1. INTRODUCTION

TOBIN has prepared this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) on behalf of Manogate Ltd, a development company supported by ART Generation and FuturEnergy Ireland. Manogate Ltd intends to apply to An Coimisiún Pleanála for planning permission to construct the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm project in County Kilkenny.

The proposed project is described in detail in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Project) and comprises:

- The wind farm site to include a wind farm of 10 no. turbines, an onsite 110 kilovolt (kV) substation and ancillary infrastructure such as turbine foundations, hardstanding areas, borrow pits and access roads;
- Grid Connection Options (GCO) (two options being considered); and
- Works along the proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR).

This EIAR accompanies two planning applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála for the proposed project. The first application is for the wind farm along with the onsite 110 kV substation and works on the proposed TDR under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The second application is for the two GCOs, as it comprises development for the purposes of electricity transmission, under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The entire proposed project, covering all of these elements, is assessed in this EIAR.

A full set of planning drawings for the wind farm application are available in Appendix 1-1 of this EIAR. A full set of planning drawings for the grid connection application are available in Appendix 1-2 of this EIAR. The planning drawings will also form part of the relevant planning pack for each application. The Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) determinations and design flexibility opinions from An Coimisiún Pleanála are presented in Appendix 1-3.

The location and extent of the proposed project is presented as Figure 1-1.

Design flexibility has been sought from An Coimisiún Pleanála for the turbine ranges used by the project (see Section 1.10.1 and Appendix 1-3). The 10 no. wind turbines on site will have a maximum blade tip height range from 170 m-180 m inclusive, a rotor diameter range from 149 m-163 m inclusive, and a hub height range from 95 m-105.5 m inclusive, and all associated foundations and hard-standing areas respective of each turbine.

Design flexibility has also been sought from An Coimisiún Pleanála for the grid connection (see Section 1.10.1 and Appendix 1-3). Two options for the grid connection are considered to connect the proposed project to the national grid.

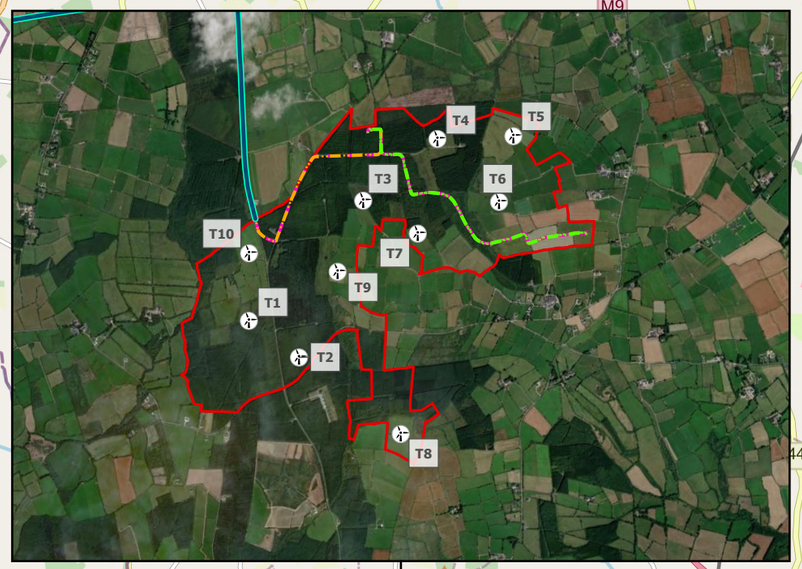
GCO One proposes to install a 110 kV underground cable from the proposed onsite substation to the consented Castlebanny Wind Farm 110 kV substation approximately 12 km to the north.

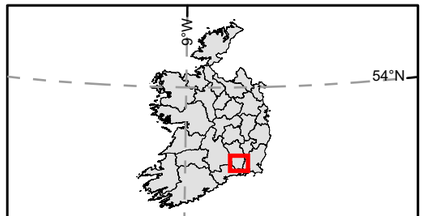
GCO Two will connect the onsite substation with the existing 110 kV Great Island-Kilkenny overhead line which crosses approximately 2.3 km to the east of the proposed wind farm site.

A single grid connection will be constructed for the proposed project. The GCO constructed is subject to receiving a grid connection offer following EirGrid/ESBN post planning system studies.

The delivery of turbine components for the wind farm will require facilitating works on the public road network and at private properties along the TDR. These works have been assessed within this EIAR and are included for within the wind farm planning application.

A full description of the proposed project is provided in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Project).





Legend

- Wind Farm Study Area
- Turbine locations
- Turbine Delivery Route

Grid Connection Options

- Option 1
- Option 2

0 2.5 5
Kilometres

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	09/10/2025	First issue	S.P	A.M

Client:
Manogate Ltd.

Project:
Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Title:
Figure 1-1
Proposed Project Extent

Scale @ A3: 1:125,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
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Map Ref: 11474-001-P.App.BO-OSM-TOB-A

Draft: A

1.1 Statement of Authority

This chapter was prepared Allison Murphy who is an Associate Director in TOBIN. Allison has twenty years' postgraduate experience in environmental consultancy. Allison is a Chartered Environmentalist and holds an MSc in Environmental Resource Management. Allison has considerable experience in project managing renewable energy developments and carrying out associated impact assessments. It was also reviewed by Orla Fitzpatrick, Technical Director in TOBIN. Orla has twenty years' experience working in the delivery of EIA projects in environmental consultancy. She holds a BSc in Geophysics and MSc in Environmental Consultancy and has considerable experience as technical approver of environmental deliverables for major infrastructure projects.

1.2 Background to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is the process that examines the potential environmental effects of a proposed project. Where likely significant effects are identified, appropriate measures for the prevention and/or mitigation of impacts are prescribed.

The EIA process consists of the preparation of an EIAR, the carrying out of consultations, the examination by the competent authority of the information presented in the EIAR and any supplementary information provided, followed by the reasoned conclusion by the competent authority on the significant effects of the project on the environment arising from the examination of the information presented. The EIAR is a statement of the effects, if any, that the proposed project would have on the environment and is used to inform the EIA process.

The proposed project is subject to the EIA process as it falls within the project class specified in Schedule 5 of the *Planning and Development Regulations, 2001*, as amended. Schedule 5 sets out a comprehensive list of project types and development thresholds which are subject to EIA. Specifically, Part 2 Category 3(i) states that EIA is required for the following project type:

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

An EIA is required of the grid connection as it is an integral element of the proposed project which requires an EIA (i.e. an Installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (wind farms) with more than 5 turbines or having a total output greater than 5 megawatts). This EIAR has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the codified *Directive 2011/92/EU* as amended by *Directive 2014/52/EU* (hereafter referred to as the 'amended EIA Directive').

Further information on the legislative context for EIA is provided in Chapter 4 (Policy, Planning and Development Context).

1.3 Limitations and Assumptions

Baseline environmental conditions have been identified in this EIAR through a number of methods including site surveys, desktop studies, consultation and the professional judgement of technical specialists. Limitations in assessment methods are identified and discussed within each EIAR chapter, where appropriate, particularly where this is likely to affect the outcomes of the assessment.

The assessment of cumulative effects from built or consented developments is partially reliant on the availability of information provided by relevant third parties. Local Authority and An

Coimisiún Pleanála public planning registers were reviewed as part of the assessment process. None of the individual specialists have highlighted any limitations that are considered significant in terms of the undertaking of these specialist cumulative assessments.

