

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR) FOR THE PROPOSED SHANCLOON WIND FARM, CO. GALWAY

VOLUME 2 - MAIN EIAR

CHAPTER 5 - SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

Prepared for:
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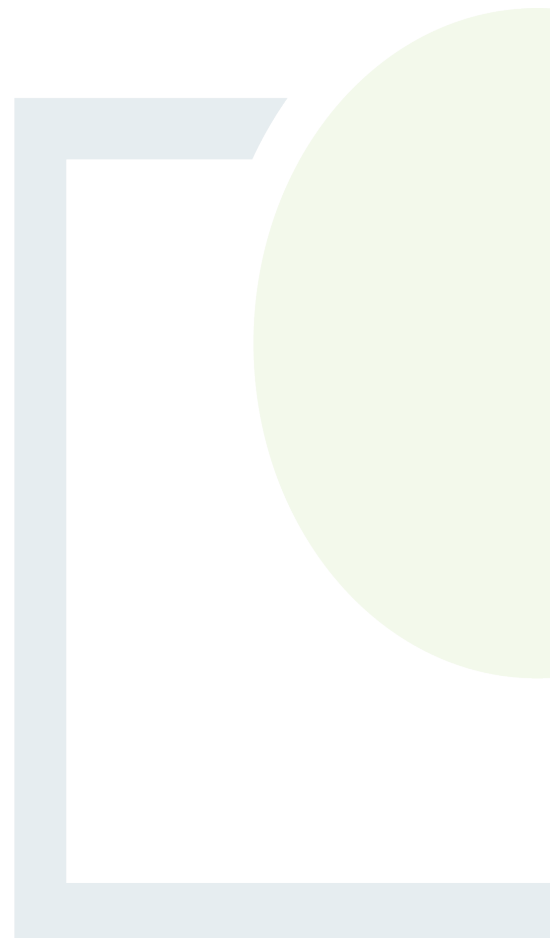


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5. SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

5.1 Introduction

The EPA 2022 'Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports' notes consultation as a key element of each stage of the EIA process. In recognition of the requirements of the Guidelines, and in accordance with Article 1(2)(g) of the amended EIA Directive (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU) (which states that Environmental Impact Assessment is the process of preparing an EIAR and the carrying out of consultations as referred to in Article 6), this EIAR has been informed by lengthy scoping consultation with key environmental stakeholders and detailed public consultation.

'Scoping' is a process of deciding what information should be contained in an EIAR and what methods should be used to gather and assess that information (EPA,2022). Scoping has continued throughout the preparation of this EIAR and has been linked with and informed by development design iterations.

The requirement to consider cumulative effects with other projects is outlined in EU and national legislation. The EIA Directive requires the consideration of 'the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources'. Other existing and proposed projects considered cumulatively were identified throughout the EIA and design iteration process for the Proposed Development and are set out in Chapter 2 - Development Description.

The consultation process, scoping and pre-application consultation undertaken in respect of the Proposed Development are set out in Section 5.2 of this chapter.

Formal consultation with the public in respect of the scope of EIA is not a mandatory requirement of the EIA Directive and is not provided for in Irish law. Throughout the consultation process, regard has been had to Department's 2016 'Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland – Guidelines for Community Engagement' which states:

"This Code of Good Practice is intended to ensure that wind energy development in Ireland is undertaken in observance with the best industry practices, and with the full engagement of communities around the country".

The Applicant had regard throughout the pre-planning process of the practical steps that renewable energy promoters should comply with, in engaging with communities as set out in the Code of Practice. The Applicant is committed to, and recognises the importance of community engagement in all of its development. In order to answer questions and gather feedback on the Proposed Development, the Applicant commenced pre-planning public consultation with the local community in April 2023 and continued to engage throughout the design and EIA of the Proposed Development. The core objective of the public consultation was to ensure that the public remained informed and aware of the likely environmental effects of the Proposed Development and to gather public information and opinion on the Proposed Development and its environmental context. Feedback received through public consultation has informed the Proposed Development's design and this EIAR. Further details on public consultation is included in Section 5.3.



5.2 Scoping and Pre-Planning Consultation

5.2.1 EIA Scoping Consultation

The purpose of the EIA scoping process is to identify the content and extent of the information to be submitted to the Competent Authority under the EIA process. The scoping process identifies causes/sources of potential environmental effects, the pathways by which the effects can happen, and the receptors which are likely to be sensitive to the effect. Scoping defines the appropriate level of detail of information to be provided in the EIAR. In essence, the primary focus of scoping is to define the most appropriate assessment of significant effects related to the Proposed Development. Scoping was carried out having regard to the European Commission's EIA Scoping Checklist (2017).

