

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

TOBIN has prepared this Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) on behalf of FuturEnergy Lissinagroagh Designated Activity Company who intend to apply to An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) for planning consent to develop the Proposed Lissinagroagh Wind Farm, located approximately 2 km northeast of Manorhamilton in north County Leitrim.

For the purposes of this EIAR, the Proposed Wind Farm, and all of the associated infrastructure and works to facilitate its construction, operation and decommissioning, including the Proposed Grid Connection Route and Proposed Turbine Delivery Route, are collectively referred to as the “Proposed Project”.

The Proposed Project will comprise fourteen (14) wind turbines, turbine foundations, crane hardstands, borrow pits, new access tracks, upgraded existing access tracks, an on-site 110kV electrical substation and an underground grid connection to the existing ESBN Srananagh substation in Co. Sligo. The Project will also include ancillary infrastructure and works including a surface water management system, internal electrical and communications cabling, biodiversity enhancement areas and access accommodations at specified locations along the public road network to facilitate the delivery of turbine components.

This chapter provides an introduction to the Proposed Project, sets out the background to, and methodology used in this EIAR, the overall structure of the EIAR as well as details of the Project Team. The chapter is supported by Figures and Appendices which are referenced throughout the text.

Based on currently available technology, the Proposed Project, when built and operational, will supply between 77 and 100.8 megawatts (MW) of renewable electricity to the National Grid based on an individual turbine capacity of approximately 5.5 - 7.2 MW. Due to the scale of the Proposed Wind Farm, which will have a generating capacity of greater than 50 MW, the provision of 110kV transmission infrastructure in the form of a 110kV on-site substation and a 110kV underground transmission cable will be required, which will form part of the national electricity transmission network when operational. This will require the submission of two separate planning applications, as follows:

- **Planning Application 1: Proposed Wind Farm & Ancillary Infrastructure/Works**

Under Section 37E of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a planning application will be submitted to ACP for the Proposed Wind Farm and other works ancillary to the development of the wind farm, including site entrances, access tracks, borrow pits, surface water management system, permanent met mast, temporary compounds and biodiversity enhancement areas (collectively referred to as the ‘Proposed Wind Farm’). A full list of components is provided in Section 1.3.

The development meets the threshold for wind energy set out in the Seventh Schedule of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, being ‘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’, and therefore meets the criteria for Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID). The planning application requires submission directly to ACP in accordance with Section



37E of the Planning and Development Act (PDA) 2000, as amended. This approach has been confirmed following pre-application consultations with ACP under the provisions of Section 37B (ACP Ref. ACP-323048-25). ACP consultation records are provided in Appendix 1-3.

- **Planning Application 2: Proposed 110kV Substation & Grid Connection**

Under Section 182A of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), a second planning application will be submitted to ACP for the Proposed On-site 110kV Electrical Substation and Underground Cable Connection (referred to as the 'Proposed Substation and GCR'), as it comprises development for the purposes of electricity transmission under Section 182A ("a high voltage line where the voltage would be 110 kilovolts or more").

As the development qualifies as SID under a different section of the Act, a submission of separate application to ACP is required. This approach has been confirmed following consultations with ACP under the provisions of Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended (ACP Ref. ACP-323910-25). ACP consultation records are provided in Appendix 1-3.

In summary:

- The "Proposed Project" refers to the entire project, namely the wind farm, on-site substation, grid connection route, temporary accommodations along the turbine delivery route (TDR), , as shown in Figure 1-1. It includes any works being carried out within the public road corridor (i.e. localised road widening or works to facilitate delivery of components to the site), which are not subject to planning consent but are assessed as part of the proposed project.
- The "Proposed Wind Farm site" refers only to the site of the wind farm and on-site substation, excluding the above individual ancillary/associated elements, as shown in Figure 1-1.
- The "Proposed TDR Accommodation Areas" refers to the areas along the road network where accommodations are required to allow the delivery of oversize loads, as shown in Figure 1-1.
- The "Proposed GCR" relates to the route for the proposed underground cable between the onsite substation and the existing Srananagh substation near Sligo, as shown in Figure 1-1.
- The "Study Area" refers to the area considered for assessment and separately defined within each chapter (Chapter 4 to 17). The general EIAR study area refers to the areas outlined in Figure 2-1, which includes the proposed wind farm site and the proposed works required for the TDR and GCR. Throughout this EIAR, reference may be made to this study area within each technical chapter.