The design flexibility ranges proposed in the project have been fully considered within this EIAR. For certain construction and operational stage impacts, the EIAR identifies, describes and assesses the greatest magnitude of impacts (i.e. worst case scenario). This limitation is proposed to ensure impacts determined are not disproportionate in the overall assessment (e.g. noise assessment, see EIAR Chapter 12 (Noise and Vibration)). Any resulting mitigations will also be appropriate for other scenarios which have lesser impacts. This approach ensures that the design flexibility within the project has been appropriately assessed and is compliant with the EIA Directive.

Specific assumptions relevant to environmental aspects are set out in the corresponding EIAR chapters. Some general assumptions that have been made during preparation of this EIAR are set out below:

- In undertaking cumulative assessments, it is assumed that consented, but as yet un-built, developments will progress in accordance with their permission; and
- Information provided by third parties, including publicly available information and databases, is correct at the time of publication.

1.4 THE APPLICANT

The Applicant for planning permission is Manogate Ltd, a co-development company supported by ART Generation and FuturEnergy Ireland.

ART Generation is a wholly Irish owned renewable energy company founded in 2002. It is a well-established energy development company with responsibility for managing the development, construction, and operation of projects throughout Ireland. The company has developed a substantial portfolio in excess of 20 onshore wind farms in Ireland and operates a number of wind farms. It has a large portfolio of Tier 1 onshore and offshore wind farm projects at various stages of development. ART Generation most recently developed three wind farms in the counties of Kilkenny and Tipperary.

FuturEnergy Ireland is a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB. FuturEnergy Ireland is actively looking to drive Ireland's transition to a low carbon economy. The company's ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources by the end of the decade.

1.5 THE NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

In terms of setting out the need for the proposed project, and renewable wind energy in general, it is important to place this proposed project in an international and national policy context from the perspectives of environment, energy and planning. Some of the key national policy targets and objectives are summarised here and are more fully described in Chapter 4 (Planning Policy and Development Context) of this EIAR. Some brief statistics and research on renewable energy use are also presented. This all gives context to the current dependency on imported fossil fuels in Ireland and emphasises the need for the proposed project in general and at this particular location.

International Policy

There are a number of global agreements which Ireland has agreed to and has committed to achieving, including United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol and its amendments, and the Paris Agreement. These (among others) set out a road map to decarbonise the world economies, while within Europe, there have also been a number of additional policies and legislation that Ireland must adhere to, including Europe 2030 Climate and Energy Framework, Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (RED III), the European Green Deal, and REPowerEU Plan. See below text (under Energy Security and Independence) in this section for information the latter of these which is also the most recent.

Additional discussion around international policy is provided in Chapter 4 (Planning Policy and Development Context) of this EIAR.

National Policy

The Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25), published on the 15th of April 2025, marks the fourth annual update to Ireland's Climate Action Plan. Building on CAP23 and CAP24, CAP25 aims to expedite the deployment of onshore wind, targeting 9 GW by 2030. CAP25 also re-affirms the previous commitment to increasing the share of renewable electricity to 50% by 2025 and 80% by 2030. The plan emphasises the necessity for rapid and substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions to meet the 2015 Paris Agreement and the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. Additionally, it highlights the importance of the revised National Planning Framework (NPF), which supports the development of electricity grid infrastructure by establishing regional renewable electricity capacity targets for 2030.

In Ireland, as of December 2024, there was 4,836 MW of installed capacity in the Republic of Ireland[1], leaving a shortfall of 4,164 MW. In essence, a more than doubling of current wind capacity is needed by 2030. As such, given the timelines required for a wind farm to become permitted and operational, every commercial scale wind farm plays an essential role in achieving Ireland's renewable energy goals.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) *Energy in Ireland – 2024* (SEAI, December 2024)[2] states that wind generation provided 33.7% of electricity supply in 2023. It also notes that net-imported electricity accounted for 9.5% of electricity supply in 2023.

Energy Security and Independence

Energy security comprises many diverse factors, including import dependency, fuel diversity, the capacity and integrity of the supply and distribution infrastructure, energy prices, physical risks, supply disruptions and emergencies. According to information published by the SEAI in 2022, indigenous production accounted for 32% of Ireland's energy requirements in 1990, and only ever reached a peak of 34% since then. Ireland's dependency on imported energy has grown steadily since the 1990's, with a sharp fall in 2016 following the opening of the Corrib gas field. Since 2016 as the Corrib gas field production capacity has declined, Ireland's energy import dependency has increased to 79.7% in 2024[3].

This dependence on fuel imports makes Ireland highly susceptible to price fluctuations in the international supply market and vulnerable to volatile international trade wars and political

[1] https://windenergyireland.com/about-wind/the-basics/facts-stats (Accessed 24th June 2025).
[2] https://www.seai.ie/sites/default/files/publications/energy-in-ireland-2024.pdf (Accessed 24th June 2025).
[3] https://www.seai.ie/data-and-insights/seai-statistics/annual-energy-data/energy-supply/imports/ (Accessed 24th June 2025).

decisions. This is very apparent in the recent energy price situation since 2022. The war in Ukraine demonstrated the volatility within the energy market and the importance of security of energy supplies.

The Renewable Energy Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (RED III) establishes targets for renewable energy use and supports cooperation between EU counties to accelerate the EU's independence from fossil fuels. RED III requires by the 21st of May 2025, Member States to carry out coordinated spatial mapping for the deployment of renewable energy to identify available land surface, subsurface, sea or in-land water areas that are necessary for the installation of renewable energy plants and their related infrastructure, such as grid and storage facilities, including thermal storage, to meet the national contribution towards the overall Union renewable energy target for 2030. Significant delays in permitting to build wind developments continue to hinder Ireland's progress towards meeting its renewable energy share targets[4].

The RePower Plan was launched in May 2022 in response to the war in Ukraine to help phase out the dependency of Russian fossil fuels imports. EU countries have to present to the European Commission by the 1st of March 2026 national diversification plans with detailed measures and milestones for the gradual elimination of direct and indirect imports of Russian gas and oil. At the same time, efforts will continue to accelerate the EU's energy transition and diversify energy supplies to eliminate risks to the security of supply and market stability[5]. The aims of the plan involve a combination of increased renewable energy generation, improved energy efficiency, and diversification of energy sources. The plan also addresses the need to repower existing wind farms to maintain and increase renewable energy capacity.

In this context, the addition of potentially 72 MW of installed wind energy capacity from the proposed project will improve Ireland's security of supply and reduce our reliance on energy imports.

Carbon Pricing

Carbon pricing also plays a role in establishing a need for the proposed project. The Government has committed to progressively raise the carbon tax rate to reach EUR 100 per tonne of carbon dioxide by 2030, while recycling revenue to prevent fuel poverty, finance climate-related investment and ensure a just transition [6].