The list of scoping consultees that were contacted throughout the EIA process is provided in Table 5-1. Informal scoping initially commenced in April 2023 whereby consultees were invited to contribute to the scope of the EIA by suggesting baseline data, survey methodologies and potential impacts that should be considered as part of the impact assessment process and in preparation of the EIAR. Consultees were issued with a scoping report prepared by Fehily Timoney and Company and informed by the technical experts involved in the preparation of this EIAR as outlined in Chapter 1 - Introduction. The Scoping report presented an outline of the development that was under consideration at the time (i.e. a 13 turbine layout - see Chapter 3 - Site Selection and Alternatives for further details), the Site context and understanding of receiving environment, the impact assessment methodologies proposed as part of the EIA, the anticipated impacts of the wind farm development, and the approach to cumulative impact assessment. Consultees were invited to provide commentary via a dedicated scoping consultation email address: shancloonwindfarm@ftco.ie.

Copies of the consultation responses received are included in Appendix 5.1 of this document and are also summarised in Table 5-2, below. The recommendations of the consultees have informed the scope of the assessments undertaken and the contents of the EIAR. Note, where a consultee listed in Table 5-1 is not shown in Table 5-2, it is because no consultation response was received.

Table 5-1: List of Consultees

Regional and Local Authorities
Mayo County Council Galway County Council Northern & Western Regional Assembly
Government Departments
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Minister for Defence Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Minister for Transport



NGOs & Stakeholders	
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) Irish Environmental Network Irish Peatland Conservation Council Irish Raptor Study Group Irish Hen Harrier Winter Survey Group Bat Conservation Ireland Biodiversity Ireland Birdwatch Ireland Butterfly Conservation Ireland Forestry Services Geographical Society of Ireland Geological Survey Ireland (GSI) Irish Wildlife Trust National Monuments Service National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Fáilte Ireland	An Chomhairle Ealaíon (Arts Council) An Garda Síochána - Tuam Branch An Taisce Teagasc The Heritage Council Commission for Regulation of Utilities Environmental Sciences Association of Ireland Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Health Service Executive (HSE) Office of Public Works (OPW) Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland National Transport Authority Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) EirGrid ESB Networks Gas Networks Ireland Irish Water (Uisce Éireann) Coimisiún na Meán Irish Wind Energy Association Met Éireann
Aviation	
Galway Airport Ireland West Knock Airport Irish Aviation Authority Air Navigation Ireland	
Telecommunications	
Imagine Networks Services Ltd RTE Transmission Network Ltd RTÉ/Saorview TG4 Three Ireland (Hutchinson) Limited Viatel Ireland Ltd Virgin Media Ireland Ltd (PP)	Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) Commission for Communications Regulation An Garda Síochána Telecommunications Eircom Ltd Electricity Supply Board Enet Telecommunications Networks Limited Vodafone Ireland Ltd

Additionally, in October 2023 AiBridges, as part of telecoms and aviation assessments, carried out additional consultation with industry stakeholders to further assist in identifying telecommunication infrastructure and aviation constraints that could be impacted by proposed wind farm. Telecoms and aviation reports are presented in Appendix 17.1 and 17.2, which include the consultation carried out.



5.2.2 Meetings

Also, to inform design evolution several online meetings and/or walkover surveys of the Proposed Development were carried out with key stakeholders. There are summarised hereunder.

An Bord Pleanála

A pre-application consultation meeting was held with An Bord Pleanála on 12th March 2025.

The principal matters raised by An Bord Pleanála are summarised as follows:

- The importance of pre-application consultation with Galway County Council, Mayo County Council, OPW and the NPWS;
- To be clear on EIA /survey limitations and methodologies and to ensure assessment of cumulative effects;
- The importance of a robust peat stability assessment and to aim to avoid raised bog habitat for turbine construction;
- recommendation for a drainage study and flood risk assessment;

On 28th May 2025 An Bord Pleanála (The Board) (later referred to as An Coimisiún Pleanála)¹ deemed the Proposed Development is eligible as Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) by way of a notice served under section 37B(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the application is being made directly to the Board (case ref. ABP-321507-24). The Board are the competent authority for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

