

EIA – Screening Determination

A. CASE DETAILS		
An Bord Pleanála Case Reference		
Development Summary	(a) Decommissioning and removal from site of 2 no. existing wind turbines and associated ancillary infrastructure permitted pursuant to Leitrim County Council Planning Register Reference 95/12501; and (b) the erection of 1 no. wind turbine with an overall tip height of up to 125 metres.	
	Yes / No / N/A	Comment (if relevant)
1. Was a Screening Determination carried out by the PA?	Yes	The Planner's report on file states that the proposed development is sub-threshold and that the preparation of an EIAR is not required. The planner's report contains a 'description of likely significant impacts' as submitted by the applicant as part of the application.
2. Has Schedule 7A information been submitted?	Yes	It is considered that sufficient information has been submitted by the applicant to allow for a Screening Determination to be carried out of the proposed development under appeal.
3. Has an AA screening report or NIS been submitted?	Yes	An AA Screening Report has been submitted as part of the initial application.
4. Is a IED/ IPC or Waste Licence (or review of licence) required from the EPA? If YES has the EPA commented on the need for an EIAR?	N/A	
5. Have any other relevant assessments of the effects on the environment which have a significant bearing on the project been carried out pursuant to other relevant Directives – for example SEA	Yes	The lands on which the proposed site is located have been subject to a Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). Landscape Assessment of County Leitrim, 2002.

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B. EXAMINATION	Where relevant, briefly describe the characteristics of impacts (ie the nature and extent) and any Mitigation Measures proposed to avoid or prevent a significant effect (having regard to the probability, magnitude (including population size affected), complexity, duration, frequency, intensity, and reversibility of impact)	Is this likely to result in significant effects on the environment? Yes/ No/ Uncertain
1. Characteristics of proposed development (including demolition, construction, operation, or decommissioning)		
1.1 Is the project significantly different in character or scale to the existing surrounding or environment?	At 125m tip height, the proposed turbine is more than double the height of the existing turbines on site (61m tip height). However, given the location of the turbine within an existing windfarm and removed from any nearby sensitivities i.e. SPAs it is not expected that the development will result in any significant impacts.	No
1.2 Will construction, operation, decommissioning or demolition works causing physical changes to the locality (topography, land use, waterbodies)?	No, the existing site has already been disturbed as part of the previous development of the original windfarm. The development site is partly underlain by peat at its southern boundary while the majority of the site has little, or no soil depth and bedrock can be found at the surface. The areas to be decommissioned shall be returned to natural use.	No
1.3 Will construction or operation of the project use natural resources such as land, soil, water, materials/minerals or energy, especially resources which are non-renewable or in short supply?	Standard construction methods and materials. No significant use of natural resources in operational phase.	No
1.4 Will the project involve the use, storage, transport, handling or production of substance which would be harmful to human health or the environment?	No such materials required or produced.	No

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1.5 Will the project produce solid waste, release pollutants or any hazardous / toxic / noxious substances?	No	No
1.6 Will the project lead to risks of contamination of land or water from releases of pollutants onto the ground or into surface waters, groundwater, coastal waters or the sea?	No discharge of pollutants to ground or surface waters.	No
1.7 Will the project cause noise and vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation?	Given the substantial separation distance between the proposed development and any residential dwellings, with the nearest at a distance of 1.21km from the proposed wind turbine, no impacts as a result of noise, vibration or release of light, heat, energy or electromagnetic radiation are expected.	No
1.8 Will there be any risks to human health, for example due to water contamination or air pollution?	No	No
1.9 Will there be any risk of major accidents that could affect human health or the environment?	No risk of major accidents given nature of project.	No
1.10 Will the project affect the social environment (population, employment)	The construction phase of the project is expected to take 12-15 weeks and given that access to the site already exists no impacts are expected.	No
1.11 Is the project part of a wider large scale change that could result in cumulative effects on the environment?	No, the development would see the decommissioning and removal of 2 no. turbines from the site and the construction of one turbine on site.	No
2. Location of proposed development		
2.1 Is the proposed development located on, in, adjoining or have the potential to impact on any of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) European site (SAC/ SPA/ pSAC/ pSPA) b) NHA/ pNHA c) Designated Nature Reserve d) Designated refuge for flora or fauna e) Place, site or feature of ecological interest, the preservation/conservation/ protection of which is an 	The north-eastern corner of the site is partially located within the Corry Mountain NHA however all construction works associated with the proposed new turbine and the decommissioning of the existing turbines will be outside of the NHA boundary.	No

