APPENDIX 1

AN COIMISIÚN PLEANÁLA FURTHER INFORMATION REQUEST

Our Case Number: ACP-323775-25

Planning Authority Reference Number: 2560414

Your Reference: Seskin Renewable Energy Limited

An Coimisiún Pleanála

MKO
Received on
19 MAY 2026
23103

MKO
Planning & Environmental Consultants
Tuam Road
Galway
Co. Galway
H91 VW84

Date: 18 May 2026

Re: Two wind turbines with ancillary and associated development works.
An EIAR and NIS accompany this application
Tinwear Archerstown and Durrow , Co. Laois

Dear Sir / Madam,

I have been asked by An Coimisiún Pleanála to refer to the above-mentioned appeal.

The Commission has examined the appeal and is of the opinion that certain information is necessary for the purpose of enabling it to determine the appeal.

In accordance with section 132 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, (as amended), you are required to submit, on or before **the 18th September, 2026**, the following information:

Land, Soils, Geology and Water

Relating to Chapter 8 of the EIAR regarding Land, Soils and Geology and Chapter 8 of the EIAR relating Water.

1. Reference is made within the EIAR submitted to the Planning Authority to four Groundwater Monitoring boreholes (MW1, MW2, MW3 and MW4), with specific reference to associated borehole logs contained in Appendix 8-1 of the EIAR

   However, a detailed review of the planning application documentation, including Appendix 8-1 of the EIAR, has not identified the referenced borehole logs. This information is required

in order to adequately verify and assess the findings presented in Chapters 8 and 9 of the EIAR.

In this regard, you are required to:

- Submit the borehole logs for the four groundwater monitoring wells (MW1, MW2, MW3 and MW4), as drilled in May 2024
- To confirm that the submitted logs correspond to those referenced in the EIAR and that they include all relevant geological and hydrogeological data necessary to support the assessment.

Noise and Vibration

Relating to Chapter 12 of the EIAR regarding Noise and Vibration:

2. Noise Monitoring Locations (NML1)

   Section 12.4.2.1 outlines the selection of noise monitoring locations with reference to the guidance set out in the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) document '*A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise (2013) (IOA GPG)'* and Supplementary Guidance Notes.

   It is noted that Noise Monitoring Location 1 (NML1) is positioned to the rear of receptor H028 (Figure 12-2), to the east of the proposed wind farm, and is considered representative of approximately 16 receptors along the L58333

   Having regard to the linear spatial distribution of these receptors, their separation distances, and their position to the east and northeast of the proposed turbines (including consideration of prevailing wind direction and downwind effects), you are required to:

   - Provide a detailed justification for the selection of NML1 as representative of this receptor group; and
   - Clarify why an additional noise monitoring location was not established to adequately capture variability across this receptor cluster.

3. HDD Works at European Sites

   The proposed grid connection route includes underground cabling works which will cross beneath the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162) and River Nore SPA (004233). It is noted that no information on the baseline noise conditions at this location and predicted noise/vibration levels associated with the HDD are included in the EIAR / NIS such that potential significant disturbance effects on QI Species can be determined. In this regard, you are required to submit an updated EIAR / NIS which responds to this issue.

4. Substation Noise Assessment

In relation to Section 12.6.3.2.1 (Fixed Plant Noise – Substation), you are required to:

- Provide detailed noise calculations for the operation of the proposed substation, including all input parameters used;
- Demonstrate predicted noise levels at the nearest NSL (Ref. H007); and
- Clarify whether the assessment includes consideration of downwind conditions and any associated increase in noise levels.

5. Clarify the location of the nearest NSL to the proposed substation as Section 12.6.2.4 references NSL 9, whilst Section 12.6.3.2.1 references NSL 007.

6. In relation to Section 12.7.2.2 the EIAR states that "In the event that a complaint which indicates potential excessive amplitude modulation (AM) associated with the Proposed Lifetime Extension,……". Clarification is sought regarding to the reference to the "Proposed Lifetime Extension" as it as to how it relates to the proposed development.

7. Section 12.9 relates to Cumulative Impact, no reference is made to the existing Tirlán facility to the southeast of the proposed windfarm and to any potential cumulative noise impacts associated with this industrial complex. The EIAR has identified a number of Noise Sensitive Locations between the Tirlán facility and the proposed windfarm. However, no reference is made to the Tirlán facility in the cumulative assessment section. You are required to submit an updated EIAR which responds to this issue.

Landscape and Visual

Relating to Chapter 14 of the EIAR regarding Landscape and Visual:

8. Section 14.7.3.2.7 of the EIAR relates to Residential Visual Amenity. The EIAR states that the proposed development exceeds the recommended 500m setback distance in the DoEHLG 2006 Guidelines and adheres with the 4-times tip-height setback distance set out in the Draft 2019 Guidelines, with the closest proposed turbine (T4) located 700m from the nearest residential receptor.

   However, the Draft 2019 Guidelines specify that the 4-times tip-height setback distance should be measured to the curtilage of the nearest residential receptor, rather than to the residential building itself. It is not clear from the information submitted whether the stated 700m setback distance relates to the curtilage of the relevant residential receptors.

