1. INTRODUCTION

TOBIN has prepared this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) on behalf of RWE Renewables Ireland Limited (hereafter 'RWE'), who intend to apply to An Coimisiún Pleanála for planning permission to construct the proposed Ballincor Wind Farm in County Offaly and County Tipperary (which along with all of the associated infrastructure and works is hereafter referred to as the proposed project). The proposed wind farm site is situated at the border of County Tipperary and Offaly, 5 km south of Birr and 3.6 km north of Shinrone. The eastern boundary of the site is delineated by the Little Brosna River.

The proposed project is expected to have an Export Capacity (EC) of between 61.6 to 77 MW. The proposed project comprises a wind farm of 11 no. wind turbines and all associated infrastructure including Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), turbine foundations, hardstanding areas, borrow pits, access tracks, 110kV grid connection and works along the road network for turbine/material delivery.

A full description of the proposed project is provided in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Project). A full set of planning drawings are available as part of this planning application.

1.1 THE APPLICANT

The Applicant, RWE Renewables Ireland Limited has been active in Ireland since 2016 and is undertaking long-term investments in onshore wind, offshore wind, and new battery storage projects, potentially amounting to billions of Euros in direct foreign investment in the country.

RWE's objective is to grow organically by developing business from greenfield sites, positioning itself as a long-term energy partner for Ireland during its energy transition to 2030 and beyond. As part of its growth ambitions, RWE is actively seeking new opportunities to further expand its portfolio in Ireland. The renewable energy generated from the Proposed Project would contribute towards Ireland's onshore wind energy target of 9 GW by 2030.

Already with an operational wind farm, two battery storage facilities, an airborne wind test site and both onshore and offshore wind farms in development, RWE's current Irish portfolio is managed by experienced teams in Kilkenny and Dun Laoghaire.

1.2 THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed project extent is presented as Figure 1.1 and encompasses:

- The wind farm and substation site (referred to in this EIAR as 'the proposed wind farm site');
- The proposed grid connection route (referred to in this EIAR as the 'GCR');
- The proposed Turbine Delivery Route (referred to in this EIAR as the 'TDR').

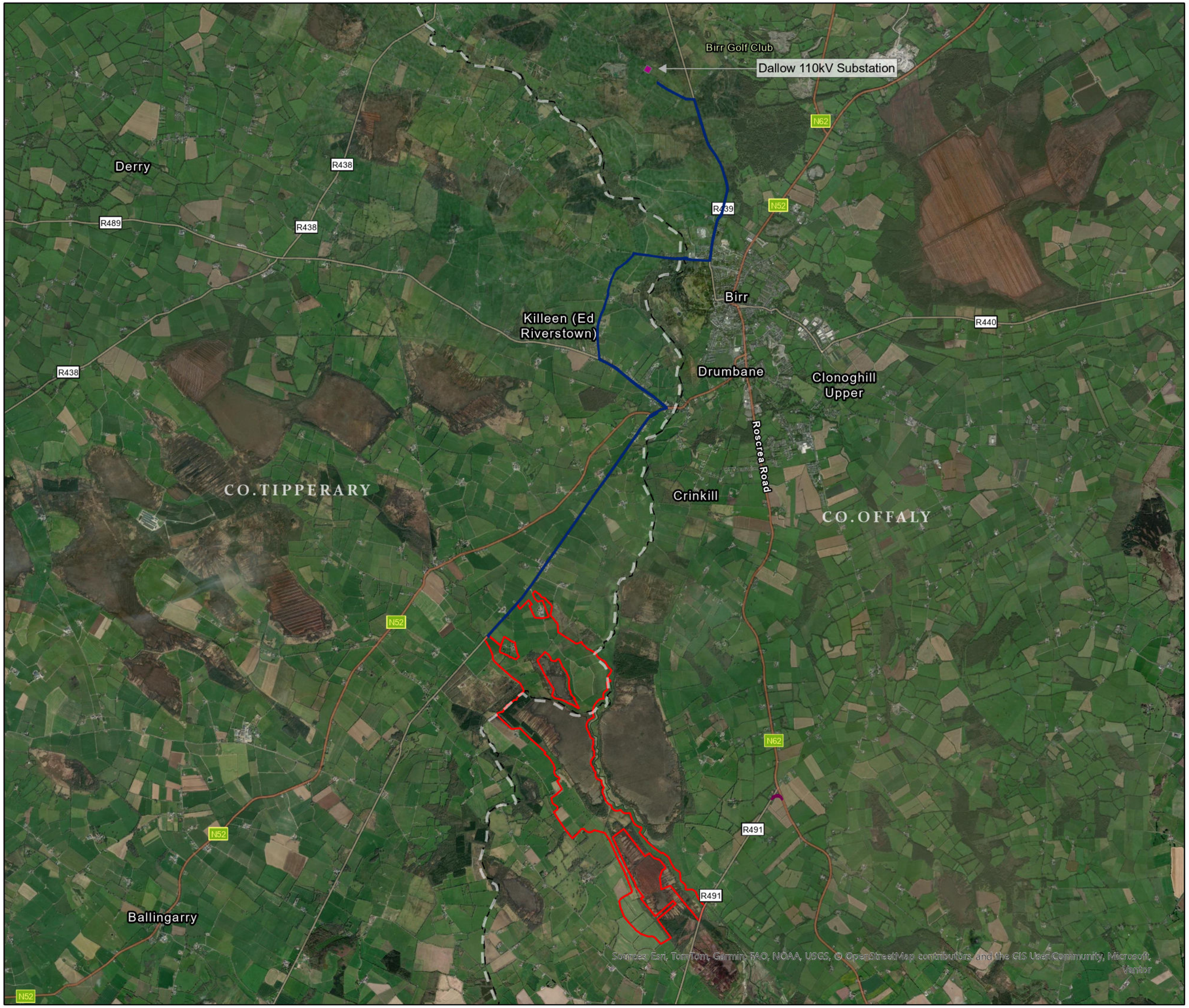
The proposed project is expected to have an Export Capacity (EC) of between 61.6 to 77 MW with the erection of 11 wind turbines. The overall blade tip height range up to a tip height of 180 m, a rotor diameter range from 149 m to 163 m, a hub height range from 98.5 m to 105 m, and all associated foundations and hard-standing areas in respect of each turbine.

