



APPENDIX 6-1

Botanical Study

Botanical Study - Appendix 6-1

Cooloo Wind Farm, Co.
Galway





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2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Introduction

MKO were commissioned to undertake detailed botanical surveys to provide an evaluation and assessments of the habitats occurring on site at the proposed Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway. The detailed assessments focused on the habitats occurring within the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm. The detailed botanical surveys were undertaken on the 13th of July 2023, 2nd and 29th of August 2023, 5th, 18th and 22nd September 2023, 14th November 2024, 18th of September 2024, 18th of June 2025 and on the 2nd of September 2025. Additional surveys to inform habitat mapping were undertaken on dates in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

2.2 Survey Methods

A total of 27 relevés detailed were undertaken within the construction footprint within the study area. The location of each is provided on Figure 1-1.

Relevés that were undertaken in peatland habitats followed guidelines set out in the following documents:

- Smith, G.F. & Crowley, W. (2020) The habitats of cutover raised bog. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 128. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland.
- Fernandez, F., Connolly K., Crowley W., Denyer J., Duff K. & Smith G. (2014) Raised Bog Monitoring and Assessment Survey 2013. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 81. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland.

Additionally, relevés taken within grassland habitats followed the following guidelines:

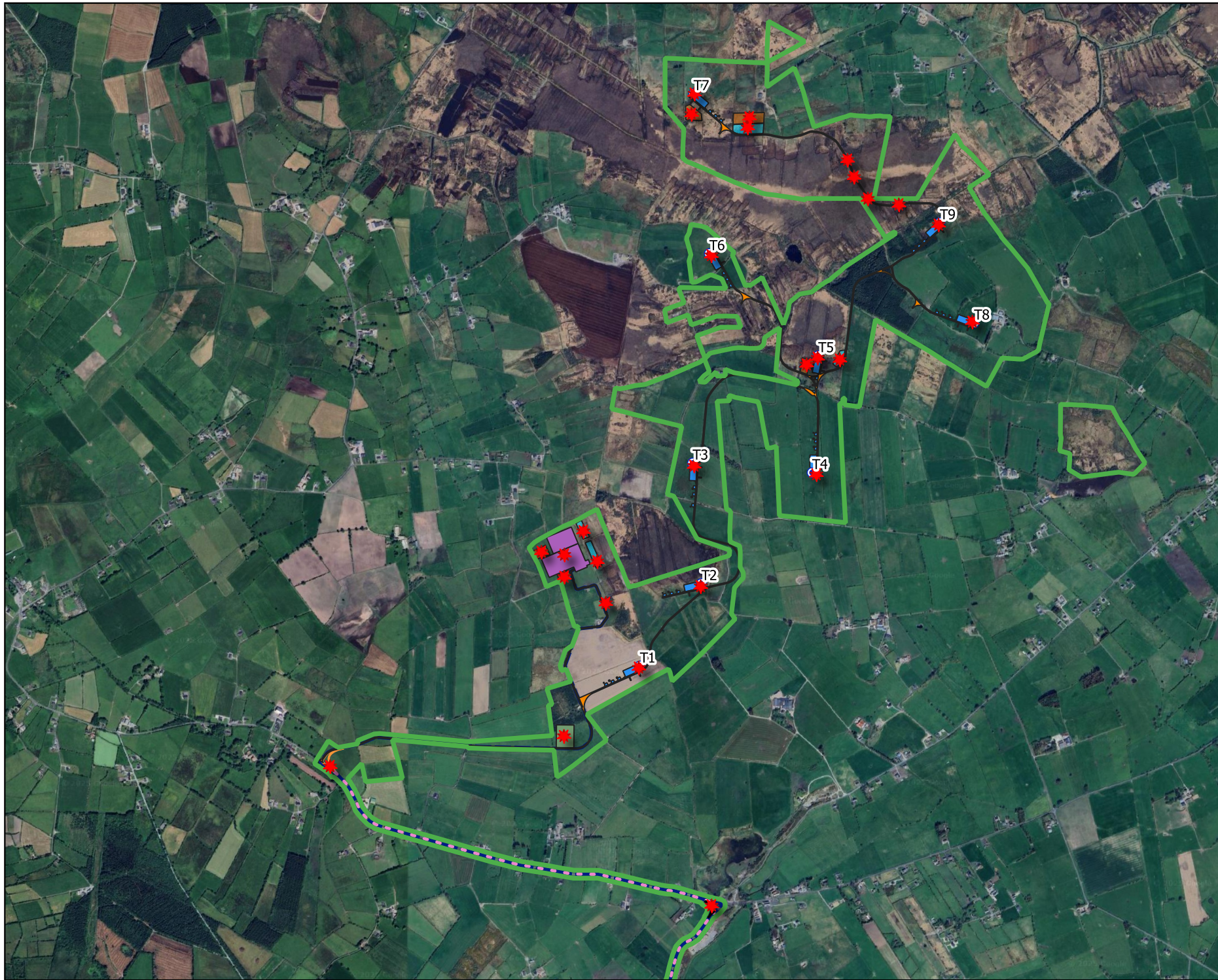
- Martin, J.R., O'Neill, F.H. & Daly, O.H. (2018), The monitoring and assessment of three EU Habitats Directive Annex I grassland habitats. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 102. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