   Furthermore, based on a review of the submitted documentation, it would appear that not all residential receptors adhere to the stated 700m setback distance when measured to curtilage, with at least six receptors potentially falling within this distance.

Teil	**Tel**	(01) 858 8100		
Glao Áitiúil	**LoCall**	1800 275 175		
Facs	**Fax**	(01) 872 2684	64 Sráid Maoilbhríde	64 Marlborough Street
Láithreán Gréasáin	**Website**	www.pleanala.ie	Baile Átha Cliath 1	Dublin 1
Ríomhphost	**Email**	communications@pleanala.ie	D01 V902	D01 V902

In this regard, you are required to:

- Submit detailed information demonstrating that the required setback distance, in accordance with the Draft 2019 Guidelines, is achieved for all residential receptors, measured to the curtilage of each property.
- Provide mapping and supporting analysis clearly illustrating all relevant setback distances.
- Where the required setback distance cannot be achieved, update Section 14.7.3.2.7 (Residential Visual Amenity) of the EIAR accordingly, including a revised assessment of potential impacts.

Biodiversity

Relating to Chapter 6 of the EIAR and the NIS regarding Biodiversity:

9. The submitted NIS details the conservation objectives for the River Barrow and River Nore SAC as published on the 19th July 2011. Revised conservation objectives for the site were published on the 6th June 2025. Therefore, you are required to submit an updated AA Screening Report and NIS reflecting the changes to the conservation objectives as published on the 6th June 2025.
10. You are advised that updated guidance has recently been published from DHLGH on Regulation 54 derogation process for protected species listed on Annex IV (Applications for Regulation 54 Derogations for Annex IV species, Guidance for Applicants, Version 1.0, 1 July 2025). In summary, this guidance requires any derogation to be granted before the approval of the consent to the proposed activity. You shall satisfy yourself that you can comply with the updated guidance.

Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives

Relating to Chapter 3 of the EIAR regarding Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives.

11. Having regard to the concerns raised by the Planning Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland(TII) in relation to the feasibility of the proposed development cabling route along the N77, you are requested to provide further clarification responding to the issues raised.

Material Assets

The following information is requested relating to Chapter 15 of the EIAR regarding Material Assets.

12. Having regard to the concerns raised by the Planning Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in relation to the proposed grid connection route along the N77, particularly the potential for technical and safety issues (including differential settlement arising from trench backfilling, with implications for road maintenance, upgrades, and safety works), you are required to submit the following further information:

Detailed Layout Plans

The drawings submitted to date are at an insufficient scale to adequately assess the potential impact of the proposed grid connection on the N77. You are therefore required to:

- Submit a series of site layout plans at an appropriate scale to clearly demonstrate the precise location of the proposed underground cable along the N77. Ensuring that such plans clearly illustrate the existing carriageway surface, road margins on both sides, and the exact alignment of the grid connection route, including the location of any associated infrastructure such as joint bays.

Structural Impact Assessment

- Provide detailed information demonstrating that the proposed installation of the underground cable and associated works will not compromise or structurally undermine the structural integrity of the N77. This should include engineering assessments and construction methodologies as appropriate.

Consideration of Alternative Installation Methods

- Clarify whether Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) has been considered at the location where the proposed grid connection crosses the N77.

Interaction with Existing Utilities

It is noted that the proposed grid connection route traverses existing underground utilities and services associated with the Tirlán facility. You are required to:

- Submit detailed information demonstrating that the proposed grid connection installation will not adversely impact these existing underground utilities and services.

Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

Relating to Chapter 13 of the EIAR regarding Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

13. It is noted that the proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) traverses the Durrow Architectural Conservation Area (ACA), including The Square, Mary Street and Carrigan Street within the town centre. It is further noted that Chapter 13 of the EIAR does not assess the potential

impact of the TDR on the ACA, notwithstanding that accommodation works are proposed to facilitate turbine delivery.

Having regard to the above, you are required to submit the following further information:

- Update the EIAR to include a detailed assessment of the potential effects of the Turbine Delivery Route on the Durrow ACA.
- This assessment should specifically consider the impact of any accommodation works, including potential effects on the character, setting, and architectural significance of the ACA.
- Where impacts are identified, the applicant shall propose appropriate mitigation measures to avoid, reduce, or remedy adverse effects

Recent Coolglass Supreme Court Judgement.

14. You are invited to respond to the recent Supreme Court Judgement [2026] IESC 5.

General

15. Having regard to this further information request, you are required to provide a summary of all amendments to the EIAR, NIS and other supporting information. All changes are to be clearly identified. The applicant is also invited to submit any errata/corrections to the EIAR, NIS and any other supporting information with its response to this further information request. As above, all changes are to be clearly identified.

If the information required is not received before the end of the specified period, the Commission will dismiss or otherwise determine the appeal without further notice to you in accordance with section 133 of the 2000 Act, (as amended). Your submission in response to this notice must be received by the Commission **on or before the date specified above**.

Please quote the above appeal reference number in any further correspondence.

If you have any queries in the meantime, please contact the undersigned officer of the Commission at appeals@pleanala.ie.

