



APPENDIX 2-1

*Copies of EIR Scoping
Responses*

Evan Connolly

From: Phoebe Duvall <planning@antaisce.org>
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 14:46
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: Thank you for your query Re: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Thank you for your email. Please note that we receive a large volume of correspondence and resources are very limited. As such, we are unfortunately unable to respond to every query, and we ask that you review these [frequently asked questions](#). **If your message is a statutory referral to us per our role as a prescribed body, it will be processed as normal.**

Queries from An Taisce members are prioritised. If you are a member, please reply to the original message with your member number (if you did not include it already). If you wish to become a member, please visit [the membership page on our website](#).

Thank you very much.

--

Phoebe Duvall

Planning and Environmental Policy Officer

An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland

The Tailors' Hall, Back Lane, Dublin 8, Ireland

Phone: 01 454 1786

www.antaisce.org

Company Reg. No. 12469 | Charity Ref. No. CHY4741 | Charity Regulator No. 20006358

An Taisce is a membership-based charity

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Please note that I work Monday through Thursday.

--

An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland | www.antaisce.org

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Company Reg. No. 12469 | Charity Ref. No. CHY4741 | Charity Regulator No. 20006358

An Taisce is a membership-based charity

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Evan Connolly

From: Dawn Quinn <admin@batconservationireland.org>
Sent: Wednesday 19 April 2023 14:32
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sanghamitra,

Thank you for your e-mail.

Unfortunately, as Bat Conservation Ireland is a very small organisation, with limited resources, we do not have the capacity to get involved in planning issues.

Please note that Bat Conservation Ireland is concerned that a request for our input/consultation/opinion/assistance on planning applications and reports, or objections/comments on same, can sometimes imply that we have been consulted for our opinion on planning matters when Bat Conservation Ireland does not, in fact, provide opinions or comments on developments. Therefore, please note that this response should not be construed as a consultation with Bat Conservation Ireland regarding any planning or development matter or proposal. In order to avoid misunderstandings, please do not use this terminology in your reports to describe this transaction.

Thank you for your understanding.

Yours sincerely

Dawn Quinn
Administrative Manager
Bat Conservation Ireland

Postal/Registered Address: Carmichael House, 4-7, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, D07 RHA8.

E-mail: admin@batconservationireland.org

Website: www.batconservationireland.org

Social Media: [Bat Conservation Ireland - Home](#) | [Facebook](#) | <https://twitter.com/BatConservIre>



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Bat Conservation Ireland. Company Limited by Guarantee (CRO) No. 494343. Charity Number (CRA): 20039417.

Website: www.batconservationireland.org | Registered Address: Carmichael House, 4-7, North Brunswick Street, Dublin 7, D07 RHA8.

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 2:48 PM

To: Tina Aughney <tinaa@batconservationireland.org>; Brian Keeley <briank@batconservationireland.org>; Dawn Quinn <admin@batconservationireland.org>

Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Evan Connolly

From: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie>
Sent: Friday 1 August 2025 09:23
To: Evan Connolly
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Evan

Coimisiún na Meán does not perform an in-depth analysis of the effect of wind turbines or electrical sub stations on FM networks. However, we are not aware of any issues from existing windfarms or electrical sub stations into existing FM networks. Also, the proposed sub station is not located close to any existing or planned FM transmission sites.

Regards

Roger

Innealtóir Feidhmiúcháin Sinsearach | Senior Executive Engineer

T: +353 (0)1 644 1200 | rwoods@cnam.ie



**Coimisiún
na Meán**

1 Áras Shíol Bhroinn, Bóthar Shíol Bhroinn, Baile Átha Cliath, D04 NP20, Éire.
1 Shelbourne Buildings, Shelbourne Road, Dublin, D04 NP20, Ireland.

Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda agus is leis an duine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chuige/chuici a bhaineann siad. Muna duitse an ríomhphost seo, ní ceart é a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí. Iarrtar ort teachtaireacht a sheoladh chuig an seoltóir nó chuig info@cnam.ie, agus an ríomhphost seo a scrios.

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Déan machnamh ar an timpeallacht, le do thoil, roimh an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil.

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

External Public

From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 15:36
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Dear Roger,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. 9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
- x. Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. Site Drainage;*
- xv. Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611

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From: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie>
Sent: Monday 19 February 2024 12:24
To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

You don't often get email from rwoods@cnam.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Eileen

Coimisiún na Meán does not perform an in-depth analysis of the effect of wind turbines on FM networks. However, we are not aware of any issues from existing windfarms into existing FM networks. Also, the proposed windfarms are not located close to any existing or planned FM transmission sites.

Regards

Roger

Senior Executive Engineer

My email address has now changed to rwoods@cnam.ie, please update your address book accordingly.

Tá mo sheoladh ríomhphoist athraithe anois go rwoods@cnam.ie, dá réir sin déan do leabhar seoltaí a uasdátú, le do thoil.

Coimisiún na Meán | 1 Áras Shíol Bhroinn, Bóthar Shíol Bhroinn, Baile Átha Cliath D04 NP20, Éire
Coimisiún na Meán | Shelbourne Buildings, Shelbourne Road, Dublin 4, D04 NP20, Ireland
T: + 353 (0)1 644 1200 | rwoods@cnam.ie

Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda agus is leis an duine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chuige/chuici a bhaineann siad. Muna duitse an ríomhphost seo, ní ceart é a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí. Iarrtar ort teachtaireacht a sheoladh chuig an seoltóir nó chuig info@cnam.ie, agus an ríomhphost seo a scrios.

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From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 5:01 PM
To: Roger Woods <rwoods@cnam.ie>
Subject: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Hi,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.

We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
Ireland, H91VW84

28 April 2023

Re: Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, 15km East of Tuam, Co Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Email: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie or Web gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie) As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations, and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may

make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices are published online at: gov.ie - [Felling Licence Applications \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 14 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decision are published online at: gov.ie - [Felling Licence Decisions \(www.gov.ie\)](http://www.gov.ie)

It is important to note that when applying to a **Local Authority**, or **An Bord Pleanála**, for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
 - b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
 - c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;
- and
2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.
 3. Please note that there must be absolute spatial consistency between the felling licence areas submitted to DAFM (second authority) and all related planning documents submitted to the first authority in respect of the felling area(s)

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Boyce
Felling Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford

Evan Connolly

From: Defence Property Management Planning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>
Sent: Friday 5 May 2023 10:56
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Cc: Jason Kearney (Defence); Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence)
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway
Attachments: 2023-05-05 Response to MKO Ireland Ltd - Cooloo Windfarm.pdf

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Dear Ms. Dutta,

Please see the attached Department of Defence response to your e-mail below
re: proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway, located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway.

Please contact me in you have any queries.

Best regards
Don

Don Watchorn

Property Management Branch

An Roinn Cosanta

Department of Defence

Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93

From: Defence Property Management Planning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 18 April 2023 09:26
To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence) <Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie>; Sarah Zacharia (Defence) <Sarah.Zacharia@defence.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Dear Ms. Dutta,

The Department of Defence wishes to acknowledge receipt of your e-mail below.
We will consult with our Military colleagues and revert in due course.

Please contact me if you have any queries in this regard.

Best regards
Don

Don Watchorn

Property Management Branch

An Roinn Cosanta

Department of Defence

Bóthar an Stáisiúin, An Droichead Nua, Contae Chill Dara, W12 AD93.

Station Road, Newbridge, Co.Kildare, W12 AD93

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 14:53

To: Don Watchorn (Defence) <Don.Watchorn@defence.ie>; Defence Property Management Planning <PropertyManagementPlanning@defence.ie>; Sarah Zacharia (Defence) <Sarah.Zacharia@defence.ie>; Gareth O'Flaherty (Defence) <Gareth.OFlaherty@defence.ie>

Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



Fógra faoi Rúndacht: Tá an ríomhphost seo agus aon iatán a ghabhann leis rúnda. Is leis an duine / nó daoine sin amháin a bhfuil siad seolta chucu a bhaineann siad agus ní ceart iad a léamh ná a scaoileadh chuig aon tríú páirtí gan cead roimh ré ón Roinn Cosanta.

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Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environment Scientist
MKO Ireland Ltd.
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

05 May 2023

Without Prejudice

Dear Ms. Dutta,

I refer to your letter and e-mail dated 17 April 2023, in relation to the proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway, located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway.

I wish to advise at the outset that any determination in relation to a planning consent is solely a matter for the planning authorities and/or ABP, as appropriate. Therefore, the following observations are made on a non-prejudicial basis, and are not intended to be used to rely on for a prospective planning application, nor are these observations to be relied on in the event of any commercial transaction pertaining to such lands and they are not to be relied on in the event of any contract exchange pertaining to same.

As a matter of practice, the Department of Defence does not provide observations or advice in the scoping process, except where the relevant parties have been directed by a planning authority to seek the Department's views. The following observations are based solely on the material provided by you and should be read in that context only. It should be noted that additional or supplemental observations may be made at the formal planning process.

Having consulted with the subject matter experts in the Irish Air Corps, the Department of Defence wishes to make the following observations:

- 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.
- 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.
- Light intensity to be of similar value to that emitted in the visible spectrum of light.



- Any Irish Air Corps (IAC) requirements are separate to Irish Aviation Authority (IAA) requirements.

Nothing in the above observations shall be taken as a binding response by the Minister for Defence in the event that a planning application is made. The Minister reserves the right to comment on an actual planning application as and when it is submitted in accordance with the provisions of the planning regulatory code.

We would appreciate if you could keep us informed on any progress relating to this proposed development, in particular if this development was to progress to the planning stage.

Yours sincerely

Sent via e-mail

Don Watchorn
Property Management Branch
Department of Defence
Station Road
Newbridge
Co. Kildare W12 AD93

Evan Connolly

From: Planning Notifications <PlanningNotifications@DECC.gov.ie>
Sent: Monday 8 May 2023 11:20
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: Auto-Reply

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We acknowledge receipt of your email.

The Planning Advisory Division acts on behalf of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications with respect to its function as a statutory consultee within the planning system.

The Department provides observations in relation to County Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Strategic Environmental Assessments.

The Department does not provide observations for individual projects and developments.

As such, the Department will not provide observations on individual planning applications, Environmental Impact Assessments or any notification relating to an individual development.

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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

Evan Connolly

From: Sanghamitra Dutta
Sent: Monday 8 May 2023 11:19
To: Planning Notifications
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway
Attachments: Energy Sec DECC - 2023.04.14 - 190723.pdf

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please note that the cover letter issued by MKO on the **17th of April 2023** with “**Our Ref: 190723**” had the incorrect project name in the letter subject reference field. The enclosed letter has the correct reference.

In response to the Scoping Document, please quote the project as named in the enclosed.

The Scoping Document issued with the letter dated 17th April 2023 remains unchanged.

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 11:21 AM
To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>; Planning Notifications <PlanningNotifications@DECC.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta,

Please be advised that the contact email address for the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications where this Department is a statutory consultee for Planning/EIA/EIS/SEA and NIS notifications has **changed**.

The new contact email address from Tuesday 2 August 2022 is PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie

Hard copies can be sent to :

Planning Advisory
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications,
Third Floor,
29 – 31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2
D02 X285

Please remove CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie for correspondence on this subject and replace it with PlanningNotifications@decc.gov.ie

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Yours sincerely,

Enda Brady,
Corporate Support Unit,

An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications

Teach Leamháin, Bóthar Ghleann an Iarla, An Cabhán, H12 A8H7
Elm House, Earlsvale Road, Cavan, H12 A8H7

M +35387 623 7714 T +353 (0)1 6782308
CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie www.gov.ie/decc

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 14:59
To: CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>; CorporateSupport.Unit <CorporateSupport.Unit@decc.gov.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation

compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bódh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.

Evan Connolly

From: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday 11 May 2023 17:14
To: Sanghamitra Dutta; Transport GCU
Cc: Owen Cahill
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway
Attachments: 20230511 DoT reply.docx

Some people who received this message don't often get email from generalco-ordinationunit@transport.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Good evening,

Please find attached for your attention submission on behalf of the Department of Transport in relation to Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Kind regards
Jacqui

Jacqui Traynor
Central Policy, Coordination and Reform
An Roinn Iompair
Department of Transport
Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60
Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60
T +353 (0)1 604 1177
gcu@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 14:53
To: Transport GCU <GeneralCo-OrdinationUnit@transport.gov.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation

compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin

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MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84
11th May 2023

Re: EIA Scoping Document for Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway

The Department of Transport makes the following comments on the Cooloo Wind Farm development located at Cooloo in County Galway.

It should be noted that the Department considers the construction involved in providing this development and especially, the connection cables to the national grid may have effects on both the environment and the Regional and Local Road network.

Where the developer proposes the placement of any cables (or additional cables) in one or more trenches within the extents of the (regional and local) public road network, it is necessary to consider the following:

- Their presence within the public road could significantly restrict the Road Authority in carrying out its function to construct and maintain the public road and will likely add to the costs of those works.
- Their installation within the lands associated with the public road may affect the stability of the road. In particular where the road is a “legacy road” (where there is no designed road structure, and the subgrade may be poor or poorly drained) the design needs to take account of all the variable conditions and not be based on a sample of the general conditions.
- The possible effect on the remaining available road space (noting that there may be need to accommodate other utilities within the road cross-section in the future).
- The necessity to have the power in the cables switched off where the Road Authority considers this necessary in order to carry out its function to construct and maintain the public road.



The Department consider it important that the examination of the proposal should include consideration of the following:

- Examination of options other than the routing of cables along the public road,
- Examination of options for connection to the national grid network at a point closer to the wind farm in order to reduce the adverse impact on public roads.
- Details of where within the road cross section cables are to be placed so as to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance,
- Examination of details of any chambers proposed within the public road cross section so as to minimise the effect on the Roads Authority in its role of construction and maintenance,
- Examine the elimination of jointing bays and use of temporary removable jointing bays to protect the integrity of the road structure for the safety of those driving on the public road by eliminating hard spots and also preserve the road width for other utilities and,
- Rationalisation of the number of cables involved (including existing electric or possible future cables) and their diversion into one trench, in order to minimise the impacts on the road network and the environment along the road boundary (hedgerows).

The Department considers the following should be considered when applying conditions to any approval.

1. A condition requiring the specific approval of the local authority to the detail of the final route of cables through the public road space. If during construction there is a need to deviate from the detailed design then the approval of the local authority would again be sought. This would assist in minimising the impact on the public road.
2. A condition requiring the developer to comply with all appropriate standards and, inter alia the Guidelines for Managing Openings in Public Roads, 2017 in order to ensure orderly development.
3. A condition requiring that the location of the cables would be recorded as exactly as possible (maybe using BIM type technology) so as to facilitate the further use of road space for utilities and the maintenance/construction of the public road by the Roads authority. This record should be lodged with the local authority and with the ESB Networks for retention on their records.



4. A condition to require the elimination of jointing bays and the use of temporary removable jointing bays instead, to protect the integrity of the road structure, thereby improving safety for those driving on the public road by eliminating hard spots and preserving the road width for other utilities.
5. A condition requiring the developer to route cables away from bridge structures and specifically preventing the developer from attaching cables to road bridges. This would allow for the future maintenance of bridges without interruption of the electricity supply along the cables.
6. A condition requiring the developer to notify the Roads Authority of the owner of the cables (Owner) and the controller (Power Controller) of the power transmitted along the cables. In addition, the condition should require Owner and Power Controller to notify the Roads Authority of any change in ownership of the cables or change of Power Controller transmitting power along the cables. In all instances the Owner and Power Controller should be required to maintain an agreed contacts list with the Roads Authority.

Central Policy, Coordination and Reform

An Roinn Iompair

Department of Transport

Lána Líosain, Baile Átha Cliath, D02 TR60

Leeson Lane, Dublin, D02 TR60

T +353 (0)1 604 1177

gcu@transport.gov.ie www.gov.ie/transport

Evan Connolly

From: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>
Sent: Thursday 28 August 2025 11:12
To: Eileen Corley; Evan Connolly
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway
Attachments: Cooloo Wind Farm Exclusion Zone.kml

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Good morning,

We have completed our assessment of the Cooloo Wind Farm development and have identified an exclusion zone necessary to protect our link. To avoid potential interference, it is essential that the turbine base be situated outside of this exclusion zone.

Please find attached the GIS file in KML format for your reference. If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out.

We appreciate your patience during this assessment process.

Kind regards,
Abud

From: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>
Sent: Thursday 16 January 2025 12:49
To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Hi Eileen,

Could you please confirm the turbine dimensions provided in the returned proforma. Could you also clarify what the range of values in both the hub height and blade radius/length is representing.

There appears to be a discrepancy between the provided Turbine Tip Height (180m), and the calculated Turbine Tip Height (Hub height + blade length/radius evaluates to 137.75-143m).
Provided Hub height: (99-102.5m) and Turbine blade LENGTH/RADIUS: (38.75-40.5m).

Kind regards,
Abud

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 11 December 2024 16:05
To: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>
Cc: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>; Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Abud,

Thank you for reaching out. Please see attached PDF as requested for the Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo.

If you have any questions, queries, or comments in relation to the attached, please do not hesitate to get back to me.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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From: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>

Sent: Monday 9 December 2024 16:49

To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to inform you that unfortunately, we have been unable to proceed with the analysis without additional information.

To move forward, we kindly request you to complete the attached proforma and provide any GIS data if available.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out.

Regards,
Abud

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Tuesday 16 April 2024 11:02

To: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>

Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.

We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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An t-impeallacht? - Smaoinigh air sula bpriontáileann tú an r-phost seo.

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* * * * *

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon chomhad a ghabhann leis rúnda agus ceaptha le haghaidh úsáide an té nó an aonáin ar seoladh chuige iad agus na húsáide sin amháin.

Is tuairimí nó dearchthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearchthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearchthaí ESB.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir.

Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

<https://www.esb.ie/contact>

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* * * * *

An timpeallacht? - Smaoinigh air sula bpriontáileann tú an r-phost seo.

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* * * * *

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon chomhad a ghabhann leis rúnda agus ceaptha le haghaidh úsáide an té nó an aonáin ar seoladh chuige iad agus na húsáide sin amháin.

Is tuairimí nó dearchthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearchthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearchthaí ESB.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir.

Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

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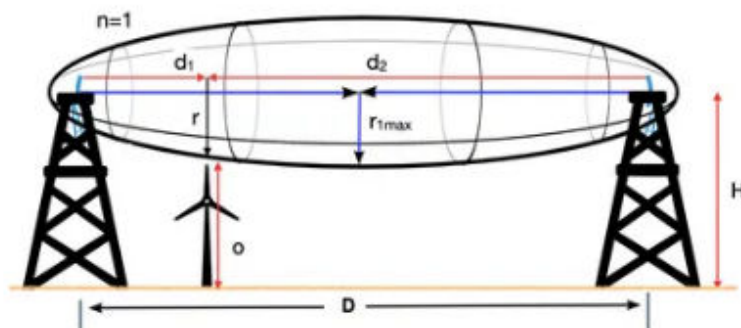
* * * * *

Brandon Taylor

From: Redmond. Myles (ESB Networks) <myles.redmond2@esb.ie>
Sent: Monday 25 April 2022 17:15
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Cc: Owen Cahill; Walsh. Jonathan (ESB Networks)
Subject: RE: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

Hi Sanghamitra, Owen,

Apologies about the delay in my response on your query. Below is the table as requested. It is hard to calculate the exact 2nd Fresnel zone distance until the turbine locations have been determined. Some developers will use the maximum 2nd Fresnel Zone which is the midway point between A & B (R max in the diagram below) and extrapolate this buffer zone for the full length of the link, this may be easiest way of plotting on your constraint maps.



Please note the buffer zone is from both side from the centre of the radio link.

Link	Site A	Site B	Link Length	Distance from Site A to Turbine Viable Area	Distance from Site B to Turbine Viable Area	Buffer of the link
1	Abbeyknockmoy	Glenamaddy 38kV	23.4km	7 - 10km	13 - 16km	
2	Abbeyknockmoy	Castlerea 38kV	42km	7 - 10km	32 - 35km	347m
3	Abbeyknockmoy	Shannagh Beg Solar	22km	7 - 10km	12 - 15km	
4	Abbeyknockmoy	Rathleg Solar	42.8km	7 - 10km	33 - 36km	

Please let me know if you require further information.

Regards,

Myles

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 25 March 2022 08:20
To: Redmond. Myles (ESB Networks) <myles.redmond2@esb.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

Hi Myles,

I'm following up on Owen's email below. Could you let us know if you have any updates for us. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.



Sanghamitra Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
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From: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: 16 March 2022 15:56
To: myles.redmond2@esb.ie
Cc: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

Hi Myles,

Many thanks for your assistance to date. Further to your email to Sanghamitra below, could you please advise on the buffer requirements for the all links.

We do not have specific turbine locations yet and are working off a viable area which will be informed by the information provide by yourself.

To inform your examination, I can confirm the following from our mapping:

Link	Site A	Site B	Link Length	Distance from Site A to Turbine Viable Area	Distance from Site B to Turbine Viable Area	Buffer of the link
1	Abbeyknockmoy	Glenamaddy 38kV	23.4km	7 - 10km	13 - 16km	
2	Abbeyknockmoy	Castlerea 38kV	42km	7 - 10km	32 - 35km	347m
3	Abbeyknockmoy	Shannagh Beg Solar	22km	7 - 10km	12 - 15km	
4	Abbeyknockmoy	Rathleg Solar	42.8km	7 - 10km	33 - 36km	

Would you please be able to populate the column Buffer Required in the table above. I have included the number previously provided but if this changes based on the other parameters I have provided, please update.

Regards,

Owen Cahill



Owen Cahill B.Sc. M.Sc. (Env) CEnv
Environmental Engineer

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From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 11 March 2022 17:01
To: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: FW: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links
Importance: High

Hi,

I think we'll need to discuss this – I have no idea what Fresnel zones are so I'm trying to educate myself on that. If the links are to be buffered 347m for the ESB lines it could potentially cut into the VA containing Turbine 4.

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.



Sanghamitra Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
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From: Redmond. Myles (ESB Networks) <myles.redmond2@esb.ie>
Sent: 11 March 2022 16:30
To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Haslam. Donal (ESB Networks) <donal.haslam@esb.ie>; McDonagh. Paul (ESB Networks) <paul.mcdonagh@esb.ie>
Subject: RE: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

Hi Sanghamitra,

As per the Calculation of the Clearance Zone 3.1.doc by JRC, the buffer clearance zone recommended is the 2nd Fresnel zone clearance plus 150m, a buffer zone to allow for location accuracy of the link ends, turbine construction and ellipsoid conversion anomalies, plus 100m for Turbine micro siting.

The 2nd Fresnel Zone Clearance zone varies with the Frequency but also the link length and the distance of the turbine from Site A and to Site B. For the calculations below, I have calculated the link length was 42km, with the turbine at 10km from site A and 32km to site B.

For the Point to Multipoint Polling radio link which operate at 458MHz, This would be $97\text{m} + 150 + 100 = \text{approx. } 347\text{m}$ outside the blade tips on both sides of the Castlerea 38kV station link as an example.

Regards,

Myles

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 11 March 2022 10:01
To: Redmond. Myles (ESB Networks) <myles.redmond2@esb.ie>
Cc: Haslam. Donal (ESB Networks) <donal.haslam@esb.ie>; McDonagh. Paul (ESB Networks) <paul.mcdonagh@esb.ie>
Subject: RE: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

Hi Myles,

I have inherited the Cooloo Wind Farm project from Lorna and am following up on her last exchange. We still do not have a definite turbine layout as the constraints study is ongoing and will ultimately be informed by it. As you pointed out in the email below, there are radio links through the area. It would be helpful to know if these necessitate a buffer, and if so, of what dimensions. Could you please pass the information on if available.

Thank you, and please do not hesitate to come back to me if you have any queries,
Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.