All species were readily identifiable during the survey. Plant nomenclature for vascular plants follows '*New Flora of the British Isles*' (Stace, 2010), while mosses and liverworts nomenclature follows '*Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland - a field guide*' (British Bryological Society, 2010).

2.3 Statement of Authority

This report has been prepared by Cuan Feely (B.Sc.) and Emily Fair (B.Sc., M.Sc.). Emily is an Ecologist with MKO and has over 4 years of professional experience. This report has been reviewed by Rachel Walsh (B.Sc., MCIEEM). Rachel has extensive experience in ecological consultancy and has undertaken numerous assessments covering a wide range of projects including wastewater treatment plants, wind farms, road and rail infrastructure and housing developments.

The baseline ecological surveys were undertaken by Emily Fair, Cathal Bergin (B.Sc.), Cora Twomey (B.Sc.), Brónagh Boylan (B.Sc.), Rudraksh Gupta (B.Sc., M.Sc.), Tom Peters (B.Sc., M.Sc.), Mairead Kavanagh (B.Sc.), Nora Szijarto (B.Sc., M.Sc.), Timothy O'Ceallaigh (B.Sc., M.Sc.), Caitrin Farren (B.Sc.), Cuan Feely (B.Sc.) and Matthew Kieran (B.Sc.).



Map Legend

-  Relieve Locations
-  EIAR Site Boundary
-  Proposed Turbine Layout
-  Proposed Turbine Crane Platform and Hardstanding
-  Turbine Foundations
-  Proposed Substation and BESS Compound
-  Proposed Met Mast
-  Proposed Existing Roads to be Upgraded
-  Proposed New Roads
-  Proposed Construction Compound
-  Proposed Peat Repository Areas
-  Proposed Spoil Repository Areas
-  Proposed Turbine Delivery Route Overrun Area
-  Proposed Turbine Delivery Accommodation Area
-  Proposed Grid Connection
-  Proposed Turbine Delivery Route


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Drawing Title

Relieve Locations

Project Title
Cooloo Wind Farm, Co. Galway

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3. RESULTS

3.1 Proposed Wind Farm Turbines

3.1.1 Turbine 1

Turbine 1 is proposed to be located within a large, open field that is entirely dominated by a monoculture of Barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) crops. The receiving habitat is arable crops (BC1). The turbine hard stand is located on one of two existing field drains present crossing the field, and the larger field is bordered by hedgerows (WL1). Please see Table 3-1 for further detail.

Table 3-1 Botanical Survey Results for T1

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55338 47584	Date 18/06/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Hordeum vulgare</i>	Barley	100
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Arable crops (BC1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		None
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-1 Receiving arable crops (BC1) habitat located in the footprint of Turbine 1

3.1.2

Turbine 2

Turbine 2 is located within a small wet field consisting of an improved agricultural grassland (GA1) habitat, bordered on all sides with hedgerows (WL1), drains (FW4) and fencing. This field is located directly adjoining a Cutover bog (PB4) habitat to the north and was likely drained and improved for agricultural purposes. The dominant species in this grassland habitat include Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and White Clover (*Trifolium repens*). Please see Table 3-2 for further detail.

Table 3-2 Botanical Survey Results for T2

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55652 48005	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	65
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	25
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	10
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	15
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	20

<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	3
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	15
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle	5
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	8
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	8
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	<0.5
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-2 Receiving habitat (GA1) within the footprint of Turbine 2

3.1.3

Turbine 3

Turbine 3 is within a wet, improved agricultural grassland field (GA1) bordered with hedgerows (WL1) and field drains (FW4). The field as well as the adjoining field to the north (separated by fencing and a drain) were grazed by cattle at the time of the survey. The dominant species within this grassland habitat include Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). Please see Table 3-3 for further detail.