Yours faithfully,

Daragh Cassells
Executive Officer
Direct Line:

BP71 Registered Post

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APPENDIX 2

RESPONSE BY HYDRO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

HYDRO ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

22 Lower Main St
Dungarvan
Co.Waterford
Ireland

tel: +353 (0)58 44122
fax: +353 (0)58 44244
email: info@hydroenvironmental.ie
web: www.hydroenvironmental.ie

Date: 21st May 2026
Our Ref: P1653-2-0017

An Coimisiún Pleanála
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1,
D01 V902.

To whom it may concern,

Re: ACP RFI Response

The construction of 2 no. wind turbines and all associated works An Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanies this application.

LCC Planning Ref: 25/60414
ACP Ref: 323775-25

Further to the correspondence issued by An Coimisiún Pleanála, dated 18th May 2026, please see the below response in respect of Land, Soils, Geology and Water.

Item 1 Response:

- Please see the attached monitoring well logs in **Appendix I**.
- These monitoring well logs are those referenced in the EIAR, and they include all relevant geological and hydrogeological data as discussed and assessed in Chapter 8 and Chapter 9 of the EIAR.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Gill

Michael Gill PGeo
Civil Engineer and Hydrogeologist
B.A., B.A.I., M.Sc., Dip Geol, MIEI, MCIWEM

APPENDIX I: Monitoring Well Logs

Monitoring Well Log

Well No.: MW1

Project No: P1653-1 | **Date started:** 13/05/2024 | **Easting:** 641399.0

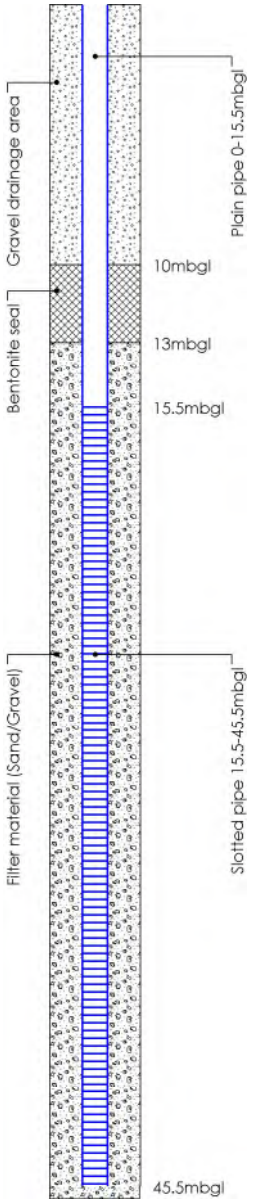
Site: Seskin, Co. Laois | **Date finished:** 14/05/2024 | **Northing:** 674512.4

Client: MKO | **Elevation:** 170.519mOD

SUBSURFACE PROFILE

Depth	Description	Depth/Elev.	Water Level	Comments
0	**Ground Surface**	170.5		
	Firm brown TOPSOIL	0.0		
	Firm brown gravelly clayey CLAY	167.1		
		3.4		
	Firm brown very sandy gravelly CLAY			
	Firm to stiff light grey gravelly silty CLAY [BOULDER CLAY]	162.8	▼	Very slow inflow at 8mbgl
		7.7		
10	Very weak highly weathered grey shaley SILTSTONE / MUDSTONE frequent clayey fractures	158.0		
		12.5		
	Medium strong grey SILTSTONE MUDSTONE			
20				
30				
40		125.0		
		45.5		

Well Completion Details



Remarks:

Drilling Contractor: Petersen Drilling

Drilling type: Knebel HY79 | **Scale as shown**

Logged by: AK | **Sheet:** 1 of 1

HYDRO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 22 Lower Main Street Dungarvan Co. Waterford X35 WK85 - Tel: 058-44122 - email: info@hydroenvironmental.ie

Monitoring Well Log

Well No.: MW2

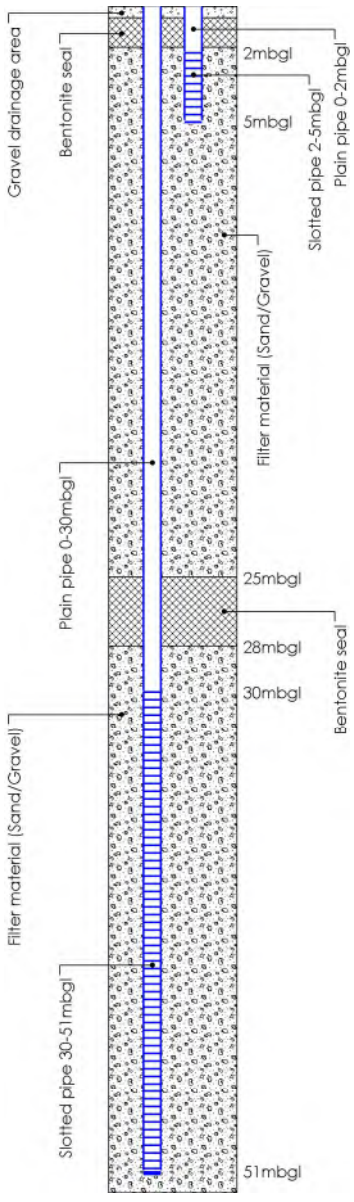
Project No: P1653-1 | **Date started:** 14/05/2024 | **Easting:** 642050.7

