MWP

Chapter 01 Introduction

Ballinla Wind Farm

Ballina Wind Farm Limited

July 2025

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1. Introduction

This Chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) introduces the proposed Ballinla Wind Farm (the Proposed Development) in Co. Offaly for which development consent is being sought from An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) (the competent Planning Authority). The Proposed Development for which consent is being sought comprises the construction of seven wind turbines, an onsite 110 kilovolt (kV) substation and all ancillary works in County Offaly (the Proposed Wind Farm), in addition to works along the turbine delivery route (TDR) (the Proposed TDR). This EIAR also considers the associated grid connection (the Proposed Grid Connection), which will be subject to a separate planning application but included in this EIAR as it forms part of the overall project. A full description of the proposed development is provided in Chapter 2 Project Description of this EIAR.

The EIAR consists of a systematic analysis and assessment of the potential effects from the proposed development on the receiving environment. The intended purpose of the EIAR is to:

- Inform decision makers and the public of the possible environmental effects and impacts associated with the implementation of the proposal.
- Determine whether the identified impacts and associated effects could be significant.
- Suggest mitigation measures for potential impacts where feasible.

This chapter of the EIAR sets out the background and terms of reference for the EIAR. It sets out the report structure, assessment topics, assessment authors and contributors, and their experience and qualifications, and assumptions which underlie the EIAR.

1.1 The Applicant

Ballinla Wind Farm Limited (the Applicant) is wholly owned by Statkraft Ireland Limited. Statkraft is a leading company in hydropower internationally and Europe's largest generator of renewable energy. The Group produces hydropower, wind power, solar power, gas fired power and supplies district heating. Statkraft, which is also a global company in energy market operations, has 4,800 employees in 20 countries.

Statkraft entered the Irish market in 2018 and since then has almost tripled its workforce and tripled its development portfolio. In Ireland, Statkraft develops, owns and operates renewable energy projects across the technologies of onshore wind, offshore wind, solar, battery storage and grid services. By the end of 2022, Statkraft Ireland is on course to have an overall portfolio of circa 4,000MW.

Statkraft is one of the biggest renewable energy developers in Ireland with over 4GW pipeline of offshore, onshore, solar and grid services projects. The Statkraft Ireland team, which is based in Cork and Tullamore, Co. Offaly, has constructed a portfolio of almost 350MW of wind projects across the country, operates over 500MW and has an established track record in wind energy in Ireland, including the Proposed Development and construction of the Acres Wind Farm in County Donegal.

1.2 The Proposed Development

The planning application will be made by the Applicant to ACP, in respect of the Proposed Development as set out below:

Application under section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, for the Ballinla Wind Farm, including 7 wind turbines, substation, LiDAR Station, access tracks, deposition area and all ancillary works.

The project assessed throughout this EIAR consists of all of the above components in the planning application as well as a Proposed Grid Connection that will be subject to a future, separate planning application. Details of the project which includes the Proposed Development are further detailed in Chapter 2 Project Description.

1.3 Legislative Context of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR)

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by EIA Directive 2014/52/EU, requires Member States to ensure that a competent authority (in this instance An Bord Pleanála) carries out an assessment of the likely significant effects of certain types of projects, as listed in the Directive, prior to development consent being given for the project.

The requirement for EIA of certain categories of development is transposed into Irish legislation under the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2023 as amended (the "Regulations").

The Proposed Development, is of a prescribed class of development to which the EIA Directive applies and falls within the list of project types requiring an EIA as set out under 3(i) of Part 2 of the 5th Schedule of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2023(as amended) which states …

"Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) with more than 5 turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts".

This EIAR is compliant with the requirements of the EIA Directive and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 to 2024, as amended in terms of the structure and content of the information required to be provided by the Developer.

1.4 The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

In terms of the EIA process, the following stages were undertaken:

- Screening.
- Consultation.
- Scoping.
- EIAR preparation (i.e., establishing baseline data, evaluating impacts, defining mitigation measures, etc.).

1.4.1 Screening

The proposed development is a wind farm comprising of seven wind turbines and will have an expected Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) of 50MW.

Schedule 5 (Part 2) Sub-section 3(i) of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001-2024 sets a mandatory threshold for 'Installations for the harnessing of wind power for energy production with more than 5 turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts'.

Therefore, the proposed development is over the threshold for mandatory EIA.

1.5 EIA Study Area

Figure 1-1 shows the outline of the Proposed Development site as per the planning application statutory drawings.