On 16th December the Applicant made a request to An Bord Pleanála for a design flex opinion (case ref. ABP-321495-24). The Planning and Development, Maritime and Valuation (Amendment) Act 2022, provides for design flexibility in the case of applications for development specified in the Seventh Schedule relating to rapidly changing technology and the potentially long lead-in times between the making of a planning application and the procurement of equipment. Under Section 37CC (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), it states that a prospective applicant who proposes to make an application for development specified in the Seventh Schedule may request a meeting with the Board for the purpose of Section 37CD as part of consultation referred to in Section 37B (1). Accordingly, RWE Renewables Ireland Limited commenced pre-application consultation under Section 37B (1) seeking the Boards opinion on design flexibility. The Board, on 13th June 2025, provided an opinion under section 37CD of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) the following details may be confirmed after the proposed application has been made and decided:

- Turbine Dimensions
 - a) Turbine tip height
 - b) Rotor diameter
 - c) Hub height

¹ NOTE: Part 17, Section 495(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 provides that references in any enactment, legal proceedings or document to An Bord Pleanála shall, on and after the commencement of said section, be construed as references to An Coimisiún Pleanála. Part 17, Section 495(3) of the Planning and Development Act 2024 was commenced on 18th June 2025. Any reference to An Bord Pleanála in this EIAR can be construed as meaning An Coimisiún Pleanála where it relates to a time after 18th June 2025.



The proposed application is consistent with the opinion provided by the Board in accordance with section 37CD of the Act. The EIAR has been prepared to reflect the opinion provided by the Board.

Copies of all An Bord Pleanála meeting minutes and determination letters are included in Appendix 1.1 of this EIAR.

Galway County Council

Two pre-planning consultation meetings were held with Galway County Council, the first on 24th November 2022 and a second meeting on 28th November 2023 with Galway County Councils Roads Department.

This first meeting was conducted to introduce the Proposed Development to the Council. Discussion centred primarily around the type and level of public consultation being carried out. It was noted also by the Council that they see water quality and hydrology as key environmental receptors for the Proposed Development.

The online meeting with members of the Roads Department of Galway County Council was held on 28th November 2023 to discuss the Proposed Development in terms of proposed haul routes, passing bays, site accesses and bridge crossings. Galway County Council noted the following during the online meeting:

- road opening licenses will be required for cable trenching works in roads post consent;
- Galway County Council suggested that it may be prudent to seek a speed limit order for the construction stage of the Proposed Development;
- The R332 Kilmaine to Foxhall realignment and resurfacing maintenance programme is ongoing;
- The L-6483 has been identified by Galway County Council as requiring re-surfacing, which will likely happen before the Proposed Development is consented. RWE committed to reinstating the roads, which will be subject to a pre-condition survey post development consent;
- Japanese Knotweed occurs along the L-6483. Galway County Council has erected warning signage however this invasive species is not being actively managed at present. Galway County Council asked that as part of the Proposed Development that the Applicant cordons off the area of infestation.
- Galway County Council noted that the Tuam bypass gets trimmed every few years for maintenance which involves road closure and diversions are through Tuam. Turbine delivery to Site will need to be co-ordinated relative to such road closure.

It was agreed at the online meeting that a site walkover between RWE, Fehily Timoney and Galway Roads Department could be arranged to interrogate site accesses and sight lines. As such a walkover was conducted on Wednesday 17th January during which the turbine delivery route along the L-6483 was considered along with the proposed temporary load bearing surfacing locations and the implementation of passing bay works to facilitate two-way flow of HGV's and turbine component deliveries. Sightline requirements for the main site entrance and at local road crossing of L-2220 were discussed relative to the traffic data indicating that the local road is lightly trafficked and traffic speeds are significantly lower than 80km/h.

Post walkover survey, Galway County Council Roads Department provided a Pavement Condition Survey map for the area and details of Roads in Charge.

Mayo County Council

A pre-planning consultation meeting was held with Mayo County Council on 19th June 2024.



This meeting was to introduce the Proposed Development to the Council. Discussion centred primarily around the Outline of the Proposed Development, Policy Context, the Existing Environment and Project Milestones & Consultation being carried out. It was noted that on the 2nd February 2024, An Bord Pleanála confirmed that the proposed development is Strategic Infrastructure Development. The Council stated that they require great consideration be given to potential noise and shadow flicker as well as any haul route within Mayo and the visual impact with regard to the Proposed Development.

