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# **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT REPORT (EIAR) FOR THE PROPOSED DERRYNADARRAGH WIND FARM, CO. KILDARE, OFFALY & LAOIS**

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## **Volume II - Main EIAR**

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### **Chapter 1 – Introduction**

**Dara Energy Limited**



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) has prepared this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) on behalf of Dara Energy Limited. Dara Energy Limited intend to apply to An Coimisiún Pleanála (The Commission) for planning permission to construct a wind energy development within the jurisdictions of Kildare County Council, Offaly County Council, and Laois County Council, approximately 1.7km south of the village of Bracknagh, 5km northwest of Monasterevin, and approximately 6.5km northeast of Portarlington.

A full description of the Proposed Development, including the turbine delivery route and grid connection route is provided in Chapter 2 – Development Description of this EIAR which should be read in conjunction with the figures presented in Volume IV, Planning Drawings accompanying the planning application and the following Appendix documents provided in Volume III:

- Appendix 2.1: Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP)
- Appendix 2.1B Grid Connection Construction Methodology
- Appendix 2.2: Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan (BEMP)
- Appendix 2.3: Turbine Delivery Route Assessment (TDR)
- Appendix 2.4: Turbine Delivery Route Nodes
- Appendix 11.3: Peat and Spoil Management Plan
- Appendix 12.2: Surface Water Management Plan
- Appendix 14.1: Traffic Management Plan

This EIAR takes into account the Development as a whole, and all direct and indirect effects, the cumulative effects and their interactions, including all relevant ancillary and subsidiary elements of the overall development. The objective of this EIAR is to provide information on the likely significant environmental effects associated with the Proposed Development to enable the competent authority to undertake an Environmental Impact assessment.

### 1.1 Applicant

The application for the Proposed Development of Derrynadarragh Wind Farm is being made by Dara Energy Limited. Dara Energy Limited is an Irish owned and managed renewable energy company, who specialise in the development of renewable energy projects from pre-planning to operation, and pride themselves on working with integrity and care for the local environment.



## 1.2 Brief Description of the Proposed Development

The Common terms and acronyms used throughout this EIAR with reference to the Proposed Development assessed in this EIAR comprises the following elements:

- The ‘Proposed Wind Farm’ (also referred to in this EIAR as the ‘Site’);
- The ‘Proposed Grid Connection’ (also referred to in this EIAR as the ‘GC’);
- The ‘Turbine Delivery Route’ (also referred to in this EIAR as the ‘TDR’);
- The ‘Biodiversity Enhancement Management Plan Lands’ (also referred to in this EIAR as the ‘BEMP Lands’).

The Proposed Development location is outlined below, and is described in detail in Chapter 2 - Development Description. The Proposed Development covers 3 no. County Council jurisdictions including; Kildare County Council, Offaly County Council, and Laois County Council. Permission is being sought for a period of 10 years, for development comprising the construction and operation of a wind farm and related works within the townlands of Kilbeggan South, Hallsfarm, Stonehouse Farm; Ballybought, Durrow Demesne, Aghancarnan, Gormagh, Acantha, Ballynasrah or Tinncross, Ardan, Puttaghan, Cappancur, Cloncollog, Meelaghans, Annaghgarvey, Ballycollin, Ballina, Ballyknockan, Ballymooney, Ballycue, Ballinagar, Knockballyboy, Clonad, Townparks, Castlebarnagh Big, Killoneen, Killeen, Esker Beg, Ballycon, Drumcaw or Mountlucas, Derrycricket, Ballaghassaan, Walshisland, Bunnagappagh, Coolagary, Raheenakeeran, Enaghan, Moanvane, Cushina, Clonsast Lower, and Chevychase or Derrynadarragh in County Offaly; Aughrim and Derrylea in County Kildare; and Inchacooly, Coolnaferagh, Ullard or Controversyland, Clonanny, Lea, Loughmansland Glebe, and Bracklone in County Laois.

The Wind Farm site comprises approximately 213.67 hectares of land, and is contained within the townlands of Cushina, Clonsast Lower, and Chevychase or Derrynadarragh in County Offaly, and Aughrim and Derrylea in County Kildare. It is located within both the jurisdictions of Kildare County Council and Offaly County Council, approximately 1.7km south of the village of Bracknagh, 5km northwest of Monasterevin, and approximately 6.5km northeast of Portarlington.

The Proposed Grid Connection (GC) identified to supply power from the proposed development to the Irish National Electricity Grid will exit the site to the south and follow the public road to Bracklone Substation (currently under construction). It will comprise 11.4km of underground electrical cabling which will pass through the townlands of Cushina in County Offaly; Aughrim and Derrylea in County Kildare, and Inchacooly, Coolnaferagh, Ullard or Controversyland, Clonanny, Lea, Loughmansland Glebe, and Bracklone in County Laois. The underground cabling will traverse the following roads L70481 (Derrylea Road); L71764; L7050; L-7051; L7176; L71761; R424; and R420 (Lea Road);

There are several ports that have proven capability to accept and store large wind turbine components. These ports include Waterford, Cork, Foynes, Galway and Dublin. Transportation of wind turbine components from these ports to the national motorway network has been demonstrated. The facilities within the ports and access to and from the ports is continually being upgraded as part of general improvements and as anticipated in the due to be released National Ports Policy. It is on this basis that it is not foreseen that this proposed development will require any material change to the port or to the access to the national motorway network should the development be consented and enter the construction phase.



The EIAR and NIS is prepared in respect of the construction, operation and, decommissioning of the proposed development and works to facilitate turbine delivery from the port of entry of Galway from Lough Atalia Road, R339, crossing junction with R338, continuing on R339, R336, N6, onto the M6, exiting M6 at Junction 5 Tullamore, N52, R420, R402, R400, R419, onto the proposed new site entrance off the R419. For the purpose of this EIAR, the following transport route has been selected and assessed to facilitate turbine delivery to the Site:

- The Turbine components will be delivered to the Galway Port and travel to the M6.
- At Junction 5, depart the M6 and continue south on the N52.
- Depart the N52 to the east of Tullamore and turn left onto the R420, eastbound.
- Turn left onto the R402 northbound.
- Continue north and then east on the R402 through Ballinager and Daingean.
- Turn right from the R402 onto the R400 travelling south.
- Remain on the R400 until reaching R419.
- Turn left at junction to join the R419 then proceed northeast towards the site entrance.