The EIA study area for the Proposed Development includes the Proposed Development site, in addition to a wider area over which the various assessments and studies were carried out.

Figure 1-2 shows the minimum extent of the lands considered as part of the environmental assessment for the wind farm element of the Proposed Development. The EIA however takes account of the spatial limits of individual environmental components outside the EIA study area boundaries where an effect can be reasonably expected as described in the individual chapters. This area includes the lands where elements of the associated Proposed Grid Connection, which will be subject to a separate planning application but included in this EIAR as it forms part of the overall project.

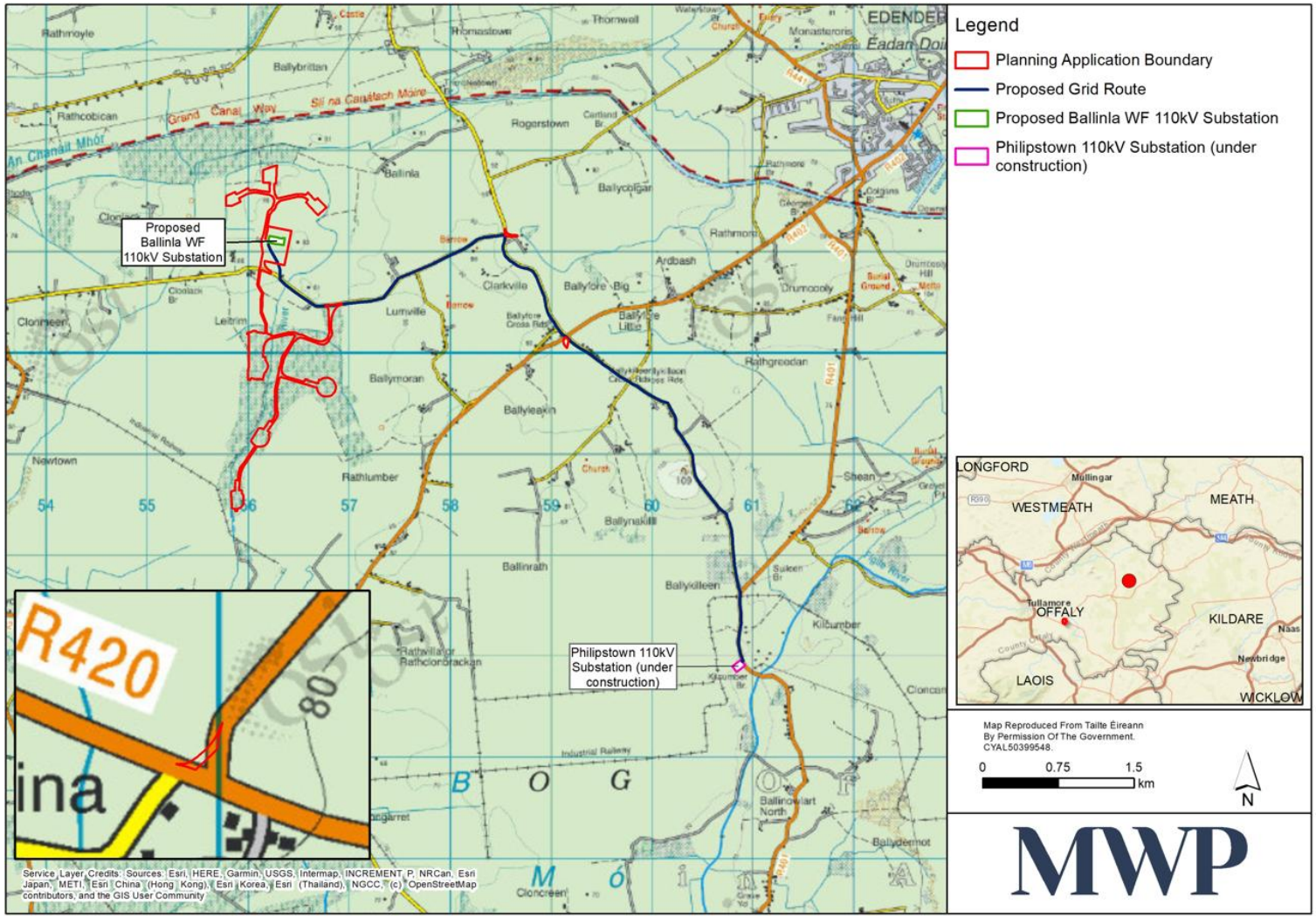

Figure 1-1: Proposed Development Red Line Area and Site Location

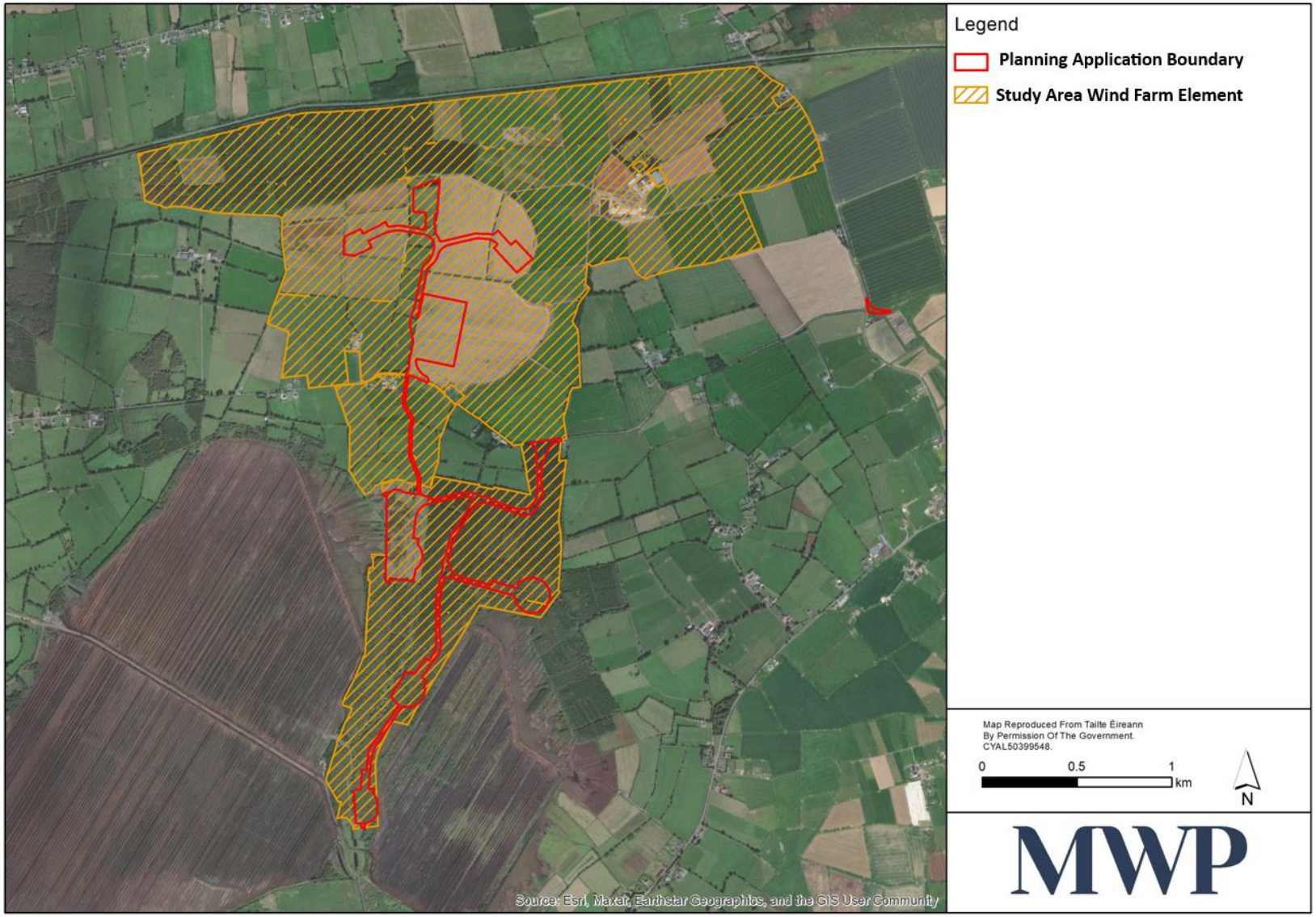

Figure 1-2: Proposed Wind Farm Study Area

1.5.1 Consultation

Extensive consultation was undertaken in relation to the project, and comments from stakeholders and interested parties were requested and recorded. Consultation through meetings, letters, email, and telephone calls, with various statutory and non-statutory consultees has been maintained throughout. Door to door queries were carried out by the Applicant. on three occasions, where representatives called to residential dwellings within a 1.6km radius of the Proposed Developments. The following outlines the consultation process.

