



Tarbert

Turbulence as a dynamic in the planning process

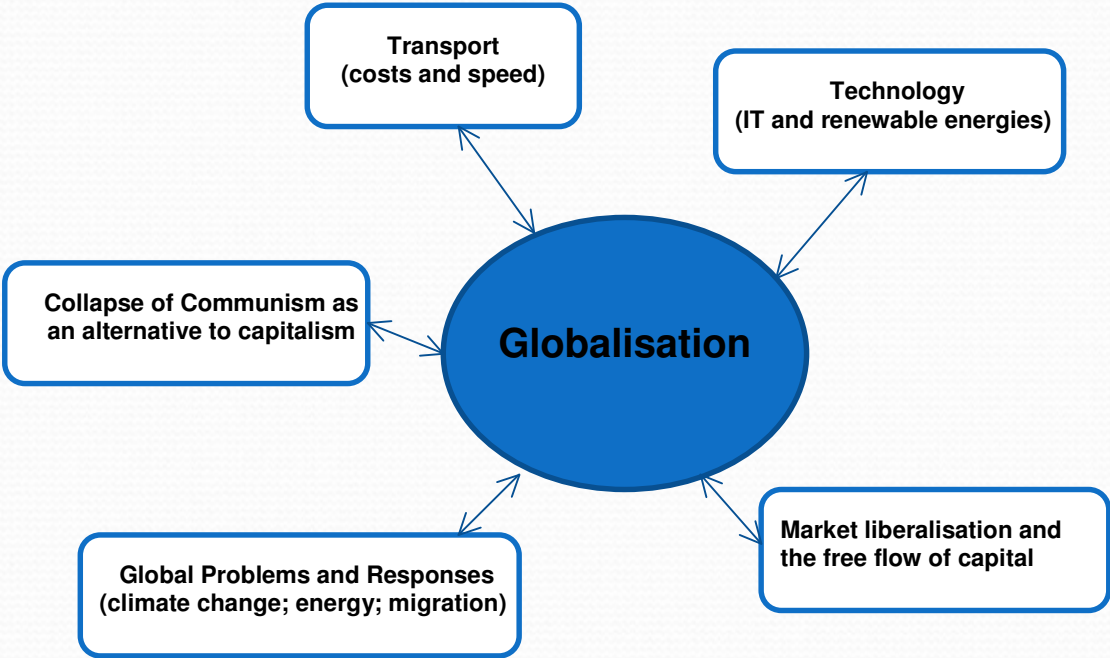
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context



“we are living in a new world - the world of a global capitalist economy that is vastly more flexible, resilient, open, self-correcting, and fast-changing”
Alan Greenspan

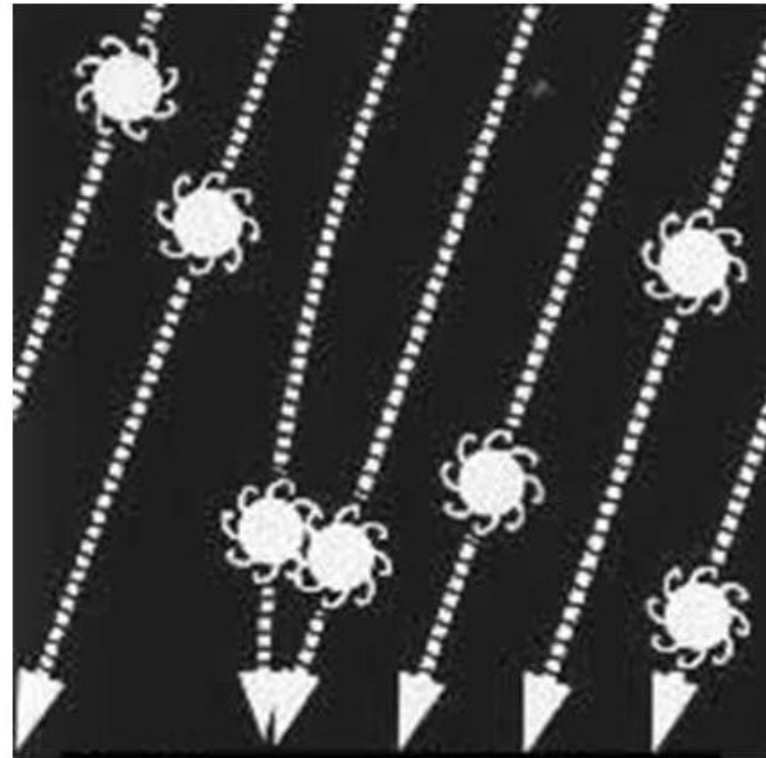
turbulence?