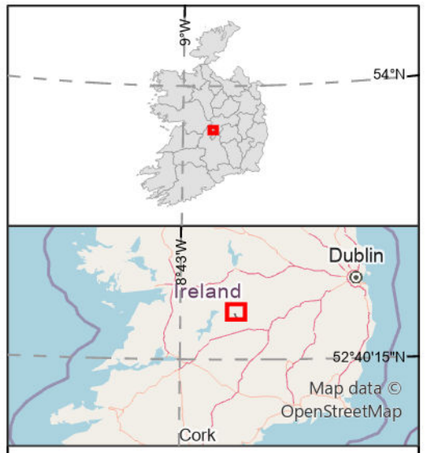
Given the recent advances in turbine technology, and the anticipated lifespan of wind turbines, 35 years is considered to be the optimal operational life for the proposed project. The duration

of this operational life allows the proposed turbines to be used to generate clean renewable energy until they have reached the end of their life, rather than being removed prematurely.

All elements of the proposed project including the elements which form part of the overall project but are not part of the current planning application such as all works required on public roads to accommodate turbine delivery, have been considered and are addressed as part of this EIAR.

Further information on the overall proposed project is provided in Chapter 2 (Description of the Proposed Project).





Legend

- Proposed Wind Farm Boundary
- Dallow 110kV Substation
- County boundaries
- Proposed Grid Connection Route
- TDR Works Areas

0 1 2
Kilometres

NOTES

1. FIGURED DIMENSIONS ONLY TO BE TAKEN FROM THIS DRAWING\
2. ALL DRAWINGS TO BE CHECKED BY THE CONTRACTOR ON SITE\
3. ENGINEER TO BE INFORMED OF ANY DISCREPANCIES BEFORE ANY \ WORK COMMENCES\
4. ALL LEVELS RELATE TO ORDNANCE SURVEY DATUM AT MALIN HEAD

Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	13/01/2026	First issue	K.K	J.D

Client: RWE

Project:

Ballincor Wind Farm

Title:

Figure 1-1:
Extent of the Proposed Project

Scale @ A3: 1:50,000

Prepared by:	Checked by:	Date:
K.Kale	J.Dillon	January 2026

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Map Ref: 11333-022-S.BO-DF-TOB-A

Draft: A

1.3 LOCATION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT

The proposed wind farm site is situated at the border of County Tipperary and Offaly, 5 km south of Birr and 3.6 km north of Shinrone. The eastern boundary of the site is delineated by the Little Brosna River. The site comprises agricultural lands, cutover peatland and forestry. The N52 road is 1 km from the north of the proposed wind farm site, and the N62 is located 3 km to the east. Access to the proposed wind farm site is currently provided via the local road L1071 and regional road R492.

The GCR will run from will run for approximately 12.23 km from the northern end of the proposed wind farm site, beyond Birr, to the Dallow 110kV substation.

The TDR will begin at Foynes Port, Co. Limerick, and the route will run along the N69, M7 and N62 to Sharavogue. Several temporary works will be required along the TDR which range from hedgerow trimming/clearing to facilitate oversail of turbine blades to the temporary placement of hardcore to allow the oversize vehicles to pass.

1.4 THE NEED FOR THE PROPOSED PROJECT

To establish the necessity of the proposed project, it's important to consider its alignment with international and national policies regarding environment, energy, and planning. European and National Policies prioritise decarbonisation as a means of reducing the reliance on fossil fuels.

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 2009/28/EC & Recast Directive 2018/2001/EU, the European Green Deal, REPowerEU Plan & Council Regulation (EU) EU 2024/223and Council Regulation (EU) 2022/1854 (EU Emergency Regulations), see Chapter 4 of this EIAR (Planning Policy & Development Context).

National Policy

The Government's Climate Action Plan 2025 is the key document which provides a roadmap for Ireland to meet its EU target to halve our emissions by 2030 and reach net zero no later than 2050. The action plan maintains the target from previous plans of 80% of electricity to be produced by renewable energy sources by 2030 with an indicative contribution target of 9.0 Gigawatts (GW) (i.e. 9,000 MW) to be provided from increased onshore wind capacity. In Ireland (as of December2024 – latest data that is available at the time of writing), there is an installed wind capacity of 4,836 MW[1]GW which leaves a gap of 4.26 GW of wind energy capacity to be installed in order to meet the 2030 targets. By the end of 2024, the total renewable grid capacity in Ireland was 5.7 GW, with the majority (4.7 GW) from onshore wind turbine installations. In 2023, only 0.6 GW of new grid-scale solar (0.4 GW) and onshore wind (0.2 GW) generation was connected. This is significantly below the annual average increase of 1.6 GW of

[1] https://windenergyireland.com/about-wind/the-basics/facts-stats (Accessed December 2025)

onshore renewables required to meet 2030 capacity targets. (Climate Change Advisory Council (2024). Achieving this target will require adding an average of 1.47 GW of installed capacity every year for the next seven years.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Energy in Ireland – 2024 (SEAI, December 2023) states that in 2023, 40.7% of Ireland's electricity supply came from renewable energy, up from 38.6% in 2022.

The proposed project is critical to helping Ireland address the challenges outlined in the GCS report (an annual report from EirGrid and System Operator Northern Ireland (SONI), as well as addressing the country's over-dependence on imported fossil fuels, and energy security challenges in the coming years.

Economic Benefit

There is a considerable economic benefit to the development of Wind Farms nationally. In the national context, Baringa published a report in October 2018 titled '70 by 30 - A 70% Renewable Electricity Vision for Ireland in 2030'. In the report Baringa analysed two different scenarios for the energy sector on the island of Ireland in 2030. 'Renewable Energy' is a scenario where the island of Ireland continues to be a world leader in renewable electricity and in wind and solar power in particular. In this scenario Ireland achieves a renewable electricity target of 70% by 2030. 'Fossil Fuel' is a scenario where there is no further deployment of renewable generation after the 2020-target of 40% renewable electricity is met. In this scenario, Ireland still primarily relies on fossil fuels to generate electricity in 2030.