Table 3-3 Botanical Survey Results for T3

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55608 48618	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	70
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	40
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	20
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	15
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	5
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	8
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	5
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dog's tail	7
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-3 Receiving habitat (GA1) within the footprint of Turbine 3

3.1.4

Turbine 4

Turbine 4 is entirely located within an improved agricultural grassland (GA1) field surrounded by hedgerows (WL1) along the east and west field boundaries. This field was grazed at the time of the survey. The dominant species within this grassland include Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). Please see Table 3-4 for further detail.

Table 3-4 Botanical Survey Results for T4

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 56213 48613	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	70
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	20
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	15
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common Daisy	10
<i>Galium palustre</i>	Marsh Bedstraw	8
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	10
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	<0.5
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	<0.5
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Improved Agricultural Grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-4 Receiving habitat (GA1) within the footprint of Turbine 4

3.1.5

Turbine 5

Turbine 5 is located within a field that has been drained and subject to peat extraction. Surrounding fields to the east and west of the proposed turbine and hardstand are also being actively extracted. The area is dry and firm with bare peat present. The habitat found within this area is consistent with Cutover bog (PB4). Man-made drainage features (FW4) line the field boundaries, with a drain present beneath the proposed hardstand of T5. These are heavily vegetated with Brambles (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.), Willows (*Salix spp.*) and Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*). The peatland habitat directly north of T5 has been drained but is not being actively extracted from.

The dominant species within this habitat include Ling Heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Cross-leaved Heath (*Erica tetralix*), Purple Moor-grass (*Molinia caerulea*), White-beaked Sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*) and Carnation Sedge (*Carex panicea*). Please see Table 3-5 for further detail.

This area comprises degraded, dry cutover bog and does not correspond with Annex I habitat.

Table 3-5 Botanical Survey Results for T5

Relevé (4m x 4m)	Grid reference: M 56243 49159	Date 18/09/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass	22
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	22
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling Heather	40
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass	10
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	10
<i>Myrica gale</i>	Bog Myrtle	10
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	White-beaked Sedge	22
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge	22
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew	10
<i>Juncus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Rush	10
Non-vascular Plants		
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>		2
Additional relevé data as per Smith et al. 2020¹		
<i>Sphagnum</i> cover		2

¹ Smith, G.F. & Crowley, W. (2020) The habitats of cutover raised bog. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 128. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Ireland

Bare peat cover	45
Substrate firmness (firm, soft, very soft, quaking)	Firm
Moisture level (wet, intermediate, dry)	Dry
Soil type	Peat
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification	Cutover Bog (PB4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)	BG1B <i>Rhynchospora alba</i> - <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>
IWM 128 sub-community classification	<i>Calluna vulgaris</i> -bare peat cutover bog (BP1)
Affinity to Annex I habitat	No



Plate 3-5 Receiving habitat within the footprint of Turbine 5

3.1.6

Turbine 6

Turbine 6 is located within a wet, Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) field. The field is sloped towards the south/east, with a hedgerow (WL1) located at the crest of the hill in the west. Hedgerows also (WL1) line the southern border of the field. Please see Table 3-6 for further detail.

Table 3-6 Botanical Survey Results for T6

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55687 49673	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	80
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	15
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	5
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Mouse-ear Chickweed	3
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	20
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	5
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	7
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogs-tail	10
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet vernal	3
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow grass	5
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Improved Agricultural Grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL3B <i>Lolium perenne</i> - <i>Trifolium repens</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-6 Receiving habitat within the footprint of T6

3.1.7 Turbine 7

Turbine 7 is located within a Dry meadows and grass verges (GS2) grassland habitat. The field is bordered on all sides by hedgerows (WL1) and a field drains (FW4) crosses beneath the hard stand. The most abundant species within this habitat include Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*), Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*).

The likelihood of this habitat to correspond with the Annex I habitat *Lowland hay meadows* (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) (6510) was considered². However, no high-quality indicator species were recorded within this habitat, and the only positive indicator species, Ribwort Plantain (*Plantago lanceolata*) and red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) are common and widespread species. Therefore, this grassland does not correspond with any Annex I habitat type. Please see Table 3-7 for further detail.