A full description of the Proposed Project is provided in Chapter 2 - Description of the Proposed Project.

The overall location of the Proposed Project is shown in Figure 1-1.

1.2 STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This Chapter has been prepared by Sinéad Ryan, (BSc, MSc, PIEMA) Associate Director and Environmental Engineer with TOBIN. Sinéad Ryan has a BSc in Environmental Science from



University of Galway and an MSc in Environmental Engineering from Queens University Belfast. She has more than 20 years' professional experience working in the environmental sector in Ireland, with over 10 years as a project manager in the planning and EIA aspects of onshore renewable energy projects.

1.3 THE APPLICANT

The Applicant is FuturEnergy Lissinagroagh Designated Activity Company (hereafter referred to as the Applicant), which is owned by FuturEnergy Ireland, a joint venture company owned on a 50:50 basis by Coillte and ESB. As one of the largest dedicated developers of onshore wind in Ireland, FuturEnergy Ireland's mission is to maximise the potential of national resources and accelerate Ireland's transformation to a low carbon energy economy. Their aim is to materially help the country deliver on its green energy targets, achieving net zero emissions by 2050, as set out in the Government's Climate Action Plan 2025 (CAP25).

The company's ambition is to develop more than 1GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and make a significant contribution to Ireland's commitment to produce 80% of electricity from renewable sources in that timeframe. FuturEnergy Ireland want to do this by driving the development of the highest quality, locally supported green energy projects in Ireland. In conjunction with its co-development partners, the company has received planning permission for Castlebanny Wind Farm (Co. Kilkenny), Coom Wind Farm (Co. Cork), Drumnahough and Lenalea Wind Farms (Co. Donegal), Gort Uí Rathaile Wind Farm (Co. Cork), Glenard Wind Farm (Co. Donegal) and Carrownagowan Wind Farm (Co. Clare) and also has a number of proposed wind energy projects currently in the planning system.

1.4 PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION

1.4.1 Proposed Wind Farm Site

The Proposed Wind Farm site is located within the townlands of Boleyboy, Cashelaveela, Cherrybrook, Coolodonnell, Faughary, Killea, Lissinagroagh, Lisdarush, Lugasnaghta, Raheelin, Shasmore, Tawnyfeacle, and Tullyshehery, Co. Leitrim. It is located approximately 2 km northeast of Manorhamilton in north County Leitrim at its nearest point. It is also located in close proximity to the Northern Ireland border in County Fermanagh, which is approximately 3 km to the north.

The Proposed GCR extends from the Proposed On-site 110kV Substation in the north-west of the wind farm site, for 32km mostly on public roads to the existing ESN Srananagh 110kV substation in Co. Sligo, where the generated electricity will be supplied to the National Grid (refer to Figure 1-1).

The Proposed Wind Farm site (Figure 1-2) has a total site area of 389 ha, set within a wider landholding of approximately 1,096 hectares (ha), of which approximately 785 ha are currently commercial forest owned by Coillte. The remaining approximately 311 ha are largely privately-owned third-party lands and comprise a mix of marginal agricultural land, peat bogs and transitional scrub. The planning application site boundary is shown on Planning Drawings 10955-2001 and 2002 (Site Location Maps) and 10955-2010 (Site Layout Master Plan).

The spatial area in which the turbines are proposed ranges in elevation from 170 to 380 m AOD, bordering the Dough/ Thur Mountains at its upper elevation to the east. The northern turbines are situated within the Saddle Hill Coillte property at elevations between 280 and 310 m AOD



generally in undulating terrain. The southern area of the forest block is located between 170 m and 380m AOD.

Due to the current use of large parts of the wind farm site for commercial forestry, there are several existing access tracks to the proposed turbine locations from the surrounding regional and local road network. These provide good coverage and are well maintained and in good condition. The site can be accessed from southeast via the L6184/L61844 local roads which are connected to the R283 and the N16 and from the west via the L61801 which is connected to the R282 and the N16 further to the south.

In general terms, the area surrounding the main wind farm site can be described as rural with dispersed settlement.