Site: Seskin, Co. Laois | **Date finished:** 15/05/2024 | **Northing:** 673871.7

Client: MKO | **Elevation:** 157.688mOD

SUBSURFACE PROFILE

Depth	Symbol	Description	Depth/Elev.	Water Level	Comments	Well Completion Details
0		**Ground Surface**	157.7			
		Firm brown TOPSOIL	0.0			
		Firm brown very sandy gravelly CLAY with frequent limestone cobble content	155.1 / 2.6			
		Weak weathered brownish grey LIMESTONE				
10		Strong grey LIMESTONE occasional fractures				
20						
30						
40						
50			106.7 / 51.0			



Remarks:

Drilling Contractor: Petersen Drilling

Drilling type: Knebel HY79 | **Scale as shown**

Logged by: AK | **Sheet:** 1 of 1

HYDRO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 22 Lower Main Street Dungarvan Co. Waterford X35 WK85 - Tel: 058-44122 - email: info@hydroenvironmental.ie

Monitoring Well Log

Well No.: MW3

Project No: P1653-1 | **Date started:** 15/05/2024 | **Easting:** 641798.5

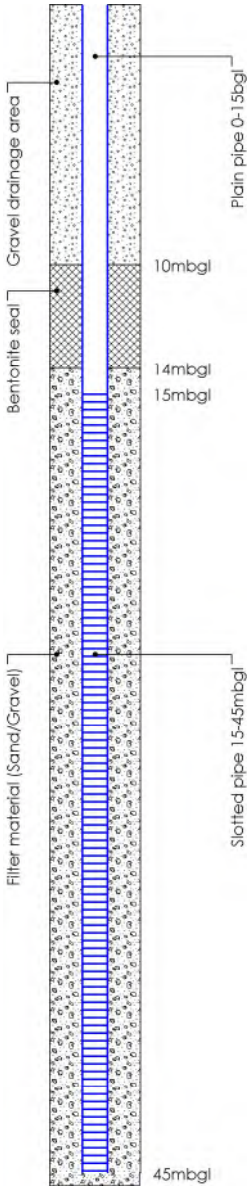
Site: Seskin, Co. Laois | **Date finished:** 16/05/2024 | **Northing:** 673278.6

Client: MKO | **Elevation:** 143.771mOD

SUBSURFACE PROFILE

Depth	Description	Depth/Elev.	Water Level	Comments
	Ground Surface	143.8		
0	Soft to firm brown TOPSOIL	0.0		
	Firm brown gravelly CLAY	140.6		
	Firm to stiff grey gravelly silty CLAY medium cobble content [BOULDER CLAY]	3.2		Slow inflow at 5mbgl
10	Very weak shaley weathered black MUDSTONE			
		126.3		Medium inflow at 17.5mbgl
20	Strong grey LIMESTONE	17.5		
30				
40		98.8		
		45.0		

Well Completion Details



Remarks:

Drilling Contractor: Petersen Drilling

Drilling type: Knebel HY79 | **Scale as shown**

Logged by: AK | **Sheet:** 1 of 1

HYDRO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 22 Lower Main Street Dungarvan Co. Waterford X35 WK85 - Tel: 058-44122 - email: info@hydroenvironmental.ie

Monitoring Well Log

Well No.: MW4

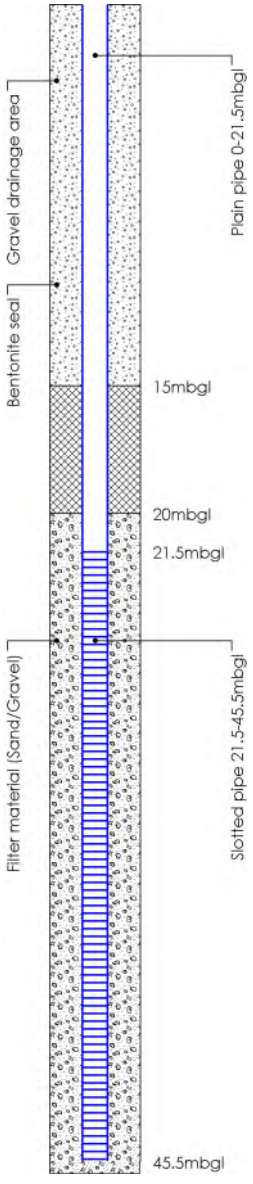
Project No: P1653-1 | **Date started:** 17/05/2024 | **Easting:** 642348.6

Site: Seskin, Co. Laois | **Date finished:** 17/05/2024 | **Northing:** 673117.6

Client: MKO | **Elevation:** 107.2mOD

SUBSURFACE PROFILE

Depth	Description	Depth/Elev.	Water Level	Comments
0	**Ground Surface**	107.2		
	Firm brown TOPSOIL	0.0		
	Firm to stiff brown silty sandy gravelly CLAY medium cobble content	99.8		
	Firm to stiff orangish brown gravelly CLAY frequent limestone fracments possible highly weathered rock	7.4 96.6		
10	Medium strong weathered grey LIMESTONE frequent clay infill	10.6 94.2		
	Strong grey LIMESTONE occasional fractures	13.0		Seepage at 15mbgl
20				Very slow inflow at 43.5mbgl
30				
40				Medium inflow at 43.5mbgl
		61.7		
		45.5		