The Proposed Development consists of a 9 no. turbine wind farm and associated infrastructure including internal access tracks, hard standings, onsite 110 kV substation and associated grid connection infrastructure, internal electrical and communications cabling, temporary construction compounds, drainage infrastructure, biodiversity enhancement measures, amenity area, accommodations works along the Proposed Turbine Delivery Route, and all associated works related to the construction of the Proposed Development

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025, The Commission deemed the Proposed Development is eligible as Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) by way of a notice served under section 37B(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended (SID Pre-application case ref. ABP- 320137-24) and the application is being made directly to The Commission . The Commission are the competent authority for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

A 10-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm is being sought. This reflects the lifespan of modern-day turbines.

A permanent planning permission is being sought for the Grid Connection and onsite 110 kV substation as these will become an asset of the national grid under the management of EirGrid and will remain in place upon decommissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm.

The Proposed Development for which consent is being sought will consist of the following:

- A 10-year permission and a 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the entire Wind Farm;
- Construction of 9 no. wind turbines – 4 no. turbines will have a tip height of 186m above existing ground level with a hub height of 105m and rotor diameter of 162m, and 5 no. turbines will have a tip height of 187m above existing ground level with a hub height of 106m and rotor diameter of 162m;
- Construction of permanent turbine foundations and crane pad hardstanding areas and associated drainage;
- Construction of 1 no. new main site entrance on Regional Road R419 to serve as construction and operation access, and upgrade works to 1 no. existing site entrance (Derrylea Road) to the south to service for construction only;
- Construction of 9,360m of new internal access tracks and associated drainage infrastructure;
- Upgrading of 550m of existing tracks and associated drainage infrastructure;



- All associated drainage and sediment control including interceptor drains, cross drains, sediment ponds and swales;
- Installation of 1 no. permanent single span bridge crossing Cushina River within the proposed Wind Farm site;
- All associated infrastructure, services and site works including excavation, earthworks, peat and spoil management;
- Creation of dedicated peat and spoil deposition areas for the management of peat and spoil within the site;
- Establishment of 3 no. temporary construction compounds, and associated ancillary infrastructure including parking;
- Establishment of 2 no. temporary wheel washing areas during construction only;
- Forestry felling of 6.01ha (60,100 m<sup>2</sup>) to facilitate construction and operation of the Proposed Development;
- Provision of recreational amenity area comprising 2 no. parking spaces and picnic table;
- Biodiversity enhancement measures within the site boundary;
- Construction of 1 no. IPP Substation and associated compound including:
  - Wind farm Control building with welfare facilities;
  - Electrical infrastructure;
  - Parking;
  - Security Fencing.
- Construction of 1 no. permanent onsite 110kV TSO electrical substation and associated compound including:
  - Welfare facilities;
  - TSO control building
  - Electrical infrastructure;
  - Parking;
  - Wastewater holding tank;
  - Rainwater harvesting tank;
  - Security fencing.
- Installation of medium voltage electrical and communication cabling underground between the proposed turbines and the proposed on-site TSO substation and associated ancillary works;
- Installation of 11.4km of permanent high voltage (110kV) and communication cabling underground, primarily within the public roads between the proposed on-site substation and the Bracklone Substation (within the townland of Bracklone in Co. Laois) and associated ancillary works. The proposed grid connection cable works will include trenching, laying of ducting, installing 15 no. joint bays and 7 no. watercourse crossings, pulling cables and the back filling of trenches and reinstatement works, within the townlands of Cushina in County Offaly; Aughrim and Derrylea in County Kildare, and Inchacooly, Coolnaferagh, Ullard or Controversyland, Clonanny, Lea, Loughmansland Glebe, and Bracklone in County Laois. The underground cabling will traverse the following roads: L70481 (Derrylea Road); L71764; L7050; L-7051; L7176; L71761; R424; and R420 (Lea Road);
- Accommodation works required along the Proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) to facilitate turbine component deliveries at the following seven locations:
  - Construction of load bearing surface, removal of vegetation and trees, and reprofiling of embankment on R420/R402 Junction within the townland of Ballina, Co. Offaly;
  - Construction of load bearing surface, removal of railing and planters, and reprofiling of road on R402 at junction to L2025 Ballinagar, within the townland of Ballinagar, Co. Offaly;
  - Installation of 1 no. permanent single span bridge crossing Daingean River at R402/R400 Junction and Philipstown Bridge along Turbine Delivery Route, within the townlands of Esker Beg and Drumcaw or Mountlucas, Co. Offaly;
  - Construction of load bearing surface, removal of vegetation and trees, reprofiling on R400, within the townlands of Drumcaw or Mountlucas, Co. Offaly;



- Construction of load bearing surface, removal of vegetation and trees, reprofiling on R400 at junction to L1013 Enaghan, within the townland of Enaghan, Co. Offaly;
- Construction of load bearing surface on northeastern verge, removal of vegetation and trees, reprofiling on R400, within the townland of Moanvane, Co. Offaly;
- Construction of load bearing surface, removal of vegetation and trees, and reprofiling of embankment on R419 at junction to R400, within the townland of Cushina, Co. Offaly.

Certain minor accommodation works associated with the TDR, not specifically defined within the above description of development, including the provision of passing opportunities along the local road network are subject to and have been assessed through this EIA but for which planning consent is not being sought within the current application. These minor works to facilitate the delivery of turbine components and haulage to the Site are detailed further in Table 2.8 '*Turbine Delivery Route Accommodation Works*' and include hedge or tree trimming, temporary relocation of powerlines/poles, lampposts, signage and temporary local road widening. Permission for these minor works will be carried out as necessary through exempted development and under a Road Opening Licence to be sought from Offaly County Council.