Additionally, a Baringa report published 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 €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)

2050 European targets require Europe's energy production to be almost carbon-free by that time, and while Ireland has come a long way in recent years to increase renewable energy generation, the targets are ever increasing. It is this commitment on energy and climate policy that justifies a clear need for renewable energy generation in Ireland. It is recognised that there are a range of renewable resources alternatives that could be explored to meet our International and European commitments however, onshore wind is recognised as being the most economically competitive and viable at this point in time.

Energy Security & 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 import dependency has increased to 80% in 2021.

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 decisions. This is very apparent in the recent energy price situation since 2022. The EU Council Regulation 2024/223 states that "the aggravated situation in the energy markets has substantially contributed to the general inflation in the euro area, slowing down economic growth across the Union. That risk will persist regardless of any temporary reduction of wholesale prices and will be even more pertinent next year…". The war in Ukraine demonstrated the volatility within the energy market and the importance of security of energy supplies. Under council regulation 2024/223 a temporary measure, a rebuttable presumption, that "renewable energy projects are of overriding public interest and serving public health and safety" has been introduced. This measure aims to increase security of energy supply across the EU and reduce energy prices. Renewable energy is crucial to fight climate change and reduce dependency on fossil fuels. The regulation states that "the construction and operation of energy plants from renewable sources and the development of the related grid infrastructure should be given priority" at least where such a project is of public interest. This priority should only be given if appropriate species conservation measures are undertaken and if sufficient financial resources are made available for this purpose if required.

In this context, the addition of between 61.6 to 77 MW of installed wind energy capacity from the proposed project will improve our security of supply and reduce our reliance on energy imports.

Ireland is fortunate to have access to the lowest cost renewable electricity resources in the world[2]. As a small island nation, the challenges are to deliver a secure supply of energy to meet our growing needs and drive economic prosperity, while making sure cost is to the forefront of decision-making, alongside reducing CO_2 emissions to protect the environment and limit the impact of climate change for future generations.

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 [3].

1.5 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Process

EIA is the process that examines the potential environmental effects of a proposed project. Design measures or embedded measures (i.e. avoidance of sensitive receptors) have been incorporated in the proposed project. Where potential significant effects are identified,

[2] Ireland is now a world-leader in wind energy which can provide clean electricity, heat, and transport in the future – Energy Ireland (Accessed January 2026)

[3] https://www.oecd.org/climate-action/ipac/practices/a-credible-carbon-tax-trajectory-for-ireland-a39128a3/ (Accessed December 2025)

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 likely significant **residual effects**, if any, that the proposed project would have on the environment and is used to inform the EIA process. This EIAR has been prepared by TOBIN on behalf of the Applicant.

The proposed project is subject to the EIA process as it falls within the development class definitions specified in Schedule 5 of the *Planning and Development Regulations, 2001* (S.I. No. 600 of 2001), as amended. Schedule 5 sets out a comprehensive list of development types and development thresholds which are subject to EIA. Specifically, Part 2 Category 3(i) states that EIA is required for the following development 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".*

EIA is an increasingly important element of European Union (EU) environmental policy. The first EIA Directive was adopted in 1985 (Directive 85/337/EEC) and, following the adoption of amending Directives in 1997, 2003 and 2009, a codified Directive was adopted in 2011 (Directive 2011/92/EU). Directive 2014/52/EU amends the 2011 codified Directive but does not replace it. 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 Directive'.

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

1.6 Legislative Context and Development Guidelines

The proposed project meets the criteria for Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) as set out in the 7th Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. As such, the planning application will be submitted to An Coimisiún Pleanála in accordance with Section 37E of the Planning Act. Correspondence from An Coimisiún Pleanála confirming the SID status of the application is included in Appendix 1-1.

The electrical infrastructure proposed, including the grid connection route (GCR) to the existing 110 kV Dallow substation, is an integral component of the Section 37E wind farm development application. The loop-in grid connection infrastructure proposed serves no other purpose other than to export renewable electricity generated from the project to the national grid and is part of the installation for the harnessing of wind power for energy production.

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; and
- The European Union (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

The above legislative provisions are detailed further in Chapter 4 (Policy, Planning and Development Context).

A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) has also been prepared for the proposed project. The purpose of the NIS is to inform the planning authority in its undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the proposed project, as required under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EC). An AA is required of the implications for the European site concerned of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with any other plans or projects prior to its approval, and to take into account the cumulative effects which result from the combination of that plan or project with other plans or projects (in-combination effects) in view of the European site's conservation objectives. The NIS, which is accompanied by an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report, is provided with the planning application.

1.7 Standards and Guidance Documents

The following guidance and documents have been taken into consideration in the preparation of this EIAR:

- Guidelines on the information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects Guidance on Scoping (European Commission, 2017);
- Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on the preparation of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (European Commission, 2017);
- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Coimisiún Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment (Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, 2018); and,
- Guidelines for the Assessment of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts as well as Impact Interactions (European Commission, 1999).

In addition to the Guidelines and Documents listed above, this EIAR has been prepared with cognisance to the "*Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2006)*", the *"Proposed Revisions"* to these guidelines (2013), the *"Preferred Draft Approach"* to these guidelines as announced by the Government in 2017, and the *"Revised Draft Wind Energy Guidelines"* released in 2019. Furthermore, discipline specific best practise guidance and documentation have been consulted by each specialist for each of the relevant topics and are referenced in those individual EIAR chapters where relevant.

1.7.1 Overview of the 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 European Union Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the

environment (the 'EIA Directive') as amended by Directive 2014/52/EU. The structure and content of this EIAR fully complies with these legislative requirements. This EIAR has also been prepared in accordance with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Coimisiún Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG)(now the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage) in August 2018 as well as the Guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, published by the EPA in May 2022 and all others listed in Section 1.7 above.

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 (if relevant).

This EIAR is arranged in four volumes, as follows:

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

1.7.1.1 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, mitigation measures for the project and any potentially significant effects.

1.7.1.2 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 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 phase.