Remarks:

Drilling Contractor: Petersen Drilling

Drilling type: Knebel HY79 | **Scale as shown**

Logged by: AK | **Sheet:** 1 of 1

HYDRO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES 22 Lower Main Street Dungarvan Co. Waterford X35 WK85 - Tel: 058-44122 - email: info@hydroenvironmental.ie

© HYDRO-ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

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www.hydroenvironmental.ie

APPENDIX 3

RESPONSE FROM AWN CONSULTING LTD



Trinity Consultants

awnconsulting

PROJECT	Seskin Renewables Wind Farm
SUBJECT	RFI –Response
DOCUMENT REFERENCE	
DATE	17 September 2026
WRITTEN BY	APPROVED BY
Alistair Maclaurin Senior Acoustic Consultant	Damian Kelly Technical Director (Acoustics)

Disclaimer

This report considers the specific instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for third-party use or reliance, and no responsibility is accepted for any third party. The provisions in this report apply solely to this project and should not be assumed applicable to other developments without review and modification.

1. INTRODUCTION

AWN Consulting Ltd (AWN) have been requested to respond to the Request for Further Information from An Coimisiún Pleanála that relates to the Noise and Vibration EIAR Chapter for Seskin Renewables Wind Farm. This technical note has been prepared in response to that request.

The noise and vibration assessment carried out as part of the submitted EIAR is considered robust; however, appropriate clarifications and further comment are presented in the following sections of this technical note where relevant, to clarify, expand and reiterate previous statements within the submitted EIAR. The information provided in this report does not alter the findings and conclusions of the original noise assessment presented in the EIAR document.

2. RESPONSE TO ITEM 2

This section responds to the following part of the Request for Further Information:

> *"2. Noise Monitoring Locations (NML1)*
>
> *Section 12.4.2.1 outlines the selection of noise monitoring locations with reference to the guidance set out in the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) document 'A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise (2013) (IOA GPG)' and Supplementary Guidance Notes.*
>
> *It is noted that Noise Monitoring Location 1 (NML1) is positioned to the rear of receptor H028 (Figure 12-2), to the east of the proposed wind farm, and is considered representative of approximately 16 receptors along the L58333*
>
> *Having regard to the linear spatial distribution of these receptors, their separation distances, and their position to the east and northeast of the proposed turbines (including consideration of prevailing wind direction and downwind effects), you are required to:*
>
> - *Provide a detailed justification for the selection of NML1 as representative of this receptor group; and*
> - *Clarify why an additional noise monitoring location was not established to adequately capture variability across this receptor cluster."*

As indicated in the RFI Item, Section 12.4.2.1 of the EIAR provides the methodology for the selection of Noise Monitoring Locations. It states that:

> *"…in line with current best practice guidance outlined in the IOA GPG. The selection of the noise monitoring locations (NMLs) was informed by a site visit and supplemented by reviewing aerial images of the study area and other online sources of information (e.g., Google Earth and OSI Maps)."*

This methodology was applied to ensure that the noise monitoring location selections were representative of sensitive receptors in the area. The selection of monitoring locations was undertaken in line with the guidance presented in the Institute of Acoustics (IOA) *A Good Practice Guide to the Application of ETSU-R-97 for the Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise* (IOA GPG).

NML1 was selected as representative of receptors located to the east and northeast of the proposed development following an assessment of local site conditions, receptor distribution, and existing noise sources. Particular consideration was given to the location's increased set back distance to the N77 in

comparison with other surrounding local receptors, as shown in Figure 1. The monitor was positioned at the rear of the property, where the buildings provided screening from road traffic noise associated with the national road. These factors were considered to ensure that measured noise levels reflected the existing background noise environment rather than being unduly influenced by localised road traffic noise. Consequently, the selected location provides a conservative assessment of background noise conditions for receptors within this area.

It is AWN's professional opinion that NML1 is representative of the background noise environment experienced by the receptor group identified in the RFI. The receptors are located within a broadly similar acoustic environment and are subject to the same background noise sources. The purpose of the monitoring programme was therefore to characterise the prevailing background noise environment within this receptor cluster rather than to capture individual receptor-specific variations, as per best practice guidance.