Table 3-7 Botanical Survey Results for T7

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55610 50485	Date 21/08/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	10
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	8
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	40
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetch	3
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	30
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	<0.5
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	10
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Marsh woundwort	<0.5
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL4A <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> - <i>Trifolium repens</i>

² Martin, J.R., O'Neill, F.H. & Daly, O.H. (2018), *The monitoring and assessment of three EU Habitats Directive Annex I grassland habitats. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 102. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.*



Plate 3-7 Receiving habitat of Turbine 7

3.1.8 Turbine 8

Turbine 8 is located within an improved agricultural grassland (GA1) field surrounded by hedgerows (WL1) and treelines (WL2). The field has been entirely reseeded with Perennial rye grass (*Lolium perenne*) and lacked any other species diversity.

The field is adjoined by an uninhabited farmhouse and farm outbuildings (BL3) to the east, a hedgerow (WL1) to the south and northwest of the field and treelines (WL2) lining the west/northwest and southeast boundary. Please see Table 3-8 for further detail.

Table 3-8 Botanical Survey Results for T8

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 57029 49315	Date: 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	90
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	15
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	5
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	5
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	5
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Nettle	<0.5
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	<0.5
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	<0.5
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Improved Agricultural Grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-8 Receiving habitat within the footprint of Turbine 8

3.1.9 Turbine 9

Turbine 9 is located within a wet agricultural grassland (GS4) field. The northwest of the field is bordered by a conifer plantation (WD4) and the Grange River (Grange(Galway)_010), a lowland and depositing river (FW2). The southeast of the field is bordered by gappy hedgerows (WL1) containing Grey Willow (*Salix cinerea*), Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*). There is also a dry field drain (FW4) located adjoining the hedgerow. Please see Table 3-9 for further detail.

The potential for these wet grasslands to correspond with Annex I Molinia Meadow habitat was considered². However, given the dominance of species such as soft rush, it was deemed that the grasslands do not correspond to the Annex I type.

Table 3-9 Botanical Survey Results for T9

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 56866 49848	Date 18/06/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Hard Rush	40
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	60
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	5
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle	30
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	30
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Field Sorrel	5
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	30
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Wet Grassland (GS4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-9 Receiving habitat within the footprint of Turbine 9

3.2 **Proposed Associated Wind Farm Infrastructure**

3.2.1 **Proposed Substation**

The proposed substation is located within improved agricultural grassland (GA1) located beside hedgerows of Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus* agg.) and stone walls. The dominant species within this grassland include Common Bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). Please see Table 3-10 for further detail.

Table 3-10 Botanical Survey Results for the Proposed Construction Compound

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 54989 48079	Date 18/09/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	35
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	15
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	60
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	5
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	20
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	5
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	1
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Improved Agricultural Grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL3B <i>Lolium perenne</i> – <i>Trifolium repens</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-10 Receiving habitat in the footprint of the proposed substation

3.2.2

Proposed Met Mast

The proposed met mast is located in a field of Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) bordering an existing road to its southwest. The dominant species within this grassland include Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and Creeping Bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*). Please see Table 3-11 for further detail.

Table 3-11 Botanical Survey Results for the Proposed Met Mast

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55163 47918	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	70
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	10
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broadleaved Dock	5
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	30
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	15
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	5
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Improved Agricultural Grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-11 Receiving habitat of the proposed met mast location

3.2.3

Proposed Temporary Construction Compound

The proposed construction compound is located within a field of Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2). The field is bordered to the north by an immature Conifer plantation (WD4) containing species such as Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), Sessile Oak (*Quercus petraea*), Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*) and Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*). The dominant species within the grassland are Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*) and Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*). The northwest corner (approx. 0.13ha) of the proposed compound is located within monoculture conifer forestry (WD4). Please see Table 3-12 for further detail.

Table 3-12 Botanical survey results for the proposed construction compound

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 54945 47226	Date 18/06/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	10
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	4
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	35
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	25
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	20
<i>Stellaria graminea</i>	Lesser Stitchwort	2
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	10
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	8
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass	15
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow Grass	15
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dogs-tail	8
<i>Carex hirta</i>	Hairy Sedge	8
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Dry meadows and Grassy verges (GS2)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL3B <i>Lolium perenne</i> – <i>Trifolium repens</i> (transitional)
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-12 Receiving habitat of Proposed Construction Compound

Proposed Road between T7 and T9

This proposed road crosses a section of bog habitat between the proposed T7 and T9. Smaller areas of cutover bog can be found along the road.