- are “incorrect or unpredictable mobilities [that are] the products of friction between different kinds of flow” Tim Cresswell

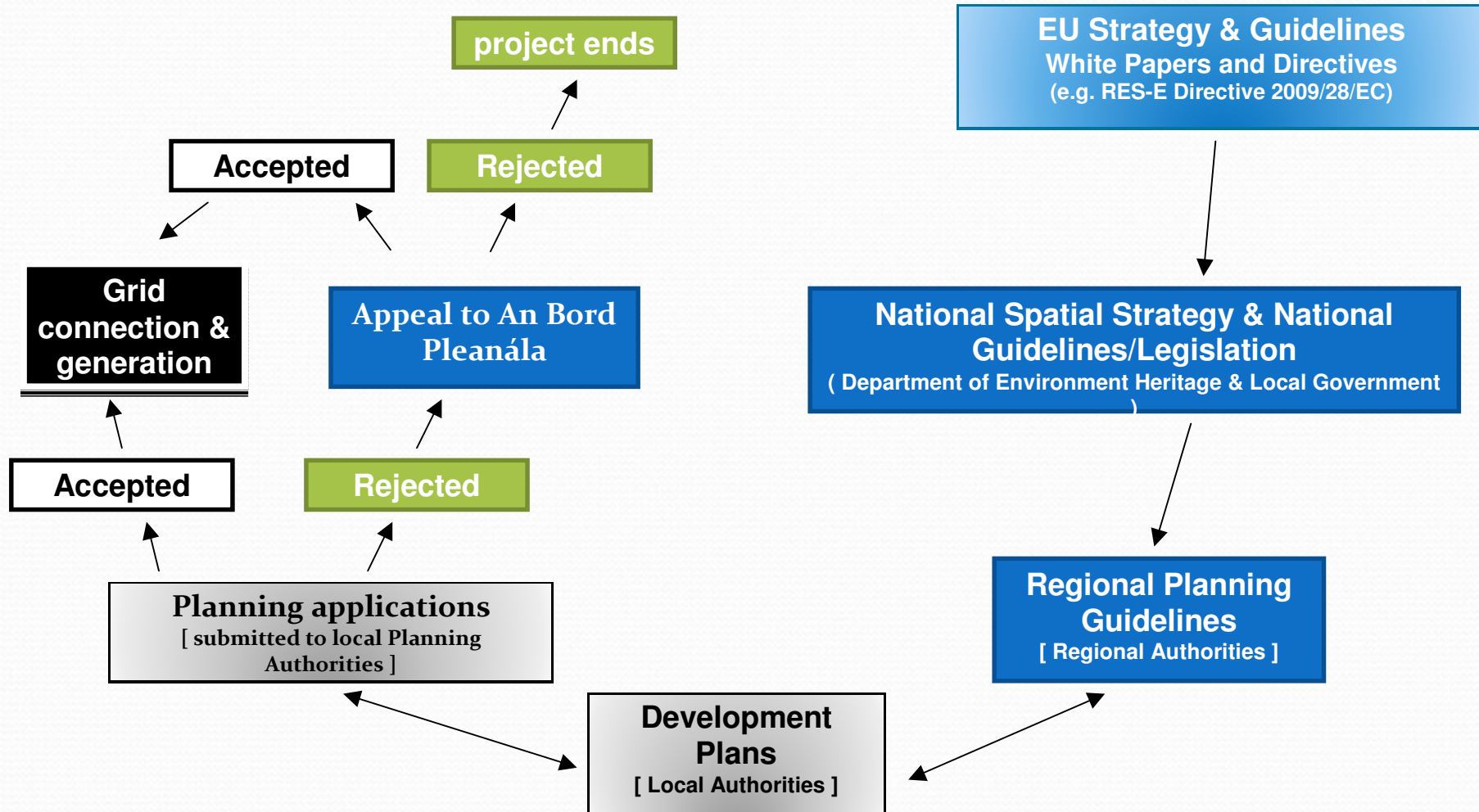


the clinamen: local acceptance as turbulence

[1] Clinamen, *infime changement dans un monde si parfait, si ordonné et si prévisible qu'il reste stérile. De la légère déviation d'une trajectoire trop rectiligne vinrent rencontres, créations, grouillement de la vie et des idées et tous les possibles.*



complex policy flows: wind power and Irish planning



research objectives

- to chart the infrastructural mobilities found within the policy flows of government, both national and supranational, and evaluate their influence in driving wind energy development in Ireland
- to understand the processes which influence public acceptance / rejection of onshore wind farms in Ireland's southwest, using local case studies:
 - Tarbert – north county Kerry