### **1.2.1   Turbine Parameters used for EIAR Assessments**

The Proposed Development will comprise a total of 9 no. turbines. The proposed turbine is a conventional three-blade horizontal axis turbine. Schematic drawings of the proposed turbine accompany the planning application. The plans and particulars are precise and provide specific dimensions for the turbine structures which have been used in this assessment. The turbine specifications are as follows, 4 no. turbines (T1, T2, T3, T6) will have a tip height of 186m above existing ground level with a hub height of 105m and rotor diameter of 162m, and 5 no. turbines (T4, T5, T7, T8, T9) will have a tip height of 187m above existing ground level with a hub height of 106m and rotor diameter of 162m.

### **1.2.2   Permission Period**

A 10-year planning permission and 35-year operational life from the date of commissioning of the Proposed Development is being sought. This reflects the lifespan of modern-day turbines.

*"Planning Authorities may grant permission for a duration longer than 5 years if it is considered appropriate, for example, to ensure that the permission does not expire before a grid connection is granted. It is, however, the responsibility of the applicants in the first instance to request such longer durations in appropriate circumstances".*

A 10-year planning permission is considered appropriate for a development of this size to ensure all consents are in place, taking into account expected construction lead-in timelines and implementation of all construction mitigation measures prior to construction.

A permanent planning permission is being sought for the Grid Connection and onsite 110 kV substation as these will become an asset of the national grid under the management of EirGrid and will remain in place upon decommissioning of the Proposed Development.



The Applicant requests the grant of permission is on the basis of a 35-year operational life from the date of full operational commissioning of the wind farm. The anticipated minimum useful lifespan of wind turbines which are being produced for the market today is 35-40 years. The lifespan of wind turbines has been increasing steadily in recent years and allowing this duration will improve the overall carbon balance of the development, therefore maximising the amount of fossil fuel usage that will be offset by the wind farm. Leaving the wind turbines in-situ until the end of their useful lifespan would be optimum from an environmental viewpoint, particularly in relation to carbon savings.

Additionally, the civil infrastructure (e.g. foundations) will be designed in accordance with *Eurocode 0: Basis of Structural Design* and Eurocode 2: Design of Concrete Structures which require a structural reliability / design working life of 50 years.

After this 35-year operational life, the Developer will decide whether it is appropriate to replace or decommission the turbines. It should be noted that section 7.20 of the *Wind Energy Development Guidelines* (2006), includes for the following:

*“The inclusion of a condition which limits the life span of a wind energy development should be avoided, except in exceptional circumstances”.*

A permanent planning permission is being sought for the Grid Connection and onsite 110 kV substation as these will become an asset of the national grid under the management of EirGrid and will remain in place upon decommissioning of the Proposed Wind Farm.

### 1.3 Alternatives to the Proposed Development

The requirement in relation to alternatives in the EIA process is set out in Directive 2011/92/EU, amended by Directive 2014/52/EU, in Article 5 (1)(d), which states that an EIAR should include:

*“a description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the developer, which are relevant to the project and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the project on the environment”*

Article 5(1)(f) of the EIA Directive requires that the EIAR contains *“any additional information specified in Annex IV relevant to the specific characteristics of a particular project or type of project and to the environmental features likely to be affected.”*

The reasonable alternatives examined by the Applicant, which are relevant to the Proposed Development and its specific characteristics, including the site selection process, alternative design philosophies, alternative site layouts, the do-nothing alternative are set out in Chapter 3 - Site Selection and Alternatives.



## 1.4 Need for the Proposed Development

The Proposed Development is necessary to produce renewable energy for the Irish national grid, in order to transition Ireland to a low carbon economy. The Proposed Development will have a Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) of approximately 64.8 MW.

At a strategic level, the need for the Proposed Development is supported by International, European, National and Regional environmental and energy commitments and policies. In Chapter 4: Policy of this EIAR, a detailed analysis of these commitments and policies is outlined. This is in the context of substantial and continuing failure by Ireland in meeting climate targets to date, as copper fastened in the EPA's Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions projections as described in "*Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections 2023-2050*", published in May 2024. This report indicates that Ireland will fall short of its climate targets. Despite this, increased renewable energy generation, from wind and solar, if delivered as planned in the *Climate Action Plan 2024* (CAP24), can reduce Energy Industry emissions by 60 per cent and achieve over 80 per cent renewable electricity generation by 2030.

The Government published Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023, this was the third updated action plan following on from the inaugural plan of 2019 which was a result of the Irish Government declaring a climate and biodiversity emergency on 9th May 2019. As of April 2025, Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25) has been published, with the government's website stipulating that CAP25 is to be read in conjunction with CAP24. The CAP provides a framework for delivering the Government's target of a 51% reduction (relative to 2018) in Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. CAP24 follows the *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021*, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030.

Furthermore, the revised NPF supports the co-location of renewable technology within forestry lands and emphasises the importance of energy production in rural areas.

### 1.4.1 Climate Change

The scientific community and governments across the world are in agreement that the global climate is changing at an unnatural rate. This is due to human activities, which have significantly contributed to natural climate change through our emissions of greenhouse gases. This interference is resulting in increased air and ocean temperatures, drought, melting ice and snow, rising sea levels, increased rainfall, flooding and other influences.

On the launch of the *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Bill* (2021), the current Taoiseach, Michéal Martin, remarked at the time:

*"The impact of our actions on the planet is undeniable. The science is undisputed. Climate change is happening, and we must act." (Government of Ireland, 2020)*

The CAP provides a framework for delivering the Government's target of a 51% reduction (relative to 2018) in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2030. CAP24 follows the *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021*, which commits Ireland to a legally binding target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions no later than 2050, and a reduction of 51% by 2030. The Act provides a governance framework for annual revisions of the Climate Action Plan and the development of a National Long-Term Climate Action Strategy at least once every ten years. As part of this plan, the Government is also committed to reducing emissions by an average 7% per annum by 2030. The CAP is underpinned by a series of sectoral emissions reduction ambitions and enabling actions, with a selection of relevant actions that are relevant to the Proposed Development, as outlined below.



The Proposed Development will have an MEC of electricity of approximately 64.8 MW. This will result in the net displacement of 44,697 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> per annum, as detailed in Chapter 7: Air and Climate. The Proposed Development will significantly increase indigenous renewable energy generation allowing Ireland to become less reliant on imported fossil fuel and bolster Ireland's energy security.