Economic Benefit

It should be noted that there is a considerable economic benefit to the development of wind farms nationally and specifically at this location. In the National context, a Pöyry report published in March 2014 entitled *The Value of Wind Energy to Ireland* stated that the sector could support 22,510 jobs in the construction stage and double the amount of existing jobs in the operational phase by 2030. It also projected an investment of €4.8 billion in the time period from 2020 to 2030. The potential local economic impact in the County Kilkenny area will also be positive by bringing employment to the area during the construction works. A 2021 report by KPMG for Wind Energy Ireland estimated that jobs in the wind industry in Ireland could grow to over 7,000 by 2030. A 2018 report by Baringa[7] discusses the potential financial costs and

[4] https://www.climatecouncil.ie/councilpublications/secretariatfactsheets/FS3%20RED%20III.pdf (Accessed 18th August 2025).
[5] https://commission.europa.eu/topics/energy/repowereu_en (Accessed 18th August 2025).
[6] https://www.oecd.org/climate-action/ipac/practices/a-credible-carbon-tax-trajectory-for-ireland-a39128a3/ (Accessed 24th June 2025).
[7] https://www.iwea.com/images/files/70by30-report-final.pdf (Accessed 24th June 2025).

savings of the use of renewable electricity for the end customer when compared to a fossil fuel use scenario. The report found that although there were some additional costs in certain areas associated with the use of renewable energy, there were also savings that could be made, and overall, there was a potential to make significant cost savings to the end customer by 2030 when compared to a purely fossil fuel scenario. Furthermore, a recent International Monetary Fund publication[8] revealed that fossil fuel subsidies in 2022 amounted to approximately 7.1 trillion dollars in 2022.

The proposed project will bring the south eastern region of Ireland closer to achieving carbon neutrality by providing a significant source of renewable electricity that will reduce the need for using fossil fuel-based energy.

The development of renewable energy is a natural step in the evolution of locally generated electricity. Electricity generation has brought significant economic gain to many areas in Ireland over the years. Ireland is now on a path of swift and significant decarbonisation and the energy that we use is changing from fossil fuels to renewables, particularly wind. The potential to extract local, economic and societal gains is a major benefit associated with the development of renewable energy projects.

All renewable projects that are developed over the coming years will attract a significant community benefit fund for the local area which will bring significant opportunities for local communities.

Strategic Infrastructure Development

It should be noted that An Coimisiún Pleanála has confirmed, in closing the pre-application consultation process under Section 37 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, that the proposed Ballyfasy Wind Farm: *"would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of Section 37A of the Planning and development Act, 2000, as amended"* and as such a direct application is being made to An Coimisiún Pleanála for permission under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

An Coimisiún Pleanála has also confirmed, in closing the pre-application consultation process under Section 182E of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that the proposed grid connection: "would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of transmission as per the definitions provided in the Planning and Development Acts 2000, as amended" and as such a direct application is being made to An Coimisiún Pleanála for approval for the proposed grid connection under Section 182A(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

1.6 Site Location and Background

The extent of the proposed project is shown on Figure 1-1. The wind farm site study area (see Figure 1-2 and Plates 1-1, 1-2 and 1-3) extends to approximately 348.14 hectares (ha). The footprint of the proposed wind farm infrastructure will require approximately 53 ha within this study area. Approximately 20 ha of the required footprint are owned by Coillte and approximately 33 ha are under third party land ownership. The wind farm planning application boundary is shown on the planning drawings and included for reference in Appendix 1-1. The planning application boundary for the two grid connection options is shown on the planning drawings and included for reference in Appendix 1-2.

[8]https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2023/08/22/IMF-Fossil-Fuel-Subsidies-Data-2023-Update-537281 (Assessed 24th June 2025).

The proposed wind farm site is located in the southern portion of County Kilkenny between the villages of Listerlin (approximately 3 km northeast), Mullinavat (approximately 4 km west) and Glenmore (approximately 5 km southeast).

The topography of the wind farm site varies from around 140 metres Ordnance Datum (mOD) to 220 mOD. The highest points are found in the north-east areas, while the southwest corner has the lowest elevation.

The landscape is predominantly agricultural with areas of coniferous forestry occurring mainly to the north and south. Two watercourses traverse through the wind farm site; the Arrigle River and the Smartcastle Stream. The source of the Arrigle River occurs in the north, and flows in a northerly direction. The Smartcastle Stream, which is situated towards the south, flows in a southerly direction.

Plate 1-1 Photo taken from the east of the wind farm site looking westwards with Ballymartin Wind Farm and Smithstown Wind Farm wind turbines visible in the distance.

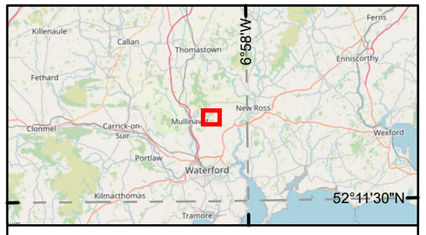
Plate 1-2 Photo taken from Turbine 8 area with Coillte forestry adjacent

Plate 1-3 Forestry in area to east of L3417 Road (between Turbines T2 and T9)

7°7'18"W
7°6'0"W
7°4'42"W
52°23'20"N
52°22'40"N
52°22'0"N
626650
625300
623950
660000
661500
663000
N

Permanent site entrance (5)
Permanent site entrance (1)
Temporary road crossing (1 & 2)
Permanent site entrance (2)
Permanent site entrance (4)
Temporary road crossing (3)
Permanent site entrance (3)

T1
T2
T3
T4
T5
T6
T7
T8
T9
T10



Legend

- Wind Farm Study Area
- Site Layout

Grid Connection Options

- Option 1
- Option 2

Site Entrances

- Construction & Operational Phase
- Construction Phase

0 250 500
Meters

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	09/10/2025	First issue	S.P	A.M

Client: Manogate Ltd.

Project: Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Title: Figure 1-2 Wind Farm site showing proposed site entrances

Scale @ A3: 1:12,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	A.Murphy	October 2025

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Map Ref: 11474-002-S..ENTR-P.App.BO-TOB-A

Draft: A

The area surrounding the proposed wind farm site can be described as rural with dispersed settlement type. Wind energy developments are a general part of the wider landscape (see Figure 1-3). The Ballymartin Wind Farm and Smithstown Wind Farm are adjacent to the north of the proposed wind farm site with the nearest turbine being at Ballymartin Wind Farm approximately 587 m from proposed turbine T3. The Rahora Wind Farm is located to the north east with the nearest turbine being approximately 2.25 km from proposed turbine T5. The consented Castlebanny Wind Farm boundary is located approximately 1.5 km to the northwest of the proposed wind farm site boundary.

GCO One and GCO Two are assessed within this EIAR. GCO One, will install a 110 kV underground cable from the proposed project site substation to the consented Castlebanny Wind Farm 110 kV substation approximately 12 km to the north. This cable will be within approximately 8.45 km of public road and approximately 3.55 km of third party lands. GCO Two will connect into the existing 110 kV Great Island-Kilkenny overhead line which crosses over the east of the proposed wind farm site. This cable connection will be within approximately 2.3 km of third party lands.

TDR works are required at 13 locations in County Kilkenny to allow delivery of the turbine components to the proposed wind farm site. Works are minor and temporary in nature with the exception of four private locations which require permanent works as detailed in Chapter 2 and Appendix 2-1. The TDR works have been considered within this EIAR.

Further information on the proposed site is provided in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Development) of this EIAR.