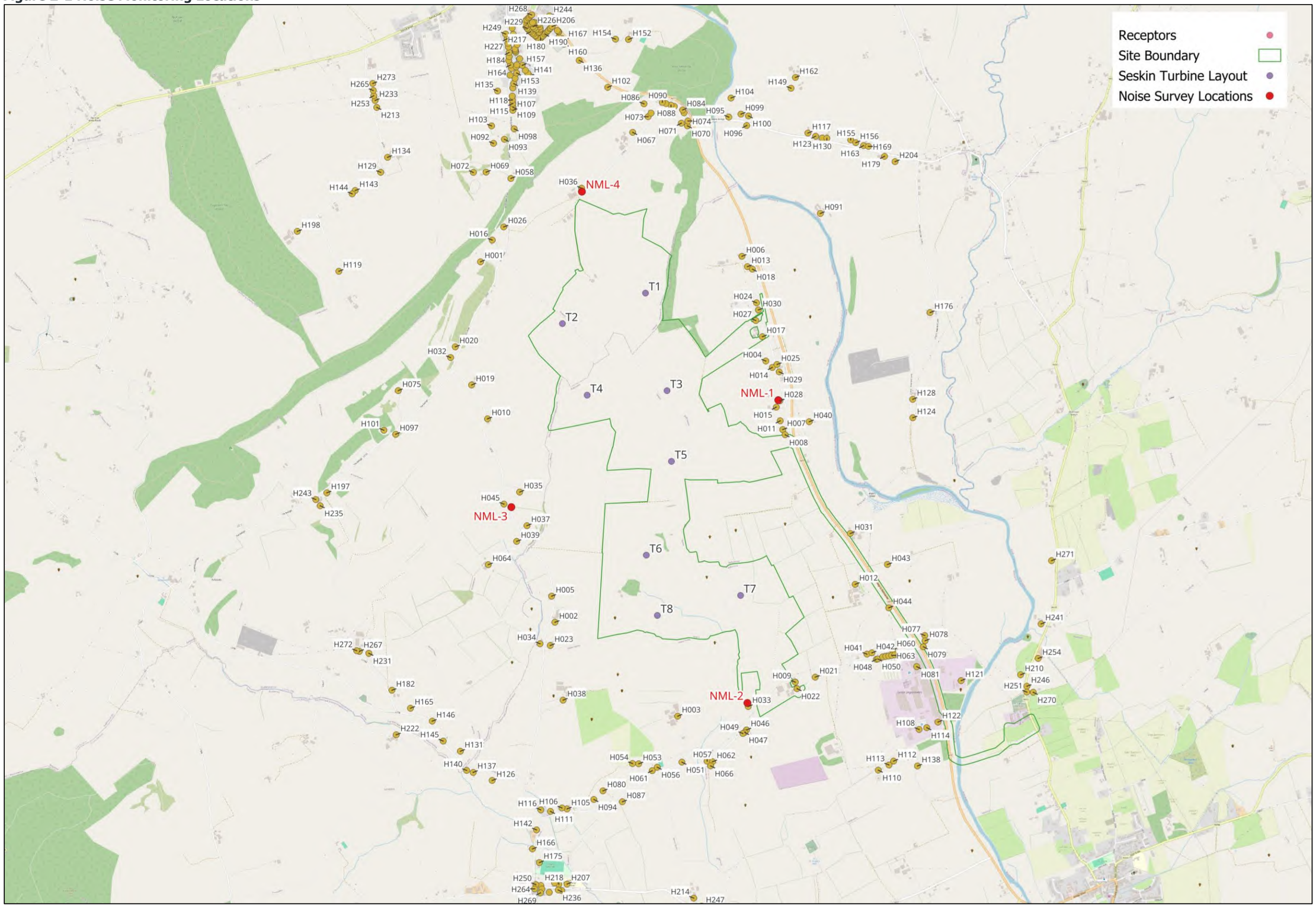
The IOA GPG guidance identifies directional analysis as being potentially necessary where a wind farm is located upwind of a receptor and a significant contributor to the background noise environment is located downwind of the receptor under the same wind conditions. Measured data was reviewed in accordance with the guidance outlined in Section 12.3.2.5.1 and 12.3.2.5.2 of the EIAR chapter, a review of directional analysis indicated that there was no impact for the assessment in comparison with the unfiltered set of data.

Section 12.5.3 of the EIAR states the following with regards to referenced noise sensitive receptors and selected background noise monitoring locations:

> *"For the purpose of this assessment, a conservative 'envelope review' will be applied to all non-surveyed locations. The envelope review is a conservative approach that adopts the lowest noise criteria derived from the measured background noise levels and applies it to all non-surveyed locations. This is not to say that this is the actual background noise at these locations."*

The most conservative background noise levels measured at each wind speed have been referenced for each noise sensitive receptor where monitoring was not undertaken. Hence, more conservative background noise levels and criteria were applied to the majority of receptors within this area for the purposes of assessment.