Pre-planning consultation meetings took place with the following parties:

- ACP.
- Offaly County Council (OCC).

1.5.1.1 An Coimisiún Pleanála

Two pre-application meetings were held with ACP, the first meeting was held on 24th of November 2023, where the Applicant and MWP provided an overview of the Proposed Development, including the grid connection. The potential issues to be addressed in the EIAR were discussed at this meeting.

A second meeting was held with the ACP on 6th of June 2024. The discussion focused on project progress to date including the EIAR. The Board advised they would be providing the list of statutory bodies once the pre-application stage was closed.

A Design Flexibility meeting was also held with ACP on 6th of June 2024, but following the consideration of alternatives, the flexibility option was not deemed necessary to the Proposed Development. ACP were notified of the decision to not pursue the Design Flexibility option on 13th of November 2024.

ACP confirmed the project would be Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) in correspondence dated the 28th of November 2024 and advised on the list of prescribed bodies.

1.5.1.2 Local Authority – OCC

The Applicant and MWP held a meeting with members of OCC Planning Department on 24th of July 2024. This was a preliminary meeting to provide an overview of the Proposed Development. It was confirmed that all of the proposed wind turbines are located within an area "*Open for Consideration for Wind Energy Developments*" as outlined in the Offaly County Wind Energy Strategy 2021-2027. The turbine delivery route, potential visual impacts, public consultation, and environmental impacts were also discussed.

1.5.1.3 Written Consultations

Written requests for consultation/feedback were issued in February 2024 to a number of key stakeholders (both statutory and non-statutory consultees). This included a notification setting out an overview of the Proposed Development proposal. The notifications invited feedback from the Consultees on any key issues and considerations which they believe should be addressed and expressed that their input at this stage would be welcomed. Consultees were informed that participation at this stage of the project would not affect participation at a later stage in the planning process. A list of the organisations/groups consulted, is provided in Volume 3 Appendix 1-1 of this EIAR. The feedback was subsequently considered in the EIA process.

1.5.1.4 Community Engagement and Public Consultation

The Applicant has engaged and consulted with the local community to ensure that their views, concerns, and suggestions were considered as part of the project design and the Environmental Impact Assessment process, a summary of which is included in **Volume 3, Appendix 1-2** of this **EIAR**.

Door to door queries were carried out by the Applicant on three occasions October 2023, November 2024, & July 2025, where representatives called to residential dwellings within a 1.6km radius of the Proposed Developments. The responses were noted to allow the Applicant to identify and address the concerns of the local residents regarding the Proposed Development.

A project website (www.ballinlawindfarm.ie) was established (live since October 2023) to share information with the local community. This website was updated regularly to reflect progress on the Proposed Development. Subsequently as part of the SID planning application a revised website (www.ballinlawindfarmsid.ie) has been set up for consultation purposes during the planning application period. Information presented on the project website includes:

- Project Information.
- Project Benefits.
- Key Questions.
- Company Information.
- Public Consultation Material.
- Project Updates.
- Wind Energy Survey.
- Contact information.

1.5.1.5 Scoping (determining the issues that EIAR should address)

As it has been determined that an EIA is required, the next step is to 'scope' the content of the EIAR. Scoping considers the potential for likely significant effects throughout different phases of a proposed project to determine "the content and extent of the matters which should be covered in the environmental information to be submitted in the EIAR" (EPA, 2022). A scoping report was carried out and is presented in **Volume 3, Appendix 1-3** of this **EIAR**. The following was considered and consulted during the scoping phase:

- Preliminary environmental appraisal and project feasibility involving desk-top studies, review of available data for the general area of the site, site visits and field surveys.
- Preliminary consultations between Offaly County Council, ACP and the Applicant.
- The Offaly County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Offaly Wind Energy Strategy.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publication 'Guidelines on Information to be contained in environmental impact assessment reports', (EPA, 2022).
- Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.
- European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) (EIA Regulations 2018).
- Planning and Development Act, 2000, (Part X) as amended, and in Part 10 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001, as amended.
- Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, Forest Standards and Procedures Manual (DAFM, 2015).

- The Irish Wind Energy Association, Best Practice Guidelines for The Irish Wind Energy Industry, (IWEA, 2012).
- The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Wind Farm Planning Guidelines 2006.
- Scoping checklist set out in the European Commission's guidance document on EIA scoping (2017).
- Feedback from Statutory and Non-Statutory Consultations.
- The experience of the project team.