The Proposed Development will further assist in mitigating the effects of climate breakdown, and help Ireland achieve its climate neutral economy, by no later than 2050, as within the '*National Climate Objectives*', as set out in the *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021*.

#### 1.4.2 EU Renewable Energy Targets and National Policy

As further detailed in Chapter 4: Policy of this EIAR, Ireland has adopted binding agreements to reduce dependency on fossil fuels and increase energy production from sustainable sources, creating a requirement for the nation to transition to a low carbon economy.

These policies are supported by the latest *Programme for Government* (2025), titled '*Securing Ireland's Future*', which presents strong climate governance in rapidly reducing climate change in order to protect and improve public health and quality of life, and has identified wind energy as having a crucial role to play in achieving this. The government are committed to rapid decarbonisation of the energy sector, with an aim of providing the necessary actions to deliver national renewable electricity targets. These government ambitions support the ongoing generation of renewable energy from onshore wind sources, where they state the following commitments:

- To achieve 80% renewable electricity by 2030;
- Deliver 9 GW of onshore wind by 2030;
- Hold at least one RESS auction per year;
- Prioritizing and increase investment in the electricity grid;
- Develop a policy to address repowering and extend the life of existing onshore wind farms.

The 2030 Climate and Energy Framework (European Commission, 2014) adopted by the EU sets out a framework for the long-term perspective beyond 2020 targets. The 2030 Climate and Energy Framework sets out three key targets for the year 2030:

- At least 40% cuts in greenhouse gas emissions (from 1990 levels);
- At least 32% share of renewable energy;
- At least 32.5% improvement in energy efficiency.

Further to this, in 2016, the European Commission published its 2030 emissions targets break down for each Member State. While the overall EU target is a reduction of 40% on 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, every Member State negotiates an individual target. Ireland will have to reduce its emissions by 30% relative to its 2005 emissions.

The 2050 "*Roadmap for a competitive low-carbon Europe*" (European Commission, 2011) suggests that by 2050, the EU should cut greenhouse gas emissions to 80% below 1990 levels. This would require 40% emissions cuts by 2030 and 60% by 2040. This is in line with EU leaders' commitment to reducing emissions by 80-95% by 2050. Ireland is likely to face equivalent mandatory targets from the EU.



Ireland adopted these targets into the Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP24) which sets out an objective to more than double Ireland's onshore wind energy capacity to 9 GW by 2030, in order to meet new renewable energy targets, and reduce emissions. In 2024, The Commission approved planning permission for 10 new wind farms with a combined capacity of 717 MW. This equates to c. 42% of wind energy needed to meet the target. Therefore, there is a clear national mandate to accommodate significant onshore wind within the next decade, with c. 1,720 MW of additional wind energy required each year for Ireland to achieve wind energy capacity of 9 GW by 2030.

The binding EU targets have been transposed into Irish National Policy in the Climate Action Plan 2024 (CAP 24), which focuses a large amount of future electricity production on the wind energy sector. This demonstrates the significance of wind energy in the Irish energy context and highlights the need for the Proposed Development in reaching both EU and national renewable energy targets.

#### 1.4.3 Energy Security

Secure supplies of energy are essential for Ireland's economy and for maintaining safe and comfortable living conditions. Energy import dependency is a significant indicator of the country's energy security. Ireland is one of the most energy import-dependent countries in the European Union, with the SEAI '*Technical Highlights of Interim 2024 National Energy Balance*' showing Ireland importing 79.7% of its fuel in 2024, up from 78.3% in 2023, with the EU average being 58.3%. In 2024, Ireland imported 100% of its oil, 79.5% of its gas, and 14.0% of its electricity. Import dependency has increased steadily since 2018 as the output from the Corrib gas field continues to decline.

Price volatility of fossil fuels may increase as carbon prices escalate in the future. The cost of carbon credits is included in all electricity trade, and the price of electricity generated by coal is particularly vulnerable due to the high carbon emissions per unit of electricity generated. Though the use of coal is declining, Coal still generates a significant amount of Ireland's electricity with 3.3% of electricity produced by coal in 2023 (EPA, 2024), with 7.7% of electricity produced by coal in Ireland in 2021 (SEAI, 2022), with gas imports increased due to the decline in production of the Corrib gas field, with 79.5% of Ireland's gas imported in 2024 (SEAI, 2024).

The Energy White Paper, *Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030* (DoCENR, 2015), sets out a framework to guide policy and actions that the government intends to take in the energy sector. The paper notes that:

*"There will be substantial increases in the cost of carbon in the short and medium term, through the EU Emissions Trading Scheme".*

The electricity produced by the Proposed Development will reduce dependence on imported fossil fuels and add to financial autonomy and energy stability in Ireland, further emphasising the need for the Proposed Development.

Furthermore, the EU have rewritten the energy policy framework in the *Clean Energy for all Europeans Package* (2019). Member states must meet new commitments to improve energy efficiency and the take-up of renewables in their energy mix by 2030. For example, the new rules on the electricity market, which have been adopted, will make it easier for renewable energy to be integrated into the grid, encourage more interconnections and cross-border trade, and ensure that the market provides reliable signals for future investment. This EU policy framework encourages energy security for all EU member states, emphasising a need for renewable energy and a move away from fossil fuels.



#### 1.4.4 Competitiveness of Wind Energy and Economic Benefits of the Proposed Development

In addition to helping Ireland reduce environmentally damaging emissions and helping avoid significant fines from the EU, the Proposed Development will also contribute positively to the national and regional economy.