The Council identified the following considerations during the meeting:

- The 2006 Wind Energy Guidelines and the Mayo Wind Energy Strategy are out of date;
- Draft Wind Energy Strategy is under review;
- Planning enforcement relating to noise and shadow flicker from wind energy developments can be difficult;
- In relation to the Proposed Development, the impact of material haulage from quarries in Mayo on traffic and road condition is the main priority for the Council. Visual Impact is also an item that the Council would give strong consideration.

Office of Public Works (OPW) - Flood Risk Management / Flood Relief Construction Section

An on-site meeting and walkover survey was carried out with Owen Hannon of the OPW on 11th October 2023 to discuss the Proposed Development relative to the baseline flood model prepared by IE Consulting and to discuss proposed watercourse crossings (culverts and bridge) and on-site drainage proposed as part of the Proposed Development. The requirement for Section 50 applications post development consent was noted along with the need for the crossings to accommodate flood flows plus climate change.

National Parks and Wildlife Services

An informal online meeting was held with Eoin Connolly and Tim Rodrick of NPWS on 10th October 2023 the aim of which was to present the findings of ecological field surveys that had been carried out and to focus in particular on the new access road that would be crossing along the periphery of the Cloonbar Bog (raised bog habitat). NPWS advised that where feasible, as part of wind farm design, opportunity should be taken to block bog drains at Cloonbar and noted that the intention is that the road will take a path through the bog which aligns to an area of scrub encroachment and will be a floated road design. NPWS also advised that they anticipate a Natura Impact Statement would be required for the Proposed Development.

Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)

Consultation was carried out with GNI in May and June 2024 in relation to the construction methodology required for the wind farm access road and 33kV cable crossing of the underground High Pressure Transmission Gas Pipe. GNI confirmed that the alignment of the wind farm infrastructure coincides with a section of gas main comprising heavy wall pipe and as such no specialist load bearing reinforcement is required here. The standard requirements for 600mm separation from the red high pressure transmission pipeline, open cut cable trenching, and supervision of the works will apply.



Uisce Éireann (formerly Irish Water)

Uisce Éireann require developers to engage in pre-planning consultation with them where there is a potential for proposed infrastructure to be constructed close to their assets. The Proposed Development includes one location where the 33kV cables will need to cross Uisce Éireann services on the L-2220 road. Fehily Timoney commenced communication in relation to 'Building-over or Near an Irish Water Asset' with Uisce Éireann's Diversions Team in April 2024 and a Confirmation of Feasibility letter was received from Uisce Éireann in December 2024 (see Appendix 5.1).



Table 5-2: Summary of Scoping and Pre-Planning Consultation Responses

Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
Galway County Council	20/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report, followed by pre-application meetings and site walkover with Roads Department (see section 5.2.2).	<p>Wind farm design has had regard to on-site consultation with the Roads Department such that passing bay locations and sightlines are as per discussions which took place on site.</p> <p>Chapter 14 - Traffic and Transportation assesses cumulatively the other road works proposals highlighted by the Council.</p> <p>Chapter 9 – Biodiversity includes measures to ensure that the Proposed Development will not cause the spread of Japanese Knotweed present on the L-6483.</p>
Mayo County Council	20/04/2024	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report, followed by pre-application meeting (see section 5.2.2).	Chapter 14 - Traffic and Transportation considers haulage routes cumulatively with other developments having regard to traffic survey data.
Garda Síochána – Galway Division	27/04/2023	<p>Raised queries regarding the following –</p> <p>Will the Turbines have an impact/effect on Tetra/Sepura Radio Telecommunication and Mobility Devices within the Tuam CE?</p> <p>Is the substation being built in the Claremorris or Tuam sub district and are these substations a target for saboteurs?</p> <p>Is there any indication from past applications that there may be a backlash at public meetings?</p> <p>Road closures will be required on local roads around the proposed site.</p>	<p>Email response issued to Garda Síochána – Galway Division on 18/05/2023 and 17/01/2024 noting the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The telecommunication study has confirmed that the Proposed Development will not cause any issues for telecommunication with TETRA Ireland (Garda Service Provider) and that there will be no impact on PTP radio link between Tuam and St Patrick’s N.S. and the



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
		Who will provide the transport of the Turbines from Galway Port to the site at Shancloon? Will this be done on overtime and by whom?	<p>PTP radio link between Abbeyknockmoy and Ballycusheen N.S.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Substation will be constructed to EirGrid requirements and will be surrounded by palisade fence Public engagement is ongoing which has included public information events, door-to-door consultation and a project website. The feedback from the public to date has been typical for wind energy development, relating to queries on noise and visual impact. Turbines will be delivered to site by a specialist contractor using specialist vehicles designed to carry large loads. The movement of these vehicles will be controlled under Abnormal Loads Permit which will be sought under the Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) Regulations 2003 and Road Traffic (Specialised Vehicle Permits) (Amendment) Regulations 2010.
RTE Transmission Network Ltd	20/04/2024	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. No further response.	N/A
Department of Defence	05/05/2024	The Department of Defence stated it does not provide observations or advice in the scoping process, and provided the following points based solely on the material provided by FT as part of the scoping process.	Chapter 17 - Material Assets, Telecommunications & Aviation considers the requirements of the Department of Defence.