A draft version of the revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (WEDGs) was published for consultation in December 2019. However, at the time of submitting this planning application, the 2006 Wind Energy Development Guidelines remain the relevant valid guidelines, for the purposes of section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. Further detail on this is provided in the relevant chapters of this EIAR.

Based on all EIA scoping activities outlined above, Table 1-2 outlines the specific topic areas that have been identified for assessment and inclusion in the EIAR and the chapters of the EIAR where these topics have been addressed.

Table 1-1: EIAR Topics and Relevant Chapters within the EIAR

Regulated Topic Area	Assessments and Studies Included in the EIAR	EIAR Chapter
Population	Residential Amenity (noise, traffic, air quality, visual effects, shadow flicker)	Chapters 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 14, 15 & 16
	Health and Safety	
Biodiversity	Habitat Disruption	Chapters 6 & 7
	Protected Flora and Fauna	
	Bat populations	
	Aquatic Ecology	
	Avian populations	
Water	Impacts on Surface Water Quality	Chapter 8
	Impacts on Groundwater Quality	
	Impacts on Groundwater Levels and Local Well Supplies	
	Flood risk Assessment including the potential for the proposed development to be affected by flooding and the potential for the Proposed Development to increase flood risk elsewhere	
	Hydrological impacts on designated sites	
Land and Soil	Loss of land use	Chapter 9
	Excavated materials	
	Peat Stability	
	Forestry replanting	
	Contamination of soil	
	Soil Erosion	
Air and Climate	Emissions to atmosphere and effect on Air Quality	Chapter 13
	Impact of the project on climate	
	Vulnerability of the project to climate change	
Noise	Noise & Vibration Emissions	Chapter 10

Regulated Topic Area	Assessments and Studies Included in the EIAR	EIAR Chapter
Landscape	Visual Impact of new structures	Chapter 11
	Impact on landscape character	
Cultural Heritage	Impact to archaeological (known and unknown) and cultural heritage resources	Chapter 12
Material Assets	Roads, infrastructure, utilities, traffic.	Chapter 14 & 15
	Forestry Resources	
	Telecommunications, Television, Aviation	

1.6 Overview of EIAR Structure

The EIAR is prepared in accordance with the requirements outlined in Schedule 6 of the Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) and the 2022 EPA Guidelines on Information to be contained in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

The EIAR is presented in 4 No. Volumes as follows:

- Volume I: Non-Technical Summary
- Volume II: Main Environmental Report
- Volume III: Appendices
- Volume IV: Photomontages

1.6.1 Volume I – Non-Technical Summary

The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) provides a concise, easy-to-follow and understandable summary of the information included in the EIAR. The summary is presented similar to the grouped format structure which discusses each environmental topic separately.

1.6.2 Volume II – Main EIAR

This document provides a detailed description of the Proposed Development and contains specialist reports on each of the selected assessment topics. This document is prepared in the 'Grouped Format Structure' which examines each environmental topic area. Biodiversity is included across two chapters (Chapter 6 Biodiversity and Chapter 7 Ornithology). This structure was selected for the Main EIAR as it facilitates straightforward investigation of individual topics. This document is divided as follows:

- Chapter 1 Introduction
- Chapter 2 Description of the Proposed Development
- Chapter 3 Civil Engineering
- Chapter 4 Alternatives
- Chapter 5 Population and Human Health
- Chapter 6 Biodiversity
- Chapter 7 Ornithology
- Chapter 8 Water
- Chapter 9 Land and Soil

- Chapter 10 Noise and Vibration
- Chapter 11 Landscape & Visual
- Chapter 12 Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 13 Air and Climate
- Chapter 14 Material Assets – Built Services
- Chapter 15 Material Assets – Traffic and Transport
- Chapter 16 Shadow Flicker
- Chapter 17 Interaction of the Foregoing
- Chapter 18 Schedule of Environmental Mitigation

1.6.3 Volume III – Appendices

Volume III – Appendices contains supporting information and reference documents related to Chapters 1-17 of the main EIAR (Volume 2).

1.6.4 Volume IV – Photomontages

Volume IV contains the photomontages prepared for the visualisation of the Proposed Development from the selected viewpoint locations.

1.7 Project Team

MWP are the lead Environmental and Engineering Consultants on this project and the final EIAR has been compiled by MWP on behalf of the Applicant.