SEAI, in its Interim National Energy Balance 2024, state the following:

*"SEAI estimates that emissions from the electricity sector were down by 7.5% on 2023 figures. Although renewable generation capacity increased from 2023, renewables supplied a slightly lower share of Ireland's electricity than in 2023. This is explained by the increase in electricity demand outpacing the increase in renewable generation, as well as grid constraints and lower wind outputs. The top three sources of electricity in Ireland last year were again natural gas (42.1%), wind (31.7%), and net-imports from interconnectors (14%)."*

Additionally, a report published by Barringa in January 2025 states that:

*"The development of wind and solar farms has reduced the cost burden on Irish consumers by €840 million between 2000 and 2023. This saving – equivalent to almost €165 per person.... Homegrown renewables have insulated consumers from recent spiralling fuel costs, cutting bills by an average of €320 per person between 2020 and 2023. Low-cost renewable electricity reduced the annual wholesale power price by up to 40 €/MWh, wiping almost €1.7 billion from consumer bills over four years, and easing pressure in a time of cost-of-living challenges. If Ireland continues to invest in wind and solar projects, and achieves the national target of 80% renewable electricity, annual consumer bills could be reduced by €610 million per year.." (Baringa, 2025).*

Notwithstanding the above financial costs and benefits, the Barringa report outlines that wind generation in Ireland avoids:

*"The renewable transition has avoided more than 47 million tonnes of CO2 between 2000 and 2023, equal to the lifetime emissions of 1.1 million mid-sized cars, 40% of the total vehicles in Ireland. Our study suggests that continued investment in renewables can cut emissions further, with new renewables able to reduce power-sector emissions by more than 8 million tonnes of CO2 in 2030."*

In conclusion, the need for the Proposed Development is a result of the need for action to fight against climate change by reducing consumption of fossil fuels. Ireland has accepted this need in entering into binding renewable energy targets with the European Union with an overall aim to become carbon neutral by 2050. The government has indicated that wind energy will play a key role in providing renewable electricity to the national grid. This will comprise an increase of 9 GW of onshore wind capacity by 2030 (CAP24). The increase in domestic renewable energy as a result of developing the Proposed Development will also assist Ireland in improving resilience in energy security by reducing the requirement for importing of fossil fuels.

#### 1.4.5 Community Benefit

The Proposed development will incorporate an amenity area to enhance community access and recreational opportunities along the bog road (L70481). This space will include two parking spaces integrated with the existing landscape. Informational signage will promote environmental awareness and local heritage, with seating and will allow for rest and appreciation of the natural surroundings.



To ensure the amenity area remains a positive community asset, a monitoring strategy will be implemented to discourage and prevent antisocial behaviour. This will include regular site inspections, collaboration with local authorities, and the installation of discreet measures such as signage and rubbish collection as needed.

The Applicant will set up a community benefit fund which will allocate funds from the Proposed Development to community groups in the area should the Proposed Development be granted planning permission, and be successful under the Government's RESS support programme. If consented, the Proposed Development will apply for the RESS 4 supports and will therefore provide €2 per MWh to the Community Benefit Fund, which is calculated in accordance with the *'Terms and Conditions for the Fourth Onshore Competition under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme (RESS 4)'*.

In line with *Community Benefit Fund Guidelines*, as governed by the *Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland* (SEAI), and based on the current development scope, Dara Energy Ltd will generate a *Community Benefit Fund* estimated at over €3.9 million over the lifetime of the project, estimated at c. €260,000 per annum. The actual fund will vary around this average from year to year, depending on each year's wind conditions. 40% of the fund, totalling c. €104,000, will be allocated to initiatives and projects that support Sustainable Development goals within the area, with 50% of the fund, c. €130,000, allocated to local clubs, societies and near neighbours.

If consented, the Proposed Development will provide sustainable, low carbon energy generation infrastructure in County Kildare, Offaly and Laois to meet Ireland's growing demand. The development benefits to the local community would include significant investment in local infrastructure and electrical systems, local job creation over the development lifetime of 35 years.

## 1.5 Requirement for EIAR

Under Section 172 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), a planning application for a development which comes within a class of development specified under Schedule 2 of Part 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations must be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. The following are the relevant classes of EIA Development in Part 2 of Schedule 5:

- Class 3(i) *"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."*
- Class 10(dd) *"All private roads which would exceed 2000 metres in length"*
- Class 15 *"Any project listed in this Part which does not exceed a quantity, area or other limit specified in this Part in respect of the relevant class of development, but which would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, having regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 7".*

The Proposed Development meets the mandatory threshold for EIA. Therefore, an EIAR has been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), and Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU.

The European Union Directive 2011/92/EU (the EIA Directive) as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, requires Member States to ensure that a competent authority, in this instance, the Commission, carries out an appraisal of the environmental impacts of certain types of project, as listed in the Directive, prior to development consent being given for the project.



## 1.5.1 Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID)

In relation to projects that may be deemed to be Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID), Part 1 of the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (Act), as amended, specifies, *inter alia*, the following classes of development: *“An installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production (a wind farm) with more than 25 turbines or having a total output greater than 50 megawatts.”* Once an SID determination request is made by a prospective applicant, The Commission must satisfy itself that the development meets one or more of the conditions set out in section 37A(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended, namely:

- the development would be of strategic economic or social importance to the State or the region in which it would be situate,
- the development would contribute substantially to the fulfilment of any of the objectives in the National Planning Framework or in any regional spatial and economic strategy in force in respect of the area or areas in which it would be suitable;
- the development would have a significant effect on the area of more than one planning authority.

### 1.5.1.1 *An Coimisiún Pleanála Consultation*

Two SID pre-application consultation meetings (under SID Pre-App case ref. ABP- 320137-24) were held with The Commission under Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. These meetings were conducted on 11th September 2024 and on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024, in accordance with Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), to determine the key considerations and potential effects of the proposed development, and to inform the assessment methodology. These meetings also took place to conform with the Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) process.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025, The Commission deemed the Proposed Development is eligible as Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) by way of a notice served under section 37B(4)(a) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended and the application is being made directly to The Commission (SID Pre-App case ref. ABP- 320137-24). The Commission are the competent authority for the purposes of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Copies of the SID Determination Letter and ACP meeting minutes are included in **Appendix 1.1 Volume III**.

## 1.6 **EIAR Methodology and Structure**

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is a report of the likely significant effects, if any, which a proposed development, if carried out, would have on the environment. The EIAR provides the Competent Authority and the public with a comprehensive understanding of the project, the existing environment, the significant impacts of the development on the environment and the mitigation measures proposed.