There is one operational wind farm located west of the proposed wind farm site, namely Faughary Wind Farm, comprising three turbines, 119 m in height. There are two further wind farms within 10km, namely Carrickeeny Wind Farm (4 turbines) located approximately 8km to the west and Tullynamoyle (19 turbines) located approximately 10 km to the south. Other operating wind farms at a greater distance from the site include Garvagh Glebe (13 turbines) and Moneenatieve (5 turbines) located 18-20 km to the south. Tullynahaw (11 turbines) and Altagowlan (9 turbines) are located further south in north Co. Roscommon close to the border with Co. Leitrim. Acres Wind Farm (6 turbines) is located approximately 22 km to the north in Co. Donegal. The proposed Croagh Wind Farm (10 turbines) is located approximately 17 km to the southwest and Tullynamoyle New (4 turbines) adjacent to the operational Tullynamoyle Wind Farm.

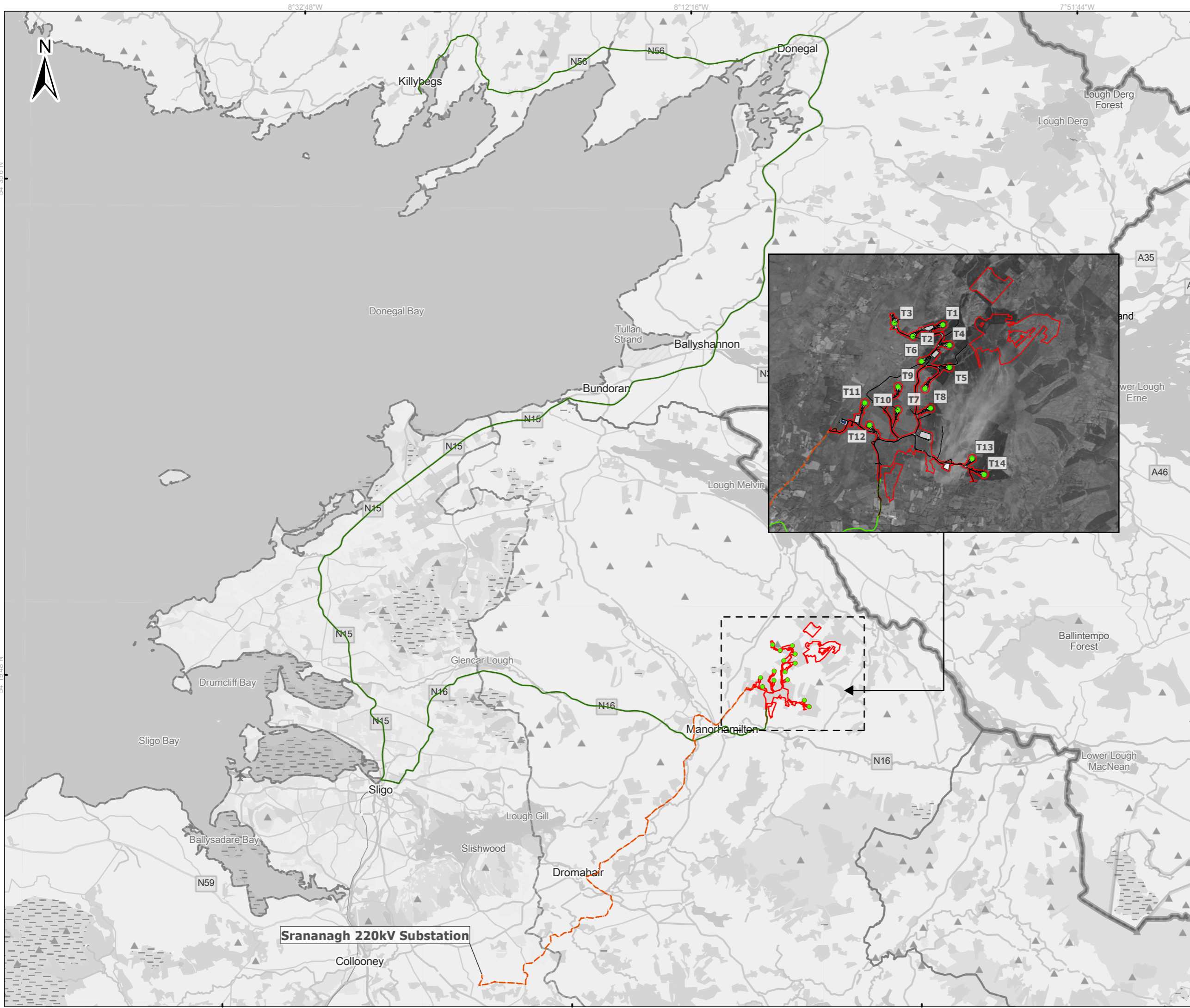
1.4.2 Proposed GCR and TDR

The Proposed GCR for the wind farm will consist of a 110kV underground cable from a proposed 110 kV substation on the wind farm site to the existing ESN Srananagh substation in Co. Sligo. The route of the proposed grid connection passes through the townlands of townlands of Curraghfore, Skreeny, Faughary, Amorset, Clooneen, Milltown, Cornastauk, Srabrick, Cloonaquin, Carrigeencor, Boihy, Aghameelta, Kilcoosy, Corrudda, Cleen, Tully, Killeen, Killanummery, Cleighran, Fawn, Drumahaire, Drumlease, and Carrowcrin Co. Leitrim and Lavally, Drumee, and Ballysumaghan, Co. Sligo.

Temporary access accommodations are required at specified locations along the public road network in Counties Leitrim, Sligo and Donegal to facilitate the transport of the large turbine components by abnormal load vehicles to the wind farm site.

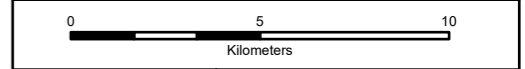
Further information on the proposed project is provided in Chapter 2 - Description of the Proposed Project.





Legend

- Application Boundary
- Turbine Locations
- Site layout footprint
- Substation Location
- Turbine Delivery Route
- Grid Connection Route



Spatial Reference Datum: IRENET95 EPSG: 2157	Copyrights: Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, Microsoft, Facebook, Google, Esri Community Maps contributors, Map layer
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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	01/05/2026	First issue	S.P	S.R

