

Environmental Considerations

Overview

ABO Energy is currently undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), and preparing an Environmental Statement (ES) which will be submitted alongside the planning application for the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm. The information in the ES will then be considered by officials and statutory consultees (technical experts) to assess the potential impact of the proposed development. Examples of the topics they will consider include:

- Socio-Economic Impact Assessment
- Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment
- Ecology, Flora and Fauna Assessment
- Fisheries and Aquatic Ecology Assessment
- Avian Ecology Assessment
- Water, Geology and Peat Slide Hazard Assessment
- Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessment
- Transport, Access and Haulage Assessment
- Noise Assessment
- Shadow Flicker Assessment
- Tourism Assessment
- Climate Change Assessment
- Major Accidents, Disasters and Human Health Assessment
- Telecommunications and Aviation Assessment
- Grid Connection Assessment
- Assessment of Significance of Impact Interactions

All considerations are site specific and are informed by detailed surveys and assessments. Whilst the ES for the proposed development may include the range of topics above, for the purposes of this pre-application community consultation process we have selected key topics to provide further information on below. If you are unsure about any aspect of the EIA process or want more information, please speak to a member of our project team.

Shadow Flicker

Shadow flicker is a flickering effect caused when rotating wind turbines periodically cast shadows – it is subject to strict guidelines based on best practice standards. A specialist computer modelling programme will be used to calculate the incidence of shadow flicker based on the positioning of the turbines and the maximum dimensions within the proposed range of turbines.

The Best Practice Guidance to PPS18 recommends that shadow flicker at neighbouring offices and dwellings within 500m should not exceed 30 hours per year or 30 minutes per day. Furthermore, the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (Edition 2, 2025) requires potential shadow flicker impacts from wind energy proposals to be minimised and mitigated.

Noting the positioning of the proposed turbines in relation to nearby properties, a Shadow Flicker Assessment is currently being prepared and will be included in the ES. Shadow flicker limits will be strictly adhered to and will be controlled by planning conditions, where necessary.

Climate Change

As a response to the climate and biodiversity crisis, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council formally declared a climate emergency in May 2020. The urgency to combat climate change is therefore well known at a local, regional and international level and has been enshrined within the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, which commits Northern Ireland to achieving a target of 80% renewable electricity consumption by 2030. In accordance with the act, Climate Action Plans must set out how the interim targets and the target of net zero will be achieved by 2050. The All-Island Resource Adequacy Assessment 2026-2035 (EirGrid & SONI, 2026) identifies that Northern Ireland requires between 1,615MW – 1,970MW of onshore wind to be connected by 2030, with the figures increasing to between 1,990MW - 2,910MW by 2035. Figures published by SONI indicate however that as of June 2026, only approximately 1,500MW of onshore wind is connected in Northern Ireland, a deficit of between approximately 115MW – 470MW to be connected by 2030. Figures published by the Department for the Economy and the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA) state that for the year ending March 2026, just 48% of gross final electricity consumption was generated from renewable sources. This highlights the scale of the challenge to meet the 2030 target, and the need for additional onshore wind capacity to be connected.

Based on industry-standard figures it is calculated that the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm will:

- Provide a rated power output ranging from 3.6MW up to 4.8MW per turbine, meaning the total power output of the proposed wind farm will be between 10.8MW and 14.4MW.
- Provide enough energy to power between approximately 8,900 and 11,500 homes per annum equating to between approximately 15% and 20% of the households • within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (approximately 57,500).
- Avoid between approximately 90,000 and 117,000 tonnes of CO2 equivalent emissions over the operational lifetime of the project.

Noise

Noise impacts from the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm will be assessed against the recently published Assessment and Rating of noise from wind turbines Guidance (Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, 2026) and in line with the Institute of Acoustics - Good Practice Guide.

Background noise level measurements were undertaken in the locality, at two residential properties representative of the rural dwellings along Craigmores Road and Killeague Road. The cumulative impact of the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm in addition to permitted wind farms such as Cam Burn, Dunbeg, Dunmore, Smulgedon, Craiggore, Rigged Hill Wind Farms as well as a number of single wind turbines will therefore be assessed.

Noise modelling is currently ongoing with respect to finalising the layout and candidate wind turbine selection. The candidate wind turbines will have the ability to operate in a variety of noise ‘modes’ and therefore noise levels can be reduced (if deemed appropriate) post construction.

Tourism

An assessment of the likely effects of the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm on tourism has been undertaken by Cogent Management Consulting LLP. The assessment found that, notwithstanding the proximity to the Binevenagh Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), the location for the proposed development is not located close to any substantive visitor, tourist hub, amenity, attraction, accommodation, route or high-quality landscape, nor is it located within or close to any area whereby natural and built heritage assets would be of intrinsic interest to tourists.

Indeed, this conclusion is consistent with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council's Planning Committee Report dated 22 April 2026 for the adjoining Cam Burn Wind Farm amendment scheme (LA01/2022/1209/F) which found: ‘...there are no tourism amenities or recreation activities within proximity to the site. The proposed development (LA01/2022/1209/F) will have no impact on tourism, recreation, and public access to the countryside.’ Consequently, it is not considered likely that the proposed Cam Burn II Wind Farm will have any substantive impact or effect on tourism. Furthermore, it is not considered that the proposed development has the potential to damage the intrinsic character and quality of tourism assets in the Council area or to diminish the area's effectiveness in attracting tourists.