Chapter 3 – Consideration of 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: Flora & Fauna

Chapter 7: Ornithology

Chapter 8: Land, Soils and Geology

Chapter 9: Hydrology and Hydrogeology

Chapter 10: Air Quality

Chapter 11: Noise and Vibration

Chapter 12: Landscape and Visual Impact

Chapter 13: Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage

Chapter 14: Traffic and Transportation

Chapter 15: Material Assets

Chapter 16: Shadow Flicker

Chapter 17: Climate

Chapter 18: Major Accidents and Natural Disasters

Chapter 19: Interactions of the Foregoing

Chapter 20: Schedule of Mitigation Measures

The proposed project has sought to avoid or reduce likely significant effects, as this is part of your mitigation by design or embedded measures. Each of the chapters (Chapters 5 – 17) provides an examination of specific environmental aspects and uses the following standard approach and headings:

- **Introduction** – this section specifies the content and background of the subsequent assessment.
- **Methodology** – this section describes the study methodology employed in carrying out the assessment.
- **Existing Environment** – this section provides a description of the existing environment (without the proposed project) into which the proposed project will be located, specifically in the context of the relevant environmental aspects under consideration. This section will also identify any other proposed projects (with decisions pending from the relevant planning authority) or existing and approved projects in the vicinity which are relevant to the assessment.
- **Assessment of Effects** – this section provides a description of the direct, indirect, and cumulative 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 and embedded design measures, 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 significance of effect that will likely occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been put in place.

1.7.1.3 Volume III: Appendices

Supporting documentation and references, referred to in the Main EIAR (Volume II) are included in this volume (with the exception of photomontages).

1.7.1.4 Volume IV: Photomontages

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

1.7.2 Description of Likely Significant Effects

As per the EPA's 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 impacts 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.

Annex III of the amended EIA Directive uses the following criteria to consider such impacts:

- the magnitude and spatial extent of the impact (for example geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);
- the nature of the impact;
- the transboundary nature of the impact;
- the intensity and complexity of the impact;
- the probability of the impact;
- the expected onset, duration, frequency, and reversibility of the impact;
- the cumulation of the impact with the impact of other existing and/or approved projects; and,
- the possibility of effectively reducing the impact.

The classification and description of effects in this EIAR follows the terms provided in Table 3-4 of the 2022 EPA Guidelines and are duplicated in Table 1-1 below 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.

The use of standardised terms for the classification of effects ensures that the EIAR employs a systematic approach, which can be replicated across all disciplines covered in the EIAR. The

consistent application of terminology throughout the EIAR facilitates the assessment of the proposed project on the receiving environment.

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**	**Momentary Effects** Effects lasting from seconds to minutes
	Brief Effects Effects lasting less than a day
	Temporary Effects

specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful.	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 CONTRIBUTORS TO THE EIAR

The relevant inputs of the various contributors and competent experts of the Project Team are provided in Tables 1-2 and 1-3.

Table 1-2 List of Contributors to the EIAR

Company	Name	Contribution to the EIAR
TOBIN	(EIAR Chapter number for which primary author) John Dillon (1, 2, 3, 10, 11) Orla Fitzpatrick (Review) Oonagh Fleming (5, 15, 18, 19, 20) Serena Byrne (5, 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

	Eirene Varghese (4) John Dillon (8, 9 Review) Aristotelis Tegos (Flood Risk Assessment) Michael Nolan (10) Samuele Pezzetta (GIS) Maria Rooney (16) John Sherry (6, 7)	• 4 - Policy, Planning and Development Context • 5 - Population and Human Health • 6 - Biodiversity: Flora & Fauna / Appropriate Assessment Screening and Natura Impact Statement • 7 - Ornithology • 8 - Land, Soils and Geology • 9 - Hydrology and Hydrogeology • 14 - Traffic and Transportation • 15 - Material Assets • 16 - Shadow Flicker • 18 - Major Accidents and Natural Disasters • 19 - Interactions of the Foregoing • 20 - Schedule of Mitigation Measures TOBIN has also prepared the planning applications and planning drawings
AWN Consulting	Dermot Blunnie (11) Dr. Jovanna Arndt (10, 17)	Noise and Vibration Air Quality Climate
Macroworks	Richard Barker (12)	Landscape and Visual Impact (incl. design review of the site)
IAC	Faith Bailey (15)	Cultural Heritage
Ecology Ireland	Dr. Gavin Fenessey (7)	Ornithology Surveys
Independent Consultant	Dr. Tom Gittings (7)	Ornithology / Collision Risk Model
Pell Frischmann	Timothy Lockett Gordon Buchan	Abnormal Indivisible Load Route Survey (Appendix 2-1)
O'Donnell Environmental	Oisín O' Sullivan	Bat Report (Appendix 6-2)
Ground Investigations Ireland	Diarmuid MagLochlainn (8 – SI Input)	Site Investigation Report (Appendix 8-1)
Ciaran Reilly & Associates	Dr Ciaran Reilly (8 – PSRA Input)	Peat Stability Risk Assessment (Appendix 8-2)
TLI	Noel O'Connor Kevin Casey	Grid, BESS and substation design

Table 1-3 List of Competent Experts Contributing to the EIAR

Company/Individual	Competent Experts	Qualifications	No. of Years' Experience
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)	19
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) Full Membership Institute of Environmental Science (2011) Advanced Diploma in Planning & Environmental Law (2025)	22
TOBIN	Oonagh Fleming	B.A (Hons) Geography and Sociology, Trinity College Dublin.	3
TOBIN	Serena Byrne	B.Sc. (Hons) Psychology Applied to Information Technology (2010), IADT Dún Laoghaire M.Sc. Environmental Sustainability (2022), UCD	12
TOBIN	Eirene Varghese	BA Architecture, India (2018) Masters in Regional and Urban Planning, UCD (2021)	5
TOBIN	Aristotelis Tegos	MEng, Civil Engineering (2005), National Technical University of Athens MEng, Water Resources Science and Technology (2007), National Technical University of Athens PhD, State of the Art Approach for Potential Evapotranspiration Assessment (2019), National Technical University of Athens Fellow, CEng, FIEI.	18
TOBIN	Micheal Nolan	City & Guilds in Computer Aided Design (2001), Griffith College Dublin	18
TOBIN	Samuele Pezzetta	MSc. Environmental Science and Geohazards (2019), UPEM, MARNE-LA-VALLE (Paris)	4
TOBIN	Maria Rooney	BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering (2013), IT Carlow BEng (Ord.) Civil Engineering (2010), Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) MIEI Member of Engineers Ireland	8
TOBIN	John Sherry	B.Sc. Field Biology, Institute of Technology, Tralee (2019)	6
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	14