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objective of a development plan/ LAP/ draft plan or variation of a plan		
<p>2.2 Could any protected, important or sensitive species of flora or fauna which use areas on or around the site, for example: for breeding, nesting, foraging, resting, over-wintering, or migration, be significantly affected by the project?</p>	<p>The lands on which the new turbine is proposed has been disturbed under previous development on site and the applicant has stated the area has no significant ecological value. The area of direct land take is minimal and an environmental manager will be engaged to supervise all elements of the construction phase.</p> <p>With regard to bird species the nearest SPA is Lough Arrow (site code 004050) and due to the separation distance involved and the features of interest for which the site is designated, the proposed development does not pose a risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the SPA in view of its conservation objectives.</p> <p>Following reinstatement of the areas where the two existing turbines are to be decommissioned, these excavated areas will be allowed to return to natural vegetation.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.3 Are there any other features of landscape, historic, archaeological, or cultural importance that could be affected?</p>	<p>No such features on or near the site.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.4 Are there any areas on/around the location which contain important, high quality or scarce resources which could be affected by the project, for example: forestry, agriculture, water/coastal, fisheries, minerals?</p>	<p>No such resources on or near the site.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.5 Are there any water resources including surface waters, for example: rivers, lakes/ponds, coastal or groundwaters which could be affected by the project, particularly in terms of their volume and flood risk?</p>	<p>Site is not located within a flood zone. No surface water features in the vicinity of the site.</p>	
<p>2.6 Is the location susceptible to subsidence, landslides or erosion?</p>	<p>A Peat Stability Risk Assessment has been submitted as part of the application. This assessment identified no significant risks with respect to major failure or instability associated with the proposed development. All geotechnical hazards were classified as 'trivial' risk.</p>	<p>No</p>

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<p>2.7 Are there any key transport routes(eg National primary Roads) on or around the location which are susceptible to congestion or which cause environmental problems, which could be affected by the project?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>2.8 Are there existing sensitive land uses or community facilities (such as hospitals, schools etc) which could be significantly affected by the project?</p>	<p>The nearest dwelling is 1.21km away. It is not expected that the proposed development would have any significant impact on the occupants of the dwelling.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>3. Any other factors that should be considered which could lead to environmental impacts</p>		
<p>3.1 Cumulative Effects: Could this project together with existing and/or approved development result in cumulative effects during the construction/ operation phase?</p>	<p>The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment submitted with the file has assessed the impacts of the proposed development both individually and cumulatively. No cumulative impacts are expected from the proposed development.</p> <p>An assessment of in-combination impacts has been carried out as part of the AA screening report, no likely significant effects of a cumulative nature are expected.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>3.2 Transboundary Effects: Is the project likely to lead to transboundary effects?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>3.3 Are there any other relevant considerations?</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>C. CONCLUSION</p>		
<p>No real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p>	<p>X</p>	<p>EIAR Not Required</p>
<p>Real likelihood of significant effects on the environment.</p>		
<p>D. MAIN REASONS AND CONSIDERATIONS</p>		
<p>Having regard to:</p>		

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- (a) The nature and scale of the proposed development, which is below the threshold in respect of Class 3(i) Energy Industry of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended),
- (b) The location of the site within an existing windfarm site,
- (c) The location of the proposed development works outside of any sensitive location specified in article 109(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and the absence of any relevant connectivity to any sensitive location,
- (d) the guidance set out in the “Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidance for Consent Authorities regarding Sub-threshold Development”, issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2003), and
- (g) the criteria set out in Schedule 7 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended),

it is considered that the proposed development would not be likely to have significant effects on the environment and that the preparation and submission of an environmental impact assessment report is not therefore required.

Inspector _____

Date _____

Approved (DP/ADP) _____

Date _____