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
		<p>All turbines should be illuminated by Type C, Medium intensity, Fixed Red obstacle lighting with a minimum output of 2,000 candela to be visible in all directions of azimuth and to be operational H24/7 days a week.</p> <p>Obstacle lighting should be incandescent. If LED or other lighting types are used, should be a type visible to Night Vision equipment. Obstacle lighting must emit light at the near Infra-Red (IR) range of the electromagnetic spectrum, specifically at or near 850 nanometres (nm) of wavelength.</p> <p>Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light.</p> <p>Any Irish Air Corps (IAC) requirements are separate to Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) requirements.</p>	<p>The nearest of the Air Corps restricted areas to the proposed wind farm is the 5 NM restricted Zone around the Army Barracks at Renmore, Co Galway. The proposed wind farm site is 19 km from the restricted area around Renmore Barracks. As the proposed wind farm is located outside the restricted area, there will be no impacts on Irish Air Corps activities.</p>
<p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage - Development Applications Unit (DAU)</p> <p>(Note: The DAU is the coordinating unit for the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, coordinating responses and submission from National Parks and Wildlife Service, National Monuments Service, Underwater Archaeology Unit and Architectural Heritage.)</p>	12/06/2023	<p>G Pre00069/2023 – The Departments outlined heritage related observations/recommendations as coordinated by the Development Applications Unit (DAU) in relation to Archaeology. The response did not include biodiversity-related observations. Archaeological observations included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Proposed Development is located within a wider area of known archaeological settlement and activity. The EIAR should include an assessment of possible effects of the proposal on the wider archaeological landscape The DAU drew particular attention to a number of archaeological sites subject to a Preservation Order that are located in general proximity to the Proposed Development. 	<p>Archaeology: Chapter 15 - Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage and Chapter 16 - Landscape and Visual Impact assess the archaeological monuments/features within the ZTV of the Proposed Development and has included those particular sites highlighted by the DAU in their submission.</p> <p>Wind farm layout was informed by the results of geophysical survey which were examined by a suitably qualified archaeologist as part of the EIA.</p>



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any and all intrusive advance investigations (such as, but not limited to, ground investigations for soils/geology/hydrogeology) carried out as part of the EIA or design process should be subject to a programme of archaeological monitoring by a suitably qualified archaeologist. <p>10th October 2023 – online meeting held with NPWS staff (Section 5.2.2) in relation to biodiversity receptors in the study area.</p>	<p>Biodiversity: Wind farm design has had regard to discussions with NPWS by ensuring that the road alignment through Cloonbar raised bog is such that it is located within an area of the bog that represents degraded habitat (drying out and scrub encroachment) due to proximity to the watercourse (which is subject to arterial drainage). The road at this location will be floated and will include engineering design to ensure no effects on the integrity of the adjacent bog habitat.</p> <p>A NIS has been prepared for the Proposed Development.</p>
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications	19/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. No further response.	N/A
Department of Transport	20/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. No further response.	N/A
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	20/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. No further response.	N/A
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	23/05/2023	<p>Email reply where TII set out general recommendations for the preparation of an EIAR and for the ultimate implementation of the Proposed Development. Observations relevant to this consenting stage of the Proposed Development are summarized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations should be had with the relevant Local Authority/National Roads Design Office with regard to the locations of existing and future national road schemes. 	As per Section 5.2.2, meetings took place with the roads offices of both Galway and Mayo County Councils.