The project team included a combination of competent engineering and environmental experts. The team of specialists involved in the project engineering design are presented in Table 1-3. Qualifications and competencies of the contributing authors to the EIAR are presented in Table 1-4 and associated qualifications summarised in Table 1-5.

Table 1-2: Project Engineering Design Team

Company	Role
Applicant	Site selection
	Wind resource analysis
	Community engagement
	Grid Connection: Route Design and Electrical Substation
MWP	Project Management, Design Engineering, EIA, AA, and Planning lead
	Grid Connection: Route Design and Electrical Substation

Table 1-3: EIAR Authors and Specialist Contributors

Subject Area	Author Contributor	Company
Description of Development	Claire Boylan – Senior Environmental Consultant Graeme Thorton – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP
Civil Engineering	Alex O'Donnel – Graduate Engineer Shane Howard – Civil Engineer	MWP
Main Alternatives	Kieran Barry – Project Environmental Consultant Graeme Thorton – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP
Population and Human Health	William Murphy – Environmental Scientist Graeme Thorton – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP
Biodiversity Terrestrial Ecology	Otto Storan – Ecologist Rob Beer – Senior Ecologist Ger Hayes – Senior Aquatic Ecologist	MWP
Ornithology	Ben O'Dwyer - Ornithologist	Fehily Timoney and Company
Lands and Soils	Serena O'Donnell – Graduate Environmental Scientist Sally Kelly – Environmental Consultant Graeme Thorton – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP
Water	Warren Vokes – Hydrologist Gareth Carroll – Principal Consultant	Enviroguide
Air and Climate	Claire Boylan – Senior Environmental Consultant Graeme Thorton – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP
Noise and Vibration	Aoife Kelly – Senior Acoustic Consultant	AWN Consulting Ltd.
Landscape	Richard Barker – Divisional Director John Flanagan – Visualisation Expert	Macro Works Ltd. Innovision
Cultural Heritage	Maurice Hurley – Archaeologist	Consultant Archaeologist
Material Assets – Built Services	Claire Boylan – Senior Environmental Consultant Graeme Thorton – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP
Material Assets- Traffic and Transportation	Seamus Quigley - Engineer	MWP
Shadow Flicker	Jeremy King – GIS & AutoCAD technician Caitriona Fox – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP
Interaction of the foregoing	William Murphy – Environmental Scientist Graeme Thorton – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP
Schedule of Environmental Mitigation	William Murphy – Environmental Scientist Graeme Thorton – Senior Environmental Consultant	MWP