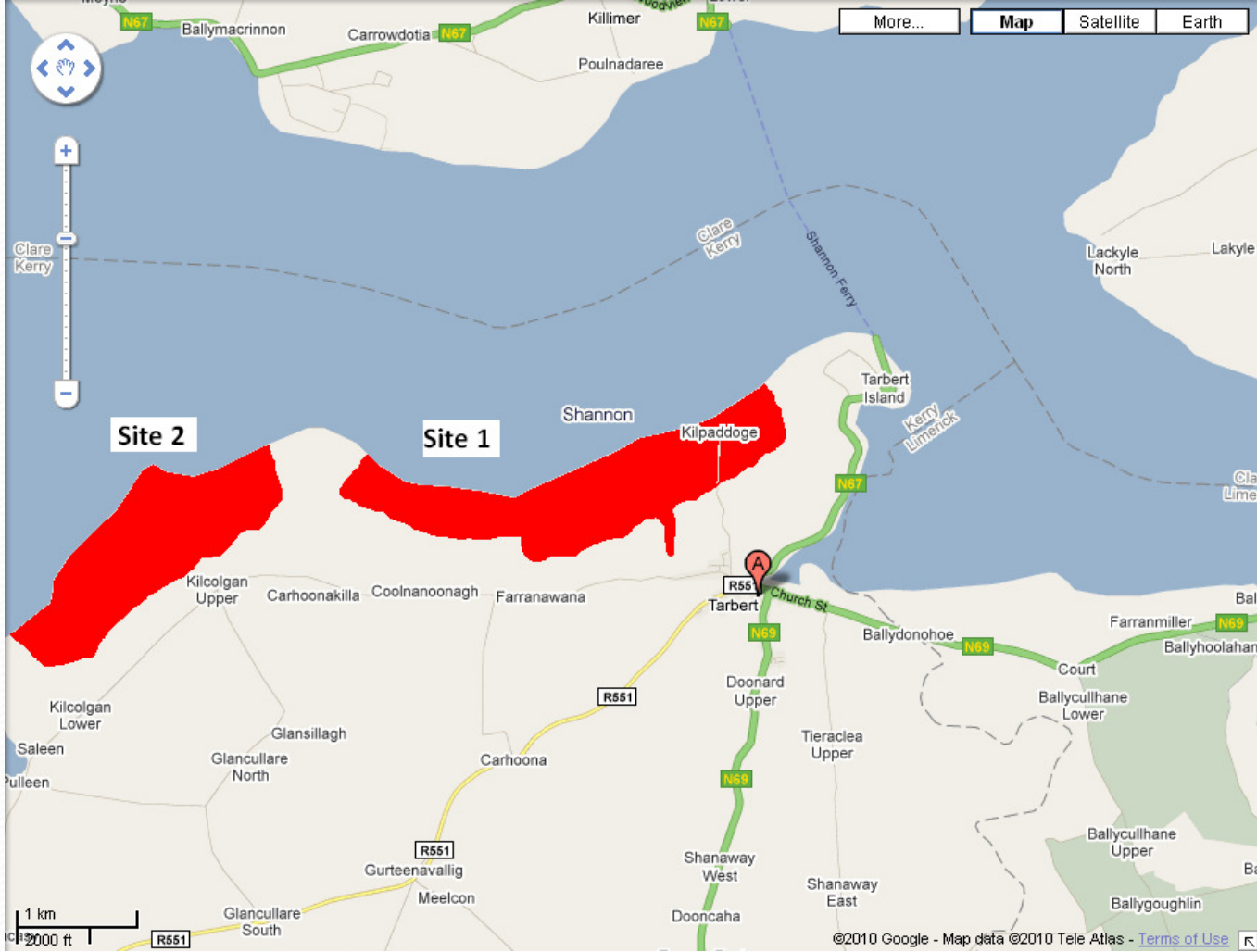


methodology

Qualitative in focus

- In-depth, structured and semi-structured interviews
 - Tarbert case study
 - Opposition by local development association
- Archival Research
 - Local Authority planning archives
 - Press articles

Tarbert wind farm proposal



Power Station & Ferry Port, Tarbert



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Tarbert – a case study

Proposal

Total of 23 wind turbines (revised down to 20)
(6 funded by EU JOULE/THERMIE Programme)

T.R.E. Ltd.

“Why does development have to be in mountainous areas? What about more working landscapes, for example at Tarbert, Co. Kerry, which is an industrial site and which is believed to have quite a good wind regime and has a 200kv electrical connection?”