Habitats corresponding to cutover bog (PB4) are found along the proposed access road between T7 and T9. The margins of this bog have all been cut, with all bog margins classified as cutover bog (PB4). Many of these areas are still actively being extracted and are all heavily drained. Marginal habitat areas between the cutaway and high bog area, as well as uncut areas with the high bog that are proposed to accommodate the new access road between T7 and T9 were assessed by carrying out detailed relevés and habitat condition assessments below. Four relevés were taken within the marginal and high bog habitat areas, and of the four, the two marginal habitats were assessed as cutaway bog (PB4) based on the assessment criteria in IWM 128 (Smith & Crowley, 2020)³.

Relevé 1 corresponded to IWM 128 sub-communities: *MS3 Molinia caerulea – Polygala serpyllifolia* cutover bog and *MS4 Cladonia portentosa–Trichophorum germanicum* cutover bog. Relevé 4 corresponded closely to the IWM 128 sub community *MS4 Calluna vulgaris – Sphagnum subnitens* cutover bog. In light of this, relevé 1 and 4 do not conform to any Annex 1 habitats.

The uncut areas are surrounded by deep drains and extensive areas of cutover bog, with small pockets of bare peat present. The majority of these habitats are dry in nature, and the vegetation is typically dominated by abundant ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), bog asphodel (*Narthecium ossifragum*), bog myrtle (*Myrica gale*) cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*). *Sphagnum* cover is limited throughout, with few hummocks, sparse pool and overall, relatively dry ground. No areas were identified as quaking. The ground became wetter and softer moving west to east through the bog, with small hummocks becoming more frequent. Uncut areas that have not been drained are limited in extent throughout this habitat, and areas of high *Sphagnum* areas are fragmented within this habitat. Relevés 2 and 3 were identified as corresponding to *High Sphagnum* communities as per IWM 1283. Therefore, the relevé data was subsequently assessed based on the criteria in the IWM 81 (Fernandez et al, 2014).

Based on the ecotopes criteria and active peat forming communities complex key, found in Appendix 2 of the IWM 81, relevé 2 corresponds to two ecotopes – (1) Sub-marginal ecotope Complex 9/7 and (2) Sub-central ecotope community complex 9/7/10. Relevé 3 was assessed based on the same criteria and the relevant ecotopes assigned to this habitat were *Sub-central ecotope 10/9/3* and *sub-central ecotope community complex 9/7/10*.

Based on this condition assessment, the relevé data (below) as well as the IVC classifications and IWM 128/81 sub-community classification, it is likely that the habitat at releve 2 and 3 is a degraded raised bog habitat with small, fragmented areas of active raised bog. Therefore, based on the condition assessment described above and detailed releve data, the location of the proposed new floating road between T7 and T9 (approximately 285m of the proposed new floating access road) correspond to the Annex 1 habitat *Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (7120)*.

Please see Table 3-13 - Table 3-16 below for further detail.

³ According to Smith & Crowley (2020), an area of cutover bog must have *Sphagnum* cover of more than 40%, in addition to other criteria, to qualify as Active Raised Bog. As this is the threshold used for the High *Sphagnum* habitat group, it follows that an area of cutover should fall into the HS1, HS2 or HS3 habitat types to qualify as active raised bog. Additionally, according to Smith & Crowley (2020), MS4 habitats are not peat forming and therefore do not have any affinity to any Annex 1 habitats. MS3 is considered of moderate conservation interest. In cases where *Succisa pratensis* is present in significant abundance, it may be an important habitat for Marsh Fritillary and considered of higher conservation interest.

Table 3-13 Botanical survey results for releve 1 on the proposed road between T7 and T9

Relevé 1 (4m x 4m)	Grid reference: M 56422 50063	Date 18/09/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor-grass	20
<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>	Black Bog Rush	5
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	30
<i>Myrica gale</i>	Bog Myrtle	87
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	15
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	10
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	<5
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge	<5
<i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i>	Bog Bean	5
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass	<5
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling Heather	<5
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog Rosemary	<5
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved Sundew	<5
Non-vascular Plants		
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>		10
<i>Sphagnum medium</i>		3
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>		20
<i>Sphagnum capifolium</i>		5
<i>Sphagnum fallax</i>		2
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>		0.5
Additional relevé data as per Smith & Crowley, 2020¹		
<i>Sphagnum</i> cover		40.5
Bare peat cover		0
Substrate firmness (firm, soft, very soft, quaking)		Firm-soft