1.7 Legislative Context and Development Guidelines

As mentioned above, the proposed project is the subject of two separate planning applications. The first planning application is for the proposed wind farm and on-site 110 kV substation along with the works on private lands along the proposed TDR. The second planning application is for the proposed grid connection. Any minor and temporary works (mostly within the public road corridor), which are not included in these two planning applications, have been fully assessed in this EIAR.

The proposed project is subject to EIA and to the requirements inter alia set out in the following legislative provisions:

- Part X of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended;
- The European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018; and
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

This EIAR assesses the entire proposed project, and therefore will accompany both planning applications.

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has also been prepared for the proposed project and will be provided separately with both planning applications.

Application 1: Wind Farm, Onsite 110 kV Substation and Turbine Delivery Route

The proposed project will comprise 10 no. wind turbines with a maximum blade tip height range from 170 m-180 m inclusive, a rotor diameter range from 149 m-163 m inclusive, and a hub

height range from 95 m-105.5 m inclusive. The proposed wind farm will have an estimated output range of 57 MW - 72 MW. This project meets the criteria for SID as set out in the 7th Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (i.e. an "*installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production… having a total output greater than 50 megawatts*"). As such, the planning application for this element of the proposed project is submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Correspondence from the An Coimisiún Pleanála confirming the SID status of the application and design flexibility is included in Appendix 1-3.

Application 2: Grid Connection Infrastructure

The electrical grid connection infrastructure will supply the power from the proposed wind farm to the electricity network via one of the two 110 kV connection options presented. This element of the proposed project is subject of an application under section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended. Correspondence from the An Coimisiún Pleanála confirming the SID status of the application and design flexibility is included in Appendix 1-3.

1.7.1 Information to be contained in an EIAR

The minimum information that must be contained in an EIAR is set out in Part X of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000*, as amended, and Schedule 6 of the *Planning and Development Regulations, 2001*, as amended. They are also set out in the amended EIA Directive. The structure and content of this EIAR fully complies with these legislative requirements. This EIAR has also been prepared in accordance with the *Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*, published by the EPA in May 2022 as well as the *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment* published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG) in August 2018 and all others listed below.

This EIAR contains information on the scale and nature of the proposed project, a description of the existing environment, impact assessment of the proposed project, mitigation measures to reduce or negate potential effects on the receiving environment and residual effects.

This EIAR is arranged in four volumes, as follows:

Volume I: Non-Technical Summary (NTS);
Volume II: Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR);
Volume III: Appendices; and
Volume IV: Photomontages.

Volume I: Non-Technical Summary

This document provides an overview and summary of the EIAR using non-technical terminology. It is a standalone document and is intended to offer a clear and concise summary of the existing environment, characteristics of the project and any significant effects as a result of the proposed project.

Volume II: Environmental Impact Assessment Report

To allow for ease of presentation and consistency when considering the various elements of the environment, a systematic structure will be adopted for the main body EIAR. This structure is known as a *'Grouped Format.'* The structure is used for each particular environmental aspect, as provided below.

Chapter 1 – Introduction: this chapter of the EIAR provides an introduction and a brief background to the proposed project and the legislative requirements under which the document is prepared. It describes the EIA consultation and scoping procedures, the structure of the EIAR, the study team and contributors to the EIAR.

Chapter 2 – Description of the Proposed Project: provides a detailed description of the proposed project, which includes details of the site layout and infrastructure. It details the construction procedures, and the materials required, the operational and maintenance phases, in addition to the decommissioning and rehabilitation procedures.

Chapter 3 – Reasonable Alternatives: provides a description of the reasonable alternatives, in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale, which were considered by the Applicant and the Project Team in the preparation of the EIAR.

Chapter 4 – Policy, Planning and Development Context: considers the proposed project works in terms of legislative context and in relation to strategic, national, regional and local planning policies and objectives, in order to ascertain whether it is consistent with the relevant legislation and with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.

The remaining chapters in the EIAR are as follows:

- Chapter 5: Population and Human Health
- Chapter 6: Biodiversity
- Chapter 7: Ornithology
- Chapter 8: Land, Soils and Geology
- Chapter 9: Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Chapter 10: Shadow Flicker
- Chapter 11: Material Assets
- Chapter 12: Noise and Vibration
- Chapter 13: Landscape and Visual Impact
- Chapter 14: Air Quality and Climate
- Chapter 15: Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 16: Traffic and Transportation
- Chapter 17: Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
- Chapter 18: Interactions of the Foregoing
- Chapter 19: Schedule of Mitigation Measures

Each of the chapters (Chapters 5 – 17) provides an examination of specific environmental aspects and uses the following standard approach and headings (noting some chapters will have variations of this approach depending on the relative best practise guidance):

Introduction – this section specifies the content and background of the subsequent assessment.

Methods – this section describes the study methodology employed in carrying out the assessment. Each chapter assesses the full range of any flexibility proposed.

Existing Environment – this section provides a description of the existing environment into which the proposed project will be located, specifically in the context of the relevant environmental aspects under consideration. It will also describe the likely evolution of the baseline environment without the proposed project.

Potential Effects – this section provides a description of the direct/ indirect effects, which the proposed project may have on the environment. This is carried out with reference to the existing environment and characteristics of the proposed project, while also referring to the magnitude, duration, consequences, and significance of the proposed project during the construction, operational and decommissioning phases.

Mitigation Measures – this section includes a description of any remedial, or mitigation measures that are either practicable or reasonable having regard to the potential effects. It will also outline, where relevant, monitoring proposals to be carried out should consent be granted in order to demonstrate that the project in practice conforms to the predictions made.

Residual Effects – this section describes the degree of environmental effect that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been put in place.

Cumulative Effects – a description of those effects that accrue over time and space from the proposed project as well those effects as a result of other projects or activities which could result in a more significant overall effect.

Volume III: Appendices

Supporting documentation and references, referred to in the Main EIAR (Volume II) are included in this volume (Photomontages are in a separate Volume).

Volume IV: Photomontages

This volume consists of a set of photomontages identifying the visibility from a variety of locations towards the proposed wind farm site as described in Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment).

Guidelines

The following EIA Guidelines have been adhered to in the preparation of this EIAR:

- European Commission (EC), Guidance on Screening (2017);
- European Commission (EC), Guidance on Scoping (2017);
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG), Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (August 2018); and
- EPA, Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (May 2022).

In the context of wind energy development, the following guideline documents have been adhered to:

- Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), Wind Energy Development Guidelines (2006);
- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG), Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (December 2019);
- Irish Wind Energy Association, Best Practice Guidelines for the Irish Wind Energy Industry 2012;
- Irish Wind Energy Association, Community Engagement Strategy March 2018; and
- European Commission, Guidance document on wind energy development and EU nature legislation (November 2020).

It is relevant to note that the DoHPLG and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DoCCAE) launched a public consultation on the proposed revisions to the Wind Energy Development Guidelines (Draft 2019 WEDGs) on 12th of December 2019. The final date for receipt of submissions under the public consultation was 19th of February 2020. As set out on the Department website[9],*"to enable focused input into the technical aspects of the revised Guidelines, the Department is interested in your views prior to finalisation."* As such, the proposed Draft 2019 WEDGs have not been adopted and may be subject to change before finalisation.