Client:
FuturaEnergy Ireland

Project:
Lissinagroagh Wind Farm

Title:
**Figure 1-1:
Proposed Project Location and
General EIAR Study Area**

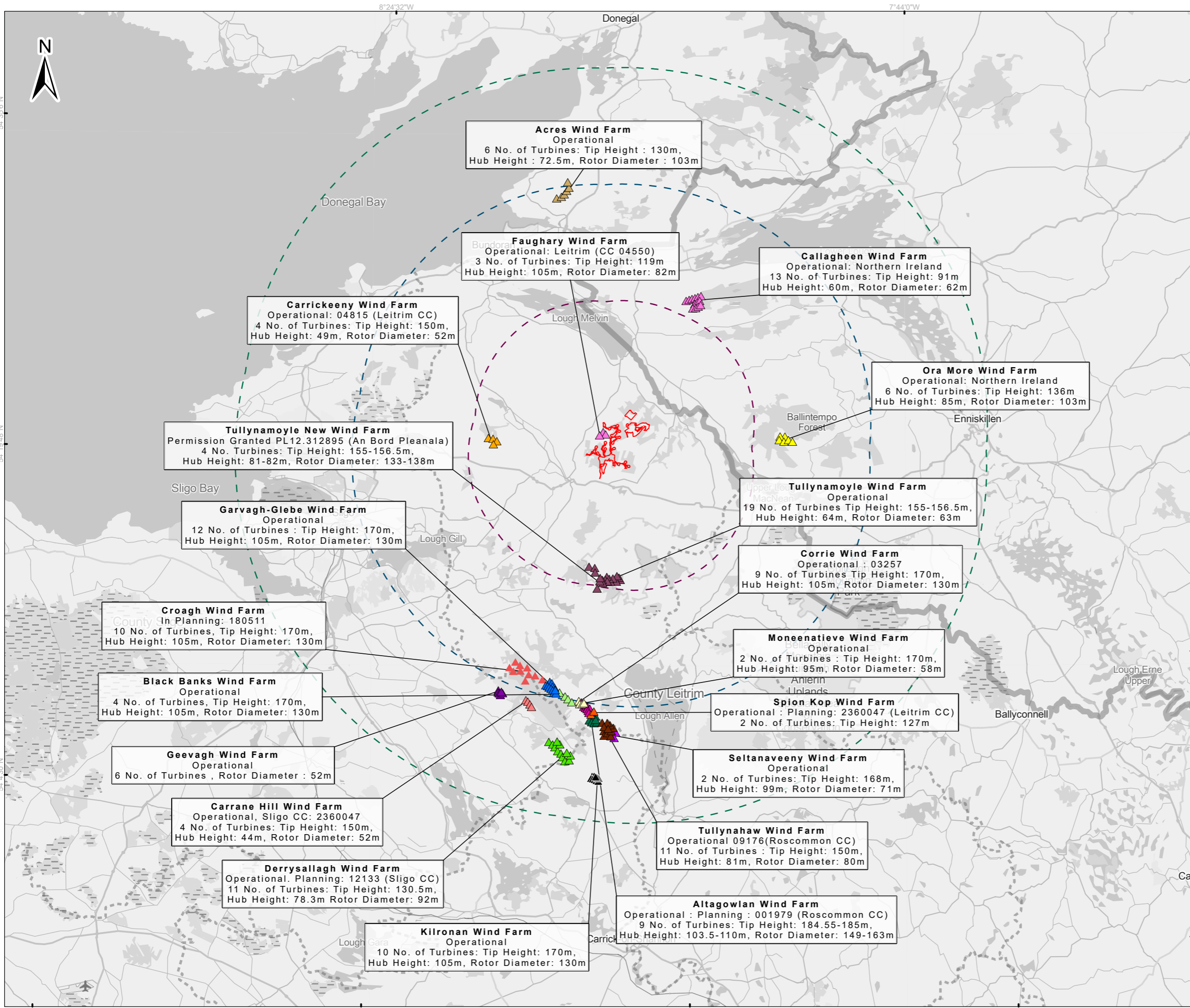
Scale @ A3: 1:200,000

Prepared by: S.Pezzetta Checked by: S.Ryan Date: May 2026

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Map Ref: 10955-068-P.App.BO-INFRA-TOB-A Draft: A



Legend

- Application Boundary
- 10KM Buffer
- 20KM Buffer
- 30KM Buffer

Windfarms within 30km

- Acres
- Altagowlan
- Black Banks
- Callagheen Wind Farm
- Carrane Hill
- Carrickeeny
- Corrie
- Croagh Wind Farm
- Derrysallagh
- Faughary
- Garvagh-Glebe
- Geevagh
- Kilronan
- Moneenatieve
- Ora More Wind Farm
- Seltanaveeny
- Spion Kop
- Tullynahaw
- Tullynamoyle

0 5 10
Kilometers

Spatial Reference
Datum: IRENET95
EPSG: 2157

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Rev	Date	Description	By	Chkd.
A	01/05/2026	First issue	K.K	S.R

Client:
FuturaEnergy Ireland

Project:
Lissinagroagh Wind Farm

Title:
**Figure 1-2:
Wind Farms within 30km**

Scale @ A3: 1:300,000

Prepared by: K.Kale
Checked by: S.Ryan
Date: May 2026

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Map Ref: 10955-091-WF..WTGs-BUFF30-TOB-A
Draft: A

1.5 PROPOSED PROJECT SUMMARY

1.5.1 Proposed Wind Farm and Ancillary Works

The following is a summary of the Proposed Wind Farm and ancillary works subject to the Section 37E planning application:

