered in the development of the final proposed layout.

When finalised, Doraville Wind Farm will comprise the following:

- Up to 43 turbines
- Site entrance point
- On site access tracks
- Forestry felling, extent required to be determined
- Electrical substation and control building
- Temporary construction compounds
- Borrow pit(s)
- Permanent meteorological mast(s)
- Public road upgrades for delivery of turbines