Moisture level (wet, intermediate, dry)	Intermediate
Soil type	Bog Peat
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification	Cutover bog (PB4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)	BG2D <i>Erica tetralix</i> - <i>Schoenus nigricans</i>
IWM128 sub-community classification	MS3 <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i> cutover bog/MS4 <i>Cladonia portentosa</i> – <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i> cutover bog
Affinity to Annex I habitat	No ³



Plate 3-13 Receiving habitat at releve 1 at the proposed road between T7 and T9

Table 3-14 Botanical survey results for releve 2 on the proposed road between T7 and T9

Relevé 2 (4m x 4m)	Grid reference: M 56400 50137	Date 18/09/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	White Beak-sedge	15
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	Reindeer Lichen	15
<i>Myrica gale</i>	Bog Myrtle	15
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	20
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	15
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling Heather	35
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	25
Non-vascular Plants		
<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>		0.5
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>		15
<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>		20
<i>Sphagnum medium</i>		2
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>		5
<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>		5
Additional relevé data as per Fernandez et al, 2014⁴		
<i>Sphagnum</i> cover		47.5
Bare peat cover		0.5
Substrate firmness (firm, soft, very soft, quaking)		Soft
Moisture level (wet, intermediate, dry)		Dry
Soil type		Bog Peat

⁴ Fernandez, F., Connolly K., Crowley W., Denyer J., Duff K. & Smith G. (2014) Raised Bog Monitoring and Assessment Survey 2013. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 81. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht, Dublin, Ireland

Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification	Raised bog (PB1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)	BG2B <i>Erica tetralix</i> - <i>Andromeda polifolia</i>
IWM 81 sub-community classification	Sub marginal ecotope 9/7 and Sub-central ecotope community complex 9/7/10
Affinity to Annex I habitat	Yes ⁵



Plate 3-14 Receiving habitat at releve 2 at the proposed road between T7 and T9

⁵ The location of the proposed floating road between T7 and T9 is located within a habitat that likely corresponds to the Annex 1 habitat 7120 Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. Therefore, by taking a conservative, precautionary approach, this habitat corresponds to the Annex 1 habitat 7120.

Table 3-15 Botanical survey results for releve 3 on the proposed road between T7 and T9

Relevé 3 (4m x 4m)	Grid reference: M 56487 49962	Date 18/09/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	10
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	Reindeer Lichen	20
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling Heather	30
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass	15
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	15
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	35
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge	3
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog Rosemary	5
Non-vascular Plants		
<i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>		10
<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>		20
<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>		3
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>		10
<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>		3
<i>Sphagnum rubellum</i>		3
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>		10
<i>Sphagnum subnitens</i>		10
Additional relevé data as per Fernandez et al, 2014⁴		
<i>Sphagnum</i> cover		69
Bare peat cover		0
Substrate firmness (firm, soft, very soft, quaking)		Soft
Moisture level (wet, intermediate, dry)		Intermediate
Soil type		Bog Peat

Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification	Raised bog (PB1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)	BG2B <i>Erica tetralix</i> - <i>Andromeda polifolia</i>
IWM 81 sub-community classification	Sub-central ecotope 10/9/3 and sub-central ecotope community complex 9/7/10
Affinity to Annex I habitat	Yes ⁵



Plate 3-15 Receiving habitat at releve 3 at the proposed road between T7 and T9

Table 3-16 Botanical survey results for releve 4 on the proposed road between T7 and T9

Relevé 4 (4m x 4m)	Grid reference: M 56638 49932	Date 18/09/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved Heath	15
<i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Bog Asphodel	80
<i>Carex flacca</i>	Glaucous Sedge	2
<i>Trichophorum cespitosum</i>	Deergrass	5
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling Heather	25
<i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Common Cottongrass	5
<i>Carex panicea</i>	Carnation Sedge	2
<i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>	Hare's-tail Cottongrass	10
<i>Andromeda polifolia</i>	Bog Rosemary	0.5
<i>Rhynchospora alba</i>	White Beak-sedge	2
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>	Reindeer Lichen	3
Non-vascular Plants		
<i>Odontoschisma sphagni</i>		10
<i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>		15
<i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>		7
<i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>		5
<i>Sphagnum rubellum</i>		3
<i>Polytrichum juniperinum</i>		0.5
<i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>		5
Additional relevé data as per Smith & Crowley, 2020		
<i>Sphagnum</i> cover		45.5
Bare peat cover		0
Substrate firmness (firm, soft, very soft, quaking)		Soft
Moisture level (wet, intermediate, dry)		Dry