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TII would be specifically concerned as to potential significant impacts the development would have on the national road network (and junctions with national roads) in the proximity of the proposed development, including the potential haul route. The developer should assess visual impacts from existing national roads. The EIAR/EIS should consider the 'Environmental Noise Regulations 2006' (SI 140 of 2006) and, in particular, how the development will affect future action plans by the relevant competent authority. The developer may need to consider the incorporation of noise barriers to reduce noise impacts (see 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Noise and Vibration in National Road Schemes' (1st Rev., NRA, 2004)). It is noted that the grid connection proposals outlined in the EIAR Scoping Report do not impact the strategic national road network. In the context of the existing national roads network, in accordance with the National Planning Framework National Strategic Outcome no. 2 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility', there is a requirement to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the network. 	<p>Chapter 14 - Traffic and Transportation assesses the impacts of road haulage and turbine delivery on the national road network and has been informed by traffic surveys and desktop assessment as well as turbine delivery route assessment. The objective of the Traffic Management Plan and dedicated haul routes for the Proposed Development will be to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the N17 carriageway at all times, cognisant of the National Development Plan, 2021 – 2030, with key sectoral priorities for maintaining the national road network to a robust and safe standard for users.</p> <p>Chapter 16 - Landscape and Visual Impact includes view point assessment from the national road network within the study area.</p> <p>Chapter 8 – Noise and Vibration assesses noise effects from the operation and construction of the Proposed Development.</p>
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)	17.08.2023	As the site of the Proposed Development falls within the Lough Corrib catchment, IFI provided a report which	The selection of aquatic survey locations to inform the EIAR (as set out in Chapter 9 –



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
		<p>summarised the results of a fish stock survey in selected sub-catchments of the Lough Corrib Catchment in 2020.</p> <p>IFI noted the following in their submission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All watercourses that will receive drainage from the construction sites of the turbines or the access roads must be assessed in terms of aquatic biodiversity with particular emphasis on fish, the food of fish, spawning grounds and fish habitat in general, • IFI recommended electrofishing survey, • IFI strongly recommends that specialist personnel are employed to assess soil strength and suitability of the ground at each site and along any proposed access road • It is important that natural flow paths are not interrupted or diverted in such a manner as to give rise to erosion or instability of soils caused by an alteration in water movement either above or below ground, • Clear span bridges are the preferred option for all bridge crossings, • Instream works or other works which may impact directly on a watercourse should only be carried out during the open season which is from 1st July to 30th of September each year. • The EIS should indicate proposals to monitor the impact on all watercourses within the "development". 	<p>Biodiversity) had regard to the 'Fish in River Factsheet – Lough Corrib' (2020) as provided by IFI. As such survey locations were selected to compliment the IFI surveys carried out to date and to fill in the blanks at locations where there was a paucity of survey data e.g. on the Togher River (where there was only one previous IFI survey location). The aquatic survey included all watercourses that will receive drainage from the Site plus a distance downstream. Electrofishing survey was not included having regard to subsequent conversations with IFI staff.</p> <p>The Proposed Development includes a watercourse crossing of the Togher River which will be by clear span bridge and all in-stream works will be confined to outside of the salmonid spawning season.</p> <p>Chapter 11 - Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology includes extensive ground investigation for the Proposed Development and peat slippage risk assessment for the Site, as well as peat and spoil management plan to ensure no adverse effects on water quality.</p> <p>Chapter 12 - Hydrology and Water Quality includes an overview of how water is managed on the Site such that the existing hydrological regime is not altered and includes appropriately sized settlement ponds.</p> <p>Monitoring requirements are also prescribed along with constraints for in-stream works.</p>



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
Office of Public Works (OPW)	22/05/2023	<p>Email reply highlighting the requirements under Section 50 of the Arterial Drainage Act 1945 as amended and recommending a flood risk assessment be carried out with regard to the proposed development and its construction.</p> <p>Site walkover with OPW staff was carried out on 11th October 2023.</p>	<p>The turbine layout and internal access road infrastructure and 110kV infrastructure has been designed and located such that 1 in 100 flood extents and depths are avoided. The new bridge crossing and culvert design are such to accommodate 1 in 100 flood depths plus climate change factor.</p> <p>The drainage design for the Proposed Development has had regard to the local hydrology and includes cross drains to ensure that the existing drainage is not altered such that it could affect hydromorphology of the local watercourses.</p> <p>Flood risk assessment is included in Chapter 12 - Hydrology and Water Quality.</p>
National Biodiversity Data Centre	20/04/2023	Email reply stating the National Biodiversity Data Centre does not have the capacity to provide feedback on such developments.	N/A
Faite Ireland	24/04/2023	Response included a copy of Fáilte Ireland's non-statutory guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA). The guidelines are to be used by those conducting an EIA and compiling Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR).	Complied with in Chapter 6 – Population and Human Health
National Transport Authority (NTA)	20/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report noting that the NTA has no comments to make.	N/A