- Fourteen (14) wind turbines with a blade tip height range of 180 m to 185 m inclusive, a rotor diameter range from 149 m to 163 m inclusive, a hub height range from 101 m to 110.5 m inclusive, a minimum ground clearance of 22 m, and all associated foundations, hardstanding and assembly areas;
- A permanent meteorological mast with a height of 100 m, with a lightning finial extending above the mast;
- Modifications to an existing site access on the L61801 local road in the townland of Faughary in the west of the site, to be used as a permanent access during construction and operation;
- A new temporary access on the L6184 local road in the townland of Cherrybrook for use by turbine delivery vehicles during construction only, and subsequent reinstatement;
- Modifications to an existing site access on the L61844 local road in the townland of Lissinagroagh in the southeast of the site, to be used as a temporary access during construction phase only;
- Approximately 7.95 km of new internal access tracks to include passing bays and associated drainage;
- Upgrade of approximately 8.35 km of existing access tracks, to include passing bays and associated drainage;
- Temporary and permanent drainage and sediment control systems;
- Ten (10) clear span bridges and one (1) existing culvert extension at watercourse crossings by access tracks;
- Three (3) borrow pits with a total available area of 63,352 m² for temporary use during construction. The borrow pits will subsequently be used for storage of excavated material;
- Two (2) temporary construction compounds each on an area of 9,100 m² to contain site offices, storage containers, bunded fuel storage, waste storage, parking areas and security fencing;
- Seven (7) permanent controlled access points on the L61801 and L6184 Local Roads in the townlands of Faughary and Boleyboy to facilitate turbine delivery and construction works which will remain in place after the construction period;
- A temporary crossing of unnamed local road in the townland of Cherrybrook to facilitate turbine delivery vehicles during construction only;
- All associated underground electrical and communications cabling connecting the wind turbines to the on-site substation (the substation is subject to a separate planning application, see details below);
- All related site works and ancillary development including landscaping and soil excavation;
- Biodiversity enhancement areas (218.5 ha) to provide nesting and foraging habitat for birds and other land improvements; and
- Ancillary forestry felling to facilitate construction and operation of the proposed project.



1.5.2 Proposed Substation and GCR

The following is a summary of the project elements associated with the Proposed Substation and GCR, which will be subject to a Section 182A planning application:

- A permanent 110kV on-site electrical substation within a compound area of 11,600 m² to consist of:
 - An EirGrid control building containing worker welfare facilities and equipment store;
 - An Independent Power Producer (IPP) control building containing a high voltage switch room, site offices, kitchen facilities, storeroom and toilet amenities;
 - All electrical plant and infrastructure and grid ancillary services equipment;
 - A telecommunications mast;
 - Parking;
 - Lighting;
 - Security Fencing;
 - Wastewater holding tank;
 - Rainwater harvesting equipment;
 - All associated infrastructure and services including site works and signage;
- A 110 kV underground cable from the proposed on-site 110kV substation to the existing ESBN Srananagh Substation in the townland of Ballysumaghan, Co. Sligo, approximately 32 km in length, of which 30.6 km will be in the public road corridor;
- Eleven (11) existing bridge crossings, of which eight (8) will involve in-road HDD (Horizontal Directional Drill), two (2) will involve off-road HDD and one (1) will be a standard crossing within the bridge deck;
- Eight (8) existing culvert crossings using open trenching;
- All related site works and ancillary development.

1.5.3 Proposed TDR

The following is a summary description of the project elements associated with the Proposed TDR. Planning consent is not being sought for this element at this time:

- Temporary accommodations along the following public roads (R263, N56, N15, N16, L6184) to include localised road widening and removal of vegetation, walls and street furniture to facilitate delivery of turbine components using abnormal load vehicles, and;
- Subsequent reinstatement of above.

Given the recent advances in turbine technology, and the anticipated lifespan of wind turbines, 35 years is the anticipated operational life for the Proposed Project. This duration 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. The proposed substation and grid connection cabling will be retained as a permanent element of EirGrid's network assets.

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



1.6 BACKGROUND TO EIA

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

The 2014 EU EIA Directive (2014/52/EU) (hereafter referred to as “EIA Directive”), which amends the 2011 EU EIA Directive (2011/92/EU), prescribes which activities need to be subjected to EIA. The objective of the EIA Directive is to “ensure that, before development consent is given, projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects on the environment”.

The obligation to undertake EIA exists for those projects which will likely have a significant effect on the environment. The EIA Directive makes a distinction between projects which are assumed to have a definite significant effect, and those which likely, but not necessarily, have a significant effect. Projects falling under the first category are listed under Annex I to the EIA Directive and always need to be subjected to an assessment. For certain activities under Annex I, a quantitative threshold is provided. For projects falling under the second category, Annex II, Member States have the discretion to determine whether a project shall be made subject to an assessment.

In Ireland, the EIA Directive is transposed into Irish planning legislation by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). EIA Directive Annexes I and II are broadly transposed into planning legislation by way of Schedule 5 Parts 1 and 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

The relevant EIA threshold for wind farms is contained in Schedule 5, Part 2, Class 3(i) which states:

“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”.