Sanghamitra Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkofireland.ie



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From: Redmond. Myles (ESB Networks) <myles.redmond2@esb.ie>
Sent: 02 November 2021 10:19
To: Lorna Britton <lbritton@mkofireland.ie>
Cc: Haslam. Donal (ESB Networks) <donal.haslam@esb.ie>; McDonagh. Paul (ESB Networks) <paul.mcdonagh@esb.ie>
Subject: RE: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

Hi Lorna,

I have carried out an initial impact analysis of proposed Windfarm development and can confirm we do have Point to Multipoint radio links crossing the outlined site boundary as listed below.

Link	Site A	Lat	Long	Height (m)	Frequency	Site B	Lat
1	Abbeyknockmoy	53.420236	-	36	458 MHz	Glenamaddy 38kV	53.605614
2	Abbeyknockmoy	53.420236	-	36	458 MHz	Castlerea 38kV	53.7575
3	Abbeyknockmoy	53.420236	-	36	458 MHz	Shannagh Beg Solar	53.5923601

4	Abbeyknockmoy	53.420236	8.742158	36	458 MHz	Rathleg Solar	53.764841
---	---------------	-----------	----------	----	---------	---------------	-----------

Once the turbine locations have been determined, please let me know so that a detailed analysis can be carried out.

Regards,

Myles

From: Lorna Britton <lbritton@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 2 November 2021 09:24
To: Redmond. Myles (ESB Networks) <myles.redmond2@esb.ie>
Subject: RE: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

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Hi Myles,

Please see attached site boundary PDF and shapefile.

Kind Regards,
Lorna



Lorna Britton
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkofireland.ie



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From: Redmond. Myles (ESB Networks) <myles.redmond2@esb.ie>
Sent: 02 November 2021 09:15
To: Lorna Britton <lbritton@mkofireland.ie>
Subject: RE: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

Hi Lorna,

Can you please forward on a PDF of the site boundary please? I am currently having issues opening the KMZ file on Google Earth.

Regards,

Myles

From: Lorna Britton <lbritton@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 1 November 2021 15:28
To: Redmond. Myles (ESB Networks) <myles.redmond2@esb.ie>
Subject: Cooloo Wind Farm-Links

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Hi Redmond,

I am currently working on a constraints study for a proposed wind farm site at Cooloo, located approximately 12km east of Tuam, County Galway. The ITM Coordinates are 555625, 748752. I have attached a .kmz of the site centrepont.

Could you let me know please if your company has any links in this area, and we will incorporate these into our constraints map. We don't have a turbine layout yet; this will be informed by the constraints study.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind Regards,
Lorna



Lorna Britton
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Is tuairimí nó dearcthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearcthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearcthaí ESB.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir.

Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

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* * * * *

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon chomhad a ghabhann leis rúnda agus ceaptha le haghaidh úsáide an té nó an aonáin ar seoladh chuige iad agus na húsáide sin amháin.

Is tuairimí nó dearcthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearcthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearcthaí ESB.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir.

Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.
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* ** *** ** * ** *** ** * ** *** ** *

Evan Connolly

From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 20 August 2025 09:30
To: Evan Connolly
Subject: Re: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway
Attachments: Fáilte Ireland EIAR Guidelines 2023.pdf

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hello Evan,

Thank you for your email.

Please see attached a copy of the update Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA, which you may find informative for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

Regards & thanks,

Yvonne

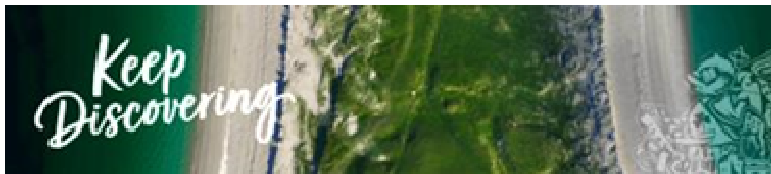
Yvonne Jackson

Product Development-Environment & Planning Support | Fáilte Ireland

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86
M +353 (0)86 0357590



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From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 15:51

To: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

[AIRE] Tháinig an teachtaireacht seo ó lasmuigh de Fáilte Ireland. Bí cúramach le hipearnasc, le ceangaltáin agus le treoracha sa ríomhphost seo.
[ATTENTION] This message originated from outside of Fáilte Ireland. Please treat hyperlinks, attachments and instructions in this email with caution.

Dear Sir/Madam,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at , Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

1. *9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
2. *Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
3. *1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
4. *A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
5. *A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
6. *Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
7. *Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
8. *Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
9. *Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
10. *Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
11. *Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
12. *Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
13. *Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
14. *Site Drainage;*
15. *Operational Stage site signage; and*
16. *All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



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From: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>

Sent: Monday 24 April 2023 11:07

To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>

Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Hello Sanghamitra,

Thank you for your email regarding the Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment that MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway.

Please see attached a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA, which you may find informative for the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment for the proposed project. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

Regards & thanks,

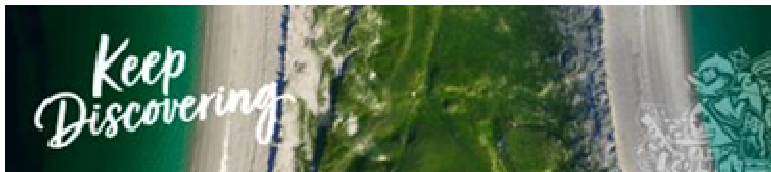
Yvonne

Yvonne Jackson

88-95 Amiens Street, Dublin 1, D01 WR86
M +353 (0)86 0357590



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From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 15:03
To: planning applications <planning.applications@failteireland.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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EIAR Guidelines for the Consideration of Tourism and Tourism Related Projects



July 2023

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1. Introduction

Tourism is a growing sector and substantial part of the Irish Economy. It contributes to both urban and rural economies in every part of the country. The impact and interaction of tourism with the environment is complex and the assessment of environmental impacts is of utmost importance to creating a sustainable tourism economy and protecting the natural resources that are so often a tourism attraction.

The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in section 2.

This guidance document has been prepared by Fáilte Ireland to update their EIA guidelines in line with changes in legislative and guidance requirements.

2. Background to this Document

Tourism is one of the largest and most important sectors of the economy, providing employment for approximately **260,000 people**, an economic contribution of **€9.5 billion**, and exchequer revenue of **€1.8 billion** in 2019, which helps fund other key public services.

In 2019 Ireland welcomed **9.7 million overseas visitors**.

Fáilte Ireland is the National Tourism Development Authority established by the Irish Government in May 2003. Fáilte Irelands role is to support the tourism industry and work to sustain Ireland as a high-quality and competitive tourism destination. They provide a range of practical business supports to help tourism businesses better manage and market their products and services.

Fáilte Ireland also work with other state agencies and representative bodies, at local and national levels, to implement and champion positive and practical strategies that will benefit Irish tourism and the Irish economy.

Fáilte Ireland promotes Ireland as a holiday destination through a domestic marketing campaign (DiscoverIreland.ie) and manage a network of nationwide tourist information centres that provide help and advice for visitors to Ireland.

Tourism related projects cover a broad range of plans, programmes and developments, from the Wild Atlantic Way to a single hotel conversion. These guidelines apply to projects involving or impacting upon tourism. A tourism plan, strategy or programme where it is part of the statutory plan making process under the Planning and Development Acts (as amended), may be more appropriately assessed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as discussed in the next section.

It should be borne in mind that EIA is required where there is anticipated to be a significant impact on the environment, where tourism projects are of a prescribed type or meet thresholds identified below.

Where Natura 2000 Designated Sites are potentially affected by tourism development Appropriate Assessment must be carried out by the appropriate authority in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive.

3. Legislation and Statutory Guidance

Environmental Impact Assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before planning based decisions are made. The assessment results in a report, called an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

Legislation

These guidelines are produced under current EIAR legislative requirements, having regard to Directive 2011/92/EU (known as 'Environmental Impact Assessment' – EIA Directive), as amended by Directive EU 2014/52 which came into effect in May of 2017. These requirements were transposed into Irish Law on 1 September 2018 as most of the provisions of the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) came into effect. The principle of both Directives is to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation.

Statutory Guidance

In response to the changes to the EIAR requirements under Directive EU 2014/52, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports in May 2022. The Guidelines are a statutory document to be regarded by those preparing EIARs and the decision makers considering the EIARs.

Some of the key changes to the EIA Directive introduced by Directive 2014/52/EU are as follows:

- Additional information to be provided in the project description to describe the location of the project, the technologies and substances used, the construction of the project and required demolition;
- The requirement for consideration of alternatives has changed from a requirement to provide 'An outline of the main alternatives studied by the developer and an indication of the main reasons for this choice, taking into account the environmental effects' to 'a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment';
- A refinement of the environmental factors to be considered in the assessment with an increased focus on resource efficiency, climate change, biodiversity and disaster prevention;
- Changes to Prescribed Environmental Factors with 'Land' being added, 'Human Beings' replaced by 'Population & Human Health' and 'Flora & Fauna' replaced by 'Biodiversity';

- The developer is required to have competent experts to prepare the EIAR and the Board is required to have access to sufficient expertise to assess the EIAR;
- Requirement for the incorporation of mitigation and monitoring measures in consents and ensuring that developers deliver these measures;
- The requirements for the assessment of cumulative effects with existing and/or approved projects, taking into account existing environmental issues to be considered; and
- Reasoned decisions made with regard to the EIA outcomes must be provided.

In addition to the EPA statutory guidance, the Department of Housing has produced Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment in August 2018.

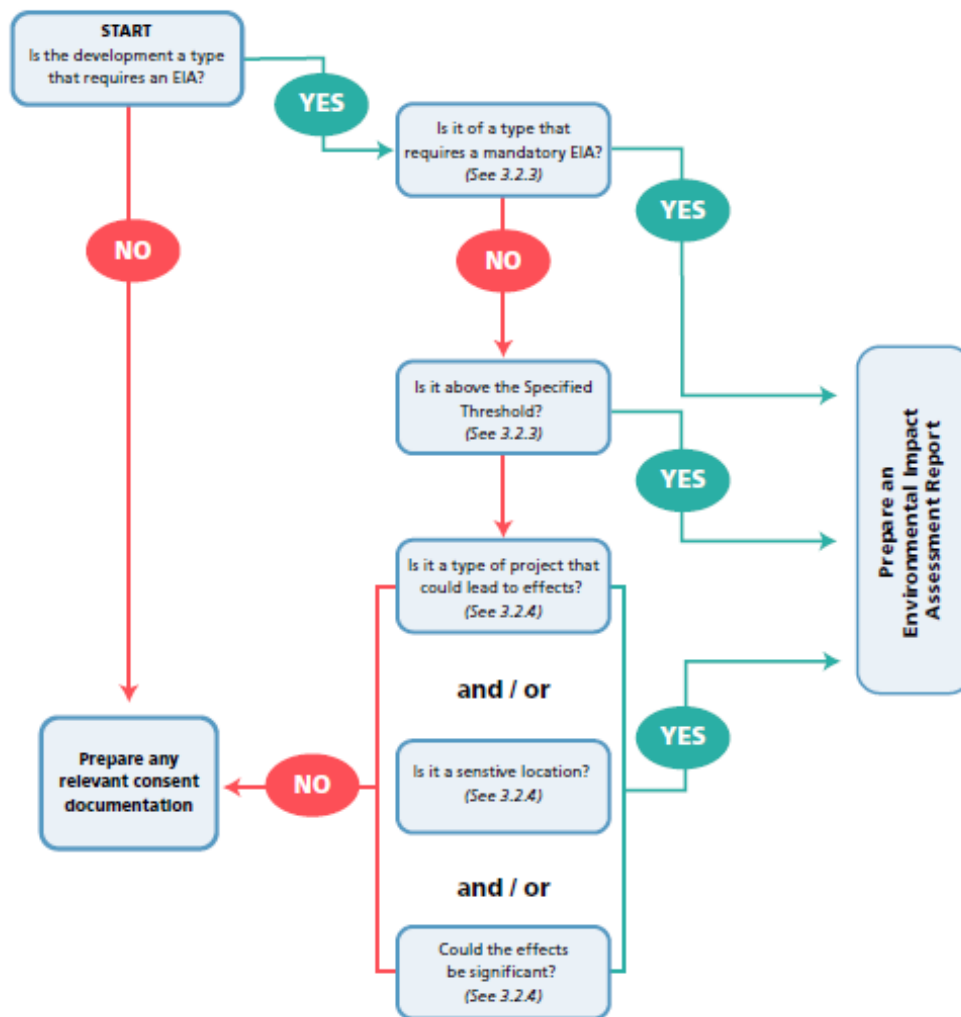
The process of EIA is set out in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, this document should be read in conjunction with and used as supplementary guidance to the EPA EIAR Guidelines. The process for ascertaining whether an EIAR is required is known as ‘screening’ and the process to determine the breadth and scope of an EIAR is known as ‘scoping’. Guidance on this can be found in Section 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines.

Screening

Through EIA Screening, developments are either considered as requiring an EIAR due to the project type or because they exceed a threshold level. The screening process begins by establishing whether the proposal is a ‘project’ as understood by the Directive (as amended).

The prescribed development types and thresholds are set out in Annex I and II of the EIA Directive as transposed into Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2010-2018 (as amended). Development which does not exceed these thresholds but may require an EIAR are called sub threshold. Sub-Threshold considerations are outlined in Schedule 7 of European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018) as transposed from Annex III of the Directive. The Guidelines on Environmental Impact Assessment Reports note that projects at first glance may not appear to come under the Schedule but on closer examination when the process is further examined, they may do so because of the sensitivity or significance of the receiving environment etc. Sub threshold developments require an EIAR if they are likely to have significant environmental impacts and must undergo assessment for likely significant impacts through an EIAR screening report. The contents of a screening report for subthreshold development are contained in Annex III of the EIA Directive.

Figure 1: EIAR Screening Process



(Taken from Fig 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines)

Tourism locations should be identified as sensitive receptors in screening assessments for particular impacts, depending on scale and sensitivity, as they would in a full EIAR. Section 6 below can act as guidance for Screening Reports as well as for full EIAR.

The screening process for considering where an EIAR is necessary, is summarised above in Figure 1 (excerpted from Figure 3.2 of the EPA Guidelines).

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a more strategic level of environmental assessment that examines plans, policies, objectives and programmes specifically rather than projects. For some tourism developments it may be more appropriate that they be examined through SEA, while individual projects or specific proposals are likely to be more assessed through EIAR. If a project is part of a plan, programme or policy/objective assessed by SEA there may still be a requirement for an EIAR for that development (subject to EIA Screening assessment).

EIAR Scoping

Scoping an EIAR is an opportunity to look at the breadth of issues and ensure that any areas of possible significant impact are assessed. Identifying sensitivities and stakeholders should take account of tourism facilities and consider Fáilte Ireland in scoping requests where necessary.

4. Assessing Tourism

There is no legal definition of 'tourism' in Irish legislation. The UNWTO definition of sustainable tourism is *"Tourism that takes full account of its current and future economic, social and environmental impacts, addressing the needs of visitors, the industry, the environment and host communities"*. This is widely accepted as a key definition of tourism as we move to a more sustainable future.

Tourism assessments are frequently carried out by economic consultants and by specific tourism consultants. It is always advisable, particular for tourism projects, that suitably qualified and experienced personnel are used to determine the impact of tourism related projects or to assess the impact of more general proposals on a tourism asset identified in a particular location. There is a requirement for EIAR under current legislation to contain a statement of competency within all EIAR documents, including screening and scoping reports.

Projects which involve a tourism element

Tourism projects are wide ranging and diverse. While there are some projects which cater to tourism and are easily identified as such - Hotels, Museums, etc. there are other projects where tourism is a key service or element, but which may not be immediately obvious – walking/cycling/forest trails, greenways, blueways, community facilities and others. EIAR conducted for developments containing tourist elements should be completed in accordance with the current guidance from the EPA.

Projects which include a tourism element can have potential for particular environmental effects which differ from a non-tourism development. These impacts can be intermittent, event related, inconsistent, dependent on weather, temporal, temporary or seasonal. This is considered within the prescribed environmental topics for EIAR outlined in Section 7 below.

Projects which may have an impact upon tourism

While tourism projects may be diverse, the projects which can impact tourism are considerably more wide ranging, from large infrastructural developments to local energy developments. Disruption to or suppression of a tourist resource or amenity can have very local or more strategic impacts, directly or indirectly- for example energy projects in a rural area can have both a negative and positive impact in different regards. There can be temporary, periodic or even seasonal impacts occurring during construction or operational periods.

According to the Fáilte Ireland Tourism Facts 2019 Report, the most important factors in determining the attractiveness of tourism destinations for visitors to Ireland are;

- Beautiful Scenery and Unspoiled Environment
- Hospitality
- Safety
- Nature, Wildlife and Natural Attractions
- History and Culture

- Pace of Life

These factors used for the promotion of tourism in Ireland are also barometers of sensitivity to change in tourism sensitive or dominant locations where development may have an impact upon the tourism asset. The potential for development to impact these sensitivities, and the environmental criteria under which they can be considered, are identified in section 7 of the guidelines.

5. Guiding Principles of EIAR

As outlined in the EPA EIAR Guidelines, the fundamental principles to be followed when preparing an EIAR, including screening and scoping, are:

- Anticipating, avoiding and reducing significant effects
- Assessing and mitigating effects
- Maintaining objectivity
- Ensuring clarity and quality
- Providing relevant information to decision makers
- Facilitating better consultation.

Environmental assessment should be undertaken in accordance with the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

6. Consideration of Competency and Qualifications

As per Section 2.5 of the EPA Guidelines, EIAR is required to be completed by '*competent experts*'.

Contributors to the preparation of environmental impact assessment reports, including screening and scoping assessments, should be qualified and competent. Sufficient expertise, in the relevant field of the project concerned, is required for the purpose of its examination by the competent authorities in order to ensure that the information provided by the developer is complete and of a high level of quality so that a full and proper assessment can be undertaken.

For tourism related projects, or projects likely to affect tourism assets, competent experts in the area of tourism should be utilised in the environmental assessment.

The competency of all involved in the production of an EIAR or any related report (e.g. Screening and scoping) is required to be stated at the beginning of the EIAR report with further details as necessary in each following chapter.

Where tourism projects involve for example heritage or cultural components, input from heritage consultants, conservation architects, or historians may be required.

7. EIAR Requirements

The following are the key requirements for an EIAR under the current guidance. This is not a definitive list and should be read in conjunction with regulations.

- project description;
- assessment of alternatives considered;
- baseline assessment;
- assessment of effects;
- cumulative impact;
- interaction of impacts;
- mitigation & monitoring; and
- residual impacts

Project Description

Project descriptions are required to describe the whole project including site, scale, design and key factors. It is important that the EIAR and design team have a consistent understanding of the development description in full. The key requirements are outlined in section 3.5 of the EPA Guidelines however they identify the following;

- the location of the project
- the physical characteristics of the whole project
- the main characteristics of the operational phase of the project
- an estimate, by type and quantity, of the expected residues and emissions

The location of the project should include identifying key sensitive receptors (including tourism receptors). In the operational phase of the project any tourism based, or potentially tourism related activity, should be identified.

Assessment of Alternatives

The assessment of the various reasonable alternatives is an important requirement of the EIA process.

Where tourism projects are location dependent the assessment of reasonable alternatives should consider alternative methods, layouts, technologies and mitigations, detail the key considerations culminating in the selection of the option/design, the reasoning for these and the environmental effect of these decisions. This is particularly important for tourism projects which are often location tied. The EPA EIAR Guidelines indicate that it is generally sufficient to provide a broad description of each main alternatives and the key issues associated with each, showing how environmental considerations were taken into account in deciding on the selected option.

Baseline Assessment

Baseline descriptions are evidence based, current descriptions of environmental characteristics with consideration of likely changes to the baseline environment evidenced in planning histories, unimplemented permissions, and applications pending determination. Baseline assessments should identify any tourism sensitivities in the zone of influence of a development. This zone of influence of a development is highly dependent on its **Context, Character, Significance, and Sensitivity**, as outlined in the EPA EIAR Guidelines. These characteristics apply to both the development and the environment.

For example, in a tourism context;

The location of sensitive tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected should be highlighted, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of in combination impacts such as alteration of traffic flows or increased urban development.

The character of an area from a tourism perspective should be described and the principal types of tourism in the area. Where relevant, the specific environmental resources or attributes in the existing environment which each group uses or values should be stated and where relevant, indicate the time, duration or seasonality of any of those activities.

The significance of the tourism assets or activities likely to be affected should be highlighted. Reference to any existing formal or published designation or recognition of such significance should be included. Where possible the value of the contribution of such tourism assets and activities to the local economy should also be provided.

If there are any significant concerns or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism stakeholders and interest groups, this should be highlighted. Identify, where possible, the particular aspect of the development which is of concern, together with the part of the existing tourism resource which may be threatened or impacted.

In addition, the baseline should include any methodologies employed in the study to obtain information, if particular databases are used to locate sensitive receptors they should be acknowledged. In relation to tourism information, the suggested information sources at the end of this document are a non-exhaustive list which may be of assistance in identifying tourism receptors.

Impact Assessment

The topics for consideration of impact are prescribed in the EIA Directive and transcribed into Irish law by the European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018 (S.I. No. 296 of 2018). Impact assessment should contain the likely significant effects of a development arising from both construction and operation of a development. Advice on describing the effects is contained within the EPA EIAR Guidelines and includes the **quality, significance, extent, probability, type** and **duration** of the effect, with particular descriptors for each. In describing effects upon tourism receptors these descriptors should take account of the particular aspects and sensitivities of tourism, for example a temporary annual effect from a development may have different impacts upon tourism if it falls at peak season rather than off-peak.

Impact assessment should be carried out as per EPA guidelines and the best practice for that prescribed topic. It may be considered appropriate to consider impact on tourism under the 'Population and Human Health' and / or 'Landscape' topics as suggested below.

Population and Human Health

The consideration of tourism projects within the Population and Human Health is extensive, with impacts ranging from rural employment population impacts of seasonal tourism, to the health impact of air pollution from increased traffic in urban areas.

The impact upon tourism can be considered within this section through the sensitivities of Hospitality, Safety and Pace of Life. Changes in population can impact the perception of pace of life or safety in a particular location. Impacts upon these issues in areas which rely heavily on tourism or have a particular sensitive tourism generator should be considered in this section. The EPA guidelines makes reference to amenity “..which may be relevant under ‘Population and Human Health’ and ‘Landscape’”.

Biodiversity

Particular tourist activities can have a significant impact upon biodiversity. Landscapes which are ‘unspoiled’ can be attractors of tourism. However, the disturbance to ecology must be managed to minimise impacts.

Biodiversity is also a tourism asset and should be protected as such from other development and should be provided for in proposals where possible.

The assessment should also consider current Government policy on nature conservation as outlined in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (NBAP) (and subsequent iterations (Including draft NBAP recently open for public consultation, to cover 2023 to 2027) which also includes Ireland's vision for biodiversity below.

'That biodiversity and ecosystems in Ireland are conserved and restored, delivering benefits essential for all sectors of society and that Ireland contributes to efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystems in the EU and globally.'

Land, Soils and Geology

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however particular activities or facilities which use geological features may have an impact upon soils and geology, such as mountain biking trails, recreational uses of old quarries etc.

The impact upon Geotourism related to geoheritage within the natural environment, e.g., any impacts on UNESCO Global Geoparks, of which we currently have three on the island of Ireland; Copper Coast in Co. Waterford, Burren and Cliffs of Moher in Co. Clare, and Cuilcagh Lakelands in Cavan and Fermanagh should be considered (where applicable) in this section.

Indirect impacts such as material use for extensive landscaping and public realm should also be considered.

Water

Tourism uses can be water intense, depending on development type. Recreational use of a surface water feature, water-based leisure centres etc have different impacts to standard development.

Air Quality and Climate

Tourism impact upon air quality is dependent on the activity proposed and sensitivity of the location. If the tourism project includes a large increase in transportation services, collection of baseline air emission data is advised. Transportation emissions affect not only air quality, but also greenhouse gases. Changing climatic patterns due to climate change should be factored into this analysis.

Noise and Vibration

A link between tourism and this prescribed environmental factor, beyond the normal development impacts, is rare, however the impact upon tourism of issues of noise and vibration can be significant. Construction adjoining hotels for example should consider the sensitivity of the development and ensure mitigation is in place.