Nonetheless, the provisions set out in the Draft 2019 WEDGs have been abided by in the design of the proposed project in terms of noise, shadow flicker, visual amenity setback, environmental assessment, consultation obligations, community dividend and grid connections. Application of the Draft Guidelines is discussed in more detail in each of the individual chapters in this EIAR. At the time of writing this EIAR, the relevant guidelines remain those published in 2006. It is possible that a version of the draft guidelines may be finalised during the consideration period for the current proposed project. Towards this end, it is anticipated that the design of the proposed wind farm will be in compliance with the new guidelines as required.

1.7.2 Description of likely significant effects

As per the *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (May 2022), the main purpose of an EIAR is to identify, describe and present an assessment of the likely significant effects of a project on the environment. The description of the likely significant effects on the environmental factors should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, transboundary, short-term, medium-term and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the project.

The classification and description of effects in this EIAR follows the terms provided in Table 3-4 of the EPA EIAR Guidelines (2022) and are duplicated here in Table 1-1 for reference. As per the Guidelines, the terms listed in Table 1-1 can be used to consistently describe specific effects, but all categories of terms do not need to be used for every effect.

9 https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/8f3c71-public-consultation-on-the-revised-wind-energy-development-guideline/ (Accessed 24th June 2025).

Table 1-1: Description of Effects (extract from EPA Guidelines (May 2022))

Quality of Effects It is important to inform the non-specialist reader whether an effect is positive, negative or neutral	**Positive Effects** A change which improves the quality of the environment (for example, by increasing species diversity; or the improving reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or by removing nuisances or improving amenities).
	Neutral Effects No effects or effects that are imperceptible, within normal bounds of variation or within the margin of forecasting error.
	Negative/adverse Effects A change which reduces the quality of the environment (for example, lessening species diversity or diminishing the reproductive capacity of an ecosystem, or damaging health or property or by causing nuisance).
Describing the Significance of Effects 'Significance' is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful (also see *Determining Significance*).	**Imperceptible** An effect capable of measurement but without significant consequences.
	Not significant An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment but without significant consequences.
	Slight Effects An effect which causes noticeable changes in the character of the environment without affecting its sensitivities.
	Moderate Effects An effect that alters the character of the environment in a manner that is consistent with existing and emerging baseline trends.
	Significant Effects An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity alters a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Very Significant An effect which, by its character, magnitude, duration or intensity significantly alters most of a sensitive aspect of the environment.
	Profound Effects An effect which obliterates sensitive characteristics.
Describing the Extent and Context of Effects Context can affect the perception of significance. It is important to establish if the effect is unique or, perhaps, commonly or increasingly experienced.	**Extent** Describe the size of the area, the number of sites, and the proportion of a population affected by an effect.
	Context Describe whether the extent, duration, or frequency will conform or contrast with established (baseline) conditions (is it the biggest, longest effect ever?)
Describing the Probability of Effects Descriptions of effects should establish how likely it is that the predicted effects will occur – so that the CA can take a view of the balance of risk over advantage when making a decision.	**Likely Effects** The effects that can reasonably be expected to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
	Unlikely Effects The effects that can reasonably be expected not to occur because of the planned project if all mitigation measures are properly implemented.
Describing the Duration and Frequency of Effects 'Duration' is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful.	**Momentary Effects** Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
	Brief Effects Effects lasting less than a day
	Temporary Effects Effects lasting less than a year
	Short-term Effects Effects lasting one to seven years
	Medium-term Effects Effects lasting seven to fifteen years
	Long-term Effects Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years
	Permanent Effects Effects lasting over sixty years

	Reversible Effects Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration
	Frequency of Effects Describe how often the effect will occur. (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually)
Describing the Types of Effects	**Indirect Effects (a.k.a. Secondary or Off-site Effects)** Impacts on the environment, which are not a direct result of the project, often produced away from the project site or because of a complex pathway.
	Cumulative Effects The addition of many minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.
	'Do-Nothing Effects' The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.
	`Worst case' Effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.
	Indeterminable Effects When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.
	Irreversible Effects When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.
	Residual Effects The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.
	Synergistic Effects Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents, (e.g. combination of SOx and NOx to produce smog).

1.8 CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The EIA Directive and associated guidance documents state that the description of likely significant effects should include an assessment of cumulative effects that may arise. Cumulative effects are defined in the EPA EIAR Guidelines (2022) as the addition of many minor or insignificant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.

To gather a comprehensive view of cumulative effects and to inform the EIA process being undertaken by the consenting authority, each relevant chapter within this EIAR includes a cumulative impact assessment, where appropriate.

The search criteria used to determine the potential projects or developments for consideration in the cumulative assessments has been compiled in consultation with the EIAR specialists, using their knowledge of best practice methods and environmental guidance. The specific criteria used by each specialist to assess cumulative effects is discussed within their relevant chapter.

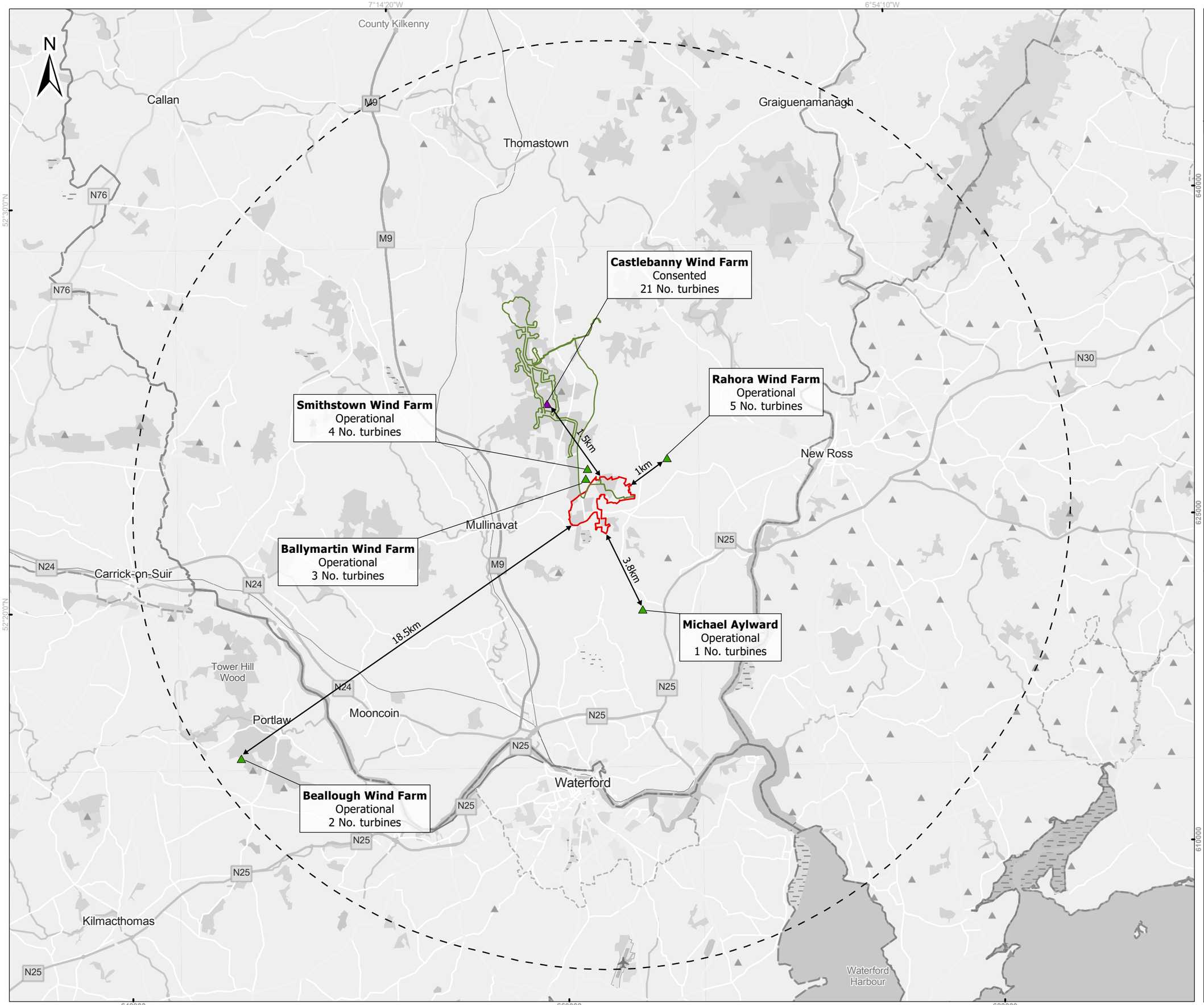
A 10 km planning search (between January 2013 – November 2025) has been completed to identify relevant projects and developments currently within the planning system. A 10 km search of An Coimisiún Pleanála's planning database and local authority planning databases was undertaken. This distance is sufficient to capture the zone of influence or study area for all EIAR chapter studies with the exception of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (as discussed below). The results of this planning search are presented in Appendix 1-4.