Company/Individual	Competent Experts	Qualifications	No. of Years' Experience
		MSc. in Applied Acoustics (2013) University of Derby	
AWN Consulting	Jovanna Arndt	BSc. Environmental Science Ph.D in Atmospheric Chemistry AMIAQM -Member of Institute of Air Quality Management AMIES -Member of Institution of Environmental Sciences	9
Macroworks	Richard Barker	PG Diploma in Forestry (1996) BA Environmental Studies (1995) Master's Degree Landscape Architecture (2003) Corporate Member of the Irish Landscape Institute	19
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.	19
Ecology Ireland	Dr. Gavin Fenessey	B.Sc. Zoology, UCC (1996) PhD. Ecology of the Robin, Erithacus rubecula, in Ireland (2001) Member of CIEEM	21
Independent Consultant	Dr. Tom Gittings	BSc. in Ecology (1988), University of East Anglia PhD. in Zoology (1994), UCC	26
Pell Frischman	Gordon Buchan	BEng (Hons), Civil & Transport Engineering and MSc, Transport Engineering, 1996-1999, Edinburgh Napier University. Chartered Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport Fellow of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transport	28
Pell Frischman	Timothy Lockett	BSc (Hons) Transport and Supply Chain Management, 2001-2005, Ulster University. Chartered Member of the Institute of Logistics and Transport (CMILT)	20
O'Donnell Environmental	Tom O'Donnell	BSc. (2007) Environmental and Earth System Science, Applied Ecology, UCC MSc (2009) Ecological Assessment, UCC	16
Ground Investigations Ireland	Diarmuid MagLochlainn	B.SC. (Hons) Geology (2014), UCD	16
Ciaran Reilly & Associates	Dr Ciaran Reilly	BEng in Civil, Structural and Environmental Engineering (2006), NUIG Postgraduate Diploma, Fire Safety Practice (Buildings & Other Structures) (2013), TCD PhD, Geotechnical Engineering (2014), TCD	12

Company/Individual	Competent Experts	Qualifications	No. of Years' Experience
		Chartered Engineer, Engineers Ireland	
TLI	Noel O'Connor	BEng. (Hons), Electrical Engineering, Cork Institute of Technology Ireland BEng. Mechanical Engineering, Cork Institute of Technology, Ireland	12
TLI	Kevin Casey	B. Eng Mechanical and Electronic Engineering, 2010-2013, MTU	11

1.9 SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

The EIA scoping and consultation activities were carried out in accordance with all relevant guidance documents as set out in Section 1.6.

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 impacts 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;
- Statutory & non-statutory consultees;
- Telecommunications providers;
- Public.

1.9.1 Consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála

The first pre-application consultation meeting was held with An Coimisiún Pleanála on 22nd February 2024. The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the proposed project to An Coimisiún Pleanála in order to provide An Coimisiún Pleanála with the necessary information to enable it to decide on the strategic infrastructure development status of the project. The Applicant and TOBIN representatives attended the first meeting. The meeting discussion was centred around the following key points:

- Background to and overview of the proposed project
- EIA Scoping carried out
- Public Consultation
- Surveys carried out already and those still planned
- Assessment of turbine dimensions
- Landscape and Visual Constraints
- Next Steps

At the meeting, An Coimisiún Pleanála detailed the pre-application consultation process. A presentation was given providing information on the site and the proposed project. An

Coimisiún Pleanála provided some guidance on key considerations for the EIAR and some points that they wanted to see addressed therein. A discussion followed about specific details of the proposed project, as well as a number of other topics as listed above.

A second meeting was held with An Coimisiún Pleanála on the 7th May 2025 which was attended by the Applicant and TOBIN representatives, an update regarding the proposed project was given to the An Coimisiún Pleanála. In addition, some of the topics discussed in the first meeting were revisited. Within this meeting, the unconfirmed details for which design flexibility was requested for the proposed project were also discussed. This related to the range of proposed turbine dimensions (tip height, rotor diameter and hub height).

An Coimisiún Pleanála confirmed on the 17th October 2025 that the proposed project relating to this application constitutes strategic infrastructure development and that a planning application should be made directly to the An Coimisiún Pleanála (copy of this response is provided in Appendix 1-1).

1.9.2 Consultation with Statutory and Non-Statutory Bodies

An EIA Scoping Report was prepared and submitted to relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies in March and June 2024 (either by email or post) for review and comment, with subsequent follow ups (detailed below where applicable). The EIA Scoping Report was accompanied by a cover letter introducing the proposed project and inviting comments or observations within a period of six weeks from the date of the letter. A copy of the Scoping Report, with a standard cover letter is provided in Appendix 1-2 and all responses received from consultees are provided in Appendix 1-3.

The list of consultees and record of consultation is provided in Table 1-4.

Table 1-4 Consultees and Response Record

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
2RN	July 2024	09/07/2024	2RN have no off-air links that will be affected by the proposed project. Request that a protocol be signed by 2RN and the developer.	Considered within Chapter 15 Material Assets.
Aeronautical Information Service - AirNav Ireland	Mar 2024	04/04/2024	The 11 wind turbines are located more than 30 nautical miles from Shannon Airport, so they are not a concern from that perspective. The DME/DME Navaid at Wolftrap, Laois is about 12nm from the windfarm and likely unaffected. The turbines, presumed to be 175m tall, are new aviation obstacles and must be reported to the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA).	Considered within Chapter 15 Material Assets.
Bat Conservation Ireland	July 2024	12/07/2024	Bat Conservation Ireland clarified that it does not provide opinions, comments, or input on planning or development proposals. The organisation requested that correspondence with them not be described as a consultation.	This statement has been noted in Chapter 6 Biodiversity.

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
Department for Agriculture, Food and the Marine	July 2024	08/07/2024	The developer should take note of the contents of Felling and Reforestation Policy document which provide a consolidated source of information on the legal and regulatory framework relating to tree felling; gov.ie - Tree Felling Licences (www.gov.ie) As this development is within forest lands, particular attention should be paid to deforestation, turbulence felling and the requirement to afforest alternative lands	All comments have been considered in the EIAR - See Forestry Report (See Appendix 2-8 to this EIAR, and EIAR Chapter 2 - Description)
Department for Defence	Mar 2024 and July 2024	17/04/2024 and 05/07/2024	The first response noted that The Department of Defence notes that planning decisions rest solely with the relevant authorities and offers the following non-binding observation: all turbines should have continuous Type C red obstacle lighting (2,000 candela, visible in all directions, including IR at ~850 nm) suitable for Night Vision equipment. The second response noted no further comment.	Comments are considered within Chapter 15 (Material Assets).

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
Department for Enterprise, Trade and Employment	Mar 2024 and July 2024	13/05/2024	Noted that in light of the Climate Action Plan's commitment to delivering vast quantities of renewable energy generation in Ireland over the coming years, it is encouraging to learn about the proposed project.	No response required.
Department for Health	Mar 2024	08/04/2024	Request that consultation with the HSE be undertaken.	See below.
DAU, NPWS	Mar 2024 and August 2024	27/05/2024 And 05/09/2025	The first response noted that The Department advises that the proposed project could affect subsurface and underwater archaeological remains. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) by a qualified archaeologist must be completed before any groundworks, including desk-based research, geophysical survey, and test excavations, with recommendations for preservation in situ or by record where remains are found. As recorded monuments and protected wrecks may also exist within or near the site, a Underwater Archaeological Impact Assessment (UAIA) is required to examine all affected waterbodies through desktop	All comments have been considered in the EIAR - See Chapter 6 (Biodiversity), Chapter 7 (Ornithology), Chapter 9 (Hydrology & Hydrogeology) and Ch 13 (Archaeology and Cultural Heritage).

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			study, field survey, and licensed dive or wade assessment. A final Archaeological Impact Statement (AIS) should outline findings, potential impacts, and mitigation measures such as exclusion zones, redesign, excavation, or monitoring. No construction may begin until the UAIA has been reviewed and approved by the Department. The second response provided general comment in relation to EIAR, AASR and the proposed project. Highlighted, cumulative assessment, ecological survey, baseline data, impact assessment, lighting, alien invasive species, hedgerow and protected species, rivers and wetlands, bird surveys, badgers, bats, monitoring, turbine specification, bridges and flora, construction management plans and licences. Noted the location of Sharavogue Bog SAC in relation to the proposed wind farm site.	
Department for Transport	July 2024	07/08/2024	The Department notes that construction of the development, particularly grid connection cables, could impact	All comments, which fall under the scope of the EIAR and

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			the environment and the regional and local road network. Potential issues include road destabilisation, higher maintenance costs, reduced space for future utilities, and service interruptions during maintenance. It recommends assessing all technology and route options to minimise disruption—such as considering overhead versus underground cabling, optimising grid connection points, and consolidating cables in single trenches. Conditions for approval include obtaining local authority consent for routing, adhering to road management standards, maintaining detailed installation records, avoiding jointing bays under pavements or cable attachments to bridges, ensuring climate-resilient culvert replacements, and notifying the Roads Authority of cable ownership and control.	planning application, have been considered.
EirGrid Group	July 2024	05/07/2024	At present, as it is imperative to expedite generator applications EirGrid is not in a position to comment on EIA scoping reports.	No response required.

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
Fáilte Ireland	July 2024	07/05/2024 and 31/07/2024	Provided a copy of Fáilte Ireland's Guidelines for the Treatment of Tourism in an EIA. The purpose of this report is to provide guidance for those conducting Environmental Impact Assessment and compiling an Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIAR), or those assessing EIARs, where the project involves tourism or may have an impact upon tourism. These guidelines are non-statutory and act as supplementary advice to the EPA EIAR Guidelines outlined in Section 2.	All comments have been considered in the EIAR – see Chapter 5 (Population and Human Health).
Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)	Mar 2024	09/05/2024	GSI recommends using their various data sets when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of their data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'. Provide guidelines for preparing environmental impact statements and conducting environmental assessments. Request that if the development proceeds data regarding SI work	All comments have been considered in the EIAR - See Chapter 8 (Land Soils and Geology) and Chapter 9 (Hydrology and Hydrogeology).

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			is shared with them for inclusion in their national database.	
Health & Safety Authority (HSA)	Mar 2024	05/04/2024	No observations/comments to forward as the proposed application appears out of scope of the Regulations (Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 (S.I. 209 of 2015)).	No response required
Health Service Executive (HSE) South	Mar 2024	05/04/2024	Noted that The HSE South East Freedom of Information Office would have no remit over the below query. Wish to confirm that the health considerations of EIA reports are a matter for the Health Service Executive (HSE). This may involve a request to the HSE for a view as to what the HSE consider should be assessed in the EIA. This can be done either formally through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) who will then make a request to the HSE for an opinion, or informally you may make a direct request to the HSE. The HSE can be	No response required. Note the EPA were consulted and at the time of writing no response has been received.