Table 1-4: EIAR Authors and Specialist Contributors Qualifications

Author/Contributors	Qualifications	Competencies
Graeme Thorton	B.Sc. in Environmental Science Dip. OS&H	Graeme is a senior environmental scientist. He has 20 years' experience working on environmental projects ranging from emergency hazardous waste spills to the project management of environmental impact assessment reports. Environmental site assessment is a speciality on both greenfield and brownfield sites. He has managed the design, planning and preparation of EIAs on a number of large-scale projects.
Claire Boylan	BBS, BSc, DipSco, Adv Dip Planning and Environmental Law	Claire is an experienced Environmental Scientist at Malachy Walsh and Partners (MWP), having worked for 6 years in the environmental sector. Claire has worked on a variety of infrastructure projects, environmental licensing applications, conducted environmental assessments and supported the delivery of a number of environmental deliverables including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Reports, Appropriate Assessment (AA), Natura Impact Statements (NIS) and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR).
Shane Howard	BE (Civil), MEngSc. Civil Engineer	Shane is a civil engineer with broad ranging experience in a variety of positions across the energy, residential and infrastructure sectors. Shane has previous development experience as a project engineer for RES Australia contributing to the successful planning grant of multiple wind, solar and battery storage projects as well as the construction of utility scale wind and solar farms.
Otto Storan	BSc (Hons) MSc Ecologist and Environmental Scientist	Otto holds an MSc in applied environmental science from University College Dublin (UCD) and an honours BSc in Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology from Atlantic Technological University (ATU, formerly GMIT). Otto's core professional work to date has focussed on the implementation of European legislation in the context of the Water Framework Directive, the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive and EIA Directive and he has undertaken and prepared assessment reports for a range of coastal, marine, and terrestrial projects.
Gerard Hayes	BSc, MIEEM, FBA Aquatic Ecologist	Gerard Hayes is a Senior Aquatic Ecologist with over 13 years' experience in environmental consultancy. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (MCIEEM) and the Freshwater Biological Association (FBA). Gerard has a diverse ecological profile, with Phase 1 habitat, tree, mammal (including bats), fish, bird, amphibian, macroinvertebrate survey experience. He has had numerous responsibilities including report writing (EIAR, EIA, EA, AA, NIS), waste assimilation capacity assessment and ecological monitoring. His area of expertise covers infrastructure projects ranging from wind energy development, waste-water treatment, roads/bridges, water supply, flood defence and hydroelectric schemes. He is co-author and/or carried out surveys for NPWS Irish Wildlife Manual Nos. 15, 24, 26, 37, 45. As part of his experience and continuing professional development, Gerard has developed excellent analytical and GIS skills.
Rob Beer	BSc. (Hons) Senior Ecologist	Rob Beer is a senior ecologist with MWP. Rob holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management and Ecology from the University of Hertfordshire. Rob has over 6 years of professional experience in ecological consultancy. He is experienced in various ecological surveying methodologies including habitats, habitat suitability surveys, and stage 1 and stage 2 surveying for bats.
Kieran Barry	BEng, PgDip, CEnv Project Environmental Consultant	Kieran is an experienced Environmental Scientist. Kieran works on a variety of infrastructure projects conducting environmental assessments and supporting the delivery of a number of environmental deliverables including Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening Reports, feasibility and constraints studies, route option assessments and Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR).
Sally Kelly	MSc Environmental Consultant	Sally has over 20 years post graduate experience in geo-environmental consultancy with significant experience in the management of soil and groundwater remediation projects and has a MSc in Environmental Diagnostics. Sally has worked on the co-ordination and preparation of EIAR chapters and prepared and peer reviewed environmental reports for a variety of project types including wind energy, solar farms and commercial developments.
John Flanagan	BSc Visualisation Consultant	John is a visualisation consultant with over 12 years' experience providing photomontage and mapping services to the planning industry. Throughout his career, John has worked on many different projects including wind farms, solar farms, road schemes, bridges, powerlines and numerous other engineering and architectural developments. John has worked on numerous wind farm projects including Lettercraffroe Wind Farm, Knockranny Wind Farm & Uggool Wind Farm.
Maurice Hurley	DLitt, MA, FSA, MIAI Archaeology Consultant	Maurice has 35 years' experience as a professional archaeologist. His career developed in tandem with the changing focus of Irish archaeology and his experience includes pioneering work on projects such as Director of the Cork-Dublin gas pipeline archaeology (published 1987). He was City Archaeologist for Waterford (1987-1991) and later Cork