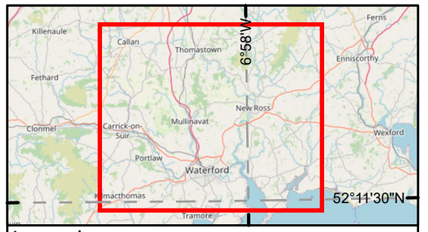
This planning search was further expanded to 20 km (the study area for the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment, see EIAR Chapter 13 (Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment) to capture any projects or developments which may influence the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. These results are presented in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2: 10 km – 20 km planning search

Existing An Coimisiún Pleanála Ref No.	Description	Address	Status
321225	Erection of a 2 MW wind turbine and associated site works. This activity holds an Integrated Pollution Control Licence (Licence No. P0175-02). Natura Impact Statement submitted.	Dawn Pork and Bacon, Grannagh Business Complex, Grannagh, Waterford, Co. Kilkenny, X91 V224	Case is still undecided as of 26th June 2025 (Decision date: n/a)
245176	Wind turbine with extended access road.	Beallough, Portlaw, County Waterford.	Operational
247190	Windfarm comprising 8 turbines, 6 new access roads, electrical substation, meteorological mast, 38 kv underground grid connection.	Curraghdobbin, Macreary, Butlerstown and Ballydine, Co. Tipperary	Refuse permission (Decision date: 14/07/2017)

All wind farm developments within 20 km of the proposed wind farm site were also considered by the EIAR specialists. These wind farms are presented on Figure 1-3.





Legend

- Wind Farm Study Area
- 20km buffer

Wind farms

- Operational
- Consented

0 2.5 5
Kilometers

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	09/10/2025	First issue	S.P	A.M

Client:
Manogate Ltd.

Project:
Ballyfasy Wind Farm

Title:
Figure 1-3:
Wind farms in proximity to the Wind Farm Site

Scale @ A3: 1:160,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
S.Pezzetta	A.Murphy	October 2025

TOBIN
Tel: +353-(0)1-8030406
Email: info@tobin.ie
www.tobin.ie

Map Ref: 11474-037-WF.SA..BUFF20km-P.App.BO-TOB-A

Draft: A

Online searches and information gathered through consultations was also considered in identifying other projects or developments to be included in the cumulative assessment. Another potential wind farm development in County Kilkenny that is currently within the public domain but not within the Irish planning system is Curraghmore Wind Farm in County Kilkenny. This proposed project is located approximately 3 km southwest of Inistioge and 10 km northeast of Mullinavat. The study area for this proposed project comprises lands at Garrandarragh, Ballykenna, Ballyvool, Bohilla and Inistioge townlands and measures approximately 294 ha. The majority of this study area is agricultural and forestry land. According to the project website, this project will submit for planning permission in the 2nd Quarter 2026. No site layout or boundary was available at the time of writing this EIAR. This project has been considered within the cumulative assessment this EIAR based on the available information.

In order to include relevant nearby commercial developments within the cumulative impact assessment, a 3 km geo-directory search from the proposed wind farm site was completed. This distance is sufficiently broad and includes and extends just beyond the best practice EIAR sensitive receptor buffer of 2 km. Existing commercial developments within 3 km of the proposed wind farm site are presented in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3: Commercial developments within 3 km of the proposed wind farm site

Existing Commercial Property	Eircode	Approximate distance from proposed wind farm site (km)
POWER'S COMMERCIALS	Y34TC04	2
FARNOGE	X91N56D	3
D. & D. RADON SERVICES LIMITED	X91NX72	3
BALLYFACEY NATIONAL SCHOOL	X91C439	2
ANNSHOON STUD	X91P383	2
MOTHERWAY CONSULTING LIMITED	X91DY29	2
MULLINARIGGLE CHURCH	X91XW67	3
RYAN'S	X91V295	3
BOOKLE AUTO SERVICES	X91P291	3
MACE	X91YV88	3
LISTERLIN NATIONAL SCHOOL	X91EA09	3
HARTLEY'S GARAGE	X91KD29	3
BISHOPS MOUNTAIN SHOOTING CENTRE	X91NW98	0.3

Each EIAR specialist has identified any projects or developments which are relevant to their cumulative impact assessment, and these are assessed within that EIAR chapter. The potential for cumulative effects arising from other projects and developments has therefore been fully considered within this EIAR.

1.9 Study Team and Contributors to the EIAR

Manogate Ltd. has engaged TOBIN to coordinate and prepare this EIAR and to submit it to An Coimisiún Pleanála as part of both planning applications for statutory consent. The relevant inputs of the various contributors and competent experts of the Project Team are provided in Tables 1-4 and 1-5.