With an anticipated output of approximately 77-100.8MW, the proposed wind farm will exceed the above threshold and therefore it is necessary that the planning application for this project is supported by an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR).

An EIA is also required for the grid connection as it is an integral element of a project which meets the definition of the project type above requiring an EIA.

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 effects, if any, that the proposed project is predicted to have on the environment and is used to inform the EIA process.

This EIAR has been prepared by TOBIN on behalf of the Applicant. It has been prepared in accordance with the above requirements.



1.7 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT AND RELEVANT GUIDANCE

1.7.1 Legislative Context

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 (PDA) 2000, as amended; and
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended
- EU (Planning and Development) (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2018.

This EIAR assesses the entirety of the Proposed Project.

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 separately with the planning application.

1.7.2 Relevant Guidance

The following EIA guidance documents have been adhered to in undertaking this EIAR:

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

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

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

The following guidance document has been considered:

- Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG), Draft Revised Wind Energy Development Guidelines (December 2019) ('Draft WEDG's')



At the time of writing, the Draft WEDG's remain in draft, they have not been adopted and therefore may be subject to change before they are finalised. Nonetheless, the guidelines relating to shadow flicker, visual amenity setback, environmental assessment, consultation obligations, community dividend and grid connections have been considered in the design of the Proposed Project and have been complied with to the extent that they represent current best practice. This is discussed in more detail in each of the individual chapters in this EIAR.

At the time of writing this EIAR, the relevant guidelines remain those published in 2006.

1.8 ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

The preparation of this EIAR follows standard EIA methodology specified in the legislation and guidance documents outlined in Section 1.6, and in particular the methodology recommended in the 2022 EPA EIAR Guidelines (EPA, 2022).

Other assessment methodologies have also been used in conjunction with the above for the following specialist topics:

Chapter 5 - Biodiversity

- CIEEM (2018). Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland. Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine. Version 1.3 updated September 2024.

Chapter 13 – Landscape and Visual

- Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) (2013) Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment – Third Edition.

Chapter 16 – Traffic and Transportation

- Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines PE-PDV-02045, May 2014.

1.8.1 Screening

The 'Screening stage' ascertains whether the likely effects of the proposed project on the environment are expected to be significant, i.e. the Project is 'Screened' to determine whether an EIA is necessary. Projects listed in Annex I to the Directive are automatically subjected to an EIA because their environmental effects are presumed to be significant. Projects listed in Annex II to the Directive require a determination to be made about their likely significant environmental effects. The Member State's Competent Authority make that determination through either a (i) case-by-case examination or (ii) set thresholds or criteria.

Two overall types of thresholds and/or criteria can be identified

- Exclusion (negative) thresholds and/or criteria define the Projects as being exempted from an EIA or a screening. For wind farms, this is Fewer than 2 turbines, hub height less than 75 m;
- Inclusion (positive) thresholds and/or criteria identify Project types for those threshold values above which a Project must undergo an EIA. For wind farms, this is visual and noise impacts are likely with 5 or more turbines and more than 5 MW of generating capacity.



As such, inclusion and exclusion thresholds and/or criteria, mentioned in the amended Article 4(3) of the Directive, are designed to simplify the process by defining Projects that are always or are never considered likely to have significant effects upon the environment. They facilitate the examination of the actual characteristics of any given Project to determine whether it is subject to the requirement to carry out EIA. As the proposed project is in exceedance of the aforementioned EIA threshold and qualifies as a SID project, an EIA is required and a EIA screening exercise is not necessary.

1.8.2 Scoping & Consultation

1.8.2.1 EIA Scoping

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. For this EIAR, scoping and consultation was carried out with:

- An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP)
- Statutory & non-statutory consultees, including Telecommunications providers
- The Local Community

An EIA Scoping Report was sent to relevant statutory and non-statutory bodies in December 2024. The 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 and a standard cover letter is provided in Appendix 1-1.

Responses were received from the following: Bat Conservation Ireland; Donegal County Council; Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine; Department of Defence; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage - Development Applications Unit (covering National Parks and Wildlife Service and National Monuments Service); Department of Transport; EirGrid; Fáilte Ireland; Fermanagh and Omagh District Council; Geological Survey Ireland; Health and Safety Authority; