Planning Policy Context

Planning Legislation:

- In accordance with Sections 45(1) and 6(4) of the planning act (NI) 2011, all planning applications must have regard to the Local Development Plan (LDP), and all other material considerations. In making a determination where regard is to be had to the LDP, the determination must be in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise

Planning Policy:

- The first stage of the new LDP for Fermanagh and Omagh, i.e. the Plan Strategy, was adopted in 2023, but the second stage (Local Policies Plan) is not yet published.
- Until then, the Omagh Area Plan (1987–2002) still formally applies alongside the Plan Strategy.

Site designation:

- Both the Omagh Area Plan and the Plan Strategy identify the site as within the countryside
- It is not within a protected landscape or environmental designation.

Landscape and wind energy capacity:

- The Council's Landscape Wind Energy Strategy (LWES) gives a detailed assessment on landscape character.
- The site is in the Lough Braden Landscape Character Area.
- The site is located in an Area of Significant Cumulative Development.
- Turbines 1–4 are within an area of *limited underlying capacity* for wind development.
- Turbines 5–6 are within an area of *highest underlying capacity.*

Renewables policy:

- The Plan Strategy states that the Council will permit proposals for the generation of renewable energy where it is demonstrated that there will be no unacceptable adverse impact on several criteria and where it complies with the LWES
- The criteria include landscape character and visual amenity, built and natural heritage, residential amenity (e.g. noise and shadow flicker), telecoms, etc.

Application requirements:

- The full planning application will be supported by an Environmental Statement, Planning Policy Statement, and Design & Access Statement.
- These statements will demonstrate how the scheme *complies with policy, does not result in any unacceptable adverse impact and delivers renewable energy benefits.*

Gortahile wind farm

ABO ENERGY