Figure 2-1 Noise Monitoring Locations



3. RESPONSE TO ITEM 3

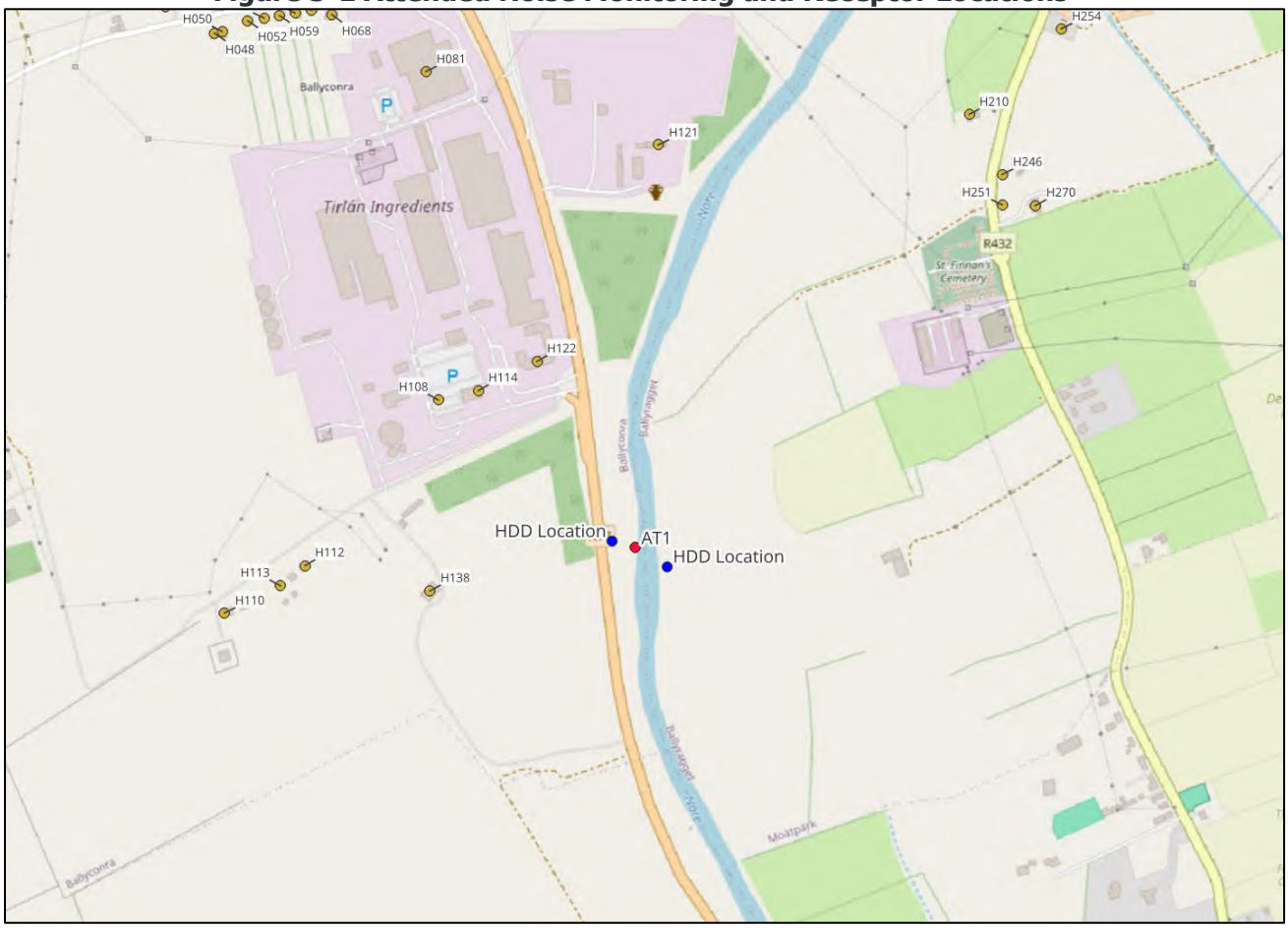
This section responds to the following part of the Request for Further Information:

> *"3. HDD Works at European Sites*
>
> *The proposed grid connection route includes underground cabling works which will cross beneath the River Barrow and River Nore SAC (002162) and River Nore SPA (004233). It is noted that no information on baseline noise conditions at this location and predicted noise/vibration levels associated with the HDD are included in the EIAR / NIS such that potential significant disturbance effects on QI Species can be determined. In this regard, you are required to submit an updated EIAR / NIS which responds to this issue."*

The potential effects of the HDD works were accounted for within the overall grid connection construction assessment, despite not being specifically identified.

It should be noted that additional baseline noise surveys are not required for a robust assessment of construction noise. The assessments within the EIAR chapter have been undertaken considering the most conservative thresholds for noise. However, taking account of Item 3, a further noise survey has been undertaken in the area where HDD works are proposed. Figure 2 presents the location where attended monitoring took place alongside the proposed HDD works location.

Figure 3-1 Attended Noise Monitoring and Receptor Locations



Measurements were undertaken on the 1 July 2026 by AWN. Noise measurements were conducted in accordance with the guidance contained in ISO 1996: *Acoustics – Description measurement and assessment and environmental noise Part 2: Determination of sound pressure levels (2017)*.

A RION NL-52 Sound Level Meter with serial number 586940 was used for the measurements. The sound level meter was field calibrated before and after the measurement and no significant levels of drift were identified. No adverse weather conditions were observed during the survey period.

Measurements were undertaken for one hour at the location of the proposed HDD works, with measurement intervals of 15 minutes.

During the measurement period noise levels were dominated by road traffic on the N77. During lulls in traffic industrial noise from the Tirlan facility, wind noise in the foliage and some distant construction noise was audible.

Table 3-1 presents a summary of the average measured noise levels.

Table 3-1. Summary of Measured Noise Levels

Ref	Time	Measured Noise Levels (dB re. $2x10^{-5}$ Pa)		
		$L_{Aeq,15min}$	L_{Amax}	$L_{A90,15min}$
AT1	14:42 – 15:42	62	71 – 73	50

For the purpose of this assessment reference is made to Table C.2, Item 44 in British Standard 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 *Code of practice for noise and vibration control on construction and open sites – Noise,* which provides a sound level of 77 dB at 10 m distance for a directional drilling rig. Table 3-2 provides the prediction of HDD noise at various distances. The potential disturbance effects on QI species due to noise/vibration levels associated with the HDD works are discussed in Section 2.2.2 of the main FI response document.