Author/Contributors	Qualifications	Competencies
		City where he undertook several major excavations, all of which are published. Maurice Hurley was the first Chairman of Institute of Archaeologist of Ireland Archaeologist. He served as a member of the Heritage Council of Ireland from 2000 to 2008, where he was Chair of the committees on archaeology and architecture. He served as a member of the Royal Irish Academy, National Committee for Archaeology (1996-1999). Since 2005 Maurice Hurley runs his own archaeology consultancy practice. He specialises in the Archaeology/Cultural Heritage components of Environmental Impact Assessments and in urban archaeology, where he has particular expertise on the complex interface between development and archaeology in the planning process. In recent years much of his focus has been centred on renewable energy projects, initially windfarms and more recently solar energy developments.
Warren Vokes	Ba MSc MCIWEM C.WEM Senior Environmental Consultant	Warren holds a MSc River Environments and their Management and is a Chartered Water and Environmental Manager with over 8 years' experience as an Environmental Consultant. Warren has carried out environmental assessments for a range of project types and geological and hydrogeological site settings.
Gareth Carroll	BA, BAI, MIEnvSc, CEnv Principal Environmental Consultant	Gareth is a Chartered Environmentalist with over 12 years' experience in preparing environmental assessments for a range of project types and geological and hydrogeological site settings.
Seamus Quigley	BE, CEng, MIEI, MCIHT Engineer	Seamus Quigley has 34 years' experience in transport planning and traffic engineering projects, including EIS/EIAR traffic and transportation chapters, traffic impact assessments, traffic management studies, mobility management plans, traffic modelling studies, feasibility studies and road safety audits. He is a Chartered Engineer with Engineers Ireland, and also a member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation.
Alex O'Donnell	BEng (Hons)	Alex is a Civil Engineer at MWP and earned a B.E. (Hons) in Structural Engineering from Munster Technological University, Cork, in 2024. Since joining MWP, he has contributed to over 25 civil, geotechnical, marine, road, and coastal engineering projects. Alex primarily works with MWP's Civil, Geotechnical, and Roads/Bridges departments, authoring planning compliance reports as well as designing road and drainage schemes for renewable energy projects alongside designing coastal defences. He is highly active in conducting on-site inspections at wind farms, soil stabilisation projects, drainage schemes, and solar farms, among other field activities.
Jeremy King	Cert IA, Cert CAD, HDip AutoCAD & GIS Technician	Jeremy is the lead GIS technician in MWP and assists the environmental team in completing EIA's, EIS's, wind farm feasibility studies and planning applications. He also works alongside the wind farm civils design team, particularly in constraint mapping and collating and generating GIS baseline data that ultimately influences design and layout. Jeremy works with the EIA team specialists. He has expertise in WINDFARM design software that includes modules on wind farm layout, Photomontages, ZVI and Shadow Flicker. He has generated shadow flicker models on numerous wind farm projects.
Serena O'Donnell	MSc, BA (Hons) Graduate Environmental Scientist	Serena holds a BA in Geography and a MSc in Applied Environmental Geoscience from University College Cork. Since joining MWP Serena has worked on assisting with the preparation of EIAR chapters for a wind farm, RWMP and Geotechnical Interpretative reports for solar farms and wind farms.
William Murphy	MSC, BA. (Hon), HDip Environmental Scientist	William Murphy is an Environmental Scientist at MWP. William has several years' experience in EIAR Chapter writing and is an appropriately qualified, trained and competent professional. William has contribution to EIAR Chapters for a variety of projects, including onshore wind farms, solar farms and large-scale strategic infrastructure developments.
Dr. Aoife Kelly	PhD, BSc (Hons), MIOA Senior Acoustic Consultant	Dr. Aoife Kelly (Senior Acoustic Consultant) holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Health, a Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control, a PhD in Occupational Noise and is a member of the Institute of Acoustics (MIOA). Aoife has specialised in acoustics since 2014 and won the 2016 Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) best diploma project. She has extensive knowledge in the field of occupational noise risk assessments, environmental noise and vibration effect assessment and inward effect assessments. She has seven years of experience as an acoustic consultant and in that time has gained extensive knowledge and experience in relation to impact assessment of wind farms and associated infrastructure as well as a detailed knowledge of acoustic standards and proprietary noise modelling software packages. She has completed noise impact assessments for numerous wind farm projects within Ireland, including Codling Offshore Wind Park, Castlebanny Wind Farm, Knockroe Wind Farm and Lyrenacarriga Wind Farm. She also has delivered the environmental noise specialist module on the IOA Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control.

Author/Contributors	Qualifications	Competencies
Richard Baker	Divisional Director and Landscape Architect	Richard is a corporate member of the Irish Landscape Institute (ILI) and has undertaken LVIA work for over 100 wind farms amongst numerous other large scale infrastructure development projects in Ireland over the past 20 years. He has also presented conference papers and webinars on the topic of LVIA to the ILI with a particular focus on wind energy development.
Ben O'Dwyer	Ornithologist	Ben is a project ecologist with Fehily Timoney and Company with over 10 years professional experience. He holds a BSc in Wildlife Biology and has prepared ecological survey and assessment reports for a wide range of projects including EIARs for several solar farms, road schemes commercial developments and wind farms. Ben's has experience in a range of key areas for ecological studies including mammal survey, bat survey and avian surveys.
Caitriona Fox	MScBA (Hons) Senior Environmental Consultant	Caitriona is an Environmental Consultant with over 20 years environmental consultancy experience. She is an Environmental Impact Assessment practitioner and has taken on the role of EIA Project Manager for a variety of large-scale EIA projects including wind farms, commercial, industrial and tourism developments. She has extensive experience in the management and compilation of environmental reports and has authored numerous specialist reports including shadow flicker assessments, air and climate impact assessments, population and human health impact assessment, landscape impact assessment, and material assets assessment for project EIAs.

1.8 Technical Difficulties and Availability of Data

There were no difficulties encountered in the preparation of this EIAR. As is standard practice best available predictive modelling techniques used were relevant to inform the assessment.

1.9 Note on Drawings and Graphics

Details of the Proposed Development are supported by the planning application drawings prepared by MWP in compliance with our internal Quality Management System (accredited to ISO: 9001). These drawings accompany the planning application and are referenced as relevant throughout the EIAR. It should be noted that these drawings have been reduced in scale within the EIAR for more convenient examination.

1.10 References

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