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			contacted at ehnationaloffice@hse.ie.	
Inland Fisheries Ireland	July 2024 and October 2025	09/10/2025	Outlines concerns, particularly regarding the protection of aquatic habitats and riparian zones associated with the Little Brosna River and its tributaries. Provides note on details to be included within the EIAR, emphasises the need for detailed assessments of watercourses affected by construction, including aquatic biodiversity surveys and electrofishing to identify sensitive species. Highlights importance of soil stability and recommend expert evaluation to prevent landslides. Hydrology and drainage management during both construction and operation phases are critical to avoid erosion and pollution. IFI also highlights the risks of sediment release from road construction, the need for proper waste and pollutant containment, and careful planning of watercourse crossings.	All comments have been considered in the EIAR - See Chapter 6 (Biodiversity), and Chapter 9 (Hydrology and Hydrogeology).
Irish Aviation Authority (IAA)	Mar 2024	05/04/2024	Request that further consultation occur with Birr	Locations of turbines provided to Birr Aerodrome. No further

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			Airfield, as the proposed wind farm site is located 5 km South West of the licensed Aerodrome – Birr Airfield in Co. Offaly. Also noted should the application be permitted the IAA will likely provide the following observation: ""“In the event of planning consent being granted, the applicant should be conditioned to contact the Irish Aviation Authority to: (1) agree an aeronautical obstacle warning light scheme for the wind turbine development, (2) provide as-constructed coordinates in WGS84 format together with ground and tip height elevations at each wind turbine location and (3) notify the Authority of intention to commence crane operations with at least 30 days prior notification of their erection." IAA also described the separation of the Irish Aviation Authority and Air Navigation Ireland (the IAA ANSP) from the 30th April 2023, Air Navigation Ireland has responsibility for the maintenance and safeguarding of instrument flight procedures	comments received. This is considered within Chapter 15 Material Assets.

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			and navigational aids at Dublin, Cork and Shannon airports, and en route communications and navigation surveillance equipment in Ireland.	
Irish Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association	Mar 2024	10/04/2024	Do not consider the proposed project to have any impact on the IHPA flying activities and therefore will not be making any submissions to the EIAR.	No response required.
Shannon Airport	Mar 2024	03/04/2024	Development will have no impact on the aerodrome Note comment of our colleagues in Air Nav Ireland specifically relating to radar systems/ navigational aids and Instrument Flight Procedures (IFP's), to solicit their comments and those of the IAA. For developments of this type the following conditions/requirements must be mandated: If the turbines are within 45km of Shannon Airport's ARP and are greater than 100m in height they would be required to be included in the IAA Electronic Air Navigation Obstacle Dataset. Also, standard: Chapter Q (Visual Aids for Denoting	This is considered within Chapter 15 Material Assets.

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			Obstacles) of the Certification Specifications for Aerodrome Design – Issue 6 contained in the EASA aerodrome rules must be applied to the turbines as they would be regarded as an extensive object.	
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)	July 2024 and August 2025	09/07/2024 and 25/08/2025	The first response noted that while Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) advises that while it cannot engage directly with planning applicants, it will respond to referrals in line with its statutory role. TII notes that the proposed wind farm's grid connection is generally routed along local roads, not national roads, and offers guidance for the preparation of the EIAR. The EIAR should recognise national roads and light rail as strategic transport assets, assess potential impacts, and follow the *Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)* and relevant *TII Publications*. Developers should consult with the local authority and the National Roads Design Office regarding road schemes, undertake Traffic and Transport	These points have been considered in the EIAR preparation, particularly in Chapter 14 (Traffic & Transportation).

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			Assessments where appropriate, and consider road safety, noise, and haul route impacts. TII highlights that cabling within national road corridors can cause long-term maintenance, safety, and upgrade issues; therefore, all routing options, including alternatives to public roads, should be fully assessed in line with the *Climate Action Plan 2024* requirement to demonstrate the optimal grid connection solution. Separate consents and coordination with TII and local authorities may be required for any works affecting the national road network. The second response provides more specific details about the proposed grid connection, notably that the route partly crosses the N52 at Riverstown. It references newer guidance documents, including the Department of Transport Circular RW 07 of 2025 and interim guidance on placing medium or high voltage electricity assets. There is an emphasis on the need for a coordinated approach to grid connection routing to avoid risks	

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			to renewable energy projects. Expanded details are given on haul route approvals, including permits, indemnities, and consultation with Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) and Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contractor (MMaRC). It mandates that all crossings near national roads use Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and avoid structures such as bridges and culverts, contrasting with the earlier, more general recommendation of HDD. The response further elaborates on potential impacts to Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) infrastructure, specifying that the developer shall bear any associated costs.	
Uisce Éireann	Mar and July 2024 and Aug 2025	18/04/2024 12/07/2024 20/08/2025	The first and second response noted does not have the capacity to provide project-specific scoping advice but outlines general water services considerations for Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA).	These points have been considered in the EIAR preparation particularly Chapter 9 (Hydrology and Hydrogeology).

Consultee	Initial Consultation Date	Date of Response	Summary of Comments Received	Project Team Response to Comments Received
			The third response noted potential interaction with Uisce Eireann's underground infrastructure near the Birr and Dallow substation. The response outlines key water service considerations, including protection of drinking water sources, assessment of hydrological pathways, inert material verification for backfilling, and mitigation of impacts on reservoirs and water infrastructure. Developers must evaluate capacity, trade effluent discharge, surface water management, and potential effects on sensitive areas. Building over Uisce Éireann assets is prohibited, and separation distances must comply with standards. Connection agreements are required before development begins, and new surface water discharges to combined sewers will not be accepted.	

The following groups did not provide a response to the scoping exercise or provided an automated response/noted no capacity to respond:

- An Garda Síochána
- An Taisce - The National Trust for Ireland
- Astronomical Observations of Ireland / Irish Astronomical Society
- BirdWatch Ireland
- Birr I-LOFAR
- Broadcasting Authority of Ireland
- Clonbulloge Aerodrome - Irish Parachute Club
- Córas Iompair Éireann (CIÉ)
- CRU
- Department for the Environment, Climate and Communications
- Department for Rural and Community Development
- Department for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media
- Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Imagine Networks Services
- Irish Peatland Conservation Council
- Irish Raptor Study Group
- Irish Red Grouse Conservation Trust.pdf
- Irish Trails - Sport Ireland
- Irish Wildlife Trust (IWT)
- Met Éireann
- Mountaineering Ireland
- National Transport Authority (NTA)
- Office of Public Works (OPW)
- Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
- Southern Regional Assembly
- Teagasc
- The Heritage Council
- Waterways Ireland

1.9.3 Consultation with Local Authorities

A meeting was held with Offaly County Council on 15th May 2024. Key topics included an overview of the project, infrastructure and logistics, CDP Zoning, proposed GCR and TDR and the EIAR.

