

Curragh Wind Farm

Peat Assessment

Contract Brief

This project involved producing a peat assessment for the proposed Curragh Wind Farm site. Proposals for the site include 8 wind turbines and access tracks. Peat is present over the whole of the site and may present problems for the construction of the wind farm.

Site visits and investigations were undertaken, included detailed peat probing and on-site peat measurements, with GPS locations. Analysis and GIS mapping was undertaken of the peat properties and a summary of the factors which may indicate a peat instability risk was provided. A detailed review was provided of peat morphology in upland areas and the features and factors which may lead to instability, such as: heavy rain, construction works, loading/unloading of the peat, dewatering and drainage measures.



Description

The assessment detailed the peat properties and classification for the site, relating these to construction and stability issues for the proposed wind farm, and incorporating the following elements:

- Depth of peat
- Ground slope
- Proximity to drainage systems and peat piping
- Peat morphology and erosional features
- Assessment of peat shear strength with depth
- Von Post classification (humification – peat structure) with depth.

The assessment can be used to guide the contractor's working method on site for wind farm construction, and highlights areas of peat of particular concern, and those with fewer risk factors.

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