Article 3 of the EIA Directive as amended states the following:

*“an environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case, the direct and indirect significant effects of a project on the following factors:*

- “(a) population and human health;*
- “(b) biodiversity, with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC;*
- “(c) land, soil, water, air and climate;*



*(d) material assets, cultural heritage and the landscape;  
(e) the interaction between the factors referred to in points (a) to (d)"*

The effects referred to above shall include the expected effects deriving from the vulnerability of the development to risks of major accidents and /or disasters that are relevant to the development concerned.

### 1.6.1 EIAR Methodology

The EIAR has been prepared in accordance with Directive 2011/92/EU as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU (the EIA Directive). Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and Article 5 of the EIA Directive set out the information to be contained in an EIAR.

In addition, in the preparation of this EIAR, a scoping of effects of the Proposed Development was carried out to identify effects thought to be potentially significant, not significant or uncertain.

Consultation with the relevant private and public agencies ensured that likely significant effects were addressed. Details of the consultation carried out are outlined in Chapter 5: EIA Scoping and Consultation.

Schedule 6 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) describes the information to be contained in an EIAR:

1.
  - a) A description of the proposed development comprising information on the site, design, size and other relevant features of the proposed development;
  - b) A description of the likely significant effects on the environment of the proposed development;
  - c) A description of the features, if any, of the proposed development and the measures, if any, envisaged to avoid, prevent or reduce and, if possible, offset likely significant adverse effects on the environment of the development;
  - d) A description of the reasonable alternatives studied by the person or persons who prepared the EIAR, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for the option chosen, taking into account the effects of the proposed development on the environment.
2. Additional information, relevant to the specific characteristics of the development or type of development concerned and to the environmental features likely to be affected, on the following matters, by way of explanation or amplification of the information referred to in paragraph 1:
  - a) A description of the proposed development, including in particular –
    - i. A description of the location of the proposed development;
    - ii. A description of the physical characteristics of the whole proposed development, including, where relevant, requisite demolition works, and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases;
    - iii. A description of the main characteristics of the operational phase of the proposed development (in particular any production process), for instance, energy demand and energy used, nature and quantity of the materials and natural resources (including water, land, soil and biodiversity) used; and;
    - iv. An estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (such as water, air, soil and subsoil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation) and quantities and types of waste produced during construction and operation phases.



- b) A description of the reasonable alternatives (for example in terms of project design, technology, location, size and scale) studied by the person or persons who prepared the EIAR, which are relevant to the proposed development and its specific characteristics, and an indication of the main reasons for selecting the chosen option, including a comparison of the environmental effects;
- c) A description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment (baseline scenario) and an outline of the likely evolution thereof without the development as far as natural changes from the baseline scenario can be assessed with reasonable effort on the basis of the availability of environmental information and scientific knowledge;
- d) A description of the factors specified in paragraph (b)(i) (I) to (V) of the definition of 'environmental impact assessment' in section 171A of the Act likely to be significantly affected by the proposed development: population, human health, biodiversity (for example fauna and flora), land (for example land take), soil (for example organic matter, erosion, compaction, sealing), water (for example hydromorphological changes, quantity and quality), air, climate (for example greenhouse gas emissions, impacts relevant to adaptation), material assets, cultural heritage, including architectural and archaeological aspects, and landscape;

5.i) a description of the likely significant effects on the environment of the proposed development resulting from, among other things-

- ii) the construction and existence of the proposed development, including, where relevant, demolition works,
- iii) the use of natural resources, in particular land, soil, water and biodiversity, considering as far as possible the sustainable availability of these resources,
- iv) the emission of pollutants, noise, vibration, light, heat and radiation, the creation of nuisances, and the disposal and recovery of waste,
- v) the risks to human health, cultural heritage or the environment (for example due to accidents or disasters),
- vi) the cumulation of effects with other existing or approved developments, or both, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources,
- vii) the impact of the proposed development on climate (for example the nature and magnitude of greenhouse gas emissions) and the vulnerability of the proposed development to climate change, and;
- viii) the technologies and the substances used, and;
- ix) the description of the likely significant effects of the factors specified in paragraph (b)(i)(I) to (V) of the definition of 'environmental impact assessment' in section 171A of the Act 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 proposed development, taking into account the environmental protection objectives established at European Union level or by a Member State of the European Union which are relevant to the proposed development.

e) A description of the forecasting methods or evidence used to identify and assess the significant effects on the environment, including details of difficulties (for example technical deficiencies or lack of knowledge) encountered compiling the required information, and the main uncertainties involved;



- f) A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of an analysis after completion of the development), explaining the extent to which significant adverse effects on the environment are avoided, prevented, reduced or offset during both the construction and operational phases of the development;
- g) A description of the expected significant adverse effects on the environment of the proposed development deriving from its vulnerability to risks of major accidents and/or disasters which are relevant to it. Relevant information available and obtained through risk assessments pursuant to European Union legislation such as the Seveso III Directive or the Nuclear Safety Directive or relevant assessments carried out pursuant to national legislation may be used for this purpose, provided that the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive are met. Where appropriate, this description should include measures envisaged to prevent or mitigate the significant adverse effects of such events on the environment and details of the preparedness for, and proposed response to, emergencies arising from such events

The assessment of environmental impacts has been conducted in accordance with the main guidance set out in the following documents:

- *Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects – Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EC, 2017)*
- *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022)*
- *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (DoHPLG, 2018)*
- *Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2006)*
- *European Commission Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Environmental Impact Assessment, EU 2013*
- *European Commission notice: Guidance document on wind energy developments and EU nature legislation (2020).*

The EIAR firstly sets out the planning context, the background to the project, the need for the development, a description of the evolution of the project through the alternatives considered and a description of the proposed development. This sets the reader in context as to the practical and dynamic process undertaken, in order to arrive at the layout and design of the Proposed Development that will seek to reduce impact on the environment.

Subsequent chapters deal with specific environmental topics for example, traffic & transportation, air quality & climate change, hydrology & water quality, noise, etc. These assessments involve specialist studies and evaluations. The methodology applied during these specific environmental assessments is a systematic analysis of the effects of the Proposed Development in relation to the existing environment. The broad methodology framework for these assessments is outlined below and is designed to be clear, concise and allow the reader to logically follow the assessment process through each environmental topic. In some instances, more specific topic related methodologies are outlined in the relevant chapters of the EIAR.