Table 1-4: List of Contributors to the EIAR

Company	Name	Contribution to the EIAR
TOBIN	(EIAR Chapter number for which primary author) Allison Murphy ((1, 2, 3)10, 16,18,19, CEMP review)) Orla Fitzpatrick (1,2,3,5,11,16,17 review) Eirene Varghese (4) Louise Byrne (4 review) Serena Byrne (5, 11, 18, 19, CEMP) Sarah Nolan (6) Sinead O'Reilly (6) Áine Sands (6 review) Marzena Nowakowska (8, 9) John Dillon (8, 9 review) Kevin Donlon (Flood Risk Assessment) Dr Aristotelis Tegos (Flood Risk Assessment- Review) Michael Nolan (10, Autotrack Assessment) Oonagh Fleming (10, 17) Samuele Pezzetta (GIS) Carol Rosario (16) Jessica Lima (Traffic Management Plan (TMP)) Maria Rooney (16, TMP review)	Project Direction and Management, Scoping and Consultation, Co-Ordination, Preparation of Figures, and the following Chapters: • 1 - Introduction • 2 - Description of the Proposed Project • 3 - Reasonable Alternatives • 4 - Policy, Planning and Development Context • 5 - Population and Human Health • 6 - Biodiversity/ Appropriate Assessment Screening Report and Natura Impact Statement • 8 - Land, Soils and Geology • 9 - Hydrology and Hydrogeology • 10 - Shadow Flicker • 11 - Material Assets • 16 - Traffic and Transportation • 17 - Major Accident and Natural Disasters • 18 - Interactions of the Foregoing • 19 - Schedule of Mitigation Measures TOBIN has also prepared the planning statements, planning applications and planning drawings
AWN Consulting	Dermot Blunnie (12) Jovanna Arndt (14)	Noise and Vibration Air Quality and Climate
Macroworks	Cian Doughan (13) Richard Barker (13 review)	Landscape and Visual Impact
IAC	Jonny Small (15) Faith Bailey (15 review)	Cultural Heritage
WSP	Claire Hopkins Luis Lemma Declan Corral	Biodiversity (bats) Bat Survey Report (Appendix 6-5)
Apem	Matt Rea (7) Billy Gardener (7)	Ornithology Chapter
Causeway Geotech	Gabriella Horan Celine Rooney	Site Investigation Report (Appendix 2-5)
Western Forestry Co-op	Joseph McManus Henry Phipps	Forestry Report (Appendix 2-3)

Table 1-5: List of Competent Experts Contributing to the EIAR

Company/Individual	Competent Experts	Qualifications	No. of Years' Relevant Experience to Role/Input in this EIAR
TOBIN	Allison Murphy	BA. Geography (2003) Liverpool University, MSc. Environmental Resource Management (2004), University College Dublin (UCD) Post Grad. Cert in Biological Recording and Species Identification (University of Birmingham, 2008) Certificate in Renewable Energy (Dundalk IT, 2012) CMI Certificate in Project Management (South Eastern Regional College NI, 2024) Chartered Environmentalist (2025)	20
TOBIN	Orla Fitzpatrick	B.Sc. (Hons) Geophysical Science (1999), University College Dublin (UCD) M.Sc. Environmental Consultancy (2003), University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne Chartered Environmentalist (2012)	22
TOBIN	Serena Byrne	B.Sc. (Hons) Psychology Applied to Information Technology (2010), IADT Dún Laoghaire MSc Environmental Sustainability (University College Dublin / UCD) (2022)	12
TOBIN	Oonagh Fleming	B.A (Hons) Geography and Sociology, Trinity College Dublin.	2.5
TOBIN	Louise Byrne	BA Hons International Geography and German (2004) UCD Masters in Regional and Urban Planning (MRUP) (2006), UCD Chartered Member of Royal Town Planning Institute (2010) PG Certificate GIS (2016), University of Leeds	8
TOBIN	Eirene Varghese	BA Architecture, India (2018) Masters in Regional and Urban Planning, UCD (2021)	4
TOBIN	John Dillon	BSc. Environmental Science (2000), NUIG MSc. and Diploma in Environmental Engineering (2003), Imperial College London Chartered Engineer, MCIWM Professional Geologist (PGeo) Member of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (Irish Group)	20

Company/Individual	Competent Experts	Qualifications	No. of Years' Relevant Experience to Role/Input in this EIAR
TOBIN	Marzena Nowakowska	BSc. Geology MSc. Geology (Mineral and Water Management) MSc. Geography (Marine Geography) PGeo (Institute of Geologists of Ireland)	17
TOBIN	Kevin Donlon	BE (Hons) Civil Engineering, The University of Limerick 2020 ME Civil Engineering, University of Galway, 2023	5
TOBIN	Dr. Aristotelis Tegos	Civil Engineer (2005)- School of Civil Engineering-National Technical University of Athens, Master of Science Diploma "Science and Technology of Water Resources" (2007) -School of Civil Engineering-National Technical University of Athens, Phd. Civil Engineer (2019) -School of Civil Engineering-National Technical University of Athens.	19
TOBIN	Michael Nolan	City and Guilds in Computer Aided Design (2001), Griffith College Dublin	24
TOBIN	Samuele Pezzetta	MSc. Environmental Science and Geohazards (2019), UPEM, MARNE-LA-VALLE (Paris)	5
TOBIN	Carol Rosario	B.Sc, M.Sc Transport Planning and Modelling, Newcastle University	6.5
TOBIN	Jessica Lima	BEng Civil Eng. Design Engineer for Roads and Transportation TOBIN	8
TOBIN	Maria Rooney	BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering (2013), IT Carlow BEng (Ord.) Civil Engineering (2010), Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) MEng Road and Transport Engineering (2019) IT Sligo. MIEI Member of Engineers Ireland Chartership (2021)	6
TOBIN	Áine Sands	BSc. In Applied Ecology (2013), University College Cork. Irish Wild Flower Identification (NFQ Level 6) (2018) Sligo Institute of Technology Full CIEEM Membership (2024)	10

Company/Individual	Competent Experts	Qualifications	No. of Years' Relevant Experience to Role/Input in this EIAR
TOBIN	Sarah Nolan	BSc. (Hons) Earth and Ocean Sciences. National University of Ireland Galway, 2012 MEngSc. Water, Waste and Environmental Engineering. University College Dublin, 2020,.	8
TOBIN	Sinead O'Reilly	M. Res Degree of Science, University of Glasgow, 2013-2014 H. BSc Degree in Zoology, University College Dublin, 2003-2008	13
Western Forestry Co-Op	Joseph McManus	BSc in Forestry, Waterford Institute of Technology, 2014	10
Western Forestry Co-Op	Henry Phipps	Forestry Consultant	30+
AWN Consulting	Jovanna Arndt	BSc. Environmental Science Ph.D in Atmospheric Chemistry AMIAQM AMIES	8
AWN Consulting	Dermot Blunnie	BEng (Hons) in Sound Engineering (2007), University of South Wales PG Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control (2010) Institute of Acoustics MSc. in Applied Acoustics (2013) University of Derby	13
Macroworks	Cian Doughan	BSc Landscape Architecture (2015) UCD Corporate Member of the Irish Landscape Institute	9
IAC	Jonny Small	PhD, MSci	3
IAC	Faith Bailey	BA (Hons) Archaeology, University of Wales (2001) MA Cultural Landscape Management, University of Wales (2003) Licence-eligible archaeologist Member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.	20
WSP	Claire Hopkins	BSc, MSc, MCIEEM, NatureScot bat licence	20
WSP	Luis Lemma	BSc, MSc, PhD, CEcol, MCIEEM	15
WSP	Declan Corral	BSc, MCIEEM	6
APEM	Matt Rea	Associate CIEEM, Advanced Barn Owl Surveying and Mitigation, Barn Owl Trust Barn Owl Ecology Surveys and Signs, Barn Owl Trust	9

Company/Individual	Competent Experts	Qualifications	No. of Years' Relevant Experience to Role/Input in this EIAR
		Marine Mammal Observer Training, JNCC MSc Freshwater System Science, University of Glasgow BSc Geography, University of Glasgow	
APEM	Billy Gardener	MScRes Zoology (ecological modelling), Bangor University, BSc (Hons) Zoology, Bangor University	4
Causeway Geotech	Gabriella Horan	BSc Earth Science	8
Causeway Geotech	Cliene Rooney	BSc, MSc, PGeo (EurGeol)	20

1.10 SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

The EIA Scoping and consultation activities were carried out in accordance with all relevant guidance documents as set out in Section 1.7.