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
Uisce Éireann	10/05/2023	<p>Uisce Éireann noted that they do not have the capacity to advise on the scoping of individual projects, but outlined general considerations they wish to follow in preparation of an EIAR which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> requirements to protect Uisce Éireann's drinking water sources, the need for pre-connection agreements to water services and consideration when building over or near Uisce Éireann assets, the requirement not to have an effect on hydrology such that the assimilative capacity of a waterbody to receive foul discharges is impacted. 	<p>Chapter 12 - Hydrology and Water Quality and Chapter 17 - Material Assets, Telecommunications & Aviation outline the assessment of Uisce Éireann's assets in the EIA. The drainage design for the Proposed Development is such that the existing hydrological regime is maintained.</p> <p>As per Section 5.2.2 Uisce Éireann has been engaged in relation to building near / over their assets and the construction methodology set out in Chapter 3 – Development Description accounts for same.</p>
Northern and Western Regional Assembly	18/05/2023	Acknowledged receipt and advised that the Northern and Western Regional Assembly (NWRA) does not comment upon individual projects as a matter of course unless the Bord (or deciding authority) considers the proposed development to be inconsistent with the RSES.	N/A
Irish Wildlife Trust	20/04/2023	Acknowledged receipt and confirmed that Scoping Report had been passed to the relevant person. No further engagement took place.	N/A
Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)	17/05/2023	<p>GSI provided a list of their 'Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes' which they recommended for use in the EIA and provided links to online map viewers for geological and groundwater data.</p> <p>GSI confirmed that their records show that there are no geoheritage (County Geological Sites) in the vicinity of the proposed wind farm development.</p>	<p>The EIA has been informed by the datasets available from GSI and in particular the following EIAR chapters include reference to GIS material for the purpose of wind farm layout and design, impact assessment and to inform the scope of further EIA studies:</p> <p>Chapter 9 - Land, Soils & Geology, Chapter 10 – Hydrology & Water Quality and Chapter 14 -</p>



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
		<p>GSI also recommended that natural resources used in the wind farm development are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities.</p> <p>GSI asked that should development go ahead, they would appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out.</p>	<p>Traffic and Transportation and Chapter 17 - Material Assets, Telecommunications & Aviation.</p> <p>All geotechnical investigations carried out for the purpose of the EAI are provided in Volume III and will be available to GSI.</p>
Health Service Executive	20/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. No further response.	N/A
Bat Conservation Ireland	19/04/2023	Bat Conservation Ireland stated that they do not have the administrative capacity to review planning applications. Advised to ensure that bat surveys are undertaken according to best practice guidelines.	<p>Chapter 9 – Biodiversity includes several years of bat survey within the study area for the Proposed Development.</p> <p>Turbine layout has been informed by outputs of the bat study such that turbines have been located an appropriate distance from areas of high bat activity and known roosts.</p>
Health and Safety Authority	20/04/2024	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. No further response.	N/A
National Transport Authority	20/04/2024	The NTA had no comments to make.	N/A
Irish Hen Harrier Winter Survey Group	07/05/2023	<p>The Irish Hen Harrier Winter Survey has known Hen Harrier activity in the area.</p> <p>If surveys are to be done to determine presence and 'winter' roosting during the non-breeding season (August-March,</p>	As set out in Chapter 10 – Ornithology, targeted hen harrier dusk roost searches were undertaken over winter 2019-20 and winter 2020-21.



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
		<p>75% of the year), surveys should be undertaken at suitable habitat (roosting habitat in this terrain being cutaway bogs/bracken/willow scrub/tall heathers and grasses either in combination or as a habitat in their own right) on a frequent and regular basis, at least once-weekly in the period from 2h before dusk to darkness.</p> <p>Vantage points and coordinated watches will be necessary given the flat topography and nature of terrain which affords relatively small viewsheds.</p> <p>The birds using this area are likely to be linked to Hen Harrier SPAs or active in Hen Harrier non-breeding SPAs so this needs to be carefully considered and addressed also.</p> <p>Discretion needs to be applied to any correspondence or information pertaining to the location of sensitive species like Hen Harrier which have been persecuted and disturbed in Ireland previously.</p>	
Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)	23/05/2023	<p>In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind farm development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection. 	Chapter 17 - Material Assets, Telecommunications & Aviation commits to the requirements of IAA in the event that the Proposed Development is consented.
Ireland West Airport Knock	21.12.2023	<p>Email response which requested the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GPS coordinates of the highest turbine on each site 	Requested details were provided in January 2024.