The broad methodology framework used in all chapters includes:

- Introduction;
- Methodology;
- Existing Environment;
- Potential Effects;
- Mitigation Measures;
- Residual Impacts.

### ***Introduction***

This section generally introduces the environmental topic to be assessed and the areas to be examined in the assessment.

### ***Methodology***

Specific topic related methodologies are outlined in this section. This will include the methodology used in describing the existing environment and undertaking the impact assessment. It is important that the methodology is documented so that the reader understands how the assessment was undertaken. This can also be used as a reference if future studies are required.

### ***Existing Environment***

An accurate description of the existing environment is necessary to predict the likely significant effects of a proposed development. Existing baseline environmental monitoring data can also be used as a valuable reference for the assessment of actual effects from a development once it is in operation.

To describe the existing environment, desktop reviews of existing data sources were undertaken for each specialist area. This literature review relied on published reference reports and datasets to ensure the objectivity of the assessment.

Desktop studies may also be supplemented by specialised field walkovers or studies in order to confirm the accuracy of the desktop study or to gather more baseline environmental information for incorporation into the EIAR.

The existing environment is evaluated to highlight the character of the existing environment that is distinctive and what the significance of this is. The significance of a specific environment can be derived from legislation, national policies, local plans and policies, guidelines or professional judgements. The sensitivity of the environment is also described.

### ***Likely Significant Effects***

In this section, individual specialists predict how the receiving environment will interact with the proposed development. The full extent of the proposed development's likely significant effects and emissions before the proposed mitigation measures are introduced is outlined here. Likely significant effects from the construction, operational and decommissioning phases of the Proposed Development are outlined. Interactions and cumulative effects with other environmental topics and other projects within 20km radius of wind farm site, and adjacent to TDR and Grid route are also included in this evaluation.



The evaluation of the significance of the effect is also undertaken. Where possible, pre-existing standardised criteria for the significance of effects will be used.

Such criteria can include Irish legislation, International standards, European Commission and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines or good practice guidelines. Where appropriate criteria do not exist the assessment methodology section states the criteria used to evaluate the significance.

### ***Mitigation Measures***

If likely significant adverse effects are anticipated, mitigation measures are devised to minimise impacts on the environment. Mitigation measures by avoidance, prevention, reduction and by remedy can be outlined.

A description of the measures envisaged to avoid, prevent, reduce or, if possible, offset any identified significant adverse effects on the environment and, where appropriate, of any proposed monitoring arrangements (for example the preparation of a post-project analysis).

### ***Residual Effects***

The assessment identifies the likely significant effects that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been put in place. These are described in detail and assessment of their significance undertaken.

#### **1.6.2 EIAR Structure**

The EIAR has been prepared using the “grouped format structure” as outlined in EPA guidance document (EPA, 2002). Using this structure there is a separate chapter for each topic, e.g. air quality and climate, biodiversity, hydrology. The description of the existing environment, the Proposed Development and the likely significant effects, mitigation measures and residual effects are grouped in the chapter. The grouped format makes it easy to investigate topics of interest and facilitates cross-reference to specialist studies.

The EIAR consists of the following chapters:

- Chapter 1 – Introduction
- Chapter 2 – Description of the Development
- Chapter 3 – Site Selection and Alternatives
- Chapter 4 – Planning Policy
- Chapter 5 – EIA Scoping and Consultation
- Chapter 6 – Population and Human Health
- Chapter 7 – Air Quality and Climate
- Chapter 8 – Noise and Vibration
- Chapter 9 – Biodiversity
- Chapter 10 – Ornithology
- Chapter 11 – Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology
- Chapter 12 – Flooding, Hydrology and Water Quality
- Chapter 13 – Shadow Flicker
- Chapter 14 – Traffic and Transportation
- Chapter 15 - Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 16 – Landscape and Visual



## Chapter 17 – Material Assets, Telecommunications & Aviation

## Chapter 18 – Interactions of the Foregoing

The EIAR is structured as follows:

Volume I – Non-Technical Summary (NTS)

Volume II – Main EIAR

Volume III – Appendices to the Main EIAR

Volume IV – Figures

Volume V - Photomontages

It should also be noted that a separate Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has also been submitted with the planning application.

The application is also supported by a Renewable Planning Statement and Full Planning Drawing Pack.

### 1.6.3 Cumulative Effects

The potential cumulative effect of the Proposed Development has been assessed in accordance with Annex IV of the EIA Directive as amended which provides that the EIAR must contain a description of the likely significant effects of the Development on the environment resulting from the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved projects, taking into account any existing environmental problems relating to areas of particular environmental importance likely to be affected or the use of natural resources. To allow time for the assessment to be undertaken and finalised prior to submission, any projects, that went into planning post 1/12/2025 have not been considered in the list of projects.

The assessment of projects cumulatively has three principal aims:

1. To establish the range and nature of existing projects within the cumulative effects study area of the Development (which will be topic-specific, e.g. for effects on hydrology the projects located within the same waterbody catchment are considered, for shadow flicker, projects which could have an effect within 10 rotor diameters of the Proposed Development are considered).
2. To summarise the relevant projects which have a potential to create cumulative effects.
3. To establish likely significant cumulative effects. Detailed cumulative impact appraisals are included in each relevant section of the EIAR.

The geographic extent of the cumulative assessment is considered on a case-by-case basis, in line with best practice and the Guidelines for the *Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions* (European Commission, 1999).

The material for the cumulative assessment was gathered through a search of relevant County Councils' Online Planning Registers, The Commission's website and the EIA Portal. Relevant EIA documents, planning application details and planning drawings were reviewed, which served to identify the locations of existing and approved projects and projects pending a decision from the planning authority, or The Commission. The relevance of the projects was considered on a case-by-case basis in each chapter as necessary depending on the interaction and likelihood of in combination impacts.



## 1.7 Scoping and Consultation

The scoping and consultation process was carried out in accordance with the EIA Directive and in accordance with the Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022). Further details are contained in Chapter 5 - EIA Scoping and Consultation.