Material Assets; Traffic and Transport

The different transport patterns associated with tourism activities is a key impact of tourism and should be considered especially for tourism projects. These produce temporal and seasonal changes on the norm and specialist consideration and interpretation should be given. Tourism proposals should, where possible, be well served by public transport and should be accessible by modes other than the car. The impact of traffic on tourism assets can be substantial and can vary in severity according to season, the weather, etc. The impact of construction traffic can be a particular concern in tourism sensitive areas in terms of noise pollution and visual impact. The construction programme of developments should work to

avoid peak tourism periods in tourism areas and should consider planned or anticipated tourism events and festivals.

Cultural Heritage

Cultural heritage can be a key component of tourism projects and the impact of tourism on the maintenance of cultural heritage should be given the utmost consideration, whether positive or negative. As a tourism attraction, cultural heritage should be strongly considered in non-tourism developments and the impact upon tourism considered as a potential impact.

Archaeology

Archaeology can be of tourism interest and can be an attractive or key component of tourism projects. Archaeology can be a tourism attractor and given that national policy emphasis on the non-renewable nature of the archaeology and archaeological heritage, focus should be a presumption in favour of its preservation in-situ or where preservation in-situ is not the option chosen, there must be preservation by record (i.e. archaeological excavation and recording must take place) in line with statutory requirements.

Material Assets; Waste Management

Tourism is a resource heavy activity and can impact waste streams and waste segregation. Impacts here should be considered strongly and with knowledge of the variation that arises from the particular tourist activity. Waste and Waste disposal issues can also impact the perception of an unspoiled environment, effecting tourism, which should be considered.

Material Assets

Material assets outside of the material assets already referenced that should be considered are built services (utilities) and infrastructure. Tourism development should include impact assessment on built services (utilities) and infrastructure while non tourism related development should consider the effect on tourism, which should be considered.

Landscape

The visual impact of a tourism development, especially in locations which are visually sensitive or renowned for their scenic or landscape beauty, should be considered carefully. A development intended to utilise or enjoy a particular vista or environment should minimise impact upon that environment.

Major Accident and Natural Disaster

There is a requirement for tourist developments to describe expected significant effects on the environment of the proposed development's vulnerability to major accidents and/or natural disasters relevant to it. Where appropriate measures should be identified to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such accidents or disasters, including resulting from climate change, on the environment and detail the preparedness for the proposed response.

Interaction of Impacts

Where two or more environmental impacts combine or interact they should be considered under the prescribed topics. It is best practice to provide a table of interactions within an EIAR or EIA Screening Report.

Cumulative Impact

The cumulative impact is that of the project combined with any known likely project which will interact or compound an environmental impact.

Transboundary Impact

Transboundary impacts should be included in EIAR. In the case of tourism, especially international travel, the transboundary impacts may not be proximate to the EIAR site.

Mitigation & Monitoring

Mitigation should follow the hierarchy of minimisation in descending order of preference- Avoid, Reduce, Remedy.

Avoid sensitive tourism resources- such as views, access and amenity areas including habitats as well as historical or cultural sites and structures.

Reduce the exposure of sensitive resources to excessive environmental impact.

Reduce the adverse effects to tourism land uses and patterns of activities, especially through interactions arising from significant changes in the intensity of use or contrasts of character or appearance.

Remedy any unavoidable significant residual adverse effects on tourism resources or activities.

Mitigation measures must be measurable and achievable within the bounds of the project.

With regard to Monitoring, Article 8a of the EIA Directive requires that:

1. 'The decision to grant development consent shall incorporate at least the following information ...

(b) any environmental conditions attached to the decision, a description of any features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment as well as, where appropriate, monitoring measures. ... 4 Member States shall ensure that the features of the project and/or measures envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset significant adverse effects on the environment are implemented by the developer, and shall determine the procedures regarding the monitoring of significant adverse effects on the environment. The type of parameters to be monitored and the duration of the monitoring shall be proportionate to the nature, location and size of the project and the significance of its effects on the environment. Existing monitoring arrangements resulting from Union legislation other than this Directive and from national legislation may be used if appropriate, with a view to avoiding duplication of monitoring.'

Residual Impacts

The residual impacts are the final predicted or intended impacts which occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented.

8. Sources of information on Tourism

Information available online

Fáilte Ireland

Fáilte Ireland offers detailed research analysis and insights into the Irish Tourism Industry. The National Tourism Development Authority has a portfolio of research across a number of areas including facts and figures, Environmental Surveying and Monitoring, briefing papers and reports and visitor feedback. The Fáilte Ireland website has a dedicated research library which can be accessed [here](#)

Fáilte Ireland also manages an environmental surveying and monitoring database as part of the Wild Atlantic Way Operational Programme which can be accessed [here](#). The purpose of this is to work with and demonstrate to our stakeholders and partners that we are committed to the sustainable development of the Wild Atlantic Way, and to be able to pre-empt and avoid environmental effects in the future should they occur.

Discover Ireland:

Operated by Fáilte Ireland, the Discover Ireland website includes comprehensive information on tourist attractions in destinations all around Ireland, including listings for activities, accommodation, events and experiences for every county, major town and region in Ireland. The website features elements from the four destination brands – Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East, Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and Visit Dublin and can be accessed [here](#).

Tourism Ireland

Tourism Ireland is responsible for marketing the island of Ireland overseas as a holiday and business tourism destination. Tourism Ireland publishes a range of research documents including; visitor facts and figures, seasonal updates and industry insights which are accessible [here](#)

Local Authorities

Local Authorities are an invaluable source of information. They produce tourism strategies and audits of tourism assets within their jurisdiction. Local authorities will also produce landscape and seascape studies. Protected views and prospects as well as the record of protected structures and other designated protected buildings are contained within the Statutory Development Plans.

Regional Assemblies

Regional Assemblies can also be consulted on high level strategic tourism and potential Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) should be consulted.

Central Statistics Office

The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is Ireland's national statistical office and their purpose is to impartially collect, analyse and make available statistics about Ireland's people, society and economy. The Tourism and Travel Section of the Central Statistics Office is the major source for tourism statistics in Ireland and is updated regularly.

Evan Connolly

From: Environmental Co-ordination (Inbox) <Environmental_Co-ordination@agriculture.gov.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 10 May 2023 11:12
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Cc: Owen Cahill
Subject: FW: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway
Attachments: Forest Service - 2023.04.14 - 190723.pdf; Cooloo Windfarm, Co Galway.pdf

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Good morning

Please see comments attached from our Felling Division

Regards

Breeda

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 8 May 2023 11:25
To: forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie; Forestry Info <forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

CAUTION: This Email originated from Outside of this department. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. Otherwise Please Forward any suspicious Emails to Notify.Cyber@agriculture.gov.ie.

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please note that the cover letter issued by MKO on the **17th of April 2023** with “**Our Ref: 190723**” had the incorrect project name in the letter subject reference field. The enclosed letter has the correct reference.

In response to the Scoping Document, please quote the project as named in the enclosed.

The Scoping Document issued with the letter dated 17th April 2023 remains unchanged.

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



Offices in Galway and Dublin

mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611

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From: Sanghamitra Dutta

Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 3:04 PM

To: forestryinfo@agriculture.gov.ie

Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta

Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



Offices in Galway and Dublin

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Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

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An Roinn Talmhaíochta, Bia agus Mara

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo, agus in aon cheangaltáin leis, faoi rún agus tá sé dírithe ar an bhfaighteoir/na faighteoirí beartaithe amháin agus níor cheart ach dóibh siúd é a úsáid. D'fhéadfadh an t-eolas seo a bheith faoi réir pribhléid dhlíthiúil agus ghairmiúil. Mura tusa faighteoir beartaithe an ríomhphost seo, níor cheart duit an teachtaireacht seo, nó aon chuid di, a úsáid, a nochtadh, a chóipeáil, a dháileadh nó a choinneáil. Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo go hearráideach, cuir an seoltóir ar an eolas láithreach agus scríos gach cóip den ríomhphost seo ó chóra(i)s do ríomhaire, le do thoil.

MKO

Tuam Road

Galway

Ireland, H91VW84

09th May 2023

Re: Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm, 15KM East of Tuam , Co Galway.

Dear Sir/Madam,

The following are the comments from this Division in relation to the proposed development:

If the proposed development will involve the felling or removal of any trees, the developer must obtain a Felling License from this Department before trees are felled or removed. A Felling Licence application form can be obtained from **Felling Section, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Johnstown Castle Estate, Co. Wexford**. Email: felling.forests@agriculture.gov.ie or Web gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

A Felling Licence granted by the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine provides authority under the Forestry Act 2014 to fell or otherwise remove a tree or trees and/or to thin a forest for silvicultural reasons. The Act prescribes the functions of the Minister and details the requirements, rights and obligations in relation to felling licences. The principal set of regulations giving further effect to the Forestry Act 2014 are the Forestry Regulations 2017 (S.I. No. 191 of 2017).

The developer should take note of the contents of **Felling and Reforestation Policy** document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; gov.ie - [Tree Felling Licences \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie) As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands.

In order to ensure regulated forestry operations in Ireland accord with the principles of sustainable forest management (SFM), as well fulfilling the requirements of other relevant environmental protection laws, the Department (acting through its Forest Service division) must undertake particular consultations, and give certain matters full consideration during the assessment of individual Felling Licence applications. This includes consultation with relevant bodies, the application of various protocols and procedures (e.g. Forest Service Appropriate Assessment Procedure), and the requirement for applicants on occasion to provide further information (e.g. a Natura Impact Statement).

Consequently, when the Forest Service is considering an application to fell trees, the following applies:

1. The interaction of these proposed works with the environment locally and more widely, in addition to potential direct and indirect impacts on designated sites and water, is assessed. Consultation with relevant environmental and planning authorities may be required where specific sensitivities arise (e.g. local authorities, National Parks & Wildlife Service, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and the National Monuments Service);
2. Where a tree Felling Licence application is received, the Department will publish a notice of the application before making a decision on the matter. The notice shall state that any person may

make a submission to the Department within 30 days from the date of the notice. The notices are published online at: gov.ie - [Felling Licence Applications \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

3. Third parties that make a submission or observation will be informed of the decision to grant or refuse the licence, and on request, details of the conditions attached to the licence, the main reasons and considerations on which the decision to grant or refuse the licence was based, and where conditions are attached to any licence, the reasons for the conditions. Both third parties and applicants will be also informed of their right to appeal any decision within 14 days to the Forestry Appeals Committee. Felling Licence decision are published online at: gov.ie - [Felling Licence Decisions \(www.gov.ie\)](http://gov.ie)

It is important to note that when applying to a **Local Authority**, or **An Bord Pleanála**, for planning permission where developments are:

- a) subject to an EIA procedure (including screening in the case of a sub-threshold development) and any resulting requirement to produce an EIAR; and/or
 - b) subject to an Appropriate Assessment procedure (including screening) and any resulting requirement to a Natura Impact Statement (NIS); and
 - c) the proposed development in its construction or operational phases, or any works ancillary thereto, would directly or indirectly involve the felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species,
1. that there is a requirement inter alia under the EIA Directive for an overall assessment of the effects of the project or the alteration thereof on the environment to be undertaken, including the direct and indirect environmental impact of the project;
- and
2. pursuant to Article 2(3) of the EIA Directive, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine strongly recommends that, notwithstanding the fact that a parallel consent in the form of felling licence may also have to be applied for, any EIAR and/or NIS produced in connection with the application for planning permission to the Local Planning Authority or An Bord Pleanála, should include an assessment of the impact of and measures, as appropriate, to prevent, mitigate or compensate for any significant adverse effects direct or indirect identified on the environment arising from such felling and replanting of trees, deforestation for the purposes of conversion to another type of land use, or replacement of broadleaf high forest by conifer species.
 3. Please note that there must be absolute spatial consistency between the felling licence areas submitted to DAFM (second authority) and all related planning documents submitted to the first authority in respect of the felling area(s)

Yours sincerely,

Catherine Boyce
Felling Section
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Johnstown Castle
Co Wexford

Evan Connolly

From: DCEE GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 12 August 2025 10:10
To: Evan Connolly
Cc: DCEE GSI Planning
Subject: RE: EIS 25/126 - Scoping Request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Evan,

With reference to your email dated 30 July 2025, regarding the scoping request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway, Geological Survey Ireland have no further comments or observations to make since our last response 23/98. If you have any further queries or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the GSI Planning Team at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,
Trish Smullen



Trish Smullen

Communications, Outreach, & Planning.

Geological Survey Ireland, Booterstown Hall, Booterstown Ave., Co. Dublin A94 N2R6.

Email: trish.smullen@gsi.ie www.gsi.ie

*The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment.
An Roinn Aeráide, Fionnaimh and Comhshaoil.*

From: DCEE GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Sent: Monday 11 August 2025 09:32
To: Patricia Smullen (DCEE) <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>
Cc: DCEE GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Subject: EIS 25/126 - Scoping Request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway

EIS 25/126

Scoping Request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway [c.f. EIS 23/98]. Request for further feedback with regards to proposed additional infrastructure. Site Plan is enclosed.

Regards,

John

From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 15:56
To: DCEE GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Subject: RE: EIS 23/98 - Scoping Request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. 9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
- x. Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. Site Drainage;*
- xv. Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611

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From: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 3 May 2023 13:27

To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>

Cc: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>; Clare Glanville <Clare.Glanville@decc.gov.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: RE: EIS 23/98 - Scoping Request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Sanghamitra,

With reference to your email dated 17 April 2023 regarding the scoping Request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway please find attached response and dataset sheet from Geological Survey Ireland.

We note that the scoping document refers to Geological Survey Ireland's old postal address. Please also find attached details of our current address.

We would be grateful if you could update your records to reflect this change.

If you have any further queries or if we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me Trish Smullen, or my colleague Clare Glanville at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Trish Smullen
Geological Survey Ireland

From: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>

Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 15:55

To: Trish Smullen <Trish.Smullen@gsi.ie>
Cc: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>
Subject: EIS 23/98 - Scoping Request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway

EIS 23/98

Scoping Request for Cooloo Wind Farm, Co Galway. Request for observations by MKO Ireland. Scoping document is enclosed.

Regards,

John

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 15:04
To: GSI Planning <GSIPlanning@GSI.ie>; John Butler <John.Butler@gsi.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Mr. Butler,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Tá eolas sa teachtaireacht leictreonach seo (agus b'fhéidir sa chomhaid ceangailte leis) a d'fhéadfadh bheith príobháideach nó faoi rún. Is le h-aghaidh an duine/na ndaoine nó le h-aghaidh an aonáin atá ainmnithe thuas agus le haghaidh an duine/na ndaoine sin amháin atá an t-eolas. Murab ionann tusa agus an té a bhfuil an teachtaireacht ceaptha dó bíodh a fhios agat nach gceadaítear nochtadh, cóipeáil, scaipeadh nó úsáid an eolais agus/nó an chomhaid seo. Más trí earráid a fuair tú an teachtaireacht leictreonach seo cuir, más é do thoil é, an té ar sheol an teachtaireacht ar an eolas láithreach. Deimhnítear leis seo freisin nár aims odh víreas sa phost seo tar éis a scanadh.



Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
MKO
Tuam Road
Galway H91 VW84

03 May 2023

Re: EIA Scoping Document for Proposed Cooloo/Clonberne Wind Farm, Co. Galway
Your Ref: 190723
Our Ref: 23/98

Dear Sanghamitra,

Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and advice and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our [website](#) for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.

With reference to your email received on the 17 April 2023, concerning the EIA Scoping Document for the proposed Cooloo/Clonberne Wind Farm, Co. Galway, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. Please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.

Geoheritage

Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.

County Geological Sites (CGSs), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include additional sites that may also be of national importance, but which were not selected as the very best examples for NHA designation. All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS. CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online [Map Viewer](#).

The audit for Co. Galway was carried out in 2019. The full report details can be found [here](#). **Our records show that there is a CGS adjacent to the proposed wind farm development study area.**

Derrynagran Bog and Esker, Co Galway (GR 157903, 252148), under IGH themes: IGH7 Quaternary, IGH16 Hydrogeology. A number of high, sinuous ridge (esker) segments, as well as an adjacent raised bog. An impressive, high, striking example of a dry sand and gravel ridge. Overall the site shows a transition from bog to esker (both of good quality) including a possible lagg zone [ecological transition from mineral soil communities to ombotrophic bog communities], which increases its overall scientific value. Link to Site Report: [GY052](#).

While it is recognised that the wind energy developments are an important place in the development of Ireland's renewable energy industry, any future wind-farm development and associated infrastructure including drainage, transmission and access road construction in the surrounding area may pose a threat to the integrity of the site. This site should be assessed as an environmental constraint. Ideally, the site should not be damaged or integrity impacted or reduced in any manner due to any proposed construction and/or modification of access roads, from traffic due to access road construction, turbine and hard stand installation. This would include impacts that may be related to altered drainage patterns, changes in soil profiles and structures etc. However, this is not always possible, and in this situation appropriate mitigation measures should be put in place to minimize or mitigate potential impacts.



We would also ask that the design of any future development considers the use of information panels as appropriate to highlight the significance of the impacted CGS. Please contact Geological Survey Ireland Planning Programme (GSIPlanning@gsi.ie) for further information and possible mitigation measures if applicable.

Groundwater

Geological Survey Ireland's [Groundwater and Geothermal Unit](#), provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems.

Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our [Map viewer](#) which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite - aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. **For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to the karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie)).** Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.

Our Karst Viewer indicates there are numerous karst landforms including enclosed depressions within the proposed wind farm development study area.

The Groundwater Data Viewer indicates an aquifer classed as a 'Regionally Important Aquifer - Karstified (conduit)' underlies the proposed wind farm development study area. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the range of groundwater vulnerabilities within the area covered is variable. We would therefore recommend use of the Groundwater Viewer to identify areas of High to Extreme Vulnerability and 'Rock at or near surface' in your assessments, as any groundwater-surface water interactions that might occur would be greatest in these areas.

Our records show that there is a groundwater drinking water abstraction: [Mid-Galway Public Water Supply Scheme](#) (PWS), with a source protection area within the proposed wind farm development study area. Key to groundwater protection in general, and protection of specific drinking water supplies, is preventing ingress of runoff to the aquifer. Design of drainage will need to be cognisant of the public water scheme and the interactions between surface water and groundwater as well as run-off. Appropriate design should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons to include mitigation measures as necessary, such as SUDs or other drainage mitigation measures.

Any excavation/cuttings required for realignment should ensure that groundwater flow within the zones of contribution to the groundwater abstraction points is not disrupted, resulting in diminished yields. Note that there could be other groundwater abstractions in the locality for which Geological Survey Ireland has not undertaken studies, and a robust assessment should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons including a survey of all current wells and water abstractions within the vicinity.

Given the nearby drinking water source (Public Water Supply Scheme), the effects of any potential contamination as a result of the wind farm project would need to be assessed.

[GWClimate](#) is a groundwater monitoring and modelling project that aims to investigate the impact of climate change on groundwater in Ireland. This is a follow on from a previous project (GWFlood) and the data may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans. Maps and data are available on the [Map viewer](#).

Geological Survey Ireland has completed Groundwater Protection Schemes (GWPSs) in partnership with Local Authorities, and there is now national coverage of GWPS mapping. A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.

The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main reports is here: <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx>



Geological Mapping

Geological Survey Ireland maintains online datasets of bedrock and subsoils geological mapping that are reliable and accessible. We would encourage you to use these data which can be found [here](#), in your future assessments.

Please note we have recently launched QGIS compatible bedrock (100K) and Quaternary geology map data, with instructional manuals and videos. This makes our data more accessible to general public and external stakeholders. QGIS compatible data can be found in our downloadable bedrock 100k .zip file on the [Data & Maps](#) section of our website.

Geohazards

Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so.

Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated [Map Viewer](#). Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available.

Geological Survey Ireland also engaged in a national project on Groundwater Flooding. The data from this project may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans, and is described in more detail under 'Groundwater' above.

Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)

Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our [Minerals section](#) of the website. The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our [Map Viewer](#).

We would recommend use of the Aggregate Potential Mapping viewer to identify areas of High to Very High source aggregate potential within the area. In keeping with a sustainable approach we would recommend use of our data and mapping viewers to identify and ensure that natural resources used in the proposed wind farm development are sustainably sourced from properly recognised and licensed facilities, and that consideration of future resource sterilization is considered.

Geochemistry of soils, surface waters and sediments

Geological Survey Ireland provides baseline geochemistry data for Ireland as part of the Tellus programme. Baseline geochemistry data can be used to assess the chemical status of soil and water at a regional scale and to support the assessment of existing or potential impacts of human activity on environmental chemical quality. Tellus is a national-scale mapping programme which provides multi-element data for shallow soil, stream sediment and stream water in Ireland. At present, mapping consists of the border, western and midland regions. Data is available at <https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/data-and-maps/Pages/Geochemistry.aspx>.

Guidelines

The following guidelines may also be of assistance:

- Institute of Geologists of Ireland, 2013. Guidelines for the Preparation of the Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology Chapters of Geology in Environmental Impact Statements.
- [EPA, 2022](#). Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR)

Other Comments

Should development go ahead, all other factors considered, Geological Survey Ireland would much appreciate a copy of reports detailing any site investigations carried out. The data would be added to Geological Survey Ireland's national database of site investigation boreholes, implemented to provide a better service to the civil engineering sector. Data can be sent to the Geological Mapping Unit, at <mailto:GeologicalMappingInfo@gsi.ie>, 01-678 2795.



I hope that these comments are of assistance, and if we can be of any further help, please do not hesitate to contact me Clare Glanville, or my colleague Trish Smullen at GSIPlanning@gsi.ie.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Clare Glanville
Senior Geologist
Geological Survey Ireland

Trish Smullen
Geoheritage and Planning Programme
Geological Survey Ireland

Enc: Table - Geological Survey Ireland's Publicly Available Datasets Relevant to Planning, EIA and SEA processes.

Evan Connolly

From: Niamh Kelly <Niamh.Kelly@hse.ie>
Sent: Thursday 28 August 2025 11:11
To: Evan Connolly
Cc: Brandon Taylor
Subject: EIA Scoping Application for the Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm, Cooloo, Co. Galway
Attachments: NEHS submission on EIA Scoping Application for the Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm Cooloo Co. Galway ID5187.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from niamh.kelly@hse.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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A Chara

Please find attached the HSE National Environmental Health Service submission on the EIA Scoping Application for the Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm, Cooloo, Co. Galway.

Best regards

Niamh Kelly
Oifigeach Sláinte Comhshaoil Sinsearach/Senior Environmental Health Officer
FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte Comhshaoil, Páirc Ghnó na Gaillimhe, An Daingean, Gaillimh.
HSE National Environmental Health Service, Galway Business Park, Dangan, Galway.
091-737350



"Tá an fhaisnéis sa ríomhphost seo (ceangaltáin san áireamh) faoi rún. Baineann sé leis an té ar seoladh chuige amháin agus tá sé ar intinn go bhfaighfidh siadsan amháin é agus gurb iadsan amháin a dhéanfaidh breithniú air. Más rud é nach tusa an duine ar leis é, tá cosc iomlán ar aon fhaisnéis atá ann, a úsáid, a chraobhscaoileadh, a scaipeadh, a nochtadh, a fhoilsiú, ná a chóipeáil. Seains gurb iad tuairimí pearsanta an údar atá san ríomhphost agus nach tuairimí FSS iad.

Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúl don Deasc Seirbhísí ECT ar an nguthán ag [+353 818 300300](tel:+353818300300) nó ar an ríomhphost chuig service.desk@hse.ie agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

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Evan Connolly

From: Evan Connolly
Sent: Friday 8 August 2025 11:11
To: Eve Smith; environmental.health@hse.ie
Cc: Brandon Taylor
Subject: RE: Scoping wind farm - Cooloo Galway
Attachments: HSE - 2023.05.23 - 190723.pdf; Proposed Project - 2025.07.30 - 190723.pdf; Reduced Cooloo WF EIAR SD F - 2022.09.14 - 190723.pdf

To whom it may concern,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. 9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*

- x. *Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. *Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. *Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. *Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. *Site Drainage;*
- xv. *Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. *All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

We have attached the original scoping response received from HSE on the 22nd of May 2023, original scoping document and final Proposed Project layout map. The HSE response received by MKO on the 22nd of May 2023 outlined matters to be included and assessed within the EIAR for Cooloo Wind Farm including Public Consultation, Population and Human Health, Water (Hydrology and Hydrogeology), Land and Soils, Air, Dust and Odour, Climate Change and Opportunity for Health Gain, Noise and Vibration, Waste Management, Ancillary Facilities and Cumulative Impacts. These comments have been taken into consideration and assessed as part of this EIAR. However, as noted, due to the time elapsed since scoping was carried out, we now welcome any final comments or recommendations the HSE may have at this time as we prepare to submit this application and EIAR to An Coimisiún Pleanála in the coming weeks.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611

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From: Eve Smith <Eve.Smith@hse.ie>
Sent: Thursday 31 July 2025 16:45

To: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping wind farm - Cooloo Galway

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Dear Evan

Unfortunately due to the time lapse – this should receive a further consultation process and you would need to submit the full scoping in addition to the points highlighted and this would require the usual 5 weeks to review – a lot has changed in the interim period since this application was scoped initially.

Could you submit the full scoping to the National Env. Health service for review. Email: Environmental Health <environmental.health@hse.ie>

Kind regards

Eve
Eve Smith
Oifigeach Sláinte Comhshaoil | Environmental Health Officer
Environment/Climate Change, Network Support Unit (NSU)

Seirbhís Sláinte Comhshaoil, Ospidéal Pobail an Chloic Liath, Bóthar Ghaoth Dobhair IAn Clochán Liath, Leitir Ceanainn, Co.Dhún Na NGall F94 Y326

Environmental Health Officer, Environmental Health Service, Dungloe Community Hospital, Letterkenny Co. Donegal. F94 Y326

087 2671962 | 074 9561206 | Eve.smith@hse.ie

From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 15:58
To: Eve Smith <Eve.Smith@hse.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping wind farm - Cooloo Galway

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Dear Eve,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. 9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
- x. Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. Site Drainage;*
- xv. Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611

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From: Eve Smith <Eve.Smith@hse.ie>
Sent: Monday 22 May 2023 10:28
To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Re: Scoping wind farm - Cooloo Galway

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Hi there

See attached amended with your ref.

Consultants -MKO Ref: 190723

Kind Regards

Eve Smith
Oifigeach Sláinte Comhshaoil | Environmental Health Officer
Environment/Climate Change, Network Support Unit (NSU)

Smaoinigh ar an gComhshaoil  An bhfuil gá an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil?

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Co.Dhún Na NGall F94 Y326

Environmental Health Officer, Environmental Health Service, Dungloe Community Hospital, Letterkenny Co. Donegal.
F94 Y326

087 2671962 | 074 9561206 | Eve.smith@hse.ie



From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 22 May 2023 10:17:24
To: Eve Smith
Subject: RE: Scoping wind farm - Cooloo Galway

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Hi Eve,

Please note that the cover letter issued by MKO on the **17th of April 2023** with “**Our Ref: 190723**” had the incorrect project name in the letter subject reference field. The enclosed letter has the correct reference.

In response to the Scoping Document, please quote the project as named in the enclosed.

The Scoping Document issued with the letter dated 17th April 2023 remains unchanged.

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Eve Smith <Eve.Smith@hse.ie>
Sent: Monday, May 22, 2023 10:00 AM
To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Scoping wind farm -clonbern galway

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To whom this may concern

Please see attached scoping submission report.

Kind Regards

Eve Smith

Oifigeach Sláinte Comhshaoil | Environmental Health Officer
Environment/Climate Change, Network Support Unit (NSU)

Smaoinigh ar an gComhshaoil  An bhfuil gá an ríomhphost seo a phriontáil?

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Environmental Health Officer, Environmental Health Service, Dungloe Community Hospital, Letterkenny Co. Donegal.
F94 Y326

087 2671962 | 074 9561206 | Eve.smith@hse.ie



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Má fuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí dhearmad, bheadh muid buíoch dá gcuirfeá in iúl don Deasc Seirbhísí ECT ar an nguthán ag [+353 818 300300](tel:+353818300300) nó ar an ríomhphost chuig service.desk@hse.ie agus ansin glan an ríomhphost seo ded' chóras."

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**FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte
Comhshaoil**

Páirc Ghnó na Gaillimhe, An
Daingean, Gaillimh. H91 EW40

**HSE National Environmental
Health Service**

Galway Business Park, Dangan,
Galway H91 EW40

www.hse.ie

T: 091 737350

E: PEHO.galway@hse.ie

National Environmental Health Service Submission Report

Date: 28th August 2025

Our Reference: ID5187

Your Reference: Project Number: 190723

Report to: MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

Type of Consultation: EIA Scoping

The following HSE stakeholders were consulted on the scoping of the EIA on the 11th August 2025:

- HSE Emergency Planning
- HSE Estates
- Director of National Health Protection
- Community Health Organisation

The following are observations of the National Environmental Health Service (NEHS).

Any clarification on these observations should be made in the first instance to

Maria Horkan PEHO
Complaints Officer

Galway Business Park, Dangan, Galway H91 EW40

T: (091) 737350

E: Maria.horkan@hse.ie

HSE EIA Scoping

National Environmental Health Service Submission Report

Type of consultation: Scoping

Reference Number: Project Number: 190723

EHIS Reference number: ID5187

Proposed Development:

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;

Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;

1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);

A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;

A new temporary site entrance on the R332;

Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;

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Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;

Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;

Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;

Peat and Spoil Management Areas;

Tree felling and hedgerow removal;

Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);

Site Drainage;

Operational Stage site signage; and all ancillary works and apparatus.

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/guidelines-on-the-information-to-be-contained-in-environmental-impact-assessment.php>

This Guidance is supported by a Webinar produced by the EPA and can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ejKVFUztBY>

The applicant should also consider the findings of the High Court judgement issued in the judicial review of the Derryadd Wind Farm. (2021 IEHC 390 [20202 No. 557 JR] P. Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála)

And with regard to general noise considerations of noise and wind farms the judgement in [2024] IEHC 136 [2018 8457 P] MARGARET WEBSTER AND KEITH ROLLO AND MEENACLOGHSPAR (WIND) LIMITED

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should examine all likely significant effects from the proposed development and provide the following information for each:

- a) Description of the receiving environment
- b) The nature and scale of the impact
- c) An assessment of the significance of the impact
- d) Proposed mitigation measures
- e) Residual impact

Directive 2014/52/EU has an enhanced requirement to assess likely significant effects on Population and Human Health. It is the experience of the NEHS that impacts on human health are often inadequately assessed in EIAs in Ireland. It is recommended that the wider determinants of health and wellbeing are considered in a proportionate manner when considering the EIA. Guidance on wider determinants of health can be found at www.publichealth.ie

In addition to any likely significant negative effects from the proposed development, any positive likely significant impacts should also be assessed.

The NEHS will consider the final EIAR accompanying the SID/Planning application and will make comments to An Bord Pleanála/Local Planning Authority on the methodology used for assessing the likely significant effects and the evaluation criteria used in assessing the significance of the effect.

The NEHS recommends that the following matters are included and assessed in the EIAR

- Public Consultation
- Population and human health
- Decommissioning phase of the proposed wind farm
- Siting and location of turbines
- Noise & Vibration
- Shadow Flicker
- Air Quality

- Surface and Groundwater Quality
- Ancillary facilities
- Cumulative impacts
- Climate
- Health gain

Public Consultation

It is recommended that early and meaningful public consultation with the local community is undertaken to ensure all likely significant effects of the proposed windfarm development have been adequately addressed.

All parties affected by the proposed development, including those who may benefit financially from the project, must be fully informed of what the proposal entails especially with regard to potential impacts on surrounding areas.

Sensitive receptors and other stakeholders should be identified to ensure all necessary and appropriate mitigation measures are put in place to reduce the likelihood of any complaints about the proposed wind farm development in the future.

Members of the public should be given sufficient opportunity to express their views on the proposed windfarm development.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should clearly demonstrate the link between public consultations and how those consultations have influenced the decision-making process in the EIA.

To assist with the consultation and planning process it is recommended that the applicant develops a dedicated website for the proposed windfarm development. All correspondence, maps, project updates and documentation including the EIAR should be uploaded to the website.

The EIAR should state the period of planning permission sought, the length of time construction is estimated to take and if it is anticipated that the windfarm development will be decommissioned and removed or will continue to operate (following any further planning consent) at the end of this period of planning permission (should permission be granted)

Population Health and Human Health

The opinion of the NEHS is that the assessment of likely significant effects on Population and Human Health should be a proportionate assessment specific to the proposed development and to the Population and Human Health likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.

If assessment is made of likely significant effects on wider determinants of health or health inequalities, then this should be done in a proportionate manner with a demonstration of a likely significant effect as a direct result of the proposed development.

The preferred methodology for assessing likely significant effects on Population and Human Health is a source, pathway, receptor model; based on emissions through environmental media and

population exposure. This approach is supported by the EPA issued National Guidance (known as the EIAR Guidance): Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, 2022 https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EIAR_Guidelines_2022_Web.pdf

In assessing likely significant effects on Population and Human Health any proposed mitigation measures should be identified. The residual impact should be evaluated against a recognised Health Protection Standard.

Whilst current EIAR guidance recognises the requirement to identify sensitive receptors within the assessment process, it should be clear that this is within a Population Health approach and not an individual person approach.

It is therefore the opinion of the NEHS that a Population Health approach would not consider the likely significant effects on the sensitivity of an individual human receptor, but the sensitivity of the established land use or service provision.

For example, a school would be considered a sensitive receptor within a Population Health approach, but an individual student who was particularly sensitive to noise attending the school would not be specifically considered in the assessment criteria. A health care facility that provided services for people with recognised noise sensitivity would be considered in its entirety as a particular noise sensitive location.

It is therefore the opinion of the NEHS that the EIA should consider the likely significant effects on established land use and service provision and activities within communities and not individual members of communities.

Opportunities for Health Gain

Consideration should be given to opportunities for health gain from the proposed development. This would include opportunities to create recreational spaces, opportunities to increase physical exercise through walking and cycle routes.

Non-Technical Summary

The Non-Technical Summary of the EIA (NTS) is an important document that facilitates public access and understanding of the proposed development. It should accurately summarise the likely significant impacts, proposed mitigation and the residual impacts after mitigation has been implemented, that are attributable to the proposed development. This should be done in non-technical language and relate accurately to the specific chapters of the EIAR. The NTS should identify all sensitive receptors that are likely to be significantly impacted and clearly state the significance of the effects on them. The NEHS considers that a summary should be no more than 10% of the original document size and should cross reference any appendix of the EIAR that contains relevant data on any likely significant effects.

Decommissioning

The EIAR should detail the eventual fate of the wind turbines and associated material i.e. will the material be recycled or how will it be disposed of.

Information should also be provided regarding the proposed methodology to be used for the disposal of the materials forming the foundations of the wind turbines.

The EIAR should indicate the proposed future use of the development site at the end of the planning permission period.

Siting, Location and details of Turbines

The EIAR should include a map and a description of the proposed location of each of the proposed wind turbines.

The NEHS expects that details (height and model) of the turbines to be installed will be available at the time planning permission is sought and will be included in the EIAR.

Details of the foundations for the wind turbine including depth, quantity and material to be used should be included in the EIAR.

Assessment of Consideration of Alternatives

The EIAR should consider an assessment of alternatives. The EHS recommends that alternative renewable energy options to on- shore wind farms should be assessed as part of the EIAR.

Noise & Vibration

The potential impacts for noise and vibration from the proposed development on all noise sensitive locations must be clearly identified in the EIAR. The EIAR must also consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of all proposed mitigation measures and evaluate the residual impact against recognised health protection standards.

A baseline noise monitoring survey should be undertaken to establish the existing background noise levels.

Baseline noise should cover day, evening and night-time periods

Noise from any existing turbines in the area should not be included as part of the background levels.

An assessment of the predicted noise impacts during the construction phase and the operational phase of the proposed windfarm development should be undertaken which details the predicted change in the noise environment resulting from the proposed development.

It is recommended that changes in the noise environment at Noise Sensitive Locations are shown in a tabulated format that shows the predicted change in the noise environment at each noise sensitive location.

An example is shown in the table below

Location 1	Standardised wind speed at 10 metre height (9m/s) within the site averaged over 10 minute periods										
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Noise sensitive location 1 –											

background noise level											
Noise Sensitive location 1 – predicted LA rated											
Proposed Relative Rated Noise Limit											
Repeat above for all noise sensitive locations											

Standardised wind speed at 10 metre height 9m/s) within the site averaged over 10 minute periods

The NEHS would consider the most appropriate criteria for assessing significance of the predicted noise would be consideration of the **ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE GUIDELINES for the European Region, 2018** The 2018 WHO Guidance set health protection levels for exposure to environmental <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/279952/9789289053563-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

The Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines were published in December 2019. Whilst these have yet to be adopted, any proposed wind farm development should have consideration of the draft Guidelines.

https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/draft_revised_wind_energy_development_guidelines_december_2019.pdf .

It should be noted that in the judgement of **Ms. Justice Emily Egan delivered on the 8th day of March 2024 in Webster/Rollo V Meenaclogher (Wind) Limited (2024 IEHC 136) 8th March 2024** it was stated very clearly that considerations should be given to the most up to date knowledge and Guidance when considering impacts from noise. This would include the assessment methodology and the known significance of health effects from exposure to noise.

The current Guidelines for Wind Energy Development are: Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f449e-wind-energy-development-guidelines-2006/>

It should be recognised that the nature of wind energy development has significantly changed since the publication of these Guidelines, particularly the size of the turbines and the proximity to centres of populations and the cumulative effects with other wind energy development. There have also been substantial increases in the body of knowledge around the likely significant effects of the operation of windfarm development on Population Health, in particular around the characteristic of the noise emissions and health effects of shadow flicker.

The noise assessment for the proposed development should consider the likely significant effects of noise and vibration at sensitive receptors from the following aspects:

- Construction noise and vibration from the wind turbine installation; and
- Operational noise from the wind turbines.

The noise assessment should consider the potential impacts of noise generated during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed development on nearby noise-sensitive receptors.

The assessment should consider all proposed (planning application submitted), consented and operational development that may contribute to noise effects at the receptors.

During the construction phase of the project, it is considered that the potential sources of noise impact will include the mobile plant and the drilling and piling operations necessary to undertake the construction. These operations have the potential to cause noise impacts at sensitive receptors. In addition, the drilling and piling have the potential to cause vibration impacts at sensitive receptors.

During the operational phase of the project, it is considered that the potential sources of noise are aerodynamic noise from the wind turbine blades and any rotational or mechanical noise from the hubs of the wind turbines.

Shadow Flicker

It is recommended that turbine selection will be based on the most advanced available technology that permits shut down during times when residents are exposed to shadow flicker. As a result, no dwelling should be exposed to shadow flicker.

Air Quality

Due to the nature of the proposed construction works generation of airborne dust has the potential to have significant impacts on sensitive receptors. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be included in the EIAR which details dust control and mitigation measures. Measures should include:

- Sweeping of hard road surfaces
- Provision of a water bowser on site, regular spraying of haul roads
- Wheel washing facilities at site exit
- Restrict speed on site
- Provide covers to all delivery trucks to minimise dust generation
- Inspect and clean public roads in the vicinity if necessary
- Material stockpiling provided with adequate protection from the wind
- Dust monitoring at the site boundary
- Truck inspection and maintenance plan

- Details of a road maintenance agreement between the operator and the Local Roads Authority to clarify responsibility for the upkeep and repair of access roads during the construction phase of the project .

Surface and Ground Water Quality

The proposed development has the potential to have a significant impact on the quality of both surface and ground water.

The NEHS recommends that a walk over survey of the site is undertaken in addition to a desktop analysis of Geological Survey of Ireland data in order to identify the location of private wells used for drinking water purposes.

Any potential significant impacts to drinking water sources should be assessed. All drinking water sources, both surface and ground water, must be identified. Public and Group Water Scheme sources and supplies should be identified in addition to any private wells supplying potable water to houses in the vicinity of the proposed development. Measures to ensure that all sources and supplies are protected should be described.

Details of bedrock, overburden, vulnerability, groundwater flows, aquifers and catchment areas should be considered when assessing potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

Any impacts on surface water as a result of the construction of the underground cables should be identified and addressed in the EIAR.

Geotechnical and Peat Stability Assessment (*for peat areas only*)

A detailed assessment of the current ground stability of the site for the proposed windfarm development and all proposed mitigation measures should be detailed in the EIAR. The assessment should include the impact construction work may have on the future stability of ground conditions, taking into consideration extreme weather events, site drainage and the potential for soil erosion.

Information should be provided on the make and model of the turbines and on construction details for the turbine foundations, including the depth and volume of concrete required. An accurate assessment of the potential impacts of the foundations on water quality and peat stability cannot be undertaken without this information.

Reference is made to a peat slide which occurred near Ballybofey in Co. Donegal on 13th November 2020 which may have been linked to construction activity at Meenbog Wind Farm.

Potential impacts on water supply associated with contamination following a peat slide include sedimentation and alteration of pH levels.

The NEHS recommends that a detailed Peat Stability/Geotechnical Assessment should be undertaken to assess the suitability of the soil for the proposed development. The EIAR should include provision for a peat stability monitoring programme to identify early signs of potential bog slides ('pre-failure indicators' see the Scottish Government's 'Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Developments 2017)

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and->

Ancillary Facilities

The EIAR should include details of the location of all site office, construction compound, fuel storage depot, sanitary accommodation and canteen, First Aid facilities, disposal of wastewater and the provision of a potable water supply to the site canteen.

Cumulative Impacts

All existing or proposed wind farm developments in the vicinity should be clearly identified in the EIAR.

The impact on sensitive receptors of the proposed development combined with any other wind farm/renewable energy developments in the vicinity should be considered. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of any likely significant cumulative impacts of the proposed windfarm development.

For each technical discipline, an assessment should be made of the likely cumulative effects of the proposed development in combination with any other similar developments in proximity to the site which are reasonably defined and understood; these would comprise projects that:

- are the subject of valid planning applications or appeals but not yet determined;
- consented development; or
- development under construction.

Cumulative effects can also arise from the combined impact of effects attributable to the proposed development in respect of a particular receptor, such as the combined effect of noise and shadow flicker on a residential dwelling

Climate

Climate Mitigation

The EIA should assess factors that contribute to climate change as a result of the proposed development and should identify any mitigation or sustainability measures that can be incorporated into the development, particularly:

- a) An assessment of Green-House Gas emissions (the nature and magnitude of such emissions) as a result of the proposed development to include the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. This assessment should identify how emissions can be reduced or mitigated at each stage.
- b) An assessment of water usage and opportunities for water conservation, including rainwater harvesting and recycling of both process and rain water,

- c) An assessment of energy usage and the opportunities to use renewable energy sources and reduce energy demands. This should include transport and machine use during construction and operation.
- d) An assessment of any waste generated at each stage of the development and implementation of the Waste Hierarchy.

Climate Vulnerability

The EIA should consider the vulnerability of the proposed development to climate change.

This should be specific to the project and include an assessment of the risks to the project associated from direct weather-related hazards during both the construction and operation phase of the proposed development. For example:

- a) Risks to the proposed development associated with flooding,
- b) Risks to the proposed development associated with storms events,
- c) Risks to the proposed development from extreme heat events,
- d) Any risks to the security of energy or water supplies



Andrew Sulley
Senior Environmental Health Officer



**FSS Seirbhís Náisiúnta Sláinte
Comhshaoil**

Páirc Ghnó na Gaillimhe, An
Daingean, Gaillimh. H91 EW40

**HSE National Environmental
Health Service**

Galway Business Park, Dangan,
Galway H91 EW40

www.hse.ie

T: 091 737350

E: PEHO.galway@hse.ie

National Environmental Health Service Submission Report

Date: 28th August 2025

Our Reference: ID5187

Your Reference: Project Number: 190723

Report to: MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91 VW84

Type of Consultation: EIA Scoping

The following HSE stakeholders were consulted on the scoping of the EIA on the 11th August 2025:

- HSE Emergency Planning
- HSE Estates
- Director of National Health Protection
- Community Health Organisation

The following are observations of the National Environmental Health Service (NEHS).

Any clarification on these observations should be made in the first instance to

Maria Horkan PEHO
Complaints Officer

Galway Business Park, Dangan, Galway H91 EW40

T: (091) 737350

E: Maria.horkan@hse.ie

HSE EIA Scoping

National Environmental Health Service Submission Report

Type of consultation: Scoping

Reference Number: Project Number: 190723

EHIS Reference number: ID5187

Proposed Development:

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;

Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;

1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);

A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;

A new temporary site entrance on the R332;

Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;

Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo

Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;

Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;

Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;

Peat and Spoil Management Areas;

Tree felling and hedgerow removal;

Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);

Site Drainage;

Operational Stage site signage; and all ancillary works and apparatus.

<https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/guidelines-on-the-information-to-be-contained-in-environmental-impact-assessment.php>

This Guidance is supported by a Webinar produced by the EPA and can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/ejKVFUztBY>

The applicant should also consider the findings of the High Court judgement issued in the judicial review of the Derryadd Wind Farm. (2021 IEHC 390 [20202 No. 557 JR] P. Sweetman v An Bord Pleanála)

And with regard to general noise considerations of noise and wind farms the judgement in [2024] IEHC 136 [2018 8457 P] MARGARET WEBSTER AND KEITH ROLLO AND MEENACLOGHSPAR (WIND) LIMITED

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should examine all likely significant effects from the proposed development and provide the following information for each:

- a) Description of the receiving environment
- b) The nature and scale of the impact
- c) An assessment of the significance of the impact
- d) Proposed mitigation measures
- e) Residual impact

Directive 2014/52/EU has an enhanced requirement to assess likely significant effects on Population and Human Health. It is the experience of the NEHS that impacts on human health are often inadequately assessed in EIAs in Ireland. It is recommended that the wider determinants of health and wellbeing are considered in a proportionate manner when considering the EIA. Guidance on wider determinants of health can be found at www.publichealth.ie

In addition to any likely significant negative effects from the proposed development, any positive likely significant impacts should also be assessed.

The NEHS will consider the final EIAR accompanying the SID/Planning application and will make comments to An Bord Pleanála/Local Planning Authority on the methodology used for assessing the likely significant effects and the evaluation criteria used in assessing the significance of the effect.

The NEHS recommends that the following matters are included and assessed in the EIAR

- Public Consultation
- Population and human health
- Decommissioning phase of the proposed wind farm
- Siting and location of turbines
- Noise & Vibration
- Shadow Flicker
- Air Quality

- Surface and Groundwater Quality
- Ancillary facilities
- Cumulative impacts
- Climate
- Health gain

Public Consultation

It is recommended that early and meaningful public consultation with the local community is undertaken to ensure all likely significant effects of the proposed windfarm development have been adequately addressed.

All parties affected by the proposed development, including those who may benefit financially from the project, must be fully informed of what the proposal entails especially with regard to potential impacts on surrounding areas.

Sensitive receptors and other stakeholders should be identified to ensure all necessary and appropriate mitigation measures are put in place to reduce the likelihood of any complaints about the proposed wind farm development in the future.

Members of the public should be given sufficient opportunity to express their views on the proposed windfarm development.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) should clearly demonstrate the link between public consultations and how those consultations have influenced the decision-making process in the EIA.

To assist with the consultation and planning process it is recommended that the applicant develops a dedicated website for the proposed windfarm development. All correspondence, maps, project updates and documentation including the EIAR should be uploaded to the website.

The EIAR should state the period of planning permission sought, the length of time construction is estimated to take and if it is anticipated that the windfarm development will be decommissioned and removed or will continue to operate (following any further planning consent) at the end of this period of planning permission (should permission be granted)

Population Health and Human Health

The opinion of the NEHS is that the assessment of likely significant effects on Population and Human Health should be a proportionate assessment specific to the proposed development and to the Population and Human Health likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development.

If assessment is made of likely significant effects on wider determinants of health or health inequalities, then this should be done in a proportionate manner with a demonstration of a likely significant effect as a direct result of the proposed development.

The preferred methodology for assessing likely significant effects on Population and Human Health is a source, pathway, receptor model; based on emissions through environmental media and

population exposure. This approach is supported by the EPA issued National Guidance (known as the EIAR Guidance): Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, 2022 https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EIAR_Guidelines_2022_Web.pdf

In assessing likely significant effects on Population and Human Health any proposed mitigation measures should be identified. The residual impact should be evaluated against a recognised Health Protection Standard.

Whilst current EIAR guidance recognises the requirement to identify sensitive receptors within the assessment process, it should be clear that this is within a Population Health approach and not an individual person approach.

It is therefore the opinion of the NEHS that a Population Health approach would not consider the likely significant effects on the sensitivity of an individual human receptor, but the sensitivity of the established land use or service provision.

For example, a school would be considered a sensitive receptor within a Population Health approach, but an individual student who was particularly sensitive to noise attending the school would not be specifically considered in the assessment criteria. A health care facility that provided services for people with recognised noise sensitivity would be considered in its entirety as a particular noise sensitive location.

It is therefore the opinion of the NEHS that the EIA should consider the likely significant effects on established land use and service provision and activities within communities and not individual members of communities.

Opportunities for Health Gain

Consideration should be given to opportunities for health gain from the proposed development. This would include opportunities to create recreational spaces, opportunities to increase physical exercise through walking and cycle routes.

Non-Technical Summary

The Non-Technical Summary of the EIA (NTS) is an important document that facilitates public access and understanding of the proposed development. It should accurately summarise the likely significant impacts, proposed mitigation and the residual impacts after mitigation has been implemented, that are attributable to the proposed development. This should be done in non-technical language and relate accurately to the specific chapters of the EIAR. The NTS should identify all sensitive receptors that are likely to be significantly impacted and clearly state the significance of the effects on them. The NEHS considers that a summary should be no more than 10% of the original document size and should cross reference any appendix of the EIAR that contains relevant data on any likely significant effects.

Decommissioning

The EIAR should detail the eventual fate of the wind turbines and associated material i.e. will the material be recycled or how will it be disposed of.

Information should also be provided regarding the proposed methodology to be used for the disposal of the materials forming the foundations of the wind turbines.

The EIAR should indicate the proposed future use of the development site at the end of the planning permission period.

Siting, Location and details of Turbines

The EIAR should include a map and a description of the proposed location of each of the proposed wind turbines.

The NEHS expects that details (height and model) of the turbines to be installed will be available at the time planning permission is sought and will be included in the EIAR.

Details of the foundations for the wind turbine including depth, quantity and material to be used should be included in the EIAR.

Assessment of Consideration of Alternatives

The EIAR should consider an assessment of alternatives. The EHS recommends that alternative renewable energy options to on- shore wind farms should be assessed as part of the EIAR.

Noise & Vibration

The potential impacts for noise and vibration from the proposed development on all noise sensitive locations must be clearly identified in the EIAR. The EIAR must also consider the appropriateness and effectiveness of all proposed mitigation measures and evaluate the residual impact against recognised health protection standards.

A baseline noise monitoring survey should be undertaken to establish the existing background noise levels.

Baseline noise should cover day, evening and night-time periods

Noise from any existing turbines in the area should not be included as part of the background levels.

An assessment of the predicted noise impacts during the construction phase and the operational phase of the proposed windfarm development should be undertaken which details the predicted change in the noise environment resulting from the proposed development.

It is recommended that changes in the noise environment at Noise Sensitive Locations are shown in a tabulated format that shows the predicted change in the noise environment at each noise sensitive location.

An example is shown in the table below

Location 1	Standardised wind speed at 10 metre height (9m/s) within the site averaged over 10 minute periods										
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Noise sensitive location 1 –											

background noise level											
Noise Sensitive location 1 – predicted LA rated											
Proposed Relative Rated Noise Limit											
Repeat above for all noise sensitive locations											

Standardised wind speed at 10 metre height 9m/s) within the site averaged over 10 minute periods

The NEHS would consider the most appropriate criteria for assessing significance of the predicted noise would be consideration of the **ENVIRONMENTAL NOISE GUIDELINES for the European Region, 2018** The 2018 WHO Guidance set health protection levels for exposure to environmental <https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/279952/9789289053563-eng.pdf?sequence=1>

The Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines were published in December 2019. Whilst these have yet to be adopted, any proposed wind farm development should have consideration of the draft Guidelines.

https://www.housing.gov.ie/sites/default/files/public-consultation/files/draft_revised_wind_energy_development_guidelines_december_2019.pdf .

It should be noted that in the judgement of **Ms. Justice Emily Egan delivered on the 8th day of March 2024 in Webster/Rollo V Meenaclogher (Wind) Limited (2024 IEHC 136) 8th March 2024** it was stated very clearly that considerations should be given to the most up to date knowledge and Guidance when considering impacts from noise. This would include the assessment methodology and the known significance of health effects from exposure to noise.

The current Guidelines for Wind Energy Development are: Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/f449e-wind-energy-development-guidelines-2006/>

It should be recognised that the nature of wind energy development has significantly changed since the publication of these Guidelines, particularly the size of the turbines and the proximity to centres of populations and the cumulative effects with other wind energy development. There have also been substantial increases in the body of knowledge around the likely significant effects of the operation of windfarm development on Population Health, in particular around the characteristic of the noise emissions and health effects of shadow flicker.

The noise assessment for the proposed development should consider the likely significant effects of noise and vibration at sensitive receptors from the following aspects:

- Construction noise and vibration from the wind turbine installation; and
- Operational noise from the wind turbines.

The noise assessment should consider the potential impacts of noise generated during the construction, operation, and decommissioning of the proposed development on nearby noise-sensitive receptors.

The assessment should consider all proposed (planning application submitted), consented and operational development that may contribute to noise effects at the receptors.

During the construction phase of the project, it is considered that the potential sources of noise impact will include the mobile plant and the drilling and piling operations necessary to undertake the construction. These operations have the potential to cause noise impacts at sensitive receptors. In addition, the drilling and piling have the potential to cause vibration impacts at sensitive receptors.

During the operational phase of the project, it is considered that the potential sources of noise are aerodynamic noise from the wind turbine blades and any rotational or mechanical noise from the hubs of the wind turbines.

Shadow Flicker

It is recommended that turbine selection will be based on the most advanced available technology that permits shut down during times when residents are exposed to shadow flicker. As a result, no dwelling should be exposed to shadow flicker.

Air Quality

Due to the nature of the proposed construction works generation of airborne dust has the potential to have significant impacts on sensitive receptors. A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) should be included in the EIAR which details dust control and mitigation measures. Measures should include:

- Sweeping of hard road surfaces
- Provision of a water bowser on site, regular spraying of haul roads
- Wheel washing facilities at site exit
- Restrict speed on site
- Provide covers to all delivery trucks to minimise dust generation
- Inspect and clean public roads in the vicinity if necessary
- Material stockpiling provided with adequate protection from the wind
- Dust monitoring at the site boundary
- Truck inspection and maintenance plan

- Details of a road maintenance agreement between the operator and the Local Roads Authority to clarify responsibility for the upkeep and repair of access roads during the construction phase of the project .

Surface and Ground Water Quality

The proposed development has the potential to have a significant impact on the quality of both surface and ground water.

The NEHS recommends that a walk over survey of the site is undertaken in addition to a desktop analysis of Geological Survey of Ireland data in order to identify the location of private wells used for drinking water purposes.

Any potential significant impacts to drinking water sources should be assessed. All drinking water sources, both surface and ground water, must be identified. Public and Group Water Scheme sources and supplies should be identified in addition to any private wells supplying potable water to houses in the vicinity of the proposed development. Measures to ensure that all sources and supplies are protected should be described.

Details of bedrock, overburden, vulnerability, groundwater flows, aquifers and catchment areas should be considered when assessing potential impacts and proposed mitigation measures.

Any impacts on surface water as a result of the construction of the underground cables should be identified and addressed in the EIAR.

Geotechnical and Peat Stability Assessment (*for peat areas only*)

A detailed assessment of the current ground stability of the site for the proposed windfarm development and all proposed mitigation measures should be detailed in the EIAR. The assessment should include the impact construction work may have on the future stability of ground conditions, taking into consideration extreme weather events, site drainage and the potential for soil erosion.

Information should be provided on the make and model of the turbines and on construction details for the turbine foundations, including the depth and volume of concrete required. An accurate assessment of the potential impacts of the foundations on water quality and peat stability cannot be undertaken without this information.

Reference is made to a peat slide which occurred near Ballybofey in Co. Donegal on 13th November 2020 which may have been linked to construction activity at Meenbog Wind Farm.

Potential impacts on water supply associated with contamination following a peat slide include sedimentation and alteration of pH levels.

The NEHS recommends that a detailed Peat Stability/Geotechnical Assessment should be undertaken to assess the suitability of the soil for the proposed development. The EIAR should include provision for a peat stability monitoring programme to identify early signs of potential bog slides ('pre-failure indicators' see the Scottish Government's 'Peat Landslide Hazard and Risk Assessments: Best Practice Guide for Proposed Electricity Developments 2017)

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and->

Ancillary Facilities

The EIAR should include details of the location of all site office, construction compound, fuel storage depot, sanitary accommodation and canteen, First Aid facilities, disposal of wastewater and the provision of a potable water supply to the site canteen.

Cumulative Impacts

All existing or proposed wind farm developments in the vicinity should be clearly identified in the EIAR.

The impact on sensitive receptors of the proposed development combined with any other wind farm/renewable energy developments in the vicinity should be considered. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of any likely significant cumulative impacts of the proposed windfarm development.

For each technical discipline, an assessment should be made of the likely cumulative effects of the proposed development in combination with any other similar developments in proximity to the site which are reasonably defined and understood; these would comprise projects that:

- are the subject of valid planning applications or appeals but not yet determined;
- consented development; or
- development under construction.

Cumulative effects can also arise from the combined impact of effects attributable to the proposed development in respect of a particular receptor, such as the combined effect of noise and shadow flicker on a residential dwelling

Climate

Climate Mitigation

The EIA should assess factors that contribute to climate change as a result of the proposed development and should identify any mitigation or sustainability measures that can be incorporated into the development, particularly:

- a) An assessment of Green-House Gas emissions (the nature and magnitude of such emissions) as a result of the proposed development to include the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. This assessment should identify how emissions can be reduced or mitigated at each stage.
- b) An assessment of water usage and opportunities for water conservation, including rainwater harvesting and recycling of both process and rain water,

- c) An assessment of energy usage and the opportunities to use renewable energy sources and reduce energy demands. This should include transport and machine use during construction and operation.
- d) An assessment of any waste generated at each stage of the development and implementation of the Waste Hierarchy.

Climate Vulnerability

The EIA should consider the vulnerability of the proposed development to climate change.

This should be specific to the project and include an assessment of the risks to the project associated from direct weather-related hazards during both the construction and operation phase of the proposed development. For example:

- a) Risks to the proposed development associated with flooding,
- b) Risks to the proposed development associated with storms events,
- c) Risks to the proposed development from extreme heat events,
- d) Any risks to the security of energy or water supplies



Andrew Sulley
Senior Environmental Health Officer

Sanghamitra Dutta

From: Colin Hedderly <Colin.Hedderly@irishrail.ie>
Sent: Thursday, May 18, 2023 10:37 AM
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: RE: Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm Co Galway - your ref 190723
Attachments: Iarnród Éireann - 2023.04.14 - 190723.pdf; [Untitled].pdf

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

FAO Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta

Dear Sanghamitra,

Thank-you for your clarification of 3rd May. The location of the Cooloo windfarm is approximately 12km East of Tuam and as this is remote from the Iarnród Éireann railway network it does not concern Iarnród Éireann.

Please bear in mind that should the grid connection for the proposed development be planned to cross railway property then the developer must enter into a wayleave agreement with Iarnród Éireann and CIÉ for the crossings. It is unclear from the documents submitted what route is planned for the grid connection.

Regards,

Colin Hedderly

Senior Track & Structures Engineer, Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, CCE Dept, Old Railway Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 C573.

Mobile: 087 9681735 E-mail: colin.hedderly@irishrail.ie



From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 3 May 2023 09:26
To: Colin Hedderly <Colin.Hedderly@irishrail.ie>
Subject: RE: Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm Co Galway - your ref 190723

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Colin,

Thank you for your email response. Please note that the letter issued by me on the 17th of April with “**Our Ref: 190723**” had the incorrect project name in the letter subject reference field. The enclosed letter has the correct reference.

In response to the Scoping Document, please quote the project as named in the enclosed.

The Scoping Document issued with the letter dated 17th April 2023 remains unchanged.

Kind Regards,

Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Colin Hedderly <Colin.Hedderly@irishrail.ie>
Sent: Thursday, April 27, 2023 12:28 PM
To: MKO-Admin <info@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: James Lally <James.Lally@irishrail.ie>
Subject: Proposed Cooloo Wind Farm Co Galway - your ref 190723

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

FAO Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta

Dear Sanghamitra,

I reply to your attached letter of 17 April 2023. This proposed development is remote from the Iarnród Éireann railway network and therefore does not concern Iarnród Éireann.

Please bear in mind that should the grid connection for the proposed development be planned to cross railway property then the developer must enter into a wayleave agreement with Iarnród Éireann and CIÉ for the crossings. It is unclear from the documents submitted what route is planned for the grid connection.

Regards,

Colin Hedderly

Senior Track & Structures Engineer, Iarnród Éireann/Irish Rail, CCE Dept, Old Railway Station, Grace Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 C573.

Mobile: 087 9681735 E-mail: colin.hedderly@irishrail.ie



Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe, faoi theorainn scaireanna, cláraithe in Éirinn ag Stáisiún Uí Chonghaile, Baile Átha Cliath 1, Ur. 119571 Ur. CBL: IE 4812851 O,
Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail, a designated activity company, limited by shares, registered in Ireland at Connolly Station, Dublin 1, No. 119571 VAT No. IE 4812851 O

In Iarnród Éireann, creideann muid in obair sholúbtha a éascú, agus mar sin, cé go n-oireann sé dom ríomhphost a sheoladh anois, níl mé ag súil le freagra ná gníomh lasmuigh de d'uaireanta oibre.
At Iarnród Éireann we believe in facilitating flexible working, so while it suits me to email now, I do not expect a response or action outside of your own working hours.



Infrastructure Manager's Office
Iarnród Éireann
Old Railway Station
Grace Road
Athlone
Co. Westmeath

Our Ref: 190723
Your Ref:

Date: 17th April 2023

Re: EIA Scoping Document for Proposed Clonberne Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

MKO is preparing an Environmental Impact Assessment Report for a proposed wind farm development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The applicant for the proposed development is Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited. It is envisaged that the proposed Wind Energy development will encompass approximately 9 no. wind turbines and associated infrastructure, including battery storage at the substation compound alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop into the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site in east-west direction, known as the Cloon-Lanesborough line. The 110kV works including the provision of the 110kV substation, Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) and the underground grid connection cabling, are subject to a separate/concurrent Section 182A/E submission to ABP.

An application will be made to An Bord Pleanála (Board) in relation to the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) status, of the proposed wind energy development. If the Board determine that the development is indeed SID, the planning application will be submitted directly to An Bord Pleanála, under the provisions of Planning and Development (Strategic Infrastructure) Act 2006. Should the project be of a scale lower than the SID thresholds, applications for planning permission will be made to Galway County Council.

As part of the EIA process, we would welcome any comments that you might have in relation to the proposed project, including baseline data, survey techniques or potential impacts that should be considered as part of the assessment process and in the preparation of the EIAR. A Scoping Document providing details of the Proposed Development and the site of the Proposed Development is enclosed with this letter.



MKO, Tuam Road, Galway, Ireland. H91 VW84

+ 353 (0)91 735611 | info@mkoireland.ie | www.mkoireland.ie | [@mkoireland](https://twitter.com/mkoireland)

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan Ltd. t/a MKO. Registered in Ireland No. 462657. VAT No. IE9693052R.

If you could return any comments or suggestions at your earliest convenience, it would be much appreciated. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

ENCL -
Scoping Document



Evan Connolly

From: Planning <planning@iaa.ie>
Sent: Thursday 31 July 2025 17:33
To: Evan Connolly
Cc: Planning
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Evan,

Thank you for your email and scoping request for the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm to be located Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands, Co Galway.

Given the information provided, it is likely that the following general observations would be proffered by IAA Aerodromes Division during a formal planning process:

In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to:

- (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 blade tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and
- (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection in accordance with S.I 215 of 2005 Irish Aviation Authority (Obstacles to Aircraft In Flight) Order.

Kind regards,

Dave

From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 4:03 PM
To: Planning <planning@iaa.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

*** This message originated from outside the Irish Aviation Authority. Please treat hyperlinks, attachments and instructions in this email with caution. ***

Dear Sir/Madam,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. 9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
- x. Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. Site Drainage;*
- xv. Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611

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From: Christophe O'BRIEN <Christophe.O'BRIEN@IAA.ie> **On Behalf Of** Planning

Sent: Tuesday 13 June 2023 16:19

To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

You don't often get email from planning@iaa.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Good afternoon Sanghamitra,

Thank you for your email and apologies for the delay in responding, we are currently working through a significant backlog of planning related correspondence. The correspondence was forwarded to the Aerodromes Division of the IAA for review on the 15th May, as per the email chain below.

For future reference, please forward all such scoping / planning correspondence directly to: planning@iaa.ie

Based on the preliminary information provided, should a formal planning application be submitted, the Irish Aviation Authority will likely offer the following general observations:

"In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to: (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind turbine development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection."

Following [the separation of the Irish Aviation Authority and Air Navigation Ireland \(the IAA ANSP\) from the 30th April 2023](#), Air Navigation Ireland has responsibility for the maintenance and safeguarding of en route communications and navigation surveillance equipment in Ireland. Please forward the report for their review to: planning@airnav.ie

Best Regards,

Christophe

Christophe O'Brien

Aerodromes Inspector

The Times Building, 11-12 D'Olier Street, Dublin 2, D02 T449



IRISH AVIATION AUTHORITY
ÚDARÁS EITLÍOCHTA NA HÉIREANN

From: IAA INFORMATION <iaainfo@IAA.ie>
Sent: Monday, May 15, 2023 11:44 AM
To: Planning <planning@iaa.ie>
Subject: FW: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 11:28 AM
To: IAA INFORMATION <iaainfo@IAA.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

*** This message originated from outside the Irish Aviation Authority. Please treat hyperlinks, attachments and instructions in this email with caution. ***

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please note that the cover letter issued by MKO on the **17th of April 2023** with “**Our Ref: 190723**” had the incorrect project name in the letter subject reference field. The enclosed letter has the correct reference.

In response to the Scoping Document, please quote the project as named in the enclosed.

The Scoping Document issued with the letter dated 17th April 2023 remains unchanged.

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: IAA INFORMATION <iaainfo@IAA.ie>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 3:20 PM
To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Automatic reply: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

You don't often get email from iaainfo@iaa.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Thank you for contacting the Irish Aviation Authority. Your email will be responded to within ten working days.

If your query is in relation to a licence please email licensing@iaa.ie

Kind regards,
Irish Aviation Authority

=====

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=====

=====

Evan Connolly

From: Planning <Planning@water.ie>
Sent: Friday 5 September 2025 16:54
To: Evan Connolly
Subject: RE: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm - Follow-up Scoping
Attachments: UÉ_Response EIAR Scoping .pdf

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Sir/Madam,

In response to a referral for 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm.

Please find attached Uisce Éireann's observations.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Martha Gilligan
Planning Application Specialist

Uisce Éireann
Teach Colvill, 24–26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86, Éire
Uisce Éireann
Colvill House, 24–26 Talbot Street, Dublin 1, D01 NP86, Ireland
T + 01 932 5582
M +353 86 932 5582
jbloggs@water.ie
www.water.ie
[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 16:14
To: Planning <Planning@water.ie>
Subject: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm - Follow-up Scoping

You don't often get email from econnolly@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Sir/Madam,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on March 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. *9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. *Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. *1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. *A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. *A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. *Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. *Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. *Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. *Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
- x. *Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. *Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. *Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. *Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. *Site Drainage;*
- xv. *Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. *All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



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Is don duine amháin nó don eintiteas amháin ainmnithe ar an seoladh an fhaisnéis agus d'fhéadfadh ábhar faoi rún, faoi phribhléid nó ábhar atá íogair ó thaobh na tráchtála de a bheith mar chuid den fhaisnéis. Tá toirmeasc ar aon daoine nó aon eititis; nach dóibh siúd an fhaisnéis- aon athbhreithniú a dhéanamh, aon atarchur a dhéanamh nó aon athdháileadh a dhéanamh, nó aon úsáid eile a bhaint as an bhfaisnéis, nó aon ghníomh a bhraithfeadh ar an bhfaisnéis seo a dhéanamh agus d'fhéadfaí an dlí a shárú dá ndéanfaí sin. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas as aon ghníomh agus as aon iarmhairt bunaithe ar úsáid neamhúdraithe na faisnéise seo. Séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le seachadadh iomlán agus ceart na faisnéise sa chumarsáid seo agus séanann Uisce Éireann dliteanas maidir le haon mhoill a bhaineann leis an bhfaisnéis a fháil. Má tá an ríomh-phost seo faighte agat trí dhearmad, déan teagmháil leis an seoltóir más é do thoil é agus scríos an t-ábhar ó gach aon ríomhaire. D'fhéadfadh ríomhphost a bheith so-ghabhálach i leith truaillithe, idircheaptha agus i leith leasuithe neamhúdraithe. Séanann Uisce Éireann aon fhreagracht as athruithe nó as idircheapadh a rinneadh ar an ríomhphost seo nó as aon dochar do chórais na bhfaighteoirí déanta ag an teachtaireacht seo nó ag a ceangaltáin tar éis a sheolta. Tabhair faoi deara go bhféadfadh monatóireacht a bheith á dhéanamh ar theachtaireachtaí chuig Uisce Éireann agus ó Uisce Éireann d'fhonn ár ngnó a chosaint agus chun a chinntiú go bhfuiltear ag teacht le beartais agus le caighdeáin Uisce Éireann. Is cuideachta

gníomhaíochta ainmnithe é Uisce Éireann atá faoi theorainn scaireanna, a bunaíodh de bhun fhorálacha na n-Achtanna um Sheirbhísí Uisce 2007-2022, a bhfuil a bpríomh-ionad gnó ag Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid na Talbóide, BÁC 1.

Go raibh maith agat as d'aird a thabhairt.

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Thank you for your attention.

Uisce Éireann Ref: PN25000027766

Planning Ref: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm - Follow-up EIAR Scoping Request

Planning Authority: Galway County Council

Issue Date: 5 September 2025

Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WA07
Éire

Uisce Éireann
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 1 89 25000
F: +353 1 89 25001
www.water.ie

Development Location:

Approximately 15km southeast of Tuam

Development Description:

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. 9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;
- ii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;
- iii. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);
- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;
- v. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;
- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;
- vii. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo
- viii. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;
- ix. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;
- x. Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;
- xi. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;
- xii. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;
- xiii. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);
- xiv. Site Drainage;
- xv. Operational Stage site signage; and
- xvi. All ancillary works and apparatus.

A Chara,

Stiúrthóirí / Directors: Tony Keohane (Cathaoirleach / Chairman), Niall Gleeson (POF / CEO), Christopher Banks, Fred Barry, Gerard Britchfield, Liz Joyce, Patricia King, Eileen Maher, Cathy Mannion, Michael Walsh.

Oifig Chláraithe / Registered Office: Teach Colvill, 24-26 Sráid Thalbóid, Baile Átha Cliath 1, D01 NP86 / Colvill House, 24-26 Talbot Street, Dublin, Ireland D01NP86
Is cuideachta ghníomhaíochta ainmnithe atá faoi theorainn scaireanna é Uisce Éireann / Uisce Éireann is a design activity company, limited by shares.
Cláraithe in Éirinn Uimh.: 530363 / Registered in Ireland No.: 530363.

