



Orsted



Owenreagh/
Craignagapple
Wind Farm

Who we are

Ørsted develops, constructs, and operates offshore and onshore wind farms, solar farms, energy storage facilities, and bioenergy plants, and provides energy products to its customers.

Ørsted ranks as **the world's most sustainable energy company** in Corporate Knights' 2021 index of the Global 100 most sustainable corporations in the world and is recognised on the CDP Climate Change A List as a **global leader on climate action**. With headquarters in Denmark, Ørsted employs more than 6,000 people around the world.

In Ireland and Northern Ireland, Ørsted owns and operates a portfolio of onshore wind farms with a combined capacity of more than 300 MW. Our ambition is to increase this by more than 600 MW in the coming decade.

On 09 June 2021, Ørsted completed the acquisition of a 100 % equity interest in Brookfield Renewable's onshore wind business in Ireland and the UK (BRI), including the acquisition of the operational Owenreagh I and II Wind Farms and the consented but as yet unconstructed Craignagapple Wind Farm.

This acquisition marked Ørsted's entry into the European onshore market. Ørsted is continuing the work on this project started by BRI with the aim of creating a viable wind farm which contributes to the local economy and Northern Ireland's climate targets.



Introduction to the development

Ørsted is developing a project to repower the existing Owenreagh I Wind Farm and modify and extend the permitted Craignagapple Wind Farm scheme.

The preliminary layout design process has commenced and environmental studies are ongoing. The design process is iterative with important inputs from environmental studies, engineering studies, planning policy considerations, commercial studies and engagement with local communities and other stakeholders.

Ørsted wishes to engage with the local community throughout the lifetime of this proposed project. We want to advise the community of the key project stages and how they can engage with Ørsted and the project team throughout the project lifetime.

What is repowering?

Repowering a wind farm site involves removing the existing turbines and replacing them with larger modern turbines of greater capacity on the same site. In the case of Owenreagh I, we are planning to replace the current

nine older turbines with two new more energy efficient and taller turbines, in parallel with the redesign of the consented Craignagapple site. Reusing a site means there is no need to develop a new greenfield site, while using modern technology is more reliable and can produce more energy.

Who will be determining the future planning application?

The future wind farm will have a generating capacity of greater than 30 MW and therefore is considered to be regionally significant. Consequently, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) will be responsible for determining the planning application, in consultation with statutory consultees, when submitted in 2022.

Project programme



Environmental studies and site layout design

Wind farm planning applications must include an Environmental Statement (ES). The aim of an ES is to present a detailed study of how the proposed project may impact on the local area across a series of topics including:

- **Ecology & ornithology (birds)**
- **Landscape & visual assessment**
- **Geology & peat**
- **Archaeology & cultural heritage**
- **Noise**
- **Traffic & transport**

Each topic forms a standalone chapter in the ES and comprises the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). EIA is an iterative process and will identify areas of environmental sensitivity. This will inform the development design dictating where turbines, and associated infrastructure, may be located in order to minimise any environmental effects.

The project team will also undertake an EIA scoping process with DfI Planning and their statutory consultees to agree the best approach to the EIA process

underlying the ES and ensure adherence to legislative requirements. This consultation will contribute to the understanding of the site and provide the project team with advice and guidance on how to develop the design of the wind farm.

The development design will take place in two broad stages: turbine chill and design freeze. Turbine chill is the process of turbine locations being selected and then agreed by each environmental specialist. Following agreement on turbine locations, engineers will design the development's access tracks and associated infrastructure in consultation with environmental professionals to ensure environmental impacts are minimised. Once agreed, the design of the development is then frozen, design freeze, for environmental specialists to undertake their assessment based on the final development design.



Community benefit fund

As long-term owners, developers, and operators of renewable energy assets we seek to be active partners in the communities in which we develop projects.

We believe in giving back to the communities in which we work. In line with funds we have established in Scotland, we intend to offer an annual fund of £5,000 per MW. Depending on the final project design, this means a total fund of £250k-£360k per year which will be shared between community organisations surrounding the development. It will provide financial support to worthwhile initiatives that benefit the local community and local council area, enhance the local economy, and build social infrastructure.

We emphasise support to organisations that engage in:

- **Community services**
- **Educational programmes**
- **Medical & health assistance**
- **Energy efficiency & sustainability**

How will the community benefit fund be distributed?

It is essential for Ørsted that Community Benefit Funds are distributed in an open and transparent manner. We believe that the process should be designed and decided on by the community. We usually engage an independent organisation with experience in managing community funds to assist us with the process from consulting the local community on the design and management of the fund, inviting applications to the fund, recruiting a panel to review applications, to distributing funds to successful projects. If you are interested in becoming involved in this process, please let us know and we will contact you once it begins.

Community engagement

The current Covid-19 pandemic is making face-to-face engagement with the local community very challenging. Under normal circumstances we would talk through the information enclosed in this first project leaflet with all local residents via door-to-door house calls. Unfortunately, this is not currently possible. As a result, we are distributing this leaflet and encouraging you to contact us so we can start a conversation about the project.

We fully acknowledge that not being able to meet face-to-face is by no means ideal and we look forward to the day when we will be able to meet and discuss this proposed project with you. In the meantime, we will continue to make every effort to ensure that we provide you with all the information you need to fully understand the details of the project as the plans progress.



Community consultation events

Ørsted and the wider project team will be holding two separate public consultation events with the community and other stakeholders prior to the submission of the planning application. It is anticipated that the public consultation events will take place in September and November 2021.

All public consultation events will take place fully in accordance with the most up-to-date COVID-19 guidance. If it is not possible to hold in-person events, we will hold a virtual public consultation, and will ensure that everyone has the opportunity and information they need to understand our proposals.

Our public consultation events will set out detailed information on our proposals, including maps, photographs and visuals, and will provide an opportunity for the community and other stakeholders to meet and put questions to our project team.

Each public consultation will be advertised through public notices in local newspapers (The Strabane Chronicle & Strabane Weekly News), updates to the project website and posters advertising the events in local villages and settlements. Project consultation event invites and project information leaflets will be issued to homes and businesses located within a 3 km radius of the wind farm site.

Meet the project team

The project team directly involved in the proposed Owenreagh/Craignagapple Wind Farm project includes a Project Manager from Ørsted and two

Community Liaison Officers as well as a number of specialists in the areas of grid, planning and wind resource.



Olivia Roche

Ørsted's Project Manager for the proposed wind farm development. Olivia has been involved in the renewable energy sector since 2014.



Michael Nicholas

Community Liaison Officer for the proposed wind farm development. Michael is an experienced Communications Manager & lives locally to the project.



Caitlin Daly

Assistant Community Liaison Officer for the proposed wind farm development. Caitlin recently completed a Master's Degree in planning from Ulster University and lives locally.

Contact us

Telephone: **07733 210379** to speak with our Community Liaison Officer, Michael Nicholas or

Email: **info@craignagapplewindfarm.com**

Post: Craignagapple Wind Farm, Floor 5, City Quarter, Lapps Quay, Cork, Ireland.

For the latest information see:
craignagapplewindfarm.com

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