Kerry County Council Official, 1996 (Fehily Timoney, 2001)

“I think the council turned down the proposal because they wanted to “kick it to touch” and let An Bord Pleanála deal with it. They didn’t want to have to make a decision that might influence election outcomes the upcoming year. Local politicians would have been getting phones calls from the protesters and would be less than happy to get involved”

(Interviewee, 2009)

save our future jobs - local strategies against development

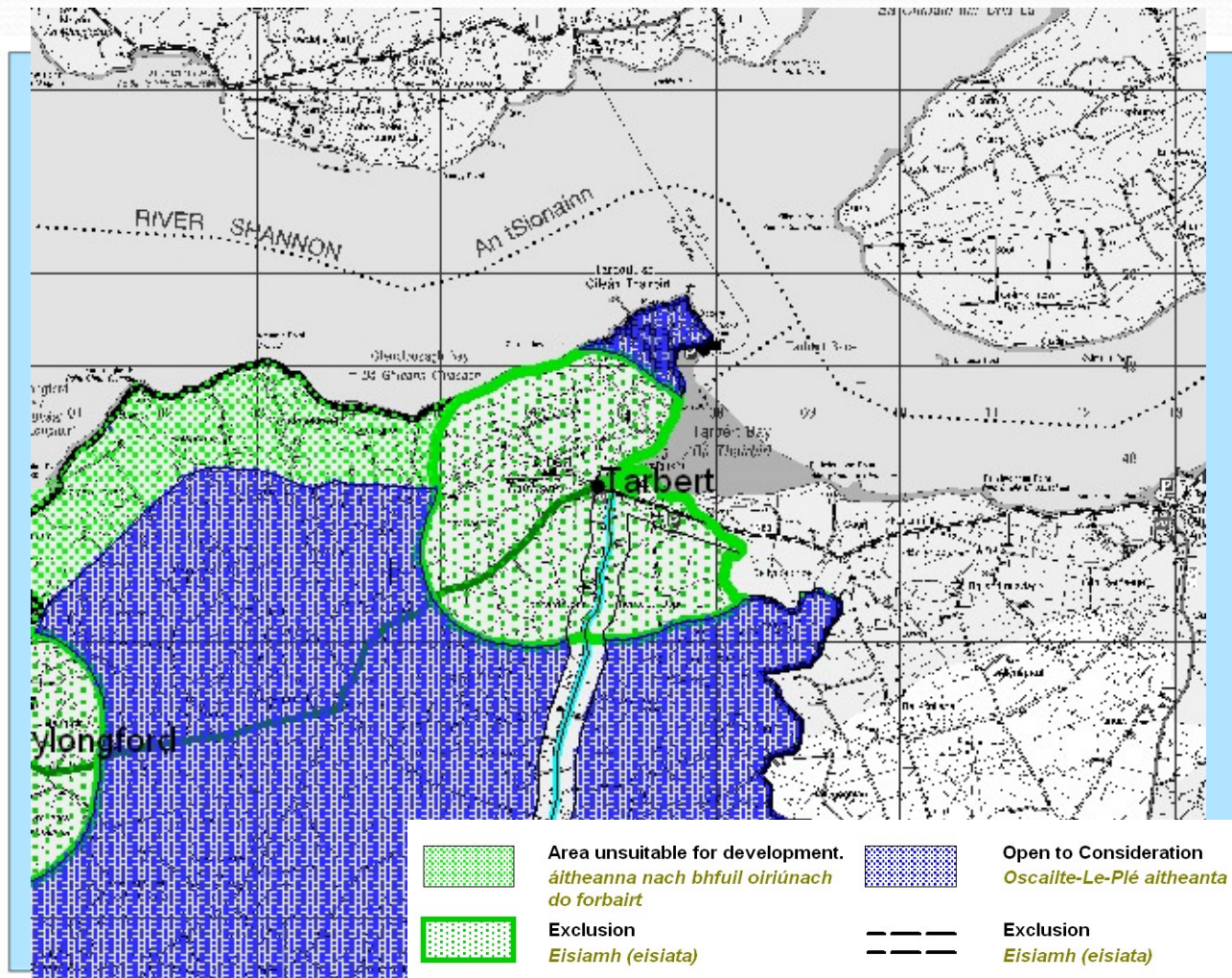
“The main focus of the protest was always to protect the land-bank. That was the over-riding objective. The land-bank [part of which the proposed wind farm was to be situated] had always been designated for industrial use and was IDA-owned up until the 1980s”

(Interviewee, 2009)

“While I’m pro-wind in general, I am anti-wind in Tarbert. They’re fine in the middle of nowhere but not here where it’s costing jobs. The site for the proposed wind farm would have been better suited for maritime industrial use, which would create more jobs than any wind farm ever could.”

(Interviewee, 2009)

Wind maps & exclusion zones





conclusions

- any system, no matter how well organised, is open to turbulence
 - systems are subject to unanticipated determinants that can bring about unexpected outcomes
- the clinamens that cause these turbulences may occur at unexpected sites along the policy flow
 - not always near the sites of turbulence, adding to their unpredictability



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