A meeting was held with Tipperary County Council on 24th of April 2024. The meeting discussed the proposed project and the planning route to An Coimisiún Pleanála. The Tipperary County Development Plan and Renewable Energy Strategy were discussed, the proposed GCR and TDR and the scope of the EIA.

1.9.4 Consultation with Telecommunications Providers

An extensive consultation exercise was also carried out with telecommunications providers that may have services in the area which could have the potential to be impacted by the proposed project. The list of telecommunications consultees, feedback received, and design implications are discussed in Chapter 15 (Material Assets).

1.9.5 Community Consultation

The RWE Project Team engaged with the community through a number of different initiatives since 24th July 2023, as set out below. Feedback was passed on to the project design team and EIAR team on an ongoing basis, in order to allow the consultation process to inform the design and impact assessment process.

1.9.5.1 Information Service

A dedicated phone line (087 151 9219) and e-mail address (ballincor@rwe.com) were set up prior to commencing the first consultation and have remained in place since then, to enable anyone with queries to get in touch with the RWE Project Team or indeed to ask questions or voice concerns via phone or email at any time over the entire consultation period.

A project specific website (www.rwe.com/ballincor) was also developed and was updated throughout this period with further information, updated FAQs and useful documents.

1.9.5.2 First Residents Letter and Project Brochure

A twelve page information brochure (Ballincor Proposed Wind Farm) was developed for the project (See Appendix 1-4). This was delivered along with a cover letter on the 24th July 2023, to all residents within a 2km radius (232 homes) of the proposed site by All Homes delivery company.

The cover letter from the Community Liaison Officer (CLO (Kieran O'Byrne, Stakeholder Engagement / Communications Manager, RWE Renewables Ireland Limited)) introduced the project and the CLO as the point of contact. The CLO's picture and contact details were on the letter (mobile phone number and email address), in addition to the contact number for the Kilkenny office and postal address was also in the brochure (See Appendix 1-4).

1.9.5.3 Elected Members Engagement

On the first day of the consultation period (24th July 2023) all relevant local and national elected representatives were emailed a letter of introduction to the CLO, a soft copy of the Ballincor Proposed Wind Farm brochure and a soft copy of the letter that was sent that day to residents.

1.9.5.4 Door to Door Engagement

Following the first resident letter and brochure delivery, the CLO plus members of the project team then went door to door on 25th, 26th and 27th of July 2023 and met with 122 householders (out of 232 houses called to) i.e. 53% of households within a 2km radius were met with within the first week of consultation.

After the first letter drop and during the following two months (August and September 2023), numerous emails were received and each one answered.

1.9.5.5 Second Residents Letter and Door to Door Engagement

In September 2025 (15th to 17th), a second residents letter was provided to each of the 232 homes during further door to door engagements, where the CLO and the Project Manager called to each home. The second letter outlined that the project team had been working on the EIAR and that they had two pre application consultation meetings with An Coimisiún Pleanála in relation to determining if the project was a Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID).

The second letter also had the proposed locations of the turbines (in two documents one Ordinance survey, the other an ariel Google photograph) attached (See Appendix 1-4).

The RWE team met with 88 homeowners over the three days (38%) and had follow up meetings with various residents on two further occasions.

Between the first and second door to engagement, the RWE team met face to face with representatives from 210 homeowners (91%) of the 232 homes surrounding (within 2km of) the proposed wind farm.

1.9.5.6 Elected Members Engagement

Prior to the second resident letter and door to engagement period (14th September 2025), all relevant local and national elected representatives were emailed a soft copy of the letter along with the documents that were due to be delivered to residents from the 15th September 2025.

1.9.5.7 Third Residents Letter and Door to Door Engagement

A third letter drop via door-to-door engagement was undertaken by the RWE team on Monday 26th January 2026, informing residents of a proposed Drop in Clinic on Wednesday 4th February 2026. The letter welcomed people to contact the CLO by phone, text, email or post to suggest a time that they might be available. The letter also referenced that the Clinic would be "by appointment" to try and stagger the numbers of people that might attend, but people were welcome to drop in at any time if they wished.

The letter further stated that the RWE team were happy to discuss the project with either one to ones or small groups of people. The letter also said that in the event that residents were not able to attend that they could contact the CLO to arrange a separate meeting that better suits them. The letter also indicated available the evening before and the morning after (See Appendix 1-4).

The letter drop also elicited contacts from many local residents as well as almost 20 contacts for booking specific time at the Clinic and there were 6 drop in's on the day.

1.9.5.8 Elected Members Engagement

Prior to the third resident letter and door to engagement period (25th January 2026), all relevant local and national elected representatives were emailed a soft copy of the letter that was due to be delivered to residents from the 26th January 2026.

1.9.5.9 Drop in Clinic

The RWE team held a drop in Clinic in the County Arms Birr on Wednesday 4th February 2026 from 8am until 8.30 pm. On the day of the Clinic, 46 people attended. The majority had contacted the CLO to arrange a suitable time for themselves or a small group, others dropped in on the day as they were in town. Some people who could not attend on the day sought meetings at different times. The RWE team were constantly busy over the day. The first meeting was at 8.55am the last person left at 8.30pm.

At the Clinic, the following printed material were on display for viewing by members of the public and to facilitate questions and responses;

- Overall Site Layout
- Turbine Delivery Route
- Grid Connection Route
- Photo Montages

The RWE team also received further requests for information at the clinic and some followed up with more requests the following week / weeks by phone and email. Afterwards, the RWE team responded to approx. 12 different residents over the following weeks with answers to their questions either on the day of the clinic or requested afterwards.

1.10 Assumptions and Limitations of Assessment

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, consented, but as yet un-built, developments have been assumed to be built in accordance with and within the duration permitted by the associated grant of permission; and
- Information provided by third parties, including publicly available information and databases, is correct at the time of publication.

Specific limitations relevant to certain environmental aspects are set out in the corresponding EIAR Chapter. Some general limitations associated with the preparation of this EIAR are set out below:

- Baseline conditions and assessments are assumed to be accurate at the time of the physical surveys but may be subject to change, due to the nature of the surrounding environment and surrounding activities; and
- 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 and relied upon as part of the assessment process.

1.11 REFERENCES

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