Soil type	Bog Peat
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification	Cutover Bog (PB4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)	BG2B <i>Erica tetralix</i> - <i>Andromeda polifolia</i>
IWM 128 sub-community classification	MS4 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Sphagnum subnitens</i> cutover bog
Affinity to Annex I habitat	No ³



Plate 3-16 Receiving habitat at releve 4 at the proposed road between T7 and T9

3.4

Turbine Overrun Area at Site Entrance

The proposed turbine overrun area at the site entrance is located in an Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) bordered by a Treeline (WL2) to the southwest. The dominant species located within the grassland habitat includes Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*) and Yorkshire Fog (*Holcus lanatus*). The existing treeline will be permanently removed during the construction phase of the Proposed Project to accommodate the proposed turbine overrun at this location. Please see Table 3-17 for further detail.

Table 3-17 Botanical survey results for releve on the proposed turbine overrun area

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 53769 47127	Date 09/05/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	5
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocks-foot	5
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	30
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	5
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	30
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	60
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly Dock	5
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
Non-vascular Plants		
<i>Calliergonella cuspidata</i>	Pointed Spear Moss	25
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		GA1 – Improved Agricultural Grassland
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C - <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-17 Receiving habitat at of the proposed turbine overrun area at the site entrance

Turbine Delivery Accommodation at the N63/R332 Junction

The proposed turbine delivery accommodation is located within an area of Improved agricultural grassland (GA1) surrounded by a low growing Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) hedgerow at the N63/R332 Junction. The dominant species within this grassland habitat include Perennial Ryegrass (*Lolium perenne*), Broadleaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*) and Common Sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*).

The hedgerow will be permanently removed during the construction phase of the Proposed Project in order to provide the turbine delivery accommodation area at this junction. Please see Table 3-18 for further detail.

Table 3-18 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed turbine delivery accommodation area

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55726 46371	Date 13/08/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	75
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle	12
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broadleaved Dock	22
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	12
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Smooth Hawksbit	12
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	12
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	22
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		GA1 – Improved Agricultural Grassland
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C - <i>Holcus lanatus</i> - <i>Lolium perenne</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-18 Receiving habitat at of the proposed turbine delivery accommodation area



Plate 3-19 Receiving habitat at of the proposed turbine delivery accommodation area

3.6 Peat and Spoil Repository Areas

It is proposed to manage any excess overburden generated through construction activities locally within the Site, in identified 4 peat deposition areas and 5 spoil management areas. A Peat and Spoil Management Plan is provided in Appendix 4-2 of Chapter 4 Description. of this EIAR.

3.6.1 Peat Repository Areas

There are four locations proposed to accommodate peat repository areas throughout the Proposed Wind Farm. Detailed botanical relevés at each peat repository area are provided below In Table 3-19 – Table 3-22.

3.6.1.1 Peat Repository Area 1 (PRA1)

Table 3-19 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed PRA1

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55047 48272	Date 18/06/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	90
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	20
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	5
<i>Rumex crispus</i>	Curly dock	3
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Wet grassland (GS4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2C, <i>Holcus lanatus</i> – <i>Lolium perenne</i> grassland (transitional)
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-20 Receiving habitat at of PRA1

3.6.1.2 Peat Repository Area 2 (PRA2)

Table 3-20 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed PRA2

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 56354 49172	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	15
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	5
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	10
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion	8
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	10
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank	5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	5
<i>Carex echinata</i>	Star sedge	2

Additional relevé data as per Smith & Crowley, 2020 ¹	
Bare peat cover	40%
Substrate firmness (firm, soft, very soft, quaking)	hard
Moisture level (wet, intermediate, dry)	dry
Soil type	peat
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification	Cutover Bog (PB4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)	WE1F- <i>Pericaria maculosa</i> <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> (transitional)
IWM128 sub-community classification	BP2 - <i>Eriophorum</i> <i>angustifolium</i> –bare peat cutover bog (transitional)
Affinity to Annex I habitat	No



Plate 3-21 Receiving habitat at of PRA2

3.6.1.3 Peat Repository Area 3 (PRA3)

Table 3-21 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed PRA3

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55097 48157	Date: 18/06/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Spergula arvensis</i>	Corn spurry	40
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	8
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Marsh woundwort	4
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank	4
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>	Hedge mustard	20
<i>Amsinckia micrantha</i>	Fiddleneck	8
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Recolonizing bare ground (ED3)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		WE1F <i>Persicaria maculosa</i> – <i>Polygonum aviculare</i> weed community
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-22 Receiving habitat at of PRA3