Uisce Éireann (UÉ) has reviewed the indicative plan submitted and have the following observation(s).

Proximity to Uisce Éireann Assets

The proposed works are within the Zone of Contribution of an Uisce Eireann public drinking water supply – the Mid Galway water supply zone.

Protection of drinking water source(s) from potentially adverse impacts is a priority for Uisce Éireann. It is Uisce Éireann's current policy to maintain safe and secure drinking water supplies and ensure that development will not give rise to any deterioration in water quality. Development proposals shall not impact public drinking water sources and/or abstraction point(s). It is also a requirement of the Water Framework Directive that waters used for the abstraction of drinking water are protected to avoid deterioration in quality. Development proposals shall not impact public drinking water sources and/or abstraction point(s).

The EIAR must identify, assess and mitigate the risks of the proposed development on the public drinking supply. Details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to Uisce Éireann's Drinking Water Source(s) during the construction and operational phases of the development must be outlined. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified as part of an EIAR and/or the planning application.

The EIAR should be submitted to Uisce Éireann for review and comment prior to the lodgement of any planning application.

Queries for the Uisce Éireann Development Management Planning Team and EIAR Scoping Requests should be sent to planning@water.ie

Dermot Phelan,

Connections Delivery Manager

Advisory Note(s):

*Uisce Éireann does not permit build over of its assets. Separation distances from public infrastructure, as per Uisce Éireann's Standards Codes and Practices must be achieved. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a diversion enquiry to Uisce Éireann Diversions Section (diversions@water.ie) prior to construction, where a potential build over of public assets is in question and/or where the applicants proposals cannot achieve separation distances from public infrastructure as per UÉ Standards & Codes of Practice.

For the attention of Eileen Corley
Environmental Scientist
MKO
Tuam Road,
Galway, H91 VW84

By Email: ecorley@mkoireland.ie

Date: 20th March 2023

Re: EIA Scoping Request – Proposed Wind Farm at Cooloo

Dear Eileen Corley

Uisce Éireann has received your email notification and accompanying report re. for a proposed wind farm in Cooloo Co. Galway.

Please see attached, Uisce Éireann's scoping opinion in relation to Water Services. On receipt of the planning referral, Uisce Éireann will review the finalised Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) as part of the planning process.

Queries relating to the terms and the EIA scoping opinions below should be directed to planning@water.ie

PP. *Ali Robinson*

Geoffrey Burke

Connections and Developer Services

Uisce Éireann
Bosca OP 6000
Baile Átha Cliath 1
D01 WA07
Éire

Uisce Éireann
PO Box 6000
Dublin 1
D01 WA07
Ireland

T: +353 1 89 25000
F: +353 1 89 25001
www.water.ie

Uisce Éireann's Response to EIA Scoping Requests

At present, Uisce Éireann does not have the capacity to advise on the scoping of individual projects. However, in general the following aspects of Water Services should be considered in the scope of an EIA where relevant;

- a) Where the development proposal has the potential to impact an Uisce Éireann Drinking Water Source(s), the applicant shall provide details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to Uisce Éireann's Drinking Water Source(s) during the construction and operational phases of the development. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified as part of the report.
- b) Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is required to include a waste sampling strategy to ensure the material is inert.
- c) Mitigations should be proposed for any potential negative impacts on any water source(s) which may be in proximity and included in the environmental management plan and incident response.
- d) Any and all potential impacts on the nearby reservoir as public water supply water source(s) are assessed, including any impact on hydrogeology and any groundwater/ surface water interactions.
- e) Impacts of the development on the capacity of water services (*i.e. do existing water services have the capacity to cater for the new development*). This is confirmed by Uisce Éireann in the form of a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF). If a development requires a connection to either a public water supply or sewage collection system, the developer is advised to submit a Pre-Connection Enquiry (PCE) enquiry to Uisce Éireann to determine the feasibility of connection to the Uisce Éireann network.

All pre-connection enquiry forms are available from <https://www.water.ie/connections/connection-steps/>.
- f) The applicant shall identify any upgrading of water services infrastructure that would be required to accommodate the proposed development.
- g) In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network.
- h) In relation to the management of surface water; the potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks and potential measures to minimise and or / stop surface waters from combined sewers.

- i) Any physical impact on Uisce Éireann assets – reservoir, drinking water source, treatment works, pipes, pumping stations, discharges outfalls etc. including any relocation of assets.
- j) When considering a development proposal, the applicant is advised to determine the location of public water services assets, possible connection points from the applicant's site / lands to the public network and any drinking water abstraction catchments to ensure these are included and fully assessed in any pre-planning proposals. Details, where known, can be obtained by emailing an Ordnance Survey map identifying the proposed location of the applicant's intended development to datarequests@water.ie
- k) Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within the applicant's lands are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site.
- l) Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to Uisce Éireann discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion / circulation characterises. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant's site and receiving waters should be identified within the report.
- m) Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (*and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source*) or the potential of the development to influence / present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by Uisce Éireann for public supply should be identified within the report.
- n) Where a development proposes to connect to an Uisce Éireann network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges wastewater to a "protected"/ sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site / conservation objectives of the site would be compromised should be identified within the report.
- o) Mitigation measures in relation to any of the above ensuring a zero risk to any Uisce Éireann drinking water sources (Surface and Ground water).

This is not an exhaustive list.

Please note;

- Where connection(s) to the public network is required as part of the development proposal, applicants are advised to complete the Pre-Connection Enquiry process and have received a Confirmation of Feasibility letter from Uisce Éireann ahead of any planning application.
- Uisce Éireann will not accept new surface water discharges to combined sewer networks.

Evan Connolly

From: IWT Info <info@iwt.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 18 April 2023 14:36
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: Re: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Sanghamitra,

Thank you for contacting us. We do not have the staff capacity to respond to this consultation at the moment but we will endeavour to respond if possible.

Kind regards,
Fabiola Vieira

On Mon, 17 Apr 2023 at 16:47, Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie> wrote:

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,

Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta

Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



Offices in Galway and Dublin

mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611

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Irish Wildlife Trust, 8 Cabra Road, Dublin 7, D07T1W2

Registered Charity (CRA) Number: 20010966

Facebook: IrishWildlifeTrust

Twitter: @irishwildlife

Phone: 01 445 7259 (landline available Wednesday-Thursday 9:30 to 5pm)

Sanghamitra Dutta

From: Cormac McConigley <cmconigley@lawaters.ie>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2023 2:13 PM
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Sanghamitra,

Thank you for the email and info in regards the scheme. I hope that you are getting good interaction from stakeholders locally.

Just to note that LAWPRO are **not** a Statutory Consultee. Galway County Council are the appropriate Local Authority statutory consultee for the proposed development.

However, I would like to bring to the attention of the Project Team the presence of WFD Monitoring Station downstream of the Scheme near Abbeyknockmoy – these can be identified on the EPA Water Maps here <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water> ; with a full WFD Data package available for download in various formats from <https://gis.epa.ie/GetData/Download> under the Water Framework Directive Tab.

The Scheme also appears to be in the Prioritised Area for Action “Coolourty Brierfield GWS. Brierfield and District GWS” under the 2022-2027 dRBMP. In this area there will be a particular focus by LAWPRO on protecting water quality where it is currently achieving its objective, information on the Area for Action is available at www.lawaters.ie and <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/Water>.

If you require some further info on historic water quality monitoring, sub catchment characterisation summaries and other applicable Water Quality data please check the data pages on the EPA Catchments.ie website. <https://www.catchments.ie/data>

Thanks,

Cormac

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 2:44 PM
To: Cormac McConigley <cmconigley@lawaters.ie>
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Evan Connolly

From: Sanghamitra Dutta
Sent: Monday 8 May 2023 14:22
To: Housing Manager DAU
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway
Attachments: NPWS - 2023.04.14 - 190723.pdf

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please note that the cover letter issued by MKO on the **17th of April 2023** with “**Our Ref: 190723**” had the incorrect project name in the letter subject reference field. The enclosed letter has the correct reference.

In response to the Scoping Document, please quote the project as named in the enclosed.

The Scoping Document issued with the letter dated 17th April 2023 remains unchanged.

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Sent: Thursday, April 20, 2023 3:36 PM
To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

You don't often get email from manager.dau@npws.gov.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Our Ref: (Please quote in all related correspondence)

A Chara,

I acknowledge receipt of your recent consultation.

Our system is down at the moment so I am unable to provide our reference number for this application but once it is back up and running I'll send it on.

In the event of observations, you will receive a co-ordinated heritage-related response by email from Development Applications Unit (DAU).

The normal target turnaround for pre-planning and other general consultations is six weeks from date of receipt. In relation to general consultations from public bodies under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 to 2011, the Department endeavours to meet deadline dates, where requested.

If you have not heard from DAU and wish to receive an update, please email manager.dau@housing.gov.ie.

*Regards
Malcolm*

Malcolm Hillis
Executive Officer

—
Aonad na nIarratas ar Fhorbairt
Development Applications Unit
An Roinn Tithíochta, Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage

Oifigí an Rialtais
Government Offices
Bóthar an Bhaile Nua, Loch Garman, Contae Loch Garman, Y35 AP90
Newtown Road, Wexford, County Wexford, Y35 AP90

—
www.tithiocht.gov.ie
www.housing.gov.ie



**An Roinn Tithíochta,
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta**
*Department of Housing,
Local Government and Heritage*

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 14:51
To: Housing Manager DAU <Manager.DAU@npws.gov.ie>
Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Your Ref: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm

Our Ref: G Pre00067/2023

(Please quote in all related correspondence)

29 May 2023

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta

MKO

Tuam Road,

Galway,

H91 VW84

Via email: sdutta@mkoireland.ie

Re: preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report for a proposed wind farm development at Cooloo, Co. Galway

A chara

I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above.

Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department under the stated heading(s).

Nature Conservation

The Department refers to your request for observations on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm development, Co. Galway, on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited. These observations are intended to assist you in relation to identifying potential impacts on European sites, other nature conservation sites, and biodiversity and environmental protection in general, in the context of the current proposal. The observations here are not exhaustive, and are made without prejudice to any recommendation that may be made by this Department in the future. Data collected and surveys carried out in connection with this proposed development may raise other issues that have not been considered here.

The Department notes the scope of ecological surveys set out in the EIAR scoping document provided by MKO, and recommends the following for consideration;



- Bird surveys for all species should cover bird usage and facilitate assessment of potential collision risk, habitat loss, barrier effect and displacement for these species and should be based around the daily and seasonal activity patterns of the species being surveyed. Survey work should cover year-round site use and should cover a minimum of two years to allow for an accurate determination of site usage. Hinterland surveys should include breeding raptor surveys, including roost watches, surveys for nocturnal species and other species-specific surveys as appropriate. Vantage point (VP) surveys should be done in a manner that ensures sufficient data is collected to allow an assessment of the importance of all the flight paths into, out of and between sites and assess migratory movements. Consequently, the Department recommends that a visibility analysis of topography and vegetation is used in the selection of vantage points for ornithological surveys. Technological solutions should also be considered in conjunction with VPs surveys to ensure sufficient data is compiled for assessment. Results for species need to be referenced back to the overall populations and their dynamics as, in some cases even a small risk to a population of a species could be considered significant. Cumulative impact on birds from surrounding sites needs to be considered in the assessment. It is important that bird migration routes (day and night) are assessed as well as the flight lines (day and night) of bird species travelling between roosting and feeding areas. Limitations in guidance documentation, used in the analysis and discussion of results from any bird surveys, should be acknowledged, e.g. species that are covered by the guidance, data gaps and application to the Irish environment. Surveys should be designed to also include an assessment of improved agricultural lands. These types of intensified landscape features have the potential to provide feeding habitat and attract wintering wildfowl species (e.g. whooper swan and GWF Goose).
- Bat roosts may be present in trees, buildings and bridges. Bat species are protected under the Wildlife Act, 1976 to 2018, and are subject to a regime of strict protection pursuant to the requirements of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as transposed in Irish law in Regulation 51 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 (as amended). Therefore, damage/disturbance to any such roosts must be avoided in the first instance. While the Minister may grant a derogation licence under Regulation 54 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015, a licence can only be granted



once a number of strict criteria have been met (see Regulation 54). An assessment of the impact of the proposed wind farm on bat species should be carried out noting recent guidance available, “*Bat and Onshore Wind Turbines: Survey, Assessment and Mitigation, 2019*” published jointly by Scottish Natural Heritage and Bat Conservation Trust and other stakeholders. The Department would like to highlight new research on patterns of bat activity in upland wind farms¹ which indicates it is more appropriate to use 30 day survey periods with static automated detectors, in each season, and in different weather conditions to reduce sampling bias and to accurately determine when the curtailment mitigation is required during the operational phase. This survey should include use of detectors at different heights. Any proposed bat friendly lighting should be proven to be effective and follow up-to-date guidance.

- Wetlands are important areas for biodiversity and ground and surface water quality should be protected during construction and operation of the proposed development. The EIAR should include a detailed assessment of the hydrological impacts on wetlands from the proposed development. Any watercourse or wetland which may be impacted on should be surveyed for the presence of protected species and species listed on Annexes II and IV of the Habitats Directive. For example, these species could include Otter (*Lutra lutra*) which are protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex II and IV of the Habitats Directive, Salmon (*Salmo salar*), Lamprey (three species in Ireland) listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera* species) and White-clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) which are both protected under the Wildlife Act and listed on Annex II of the Habitats Directive, Frogs (*Rana temporaria*) and Newts (*Trituris vulgaris*) protected under the Wildlife Acts and Kingfishers (Alcedo atthis) protected under the Wildlife Acts and listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive (Council Directive 79/409 EEC). Further to potential impacts on the species listed above, for example, one of the main threats identified in the threat response plan for otter is habitat destruction. A 10m riparian buffer on both banks of a waterway is considered to comprise part of the otter habitat. Therefore, any proposed development should be located at least 10m away from a waterway and should consider movements between waterways and waterbodies by otters.

¹ <https://cieem.net/resource/cieem-webinar-patterns-of-bat-activity-at-upland-windfarms-implications-for-sampling-and-mitigation/>



- Flood plains, if present, should be identified in the EIAR and left undeveloped to allow for the protection of these valuable habitats and provide areas for flood water retention (green infrastructure). If applicable, the EIAR should take account of the guidelines for Planning Authorities entitled "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management" published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government In November 2009.
- A detailed hydrological assessment should be carried out in terms of the potential impacts arising from the proposed development on Natura 2000, notably Lough Corrib Special Area of Conservation (SAC) (Site Code: 000297) which has direct hydrological links as well as other Natura sites, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) within the zone of influence; noting that designated sites at some distance can be intrinsically linked and supported by the surrounding habitats (e.g. agricultural fields) and hydrological processes.
- The Department notes that the proposed development site contains a number of peatland habitats. Potential loss of these habitats should be considered in light of their ecological significance and importance as wetland habitats and the associated environmental services that they provide with regard to waterflow/flood regulation.
- Peat stability should be assessed where required.
- It is also noted that the site has potential for a number of protected species notably Marsh Fritillary due to the presence of its food plant Devil's-bit Scabious, *Succisa pratensis* along much of the road network and within the peatland areas. Marsh fritillary surveys should be carried out as per standard Marsh Fritillary Larval Web Survey methodology.
- Hedgerows and scrub should be maintained where possible, as they form wildlife corridors and provide areas for birds to nest in. Hedgerows provide a habitat for woodland flora, roosting places for bats and Badger setts may also be present. The EIAR should provide an estimate of the length/area of any hedgerow/scrub that will be removed. Where it is proposed that trees or hedgerows will be removed there should be suitable planting of native species in mitigation incorporated into the EIAR. Hedgerows, trees, scrub and uncultivated vegetation (including semi-natural



habitats) should not be removed during the nesting season (i.e. March 1st to August 31st), noting the protection afforded under the Wildlife Act 1976-2018.

- The EIAR should also address the issue of invasive alien plant and animal species such as *Rhododendron ponticum* and Japanese Knotweed, and detail the methods required to ensure they are not accidentally introduced or spread during survey and or construction.
- Along with the standard National Parks and Wildlife Service data requests which is recommended, other sources of habitat and species information beyond those already identified include (but are not be limited to): the National Biodiversity Data Centre (www.biodiversityireland.ie), Inland Fisheries Ireland (www.fisheriesireland.ie), BirdWatch Ireland (www.birdwatchireland.ie), Irish Raptor Study Group, Golden Eagle Trust and Bat Conservation Ireland (www.batconservationireland.org). Data may also exist at a County level within the Planning Authority. Some guidance and reference documents are provided in the Appendix to this letter. To note that the local ESB offices may be able to provide useful information with regard to collision / strikes of birds to power lines in the locality.
- If applicants are not in a position to state the exact location and details of cable routes at the time of application, then they need to consider the range of options (overhead and underground) that may be used within their assessment. Should the exact height and rotor diameter of the turbines not be known at EIAR stage then the assessment of impacts must be applicable to a variety of turbine heights and rotor diameters which could be used. This should be made clear in the EIAR.
- All potential cumulative, in-combination and ex situ impacts must be assessed.
- Complete project details including Construction Management Plans (CMPs) need to be provided in order to allow an adequate EIAR (and appropriate assessment) to be undertaken. CMPs should contain sufficient detail to avoid any post construction doubt with regard to the implementation of mitigation measures, timings and roles and responsibilities for same. Any mitigation needs to be included in detail and if being relied upon to reach conclusions must be proved to be achievable and likely



to be effective in any given scenario it is needed. Proof of effectiveness will be required with examples of where similar techniques have been employed previously. Applicants need to be able to demonstrate that CMPs and other such plans are adequate, all mitigation is included and effective and supported by scientific information and analysis and that they are feasible within the physical constraints of the site. The positions, locations and sizes of construction infrastructure and mitigation such as settlement ponds, disposal sites and construction compounds may significantly affect European and other designated sites, habitats and species in their own right and could have an effect for example on, drainage, water quality, habitat loss, and disturbance. If these are undetermined at time of the assessment all potential effects of the development on the site are not being considered.

- Such developments, given their scale and duration, can be an opportunity for ecological enhancement. Enhancement measures have been included in similar projects in Ireland. However, any proposed enhancement measures must have sufficient information to be implemented effectively. It is suggested that a Habitat Management Plan (HMP) is carried out, outlining specific enhancement measures to be undertaken, the timescale for implementation, objectives to be achieved and ecological monitoring requirements.
- The National Biodiversity Action Plan aims to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity. A key objective of the plan is to achieve no net contribution to biodiversity loss arising from development projects occurring within the lifetime of the plan. The EIAR should outline how the project will avoid a net loss of biodiversity.
- In order to carry out the Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening, and/or prepare a Natura Impact Statement (NIS), information about the relevant European sites including their conservation objectives will need to be collected. Details of designated sites and species and conservation objectives can be found on <http://www.npws.ie/>. Site-specific, as opposed to generic, conservation objectives are now available for many sites. Each conservation objective for a qualifying interest (QI) is defined by a list of attributes and targets and is often supported by further documentation. Where these are not available for a site, an examination of



the attributes that are used to define site-specific conservation objectives for the same QIs in other sites can be usefully used to ensure the full ecological implications of a proposal for a site's conservation objective and its integrity are analysed and assessed.

- The Department advise that pre – consent ground investigations, data gathering infrastructure or testing that take place in a location that may affect an ecological feature (e.g. NHAs/ pNHA's and European sites SACs and Special Protections Areas (SPAs), may require consent (i.e. are not exempted development) from the planning authority and or the Ministers consent from this Department.

General guidance and useful references:

- EU Guidance on Wind Energy Developments and Natura 2000.
- The Departmental Wind Energy Planning Guidelines.
- Windfarms on Peatland (2008-2010) Mires and Peat volume 4.
- Best Practice guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping by George F Smith, Paul O'Donoghue, Katie O'Hora and Eamon Delaney, 2011. The Heritage Council.
- Pearce-Higgins, James W., Stephen, Leigh, Langston, Rowena H. W., Bainbridge, Ian P. and Bullman. Rhys (2009). "The distribution of breeding birds around upland wind farms". Journal of Applied Ecology, 46, 1323-1331.
- Johnson, Gregory D. and Arnett Edward 8. "A Bibliography of Bat Fatality Activity and Interactions with Wind Turbines" (June 2004 updated February 2010) Bat Conservation International.
- Pearce-Higgins, James W., Stephen, Leigh, Douse, Andy, and Langston, Rowena H. W. (2012). "Greater impacts of wind farms on bird populations during construction than subsequent operation: results of a multisite and multi-species analysis". Journal of Applied Ecology. 49.386-394.



- Rodrigues, Let ai, (2014). "Guidelines for consideration of bats in wind farm projects". Eurobats Publication Series NO.6 UNEP and Eurobats.
- The Departmental guidance document on Appropriate Assessment which is available on the NPWS web site at <https://www.npws.ie/protected-sites/guidance-appropriate-assessment-planning-authorities>
- The EU Commission guidance entitled "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC" which can be downloaded from http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/guidance_en.htm
- Bat Conservation Ireland (2012) Wind Turbine/Wind Farm Development Bat Survey Guidelines. Version 2.8, December 2012.
- Drewitt, Allan Land Longston Rowena H. W. (2006) "Assessing the impacts of wind farms on birds". Ibis 148. 29-42.
- CJEU and Irish case law should also be consulted.

Archaeology

The National Monuments Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has reviewed the '*Cooloo Wind Farm EIA Scoping Report*'.

The information provided is not sufficiently detailed to allow for a full assessment of the archaeological implications of this proposal, however the Department notes that specific Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage (Impact) Assessment (AACHIA) is scoped into the proposed Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) process and will be carried out by Tobar Archaeological Services Ltd. The supplied methodology indicates that this will incorporate a detailed desktop study and field inspection. In this regard, the Department awaits the results of these assessments and full Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the project before commenting further.



Further to the above, and by way of general archaeological advice, please note that whilst the proposed development site (PDS) may or may not contain within it known or subsurface Recorded Monuments and/or Archaeological sites that may require assessment as part of the overall Archeological Impact Assessment (AIA), the PDS itself is located within a wider area of known archaeological settlement and activity. All of these Recorded Monuments, both within and outside the PDS, are subject to statutory protection in the Record of Monuments and Places, established under section 12 of the National Monuments Act 1930-2014. Therefore the AIA should include an assessment of the possible effects of the proposal on the wider archaeological landscape. It is important that the study area for the AIA be sufficiently scoped to support this. Additionally, any recommendations for buffer zones to protect archaeological heritage should be made on a site/monument specific basis and the stated '50-metre buffer' (Section 5.1, paragraph 3 of the EIA Scoping Report) may not be sufficient in all instances.

The Department advises that in addition to a robust desk-study supported by a comprehensive field inspection, the AIA should incorporate a visual impact assessment (to assist in identifying any possible impacts to the setting of sites or monuments).

In this respect, it should be noted that in addition to site-specific vulnerabilities for impacts to setting, many monument types – such as standing stones, stone rows, megalithic tombs and interacting alignments are often considered to represent a wide area of associated settlement and activity in past eras. As a result, activities associated with the construction, operation and decommissioning of this types of development, including but not limited to, the bunding/stockpiling of materials, alterations to landscape as a result of quarrying, use of borrow areas, etc. and other intrusions into viewsheds may have a negative visual impact on such monuments and may diminish or interrupt alignment views and alter key aspects of their original function and layout. The Visual Impact Assessment should:

- Set out the key characteristics of the monument(s) and its surroundings that contribute to its setting and the degree to which this setting is integral to the significance and appreciation of the monument.



- Assess the effects of the development – both positive and negative – on these key characteristics. The development should be considered in terms of its location and siting relative to the monument as well as its form, appearance and permanence.
- Be supported by appropriate illustrations of the monument, its setting and the development.

The Department further advises that the following are also carried out as part of the overall AIA to ensure a comprehensive assessment of impacts of the proposed development on the archaeological and cultural heritage resource:

- The desk-study and field inspection regime should inform:
 - Targeted non-intrusive advance geophysical survey or prospection (such as Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys)
 - Targeted advance archaeological test excavation
- 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.