Scoping is a process of deciding what information should be contained in an EIAR and what methods should be used to gather and assess that information. The purpose of scoping for the EIAR is to provide a framework for the approach to be taken by the individual specialists in carrying out their evaluations, identifying environmental aspects for which potential significant environmental effects may arise. It also provides a framework for the consultation process and sets out the intended structure of the EIAR. Scoping/consultation is carried out with:

- An Coimisiún Pleanála;
- Kilkenny County Council;
- Statutory and non-statutory consultees;
- Telecommunications providers; and
- Public.

1.10.1 Pre Application and Design Flexibility Consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála

Application 1: Wind Farm and Turbine Delivery Route

Pre-application consultation meetings were held with An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 20th of November 2024 and 26th of May 2025. The purpose of the initial meeting in November 2024 was to introduce the proposed project to An Coimisiún Pleanála in order to provide them with the necessary information to enable it to decide on the strategic infrastructure development status of the proposed project. The meeting was attended by the Applicant and TOBIN representatives. At the meeting, An Coimisiún Pleanála detailed the pre-application consultation process. A presentation was given centred around the following key points:

- Background to and overview of the proposed project;
- Background to the Site Location and the Existing Environment;
- Constraints;
- Site Suitability, Project Description and Grid Connection;

- Relevant Policies;
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Status;
- Indicative Turbine Locations;
- Consultation Activities; and
- Next Steps.

An Coimisiún Pleanála provided some guidance on key considerations for the EIAR. A discussion followed about specific details of the proposed project, as well as a number of other topics as listed above.

On the 26th May 2025, a second pre application meeting was held with An Coimisiún Pleanála, the Applicant and TOBIN representatives, to discuss any project updates and confirm the status of the project.

On the 26th May 2025 a design flexibility meeting was also held with An Coimisiún Pleanála to discuss the need for and request design flexibility on the project. Design flexibility was sought on the turbine dimension ranges.

An Coimisiún Pleanála confirmed on 12th of November 2025 that the proposed project constitutes strategic infrastructure development and that a planning application should be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála (copy of this response is provided in Appendix 1-3). An Coimisiún Pleanála has also provided a design flexibility determination (copy of this response is provided in Appendix 1-3).

Application 2: Grid Connection Infrastructure

Pre-application consultation meetings were held with An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 24th of February 2025 and 26th of May 2025. The initial meeting in February 2025 was attended by the Applicant and TOBIN representatives to discuss the proposed project GCOs and provide the An Coimisiún Pleanála with the information required to determine the strategic infrastructure development status of the project. At this meeting the details of the proposed grid connection options were provided to the An Coimisiún Pleanála, the discussion centred around the following key points:

- Project overview;
- Site location;
- Grid connection options;
- Constraints;
- Policy;
- Environmental Impact Assessment status
- Consultation activities;
- Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID);
- Next steps.

On the 26th May 2025, a second pre application meeting was held with An Coimisiún Pleanála, the Applicant and TOBIN representatives, to discuss any project updates and confirm the status of the project.

On the 26th May 2025 a design flexibility meeting was also held with An Coimisiún Pleanála to discuss the need for and request design flexibility on the project. Design flexibility was sought for two grid connection options.

An Coimisiún Pleanála issued their SID determination for the grid connection element of the proposed project on the 12th of November 2025, confirming that this application constitutes strategic infrastructure development and that a planning application should be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála (copy of this response is also provided in Appendix 1-3). An Coimisiún Pleanála has also provided a design flexibility determination (copy of this response is provided in Appendix 1-3).

1.10.2 Kilkenny County Council

Consultation was undertaken with Kilkenny County Council as part of the project development in September 2023, November 2024 and February 2025 to discuss the project design, environmental assessments and planning applications.

1.10.3 Consultation with Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies

An EIA Scoping Report was prepared and submitted to relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies in September 2023 for review and comment. The Scoping Report was updated with the latest project details and resubmitted to relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies in October 2024 for review and comment.

The EIA Scoping Report was accompanied by a cover email introducing the proposed project and inviting comments or observations within a period of six weeks from the date of the email. A copy of the latest 2024 Scoping Report is provided in Appendix 1-5. Scoping responses received from consultees in 2023 and 2024, are provided in Appendix 1-6. These responses have been reviewed and considered by the project team in compiling this EIAR. Where relevant, information provided has been included in environmental assessments for the project, as detailed in the individual EIAR chapters.

The list of consultees who responded to the EIAR Scoping Report with submissions in 2023 and 2024 is provided in Table 1-6.

Table 1-6: List of Consultees and Record of Consultation

Consultee	2023 Submission Response	2024 Submission Response	Appendix
Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage	No response received	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	Yes	No response received	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Department of Transport	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Fáilte Ireland	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Waterford Airport	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ)	No response received	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Health Service Executive (HSE) South	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Uisce Éireann	No response received	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Kilkenny County Council	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)	Yes	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
Health and Safety Authority (HSA)	Yes	No response received	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.
South East Energy Agency	No response received	Yes	Response provided in Appendix 1-6.

The following groups did not provide a submission response to the 2023 or 2024 EIAR scoping exercises:

- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Department of Defence (see Chapter 11 Material Assets for telecommunication scoping responses)
- Department of Health
- Department of Rural and Community Development
- Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment
- An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland
- The Heritage Council
- Southern Regional Assembly
- Waterways Ireland
- Kilkenny Airport
- Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU)
- National Transport Authority (NTA)
- Waterford City and County Council
- Wexford County Council
- EirGrid Group
- BirdWatch Ireland
- Teagasc
- Irish Raptor Study Group
- The Arts Council (An Chomhairle Ealaíon)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT)
- Bat Conservation Ireland
- Office of Public Works (OPW)
- Mountaineering Ireland
- Irish Trails - Sport Ireland
- Met Éireann
- Irish Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association

The National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) were specifically contacted on the 27th of May 2025 for comment on the project via the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. A response was received on the 5th of June 2025 to confirm the Department has no further comment on this particular consultation at this time.

1.10.4 Consultation with Telecommunication Providers

An extensive consultation exercise was also carried out with telecommunications providers who may have services in the project area which could have the potential to be impacted by the proposed project. Details of the telecommunication consultees and feedback received is discussed in Chapter 11 (Material Assets).

1.10.5 Public Consultation

The Applicant commenced engagement with the local community during the early stages of project design with the objective of ensuring that the views and concerns of all members of the local community were considered as part of the project design and the EIA process. This engagement continued throughout the design development stage and has ultimately shaped the proposed project. Two community liaison officers (CLO's) were appointed during this process to provide consistent and on-the-ground engagement with the local community. The CLO's role is to ensure project communications are distributed to the local community and to be the main point of contact for the community to discuss any queries or concerns that they might have. Contact details for the CLO (phone number and email address) were included in all project communications with the community. A Community Engagement Report has been prepared as an account of the pre-planning consultation undertaken by the Applicant (see Appendix 1-7).

The Applicant has committed to active engagement, consultation and dialogue with the local community from an early stage and is committed to continuing with this throughout the planning, construction and operational process for the proposed project.

1.11 REFERENCES

Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, *The Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP* 2024) (2024).

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