Consultee	Date of Response	Response / Key Points Raised	How Points Raised are Addressed in EIA / Design
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ground level at the same locations Height of blade tip above ground level No further comm/responses.	
TG4	20/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. No further response.	N/A
RTE / 2rn	20/04/2023	The proposed windfarm will not affect 2rn's fixed linking. There is however a risk of interference to broadcast services in the area. We would therefore ask that a protocol be signed between 2rn and the developer should the site go ahead.	Chapter 17 - Material Assets, Telecommunications & Aviation assesses the risk of the proposed development interfering with broadcast services in the area and has had regard to submission by RTE.
Imagine Networks Services Ltd	20/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. No further response.	N/A
Gas Networks Ireland	20/04/2023	Email response acknowledging receipt of Scoping Report. Email consultation as per Section 5.2.2	The wind farm design is in accordance with GNI requirements for the crossing of the high-pressure gas main with road and cable infrastructure.
ESB Networks	21/04/2023	Requested the size (MEC in MWs) of the wind farm. Response to this sent on 25/04/2023. No further communication.	N/A



5.3 Community Consultation and Public Information Events

On 11th April 2023 RWE’s Community Liaison Officer (CLO) commenced an initial eight-week consultation with residents in and around the Shancloon Wind Farm study area. Letters were issued to residents within 2km of the proposed wind farm and the CLO carried out door-to-door visits within that area to discuss any questions or concerns relating to the Proposed Development. Additionally, a dedicated phone number and email address were set up to allow residents make an appointment suitable to them for discussions with the development team at RWE.

Feedback from the CLO was passed on to the project design team and EIAR team on an ongoing basis in order to allow the consultation process to inform the design and impact assessment process.

A project website was also set up (<https://ie.rwe.com/projects-and-locations/onshore-wind-farm-shancloon/>) to inform the public of information relating to the Proposed Development. The website includes a twelve-page information brochure (Shancloon Proposed Wind Farm) along with facts about the Proposed Development. The website, along with letter drops was used to notify members of the public of project updates, project timelines, upcoming public consultation and any changes in the design and layout. It also provides an avenue for the public to contact the project development team directly.

Additionally, all Elected Member local representatives were emailed on 11th April 2023 with a copy of the letter of introduction to the CLO and a soft copy of the Shancloon Proposed Wind Farm brochure.

A detailed Community Consultation report is included in Appendix 5.2 and a summary of consultation is provided in Table 5-3.

Table 5-3: Community Consultation

Timeline	Action
April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicated project website, email and phone line established First project information letter distributed 2km radius (231 houses) CLO went door to door on 12th, 13th and 14th of April 2023 and met with 89 householders April and May 2023: 37 emails were received and responded to by the development team
September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second project information letter distributed 2km radius (231 houses)
November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third project information letter distributed 2km radius (231 houses) CLO went door to door on 27th 28th and 29th November 2023 and met with 60 householders
June 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11th and 12th June 2025 - Public meetings held (morning and evening)



5.4 Conclusion

Consultation was carried out with a number of stakeholders, including Galway County Council, Mayo County Council, An Bord Pleanála, Government Departments, Non-Governmental Organisations, telecommunications providers, aviation organisations and local residents. Their comments and feedback were incorporated into the Proposed Development design and to the impact assessments conducted in the EIAR.

Pre-planning consultation was held with Galway County Council, Mayo County Council and An Bord Pleanála to determine the key points and potential impacts of the Proposed Development, and to inform the assessment methodology.

A dedicated email address, phone number and postal address was provided with circulated materials so members of the public could directly contact the development team. This process was commenced as early as possible in order to inform the design of the Proposed Development and to inform the EIA process prior to its commencement. A dedicated website was also set up to allow for further open communication between the Applicant and community throughout the development process and run-up to the application submission. The website was also used as a platform to provide information and materials to inform the public of the Proposed Development.

The public consultation was facilitated throughout the EIA and design process. Door to door public consultation and letter drop took place within a 2km of the proposed wind farm. Submissions received through the project email / phone line were addressed in a timely manner.

Observations and submissions received during the scoping and consultation process have informed the design, assessment and mitigation measures proposed as part of this Proposed Development as set out throughout this EIAR.



5.5 References

Department of Communications, Climate Action and the Environment (2016). Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland Guidelines for Community Engagement.

Environmental Protection Agency (2022) Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports.

European Commission (2017) Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Scoping (Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)



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