The results of these investigations should inform the EIA process and be incorporated within the EIA Report. The Department is happy to provide further advice and clarification as and if required in relation to the preparation of suitably comprehensive assessments as outlined above, with particular regard to the scope and locations for any advance non-intrusive prospection or advance test excavation that would be appropriate to inform the assessment of this proposed scheme.

You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at manager.dau@npws.gov.ie.

Is mise, le meas



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edel Griffin', located above a horizontal line.

Edel Griffin
Development Applications Unit
Administration

Evan Connolly

From: Fiona Timoney <ftimoney@nwra.ie>
Sent: Thursday 18 May 2023 09:24
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: Submission Windfarm Cooloo Co Galway
Attachments: Submission MKO re Windfarm application Cooloo Co Galway.pdf

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A Chara,

Please find attached correspondence from Assistant Director, Frank Flanagan in relation to the abovenamed windfarm.

Mise le meas,

*Fiona Timoney
EU Projects Officer (A)
Northern & Western Regional Assembly
The Square
Ballaghaderreen
Co. Roscommon
F45 W674*

*Tel: 094 9862970
Fax: 094 9862973
Web: www.nwra.ie*





MKO
Tuam Road
Galway
H91VW84

via email: sdutta@mkoireland.ie

18/05/2023

RE: SCOPING REQUEST: 190723 COOLOO WIND FARM, CO. GALWAY

A Chara,

I wish to acknowledge your correspondence received on 18 April 2023 and to advise 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. The NWRA will rely upon the Local Planning Authority/An Bord Pleanála to provide pre-planning advice in the first instance.

Section 33 E (3)(c) of the Planning Act (as amended) requires that prescribed bodies be consulted on proposals such as that the subject of your correspondence. Article 213 prescribes that the Regional Authorities be consulted: *'(i) where the development would not be consistent with or would materially contravene any regional planning guidelines (or any objective thereof) of a regional authority...,'*

Accordingly, An Bord Pleanála may determine that the NWRA is a 'prescribed body' and if it is consulted in respect of a planning application, its submission/observation will be informed by the development objectives of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western region was adopted in January 2020. It includes a suite of regional policy objectives that are of relevance to the project, including but not limited to the Overarching Environmental Regional Policy Objectives of section 1.5. The RSES is available on the NWRA website at www.nwra.ie/rses

I hope that the above is of assistance.

Kind regards,

Frank Flanagan
Senior Planner / Acting Assistant Director

Northern & Western Regional Assembly
The Square, Ballaghaderreen, Co. Roscommon

Tionól Réigiúnach an Tuaiscirt agus an Iarthair
An Chearnóg, Bealach an Doirín, Co. Ros Comáin

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✉ info@nwra.ie

Sanghamitra Dutta

From: Drainage Admin <drainage.admin@opw.ie>
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2023 9:06 AM
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: Re: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway
Attachments: Office of Public Works - 2023.04.14 - 190723.pdf

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Dear Sanghamitra,

Thank you for your email below dated 17th April 2023.

Your email was sent to OPW's Western Region Office who have provided the following comments:

The proposed development has the potential to have a serious detrimental effect on OPW maintenance activities on a no. of Arterial Drainage Maintenance (ADM) channels in the immediate area in terms of accessibility for plant & machinery and hydrological characteristics.

ADM channel details can be accessed at the following link

https://www.floodinfo.ie/map/drainage_map/

Kind regards
Karen

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 16:50
To: Info Opw <info@opw.ie>
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin

mkoireland.ie | [+353 \(0\)91 735 611](tel:+353091735611)



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Evan Connolly

From: INFO <Information@tii.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 6 August 2025 09:41
To: Evan Connolly
Subject: TII Ref: TII23-122921 - EIAR Scoping - Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway. Your Ref: 190723.

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Dear Mr. Connolly,

Thank you for your correspondence of 30 July 2025 regarding the updated EIAR Scoping exercise for the above. Transport Infrastructure Ireland's (TII's) position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

TII will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines, as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.TII.ie.

The issuing of this correspondence is provided as best practice guidance only and does not prejudice TII's statutory right to make any observations, requests for further information, objections or appeals, following the examination of any valid planning application referred.

National Strategic Outcome 2 of the National Planning Framework includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national road network. In addition, Chapter 7 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility' of the National Development Plan, 2021 – 2030, sets out the key sectoral priority of maintaining Ireland's existing national road network to a robust and safe standard for users. This requirement is further reflected in the publication of the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'.

With respect to EIAR Scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

The developer should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

- 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 in the area.
- 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 developer should have regard to any EIAR/EIS and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.

- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).
- The developer in preparing the EIAR should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes (National Road Authority (NRA), 2014).
- The EIAR should consider the 'European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations, 2018, (S.I. no. 549 of 2018)', 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 'Good Practice Guidance for the Treatment of Noise during the Planning of National Road Schemes (NRA, 2014)').
- It would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads.

In relation to national roads, TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of TII's TTA Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA.

Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed, as TII will not be responsible for such costs.

- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- TII recommends that the applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are a feature of the development, e.g., turbine or substation components, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route. All national road structures on the haul route through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal 'weight' load proposed.

In addition, the haul route should be assessed to confirm capacity to accommodate abnormal 'length' loads and any temporary works required are identified.

The national road network is managed by a combination of PPP Concessions, Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contractors (MMaRC) and local road authorities, in association with TII.

The applicant/developer should also consult with all PPP Companies, MMaRC Contractors and road authorities over which the haul route traverses, to ascertain any operational requirements, including delivery timetabling, etc., to ensure that the strategic function of the national road network is safeguarded.

Where temporary works within any MMaRC Boundary are required to facilitate the transport of turbine components to site, the applicant/developer shall contact thirdpartyworks@tii.ie in advance, as a works specific Deed of Indemnity will be needed by TII before the works can take place.

Additionally, any damage caused to the pavement on the existing national road arising from any temporary works due to the turning movement of abnormal loads (e.g., tearing of the surface course, etc.) shall be rectified in accordance with TII Pavement Standards and details in this regard shall be agreed with the road authority prior to the commencement of any development on site.

As previously indicated, it still appears that the grid connection proposals as outlined in the previous EIAR Scoping Report do not impact the strategic national road network.

However, in the event of any alteration, please note the following:

- Any grid connection and cable routing proposals should be developed to safeguard existing national roads and/or proposed road schemes, as TII will not be responsible for costs associated with future relocation of cable routing where proposals are catered for in an area of a proposed national road scheme. In that regard, consideration should be given to routing options, use of existing crossings, depth of cable laying, etc.

In the context of the existing national road network, please note, 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. This requirement is further reflected in the NDP, the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'.

There is around 99,000km of roads in Ireland. The national road network, which caters for strategic inter-urban travel, consists of only approx. 5.4% of this. There is a critical requirement to ensure the strategic capacity and safety of this national road network is maintained and significant Government investment already made in the national road network is safeguarded.

The provision of cabling along the national road network represents a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network and TII is of the opinion that grid connection cable routing should reflect the foregoing provisions of official policy.

TII has identified a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network resulting from the laying of high voltage electricity cabling in the national road reservation, including:

- Impacts on embankments, bridges, drainage and road furniture infrastructure leading to future maintenance liabilities.
- Impediments to future maintenance and operations activities, such as safety barrier repair and French drain renewal.
- Impediments to future routine network improvements such as pavement overlay and strengthening, installation of new verge-side signs and other road furniture.
- Impacts on network traffic flows during installation.
- Impediment to future on-line upgrades of national roads because of the implications to road authority / TII in having to incur the additional costs of moving underground cables in order to accommodate the road improvements.

Proposals to lay cable in the national road reservation, including the construction of associated joint bays, have the potential to impact road authorities and TII in undertaking future maintenance and improvement requirements. There may also be additional cost implications to national road improvements and maintenance resulting from the presence of high voltage cabling within the national road reservation.

Section 12.4.1.1 'Accelerate Renewable Electricity Generation' of the Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) outlines the objective of reaching 80% of electricity demand from renewable sources by 2030 through a range of measures, including:

"All relevant public bodies will carry out their functions in a manner which supports the achievement of the renewable electricity targets, including, but not limited to, the use of road and rail infrastructure to provide a route for grid infrastructure where this is the optimal solution". (Climate Action Plan 2024, p.163)

Consistent with CAP24, for all renewable energy developments requiring grid connection to the national grid, TII recommends that a full assessment of all route alternatives for grid connection takes place, including alternatives to public road, where appropriate. In TII's experience, grid connection accommodated on national roads has the potential, inter alia, to result in technical road safety issues such as differential settlement due to backfilling trenches and can impact on ability and cost of general maintenance, upgrades and safety works to existing national roads.

Cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII. Any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network.

Other consents or licences may be required from the road authority for any trenching or cabling proposals crossing the national road. TII requests referral of all proposals agreed and licensed between the road authority and the applicant which affect the national road network. In this regard, the applicant should be aware of the Department of Transport Circular RW 07 of March 2025 'Electricity Transmission Infrastructure Development - Roads Sector Engagement Framework'.

Notwithstanding any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practice.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Cahill
Senior Regulatory & Administration Executive

From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 17:05

To: INFO <Information@tii.ie>

Subject: RE: TII Ref: TII23-122921 - EIAR Scoping - Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway. Your Ref: 190723.

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Dear Sir/Madam,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. *9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. *Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. *1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. *A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. *A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. *Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. *Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. *Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. *Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
- x. *Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. *Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. *Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. *Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. *Site Drainage;*
- xv. *Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. *All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



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From: INFO

Sent: Wednesday 24 May 2023 08:58

To: Sanghamitra Dutta

Subject: TII Ref: TII23-122921 - EIAR Scoping - Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway. Your Ref: 190723.

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A Chara,

Thank you for your correspondence of 8 May 2023 regarding the above. The position in relation to your enquiry is as follows.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) will endeavour to consider and respond to planning applications referred to it, given its status and duties as a statutory consultee under the Planning Acts. The approach to be adopted by TII in making such submissions or comments will seek to uphold official policy and guidelines, as outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Regard should also be had to other relevant guidance available at www.TII.ie.

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National Strategic Outcome 2 of the National Planning Framework includes the objective to maintain the strategic capacity and safety of the national roads network. In addition, Chapter 7 'Enhanced Regional Accessibility' of the National Development Plan, 2021 – 2030, sets out the key sectoral priority of maintaining Ireland's existing national road network to a robust and safe standard for users. This requirement is further reflected in the publication of the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'.

With respect to EIAR scoping issues, the recommendations indicated below provide only general guidance for the preparation of an EIAR, which may affect the national road network.

The developer/scheme promoter should have regard, inter alia, to the following:

- 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.
- 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 developer should have regard to any EIAR/EIS and all conditions and/or modifications imposed by An Bord Pleanála regarding road schemes in the area. The developer should, in particular, have regard to any potential cumulative impacts.
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII Publications (formerly DMRB and the Manual of Contract Documents for Road Works).
- The developer, in preparing EIAR, should have regard to TII's Environmental Assessment and Construction Guidelines, including the 'Guidelines for the Treatment of Air Quality During the Planning and Construction of National Road Schemes' (National Roads Authority (NRA), 2006).
- 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 would be important that, where appropriate, subject to meeting the appropriate thresholds and criteria and having regard to best practice, a Traffic and Transport Assessment (TTA) be carried out in accordance with relevant guidelines, noting traffic volumes attending the site and traffic routes to/from the site, with reference to impacts on the national road network and junctions of lower category roads with national roads. In relation to national roads, TII's 'Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines' (2014) should be referred to in relation to proposed development, with potential impacts on the national road network. The scheme promoter is also advised to have regard to Section 2.2 of TII's TTA Guidelines, which addresses requirements for sub-threshold TTA. Any improvements required to facilitate development should be identified. It will be the responsibility of the developer to pay for the costs of any improvements to national roads to facilitate the private development proposed, as TII will not be responsible for such costs.
- The designers are asked to consult TII Publications to determine whether a Road Safety Audit is required.
- In the interests of maintaining the safety and standard of the national road network, the EIAR should identify the methods/techniques proposed for any works traversing/in proximity to the national road network.
- TII recommends that that applicant/developer should clearly identify haul routes proposed and fully assess the network to be traversed. Where abnormal 'weight' loads are proposed, separate structure approvals/permits and other licences may be required in connection with the proposed haul route. All national road structures on the haul route through all the relevant County Council administrative areas should be checked by the applicant/developer, to confirm their capacity to accommodate any abnormal 'weight' load proposed. In addition, the haul route should be assessed to confirm capacity to accommodate abnormal 'length' loads and any temporary works required.

The national road network is managed by a combination of Public Private Partnership (PPP) Concessions, Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC) and local road authorities in association with TII. The applicant/developer should also consult with all PPP Companies, MMaRC Contractors and road authorities over which the haul route traverses, to ascertain any operational requirements, including delivery timetabling, etc. to ensure that the strategic function of the national road network is safeguarded.

Where temporary works within any MMaRC Contract Boundary are required to facilitate the transport of turbine components to site, the applicant/developer shall contact thirdpartyworks@tii.ie in advance, as a works specific Deed of Indemnity will be needed by TII before the works can take place. Additionally, any damage caused to the pavement on the existing national road arising from any temporary works due to the turning movement of abnormal loads (e.g. tearing of the surface course, etc.) shall be rectified in accordance with TII Pavement Standards and details in this regard shall be agreed with the Road Authority prior to the commencement of any development on site.

- It is noted that the grid connection proposals outlined in the EIAR Scoping Report do not impact the strategic national road network. However, in the event of any alteration, please note, any grid connection and cable routing proposals should be developed to safeguard proposed road schemes as TII will not be responsible for costs associated with future relocation of cable routing where proposals are catered for in an area of a proposed national road scheme. In that regard, consideration should be given to routing options, use of existing crossings, depth of cable laying, etc.

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. This requirement is further reflected in the National Development Plan, the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland and also the existing Statutory Section 28 Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

There is around 99,000km of roads in Ireland, the national road network which caters for strategic inter-urban travel consists of only approx. 5.4% of this. There is a critical requirement to ensure the strategic capacity and safety of this national road network is maintained and significant Government investment already made in the national road network is safeguarded.

The provision of cabling along the national road network represents a number of significant implications for TII and road authorities, in the management and maintenance of the strategic national road network and TII is of the opinion that grid connection cable routing should reflect the foregoing provisions of official policy and therefore, avoid grid connection routing proposals along national roads.

Other consents or licences may be required from the Road Authority for any trenching or cabling proposals crossing the national road. TII requests referral of all proposals agreed and licensed between the Road Authority and the applicant, which affect the national road network.

Cable routing should avoid all impacts to existing TII infrastructure such as traffic counters, weather stations, etc. and works required to such infrastructure shall only be undertaken in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII. Any costs attributable shall be borne by the applicant/developer. The developer should also be aware that separate approvals may be required for works traversing the national road network.

Notwithstanding, any of the above, the developer should be aware that this list is non-exhaustive, thus site and development specific issues should be addressed in accordance with best practise.

I hope that this information is of assistance to you.

Is mise le meas,

Andrew Moore

Senior Regulatory and Administration Executive



From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkofireland.ie>

Sent: Monday 8 May 2023 14:46

To: Landuse Planning <LandUsePlanning@tii.ie>

Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



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De réir pholasaí BIÉ An Ceart gan a bheith Ceangailte, má tá an ríomhphost seo á fháil agat lasmuigh de na gnáthuaireanta oibre, nílim ag súil le freagra ná le gníomh uait lasmuigh de do ghnáthuaireanta oibre féin mura bhfuil sé ráite go soiléir go bhfuil gá gníomhú go práinneach.

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De réir pholasaí BIÉ An Ceart gan a bheith Ceangailte, má tá an ríomhphost seo á fháil agat lasmuigh de na gnáthuaireanta oibre, nílim ag súil le freagra ná le gníomh uait lasmuigh de do ghnáthuaireanta oibre féin mura bhfuil sé ráite go soiléir go bhfuil gá gníomhú go práinneach.

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Próiseálann BIÉ sonraí pearsanta a sholáthraítear dó i gcomhréir lena Fhógra ar Chosaint Sonraí atá ar fáil ag <https://www.tii.ie/ga/compliance/data-protection-notice/>

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Evan Connolly

From: Oisín O'Neill <oisin.oneill@comreg.ie>
Sent: Friday 16 February 2024 14:04
To: Eileen Corley
Cc: Owen Cahill; Jonny Fearon
Subject: RE: 10km Site Search Areas MKO : 190723A & 190708A
Attachments: Contacts.xlsx

Some people who received this message don't often get email from ois.in.oneill@comreg.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Eileen,

Thank you for your email, the attached list of organisations and contacts may be relevant to your query.

Please note that electronic services network/service ("ECN/S") providers may also use licence-exempt spectrum for which ComReg does not hold any information. All ECN/S providers are required to submit a notification of General Authorisation to ComReg, and the full list of all providers (including area of operation) can be found at <https://serviceregister.comreg.ie/Services/Search>.

ComReg's Siteviewer tool (<https://www.comreg.ie/industry/radio-spectrum/site-viewer/siteviewer/>) may also be helpful in identifying mobile operators within the relevant area.

Kind Regards,

Oisín O'Neill

Innealtóir Speictrim Raidió (Ceadúnú)

Radio Spectrum Engineer (Lic)

An Coimisiún um Rialáil Cumarsáide

Commission for Communications Regulation

1 Lárcheantar na nDugaí, Sráid na nGildeanna, BÁC 1, Éire, D01 E4X0.

One Dockland Central, Guild Street, Dublin 1, Ireland, D01 E4X0.

Teil | Tel +353 1 804 9785

Rphost | Email oisin.oneill@comreg.ie

Suíomh | Website www.comreg.ie

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 12:52 PM

To: Sinead French <sinead.french@comreg.ie>; Martin O Donoghue <Martin.ODonoghue@comreg.ie>; Oisín O'Neill <oisin.oneill@comreg.ie>

Cc: Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>; Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: FW: 10km Site Search Areas MKO : 190723A & 190708A

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Hi,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a wind farm development at Cooloo, Co. Galway.

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Could you please provide a list of telecommunication operators currently operating in these areas?

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Jack O'Dwyer <jack.odwyer@comreg.ie>

Sent: 21 January 2021 09:28

To: Holly Witter <hwitter@mkoireland.ie>

Cc: Sinead French <sinead.french@comreg.ie>; Conor Berkeley <conor.berkeley@comreg.ie>; Tara Kavanagh <tara.kavanagh@comreg.ie>; Brendan O'Brien <brendan.obrien@comreg.ie>

Subject: RE: 10km Site Search Areas MKO : 190723A & 190708A

Hi Holly,

Please find attached requested information for both sites.

Television and radio sites may also be effected, RTÉ and BAI should be contacted in relation to these sites, please see contact information below:

<u>Operator Name</u>	<u>Contact Name</u>	<u>Contact E-mail</u>
RTÉ/Saorview		windfarms@rte.ie
RTÉ Transmission Network (2RN)	Mr Johnny Evans	Johnny.Evans@rte.ie
BAI	Mr Roger Woods	rwoods@bai.ie

Regards,

Jack O'Dwyer
Radio Spectrum Engineer
Commission for Communications Regulation



One Dockland Central, Guild Street, Dublin 1, Ireland, D01 E4X0

Tel. +353 1 8049753

Email jack.odwyer@comreg.ie

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From: Jack O'Dwyer
Sent: Wednesday 20 January 2021 16:24
To: 'Holly Witter' <hwitter@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Sinead French <sinead.french@comreg.ie>; Conor Berkeley <conor.berkeley@comreg.ie>; Tara Kavanagh <tara.kavanagh@comreg.ie>; Brendan O'Brien <brendan.obrien@comreg.ie>
Subject: RE: 10km Site Search Areas MKO : 190723A & 190708A

Hi Holly,

Apologies for the delay I was on annual leave last week , I am currently working on this and will respond in due course once I have the information for you.

Kind Regards,
Jack

From: Holly Witter <hwitter@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 20 January 2021 15:59
To: Jack O'Dwyer <jack.odwyer@comreg.ie>
Cc: Sinead French <sinead.french@comreg.ie>; Conor Berkeley <conor.berkeley@comreg.ie>; Tara Kavanagh <tara.kavanagh@comreg.ie>
Subject: RE: 10km Site Search Areas MKO : 190723A & 190708A

Hi all,

Hope all is well,
Just wondering has any progress been made on the below?

Kind regards
Holly



Holly Witter
GIS Technician BSc
MKO
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkoireland.ie



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From: Holly Witter
Sent: 11 January 2021 11:16
To: 'jack.odwyer@comreg.ie' <jack.odwyer@comreg.ie>
Cc: 'sinead.french@comreg.ie' <sinead.french@comreg.ie>; 'conor.berkeley@comreg.ie' <conor.berkeley@comreg.ie>; 'tara.kavanagh@comreg.ie' <tara.kavanagh@comreg.ie>
Subject: 10km Site Search Areas MKO : 190723A & 190708A

Hi Jack,

My name is Holly and I work for MKO, a planning and environmental consultancy based in Galway – you've helped me out before so just said I'd touch base with you again regarding a query I have.

Currently we're working on some early stage site search for renewable energy projects at the below coordinates:

Site 1: <https://goo.gl/maps/xpp4QRV5TULtnMuM6>

Site 2: <https://goo.gl/maps/TvV21TjhozdedAub8>

Would I be able to receive a list of any telecom operators within a 10km radius, ideally a separate list of operators for each site?

Many thanks,

Kind regards
Holly



Holly Witter
GIS Technician BSc
MKO
Tuam Road, Galway
Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
www.mkoireland.ie



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Evan Connolly

From: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 16 April 2024 11:05
To: Eileen Corley
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi,

This won't affect our current network,

Regards,
Peter

Peter O'Brien | **Licensed Link planner**

A: Enet House, National Technology Park, Castletroy, Co Limerick, V946P52

M: +353867744313 | **W:** www.enet.ie



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From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 11:00 AM
To: Peter O'Brien <peter.obrien@enet.ie>
Subject: FW: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

You don't often get email from ecorley@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,
The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).
Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.
We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Evan Connolly

From: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>
Sent: Thursday 28 August 2025 11:12
To: Eileen Corley; Evan Connolly
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway
Attachments: Cooloo Wind Farm Exclusion Zone.kml

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Good morning,

We have completed our assessment of the Cooloo Wind Farm development and have identified an exclusion zone necessary to protect our link. To avoid potential interference, it is essential that the turbine base be situated outside of this exclusion zone.

Please find attached the GIS file in KML format for your reference. If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out.

We appreciate your patience during this assessment process.

Kind regards,
Abud

From: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>
Sent: Thursday 16 January 2025 12:49
To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Hi Eileen,

Could you please confirm the turbine dimensions provided in the returned proforma. Could you also clarify what the range of values in both the hub height and blade radius/length is representing.

There appears to be a discrepancy between the provided Turbine Tip Height (180m), and the calculated Turbine Tip Height (Hub height + blade length/radius evaluates to 137.75-143m).
Provided Hub height: (99-102.5m) and Turbine blade LENGTH/RADIUS: (38.75-40.5m).

Kind regards,
Abud

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 11 December 2024 16:05
To: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>
Cc: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>; Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Abud,

Thank you for reaching out. Please see attached PDF as requested for the Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo.

If you have any questions, queries, or comments in relation to the attached, please do not hesitate to get back to me.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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From: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>

Sent: Monday 9 December 2024 16:49

To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>

Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Good afternoon,

I am writing to inform you that unfortunately, we have been unable to proceed with the analysis without additional information.

To move forward, we kindly request you to complete the attached proforma and provide any GIS data if available.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to reach out.

Regards,
Abud

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Tuesday 16 April 2024 11:02

To: wfanalysis (ESB Networks) <wfanalysis@esb.ie>

Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.

We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Is tuairimí nó dearchthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearchthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearchthaí ESB.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir.

Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

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* * * * *

An timpeallacht? - Smaoinigh air sula bpriontáileann tú an r-phost seo.

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* * * * *

Tá an t-eolas sa ríomhphost seo agus in aon chomhad a ghabhann leis rúnda agus ceaptha le haghaidh úsáide an té nó an aonáin ar seoladh chuige iad agus na húsáide sin amháin.

Is tuairimí nó dearchthaí an údair amháin aon tuairimí nó dearchthaí ann, agus ní gá gurb ionann iad agus tuairimí nó dearchthaí ESB.

Má bhfuair tú an ríomhphost seo trí earráid, ar mhiste leat é sin a chur in iúl don seoltóir.

Scanann ESB ríomhphoist agus ceangaltáin le haghaidh víreas, ach ní ráthaíonn sé go bhfuil ceachtar díobh saor ó víreas agus ní glacann dliteanas ar bith as aon damáiste de dhroim víreas.

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* * * * *

Evan Connolly

From: Enda Broderick <enda@lightnet.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 2 February 2021 16:21
To: Holly Witter
Cc: Barry O'Donovan
Subject: RE: MKO Telecom Link Request 190723a & 190708a

Hi Holly

We have a number of customers availing of a fixed wireless service in the vicinity of the Cooloo site but no point to point links crossing that area.

We have no links in the Ardnacloon area.

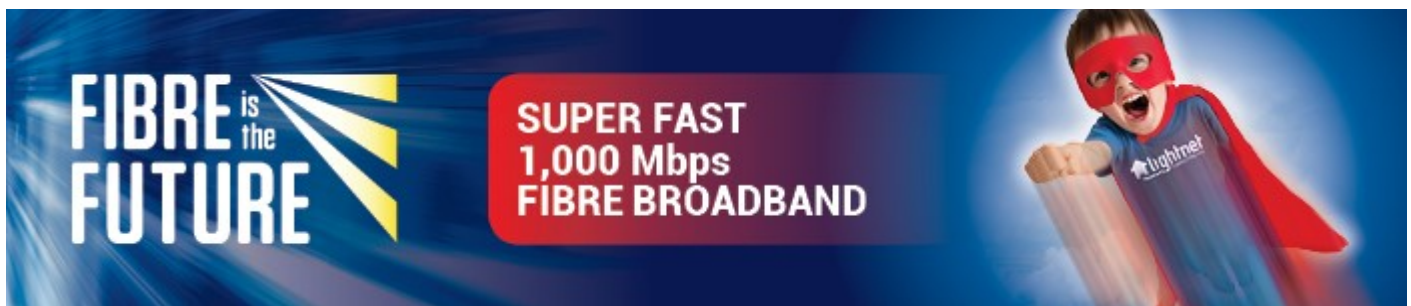
Kind regards,

Enda Broderick
Managing Director
Lighthouse Networks Ltd.



East Point Business Park
Loughrea - Co. Galway

Tel +353 (0) 91-395804
Mob +353 (0) 86-8676410
Web www.lightnet.ie



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From: Holly Witter <hwitter@mkofireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 2 February 2021 16:01

To: Enda Broderick <enda@lightnet.ie>

Subject: MKO Telecom Link Request 190723a & 190708a

Hi Enda

I am currently working on a constraints study for 2 proposed wind farm sites, details as follows

Site ID	Name	Location	ITM Coordinates
190708a (Site 1)	Ardnacloon	Approx 8km West of Athlone	595291, 740995
190723a (Site 2)	Cooloo	Approx 13km East of Tuam	555625,748752

I have also attached a .kmz for each site's centre coordinate

Could you let me know please if your company has any links in these areas, and we will incorporate these into our constraints map. We don't have turbine layouts yet; this will be informed by the constraints study.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,
Holly



Holly Witter
GIS Technician BSc
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Ireland, H91 VW84
+353 (0) 91 735611
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Evan Connolly

From: Evan Connolly
Sent: Tuesday 23 September 2025 16:48
To: 'Tom Barry'
Cc: Brandon Taylor
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Hi Tom,

Thanks for getting back to me, the project will be submitted to the Commission shortly at which point the final Turbine coordinates will be available.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



Offices in Galway and Dublin
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From: Tom Barry <tom.barry@motorolasolutions.com>
Sent: Thursday 31 July 2025 07:19
To: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: Re: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

You don't often get email from tom.barry@motorolasolutions.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Evan,

Do you have the turbine coordinates please. Once we get those I'll have it checked.

Regards,
Tom

On Wed, Jul 30, 2025 at 4:48 PM Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie> wrote:

Dear Thomas,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- i. *9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. *Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. *1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. *A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. *A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. *Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. *Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. *Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. *Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*

- x. *Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. *Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. *Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. *Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. *Site Drainage;*
- xv. *Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. *All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,

Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.

Graduate Environmental Scientist

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Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



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From: Thomas Barry <Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE>
Sent: Monday 24 April 2023 09:03
To: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Sanghamitra,

We anticipate no impact from the development as proposed, can you ensure it is also reviewed by eir.

Regards,

Tom

From: Sanghamitra Dutta [<mailto:sdutta@mkoireland.ie>]
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 16:55
To: Thomas Barry
Subject: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,

Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta

Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84



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Evan Connolly

From: Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 6 August 2025 11:37
To: Evan Connolly
Cc: windfarms; Johnny Evans
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Caution: This is an external email and may be malicious. Please take care when clicking links or opening attachments.

Hi Evan,

Thanks for the update, we have nothing to add to our initial feedback.

Regards

Matthew Craig

Project Engineer
Projects and Coverage Planning
2RN
Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland
D24 WK28
Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 15:27
To: Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

You don't often get email from econnolly@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Matthew,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

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- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;
- v. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;
- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;
- vii. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo
- viii. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;
- ix. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;
- x. Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;
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- xii. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;
- xiii. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);
- xiv. Site Drainage;
- xv. Operational Stage site signage; and
- xvi. All ancillary works and apparatus.

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While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



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From: Matthew Craig <matthew.craig@2rn.ie>
Sent: Friday 16 February 2024 16:29
To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: windfarms <windfarms@rte.ie>; Johnny Evans <johnny.evans@2rn.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Eileen,

2rn have no fixed linking in the area. There is a risk of interference to broadcast services in the area so we would ask that a protocol be signed should the site go ahead.

Regards

Matthew Craig

Project Engineer
Projects and Coverage Planning
2RN
Block B, Cookstown Court, Old Belgard Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Ireland
D24 WK28
Phone: + 353 (0) 1 2082261
Mobile: + 353 (0) 87 7509955

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 4:15:15 PM (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisbon, London
To: windfarms <windfarms@rte.ie>
Subject: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.

We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley

Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin

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Sanghamitra Dutta

From: Thomas Barry <Tom.Barry@TETRAIRELAND.IE>
Sent: Monday, April 24, 2023 9:03 AM
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: RE: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Sanghamitra,

We anticipate no impact from the development as proposed, can you ensure it is also reviewed by eir.

Regards,
Tom

From: Sanghamitra Dutta [mailto:sdutta@mkoireland.ie]
Sent: Monday 17 April 2023 16:55
To: Thomas Barry
Subject: EXTERNAL MAIL:- Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Evan Connolly

From: Evan Connolly
Sent: Tuesday 23 September 2025 16:46
To: 'Monika Biniaszewska'
Cc: Brandon Taylor
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Hi Monika,

Thanks for getting back to me, the project will be submit to the Commission shortly at which point the final Turbine coordinates will be available.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



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From: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>
Sent: Monday 11 August 2025 14:44
To: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Evan,

Can you send a KMZ file or preliminary turbines coordinates please.

Thanks
Monika

From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: 30 July 2025 16:52
To: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Dear Sir/Madam,

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- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
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- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
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Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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From: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>
Sent: Tuesday 20 February 2024 13:29
To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Eileen,

I compared this to the previous request. And it's still the same link going through this area. And no plan to decom this link.

Link no.	Link Ref	Freq.	Length	Site A	X	Y	Dish Height
1	ML020355	26GHz	10.3km	GA0064 - Clonriddia Forestry	153,147	250,825	30m

Do you have preliminary turbine coordinates? Maybe the turbines will not affect this link?

Can you use the setback distance- 50m please.

Thanks
Monika

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 12:49 PM
To: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>
Cc: Jonny Fearon <jfearon@mkoireland.ie>; Owen Cahill <ocahill@mkoireland.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

You don't often get email from ecorley@mkoireland.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION! External Email.

Hi Monika,

We have previously been in contact with you regarding this project. In the previous email sent to us on the 30/30/2021 (see attached) we have considered the links in your email below within our constraints map (30m three network buffer).

FYI the proposed site layout has changed since the previous communication emailed on the 30/30/2021.

Will this still suffice?

Additionally, do you have a scheduled year/date for decommissioning the link?

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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From: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>
Sent: Tuesday, February 20, 2024 8:50 AM
To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>; DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>
Cc: Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>; David Montgomery <David.Montgomery@three.ie>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

You don't often get email from monika.biniaszewska@three.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Eileen,

We have one link passing through this area. Please see details below.



Link no.	Link Ref	Freq.	Length	Site A	X	Y	Dish Height
1	ML020355	26GHz	10.3km	GA0064 - Clonriddia Forestry	153,147	250,825	30m

Thanks
Monika

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 5:08 PM

To: DL Estates ROI <Estates@three.ie>

Cc: Monika Biniaszewska <Monika.Biniaszewska@three.ie>; Sean Kelly <Sean.Kelly2@three.ie>; David Montgomery <David.Montgomery@three.ie>

Subject: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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CAUTION! External Email.

Hi,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.

We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

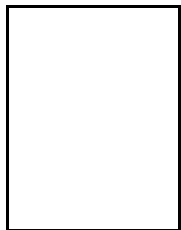
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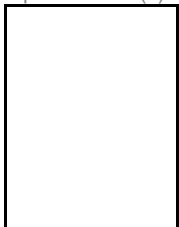
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www.three.ie

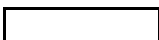
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Evan Connolly

From: Eileen Corley
Sent: Friday 16 February 2024 16:38
To: rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie
Subject: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway
Attachments: Cooloo Site Boundary KML - 2024.02.16 - 190723.kml

Hi Rachel,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.

We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Evan Connolly

From: Gavin Hickey <ghickey@towercom.ie>
Sent: Monday 15 May 2023 11:44
To: Sanghamitra Dutta
Subject: RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

You don't often get email from ghickey@towercom.ie. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Sanghamitra,

Thank you for your enquiry regarding telecom's infrastructure information.

Before we can assess the impact could you please send on a site boundary map and approx. location of the wind turbines

Kind Regards,

Gavin Hickey

Customer Delivery Coordinator

m: +353 (0)85 141 1034



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My working day may not be the same as your working day. Please don't feel obliged to reply to this e-mail outside of your normal working hours.

Please consider the environment before printing this email. 🌱

From: Sanghamitra Dutta <sdutta@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Monday, May 8, 2023 3:57 PM
To: Rachel Hennessy <rachel.hennessy@towercom.ie>
Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Hi Rachel,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist

MKO

Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

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Evan Connolly

From: Viatel Customer Care <care@viatel.com>
Sent: Thursday 31 July 2025 09:41
To: Evan Connolly
Subject: Ticket#5704239/UnknownCompany/RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway -- has been updated

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--REPLY above this line to respond--
This ticket has been updated by Melloney Lee

Melloney Lee

7/31/2025 9:40 AM



There is no impact on our network.

Summary:

RE: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Status: Open
Ticket # 5704239
Company: Unknown Company
Contact:
Phone:
Address:

Discussion

Melloney Lee

7/31/2025 9:40 AM-9:40 AM



There is no impact on our network.

econnolly@mkoireland.ie

7/30/2025 5:07 PM-



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Dear Sir/Madam,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

The site of the proposed development is located approximately 15km southeast of Tuam and comprises lands in the townlands of Cooloo, Elmhill, Cloondahamper, Lecarrow and Dangan Eighter and adjoining townlands.

The application will be made to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) and the proposed development will consist of the following;

- 1. 9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- 2. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- 3. 1 no. temporary construction compound* (including site offices and welfare facilities*);*
- 4. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- 5. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- 6. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- 7. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- 8. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- 9. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
- 10. Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- 11. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- 12. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- 13. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*

14. *Site Drainage;*
15. *Operational Stage site signage; and*
16. *All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note we did not receive any feedback to date, we would appreciate any comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.

Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W

Offices in Galway and Dublin

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From: Sanghamitra Dutta

Sent: Monday 8 May 2023 15:26

To: info@viatel.com

Subject: Scoping Request: 190723 Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

Dear Sir / Madam,

Please find attached to this email a Scoping Document for an Environmental Impact Assessment MKO are undertaking for a Proposed Wind Energy Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway. The proposed development is located approximately 15km east of Tuam in North Galway. It is envisaged that the proposed development will encompass approximately 9 no wind turbines based on a provisional layout, with associated infrastructure including battery storage at a substation compound, alongside a connection to the national grid via an underground cable and loop-in to the existing 110kV overhead line, running north of the site.

As part of this scoping exercise, we would welcome any comments for the proposed development. If you have any further queries in relation to the same, please do not hesitate to come back to me. Thank you for your time and attention,

Kind Regards,
Sanghamitra.

Sanghamitra Nidhi Dutta
Environmental Scientist
MKO
Tuam Road, Galway, H91 VW84

Offices in Galway and Dublin
mkoireland.ie | +353 (0)91 735 611



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Evan Connolly

From: Mark Nolan <Mark.Nolan@virginmedia.ie>
Sent: Friday 16 February 2024 16:48
To: Eileen Corley
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Eileen,

This will have no impact on Virgin Media Wireless services.

Rgds

Mark Nolan B2B Access Network Manager
Virgin Media | LEDP, Roxboro Road, Limerick.
D: + 353(0) 1 2458480 | M: + 353(0)862315007
mark.nolan@virginmedia.ie | www.virginmedia.ie

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday, February 16, 2024 4:40 PM
To: Mark Nolan <Mark.Nolan@virginmedia.ie>
Subject: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Mark,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.

We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley

Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

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Evan Connolly

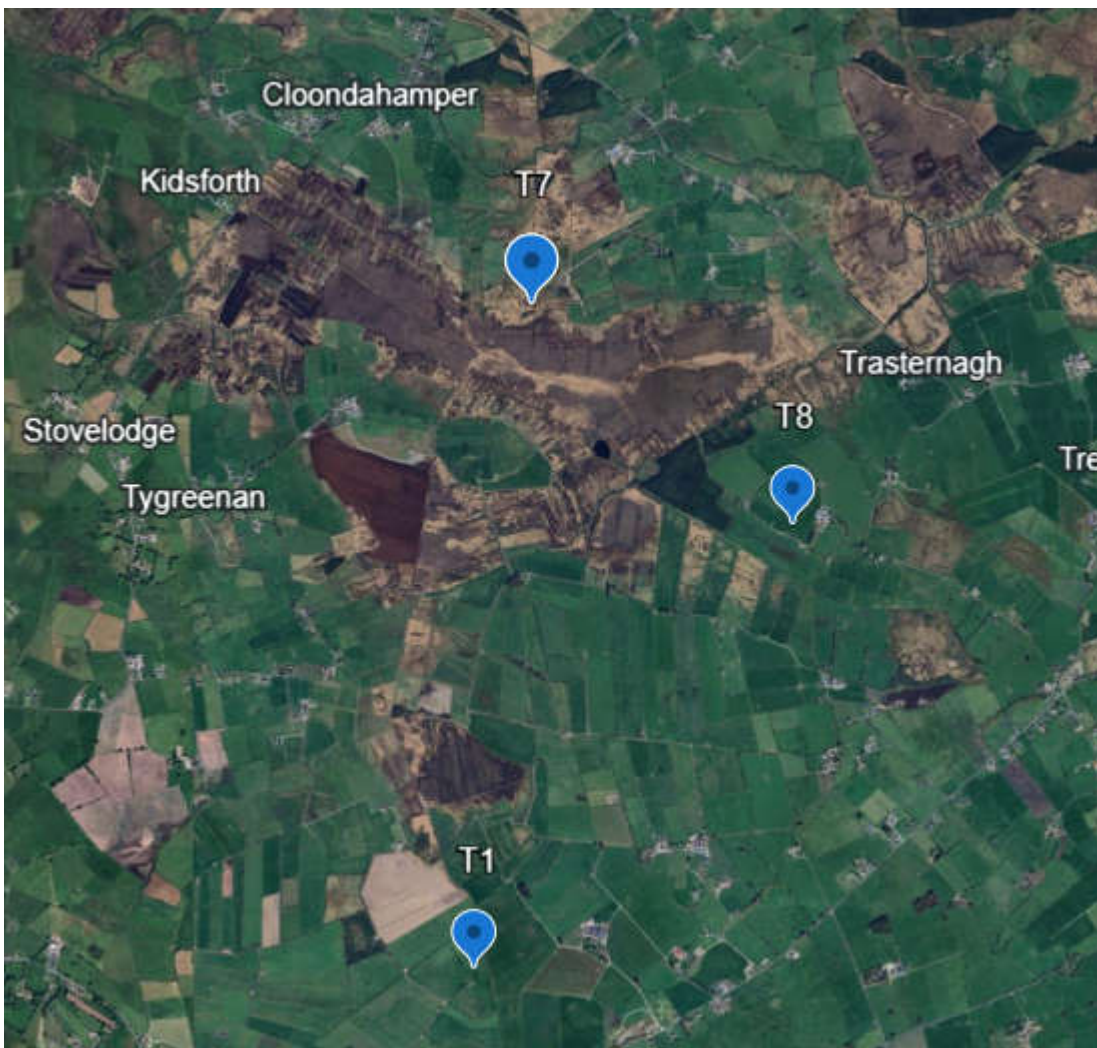
From: Robert Power, Vodafone (External) <robert.power1@vodafone.com>
Sent: Thursday 31 July 2025 09:55
To: Evan Connolly
Cc: Gavin Byrne, Vodafone
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Evan,

Vodafone does not have any transmission within the proposed area.

Kind Regards,
Robert



From: Evan Connolly <econnolly@mkoireland.ie>

Sent: Wednesday 30 July 2025 17:11

To: Robert Power, Vodafone (External) <robert.power1@vodafone.com>

Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Dear Robert,

MKO is following up regarding a scoping document issued on 17th April 2023, as part of an Environmental Impact Assessment Report and planning application on behalf of Neoen Renewables Ireland Limited for a proposed renewable energy development located at Cooloo, Co. Galway. As an extended period of time has passed since scoping was initially carried out, we are reaching out to provide updated details on the proposed development. Please find attached a figure identifying the layout of the proposed development.

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- i. 9 no. wind turbines with an overall turbine tip height of 180 metres; a rotor blade diameter of 150 - 162 metres; and hub height of 99 - 105 metres, and associated foundations and hard-standing areas;*
- ii. Underground electrical (33kV) and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines and meteorological mast to the on-site substation;*
- iii. 1 no. temporary construction compound (including site offices and welfare facilities);*
- iv. A meteorological mast with a height of 100 metres, security fencing and associated foundation and hard-standing area;*
- v. A new temporary site entrance on the R332;*
- vi. Construction of 1 no. operational access site entrance either side of the L6301 Local Road in the townlands of Lecarrow and Cooloo;*
- vii. Construction of 4 no. access and egress points to facilitate the crossing of the L6056 Local Road in the townland of Dangan Eighter and L6301 Local Road in the townland of Cooloo*
- viii. Upgrade of existing site tracks/roads and provision of new site access roads, junctions and hardstand areas;*
- ix. Accommodation works along the public road network along the N63 national road and R332 Regional Road in the townland of Slievegorm to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and other abnormal sized loads;*
- x. Demolition of an existing derelict house (Area c.61m²) and adjacent outbuilding (c. 36m²) in the townland of Cooloo;*
- xi. Peat and Spoil Management Areas;*
- xii. Tree felling and hedgerow removal;*
- xiii. Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan measures (including establishment of a riparian buffer and hedgerow enhancement);*
- xiv. Site Drainage;*
- xv. Operational Stage site signage; and*
- xvi. All ancillary works and apparatus.*

In addition to the above; associated grid connection infrastructure, including an on-site 110kV substation, battery energy storage compound and underground cable within the public road network to the Cloon 110kV substation

have been assessed as part of the EIAR. However, these are subject to a separate Section 182A/E submission to ACP and will not form part of the above planning application.

While we note that you had provided feedback previously, we appreciate any additional comments you may have at this time.

Kind regards,
Evan

Evan Connolly BSc. MSc.
Graduate Environmental Scientist

MKO

9C Beckett Way, Park West
Business Park, Dublin, D12 XN9W



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From: Robert Power, Vodafone (External) <robert.power1@vodafone.com>
Sent: Monday 19 February 2024 09:50
To: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Cc: Siobhan Burke, Vodafone <siobhan.burke1@vodafone.com>; Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Subject: RE: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

You don't often get email from robert.power1@vodafone.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Hi Eileen,

Vodafone does not have any transmission in the area. See screenshot below.

Kind Regards,
Robert



Robert Power

Transmission Engineer

Technology- NET

+353864648455

robert.power1@vodafone.com

Vodafone Ireland Limited, Registered Office:

MountainView, Leopardstown, Dublin 18, Registered in
Ireland: No. 326967

vodafone.ie

The future is exciting.

Ready?



From: Siobhan Burke, Vodafone <siobhan.burke1@vodafone.com>
Sent: Monday 19 February 2024 09:23
To: Robert Power, Vodafone (External) <robert.power1@vodafone.com>; Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Subject: FW: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Hi Rob,

Can you please have a look at below when you get a chance.

Thanks,
Siobhan

C2 General

From: Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Sent: Friday 16 February 2024 19:27
To: Siobhan Burke, Vodafone <siobhan.burke1@vodafone.com>
Subject: FW: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

Hi Siobhan,

Can you ask one of the team to take a look at the attached windfarm. Thanks



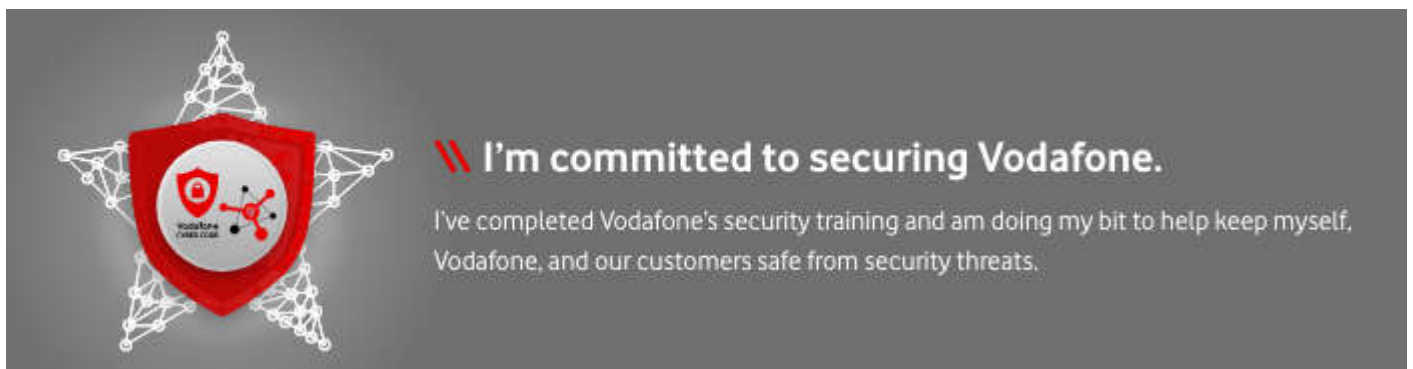
Gavin Byrne

Senior TX Planning & Design Engineer
Converged Transmission
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C2 General

From: Eileen Corley <ecorley@mkoireland.ie>
Sent: Friday 16 February 2024 16:42
To: Gavin Byrne, Vodafone <gavin.byrne@vodafone.com>
Subject: 190723 Scoping for Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo Co. Galway

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Hi Gavin,

We are undertaking a round of scoping for a Proposed Wind Farm Development at Cooloo, Co. Galway,

The approximate location of the centre of the site is X556007, Y749492 in Irish Transverse Mercator (ITM).

Please see attached the KML file for the Proposed Wind Farm Site Boundary.

We welcome any comments on this development.

Kind regards,
Eileen.

Eileen Corley
Graduate Environmental Scientist

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