Table 3-2. Summary of Predicted Noise Levels

Ref	Plant Noise level at 10m Distance (dB $L_{Aeq,T}$)	Predicted Noise Level (dB $L_{Aeq,T}$) at distance (m)				
		10	20	40	80	120
HDD Rig (BS-5228 Table C.2, Item 44)	77	77	71	60	52	48

4. RESPONSE TO ITEM 4

This section responds to the following part of the Request for Further Information:

> *"4. Substation Noise Assessment*
>
> *In relation to Section 12.6.3.2.1 (Fixed Plant Noise – Substation), you are required to:*
>
> *• Provide detailed noise calculations for the operation of the proposed substation, including all input parameters used;*
>
> *• Demonstrate predicted noise levels at the nearest NSL (Ref. H007); and*

• Clarify whether the assessment includes consideration of downwind conditions and any associated increase in noise levels."

The assessment of substation noise is presented in Section 12.6.3.2.1 of the EIAR. The section states:

"The noise emission level associated with a typical substation that would support a development of this nature is the order of 92 dB(A) L_w.

Noise prediction model calculations for the operation of the substation have been undertaken in accordance with ISO 9613: Acoustics – Attenuation of sound outdoors, Part 2: General method of calculation (2024). The predicted noise level from the operation of the substation at the nearest NSL (H007 at approximately 225 m) is 27 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$."

The noise predictions were undertaken using the iNoise noise modelling software. The model assumed a substation sound power level of 92 dB(A) L_w and a receptor distance of approximately 225 m to NSL H007. The resultant predicted noise level at NSL H007 is 27 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$.

No meteorological corrections were applied during calculation. In accordance with ISO 9613-2, the absence of a meteorological correction represents favourable sound propagation conditions between the source and receiver (i.e. downwind conditions). The assessment has considered the potential effects of downwind conditions at the receiver, and no further increase in predicted noise levels is required.

5. RESPONSE TO ITEM 5

This section responds to the following part of the Request for Further Information:

"5. Clarify the location of the nearest NSL to the proposed substation as Section 12.6.2.4 references NSL 9, whilst Section 12.6.3.2.1 references NSL 007."

It is acknowledged that Section 12.6.2.4 incorrectly references NSL 9. This is a typographical error, and the reference should instead be NSL H007, consistent with Section 12.6.3.2.1. The error is limited to the NSL reference only. The assessment, including the receptor distance and associated calculations, was undertaken using the correct receptor location (NSL H007). Therefore, the findings and conclusions of the assessment remain unchanged.

6. RESPONSE TO ITEM 6

This section responds to the following part of the Request for Further Information:

"6. In relation to Section 12.7.2.2 the EIAR states that "In the event that a complaint which indicates potential excessive amplitude modulation (AM) associated with the Proposed Lifetime Extension,……". Clarification is sought regarding to the reference to the "Proposed Lifetime Extension" as it is as to how it relates to the proposed development."

This was a typographical error in the report and "Proposed Lifetime Extension" should be replaced with "Proposed Development". No further amendment of the EIAR is necessary.

7. RESPONSE TO ITEM 7

This section responds to the following part of the Request for Further Information:

> *"7. Section 12.9 relates to the Cumulative Impact, no reference is made to the existing Tirlan facility to the southeast of the proposed windfarm and to any potential cumulative noise impacts associated with this industrial complex. The EIAR has identified a number of Noise Sensitive Locations between the Tirlan facility and the proposed windfarm. However, no reference is made to the Tirlan facility in the cumulative assessment section. You are required to submit an updated EIAR which responds to this issue."*

As detailed in the Section 12.6.3.1 of the EIAR, a cumulative assessment of wind farm noise has been undertaken taking account of other wind farms within the surrounding area. The Tirlan facility is subject to a separate set of regulatory criteria and is required to comply with licensed noise limits specified as part of its EPA IPPC licence.

Wind turbine noise and industrial noise are assessed separately because they are fundamentally different noise sources, each subject to distinct guidance, assessment methodologies, prediction models, measurement parameters and compliance criteria. As with road traffic and construction noise assessments, it is not standard practice to undertake a cumulative assessment combining wind turbine and industrial noise. The likelihood of a significant cumulative impact is low given that the assessment has considered all appropriate and relative guidance and criteria as detailed Section 12.3.2 of the EIAR and the assessment presented in Section 12.6.3 of the EIAR.

The predicted fixed plant noise levels from the site are a potential source of cumulative noise when combined with the industrial noise from the Tirlan facility. The closest receptor to the proposed substation is H007. Section 12.6.3.2.1 of the EIAR indicates that the highest predicted substation noise level is 27 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$ at receptor H007. This receptor is located over 1.5 km away from the Tirlan facility and the predicted noise level is substantially below the most stringent noise criterion of 35 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$. Noise level contributions from the proposed substation at receptors closer to the Tirlan facility will be approximately 8 dB $L_{Aeq,T}$, inaudible and insignificant.

Given the significant margin between the predicted substation noise levels and the criteria, and taking account of the separation distance between H007 and the Tirlan facility, cumulative noise effects arising from the interaction of substation noise and noise from the Tirlan facility at any receptor are unlikely to occur and therefore the effect is not significant.