3.6.1.4 Peat Repository Area 4 (PRA4)

Table 3-22 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed PRA4

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55600 50373	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	70
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	25
<i>Molinia caeruleae</i>	Purple Moor Grass	20
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	8
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	8
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested dogs tail	8
<i>Persicaria maculosa</i>	Redshank	3
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh thistle	5

<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	15
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	5
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Wet grassland (GS4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL2D - <i>Juncus effusus-Rumex acetosa</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-23 Receiving habitat at of PRA4

3.6.2 Spoil Repository Areas

There are five proposed locations to accommodate spoil repository areas throughout the Proposed Wind Farm. Detailed botanical relevés at each spoil repository area are provided below in Table 3-23 – Table 3-27

3.6.2.1 Spoil Repository Area 1 (SRA1)

Table 3-23 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed SRA1

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55909 50326	Date 02/09/20205
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft rush	90
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>	Purple Moor grass	40
<i>Potentilla erecta</i>	Tormentil	7
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved heath	8
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Ling heather	10
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion	1
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Wet Grassland (GS4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		HE4E- <i>Molinia caerulea</i> - <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Erica tetralix</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-24 Receiving habitat at of SRA1

3.6.2.2 Spoil Repository Area 2 (SRA2)

Table 3-24 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed SRA2

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 55593 50375	Date 21/08/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	5
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	10
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	10
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	30
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow Vetch	3
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire Fog	30
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush	5
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	10

<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
<i>Stachys palustris</i>	Marsh woundwort	1
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL4A <i>Agrostis capillaris</i> - <i>Trifolium repens</i>
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-25 Receiving habitat at of SRA2

3.6.2.3 Spoil Repository Area 3 (SRA3)

Table 3-25 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed SRA3

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 54975 48050	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		

<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	95
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broadleaved Dock	8
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup	15
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh thistle	<5
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed	10
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	15
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		GL3B <i>Lolium perenne</i> – <i>Trifolium repens</i> (transitional)
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-26 Receiving habitat at SRA3

3.6.2.4 Spoil Repository Area 4 (SRA4)

Table 3-26 Botanical survey results for relevé of the proposed SRA4

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 56183 49113	Date 02/09/2025
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
-	Bare peat	100
Additional relevé data as per Smith & Crowley, 2020^{Error! Bookmark not defined.}		
Bare peat cover		100%
Substrate firmness (firm, soft, very soft, quaking)		Firm
Moisture level (wet, intermediate, dry)		Dry
Soil type		Peat
Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification		Cutover Bog (PB4)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)		N/A
IWM128 sub-community classification		BP3 – Bare Peat Cutover Bog
Affinity to Annex I habitat		No



Plate 3-27 Receiving habitat at of SRA4

3.6.2.5 Spoil Repository Area 5 (SRA5)

Table 3-27 Botanical survey results for releve of the proposed SRA5

Relevé (2m x 2m)	Grid reference: M 54840 48163	Date 18/09/2024
Species	Common Name	% Cover
Vascular Plants		
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater plantain	5
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Ryegrass	20
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broadleaved Dock	10
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	25
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	10
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common bent grass	90
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common chickweed	<5

Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification	Improved agricultural grassland (GA1)
IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)	GL3B <i>Lolium perenne</i> – <i>Trifolium repens</i> (transitional)
Affinity to Annex I habitat	No



Plate 3-28 Receiving habitat at of SRA5

4.

CONCLUSION

A description of relevés undertaken within and adjacent to the footprint of the Proposed Project has been provided within this report. An assessment of the potential Annex I status of habitats within the Proposed Project footprint has also been undertaken and presented.

The infrastructure footprint is dominated by improved agricultural grassland (GA1), with smaller habitat areas consisting of cutover bog (PB4), wet grassland (GS4), dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2), Recolonizing bare ground (ED3) and arable crops (BC1). Frequent habitats adjoining or adjacent to infrastructure include hedgerows (WL1), treelines (WL2) drains (FW4) and commercial conifer forestry (WD4).

As demonstrated by the relevés recorded and presented in Section 3.3 above, the proposed new floating access road between T7 and T9 will be located within a raised bog (PB1) habitat that likely conforms to the Annex I habitat *Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration (7120)*. However, the loss of this area will constitute only 0.18ha (0.54%) of the total raised bog habitat area within the Proposed Project.

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