## 1.8 Competent Experts and Quality of the EIAR

Article 5(3) of the EIA Directive states that, in order to ensure the completeness and quality of the EIAR, that:

- (a) the developer shall ensure the EIAR is prepared by competent experts;
- (b) the competent authority shall ensure that it has, or has access to, sufficient expertise to examine the EIAR, and;
- (c) where necessary, the competent authority shall seek from the developer any supplementary information, in accordance with Annex IV (the information to be contained in the EIAR), which is directly relevant to reaching a reasoned conclusion on the significant effects of the project on the environment.

The EPA (2022) '*Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*' notes that the amended Directive does not offer a definition of what would be considered competent expertise, and that the assessment may often require a range of experts to cover the full range of the complexity of an environmental factor.

The list of the experts who have contributed to this EIAR, detailing which parts of the EIAR they have worked on, their qualifications and experience is presented hereunder in order to demonstrate the competency of the team that prepared the EIAR.

### 1.8.1 Contributors to the EIAR

Fehily Timoney and Company (FT) is a consultancy based in Dublin, Cork and Carlow, specialising in civil and environmental engineering, and environmental science. FT is well established as a leading consultancy in wind farm development in Ireland. The company has established a professional team specialising in wind farm development. This team has the support of many in-house engineers, scientists and planners.

FT was retained by the Applicant to undertake the detailed environmental assessment and prepare the EIAR for the Proposed Development, as well as preparing the application for consent for submission to The Commission.

Specialist and competent experts that contributed to and are responsible for each EIAR chapter/topic are outlined in Table 1-1. Curricula Vitae of contributors are presented in Appendix 1.2 of Volume III of this EIAR wherein the competence, experience and relevant qualification(s) for each expert is detailed.



**Table 1-1: Contributors to the EIAR**

EIAR Topic	Company	Name and Qualifications
Chapter 1 – Introduction	Fehily Timoney	Evan Rossiter, BSc, MRUP, MIPI and MRTPI (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)
Chapter 2 – Description of the Development	Fehily Timoney	Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer) Jim Hughes, BA, EIA/SEA Dip, MSc (Reviewer)
Chapter 3 – Site Selection and Alternatives	Fehily Timoney	Evan Rossiter, BSc, MRUP, MIPI and MRTPI (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)
Chapter 4 – Policy	Fehily Timoney	Evan Rossiter, BSc, MRUP, MIPI and MRTPI (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)
Chapter 5 – EIA Scoping and Consultation	Fehily Timoney	Evan Rossiter, BSc, MRUP, MIPI and MRTPI (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)
Chapter 6 – Population and Human Health	Fehily Timoney	Evan Rossiter, BSc, MRUP, MIPI and MRTPI (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)
Chapter 7 – Air Quality and Climate	Fehily Timoney	Aoife Hurd, BAI, MAI (Author) Brian Cronin, BBSc, MSc, MIEI (Reviewer)
Chapter 8 – Noise and Vibration	Fehily Timoney	Maureen Marsden, Meng (Author) John Cullen, P. Grad. Dip, BAgSc (Reviewer)
Chapter 9 – Biodiversity	Wetland Surveys	Caroline Lalor (Author)
Chapter 10 – Ornithology	Wetland Surveys	Caroline Lalor (Author)
Chapter 11 – Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology	Fehily Timoney	Emily Archer BSc. Earth Sciences, MSc. Applied Geotechnics, PGeo, EurGeol (Author) Tom Clayton MEng, CEng, MICE (Reviewer)
Chapter 12 – Hydrology and Water Quality	Fehily Timoney	Pablo Delgado, CEng MIEI, BE Civil Engineering, Master's Degree in Project Management, PGDip Project Management, PGDip Hydraulic Networks, PGDip Environment Infrastructures, Hdip Hydraulic Transient Analysis. (Author) Trevor Byrne, BSc, MSc, MIEI (Reviewer)
Chapter 13 – Shadow Flicker	TNEI Services Ltd	Mark Tideswell, TNEI (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)
Chapter 14 – Traffic and Transportation	Fehily Timoney	Leigh Doyle, MEng (Author) Trevor Byrne, BSc, MSc, MIEI (Reviewer)



EIAR Topic	Company	Name and Qualifications
Chapter 15 – Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	John Cronin & Associates	John Cronin, BA, MRUP, MUBC (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)
Chapter 16 – Landscape and Visual	Macro Works	Richard Barker BA PG Dip MLA (Author)
Chapter 17 – Material Assets, Telecommunications & Aviation	AI Bridges & Fehily Timoney	Evan Rossiter, BSc, MRUP, MIPI and MRTPI (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)
Chapter 18 – Interactions of the Foregoing	Fehily Timoney	Evan Rossiter, BSc, MRUP, MIPI and MRTPI (Author) Robyn Nicholl, BSc Environmental Planning, MSc Urban and Rural Design, MRTPI (Reviewer)

## 1.9 Difficulties Encountered

There were no difficulties encountered during the preparation of this EIAR.

## 1.10 Availability of Information

A copy of the EIAR may be viewed online on the An Coimisiún Pleanála website, dedicated project information portal website: [www.derrynadarraghplanning.ie](http://www.derrynadarraghplanning.ie)

A paper copy of the EIAR can be viewed by any member of the public, during office opening hours at the following addresses:

- An Coimisiún Pleanála, 64 Marlborough Street, St. Rotunda, Dublin 1, D01 V902.
- The Offices of Kildare County Council, Planning Department, Áras Chill Dara Devoy Park, Naas, Co Kildare W91 X77F.
- The Offices of Offaly County Council, Áras an Chontae, Charleville Road, Tullamore, Co. Offaly, R35 F893.
- The Offices of Laois County Council, Áras an Chontae, JFL Ave., Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 EHP9.

Paper copies can also be provided at the cost of printing, by writing to:

**Fehily Timoney and Company**  
**Unit 3/4 Northwood House,**  
**Northwood Crescent,**  
**Northwood,**  
**Dublin,**  
**D09 X899**



## 1.11 References

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SEAI Interim National Energy Balance 2024. Available at: <https://www.seai.ie/news-and-events/news/seai-interim-national-energy-balance-2024>



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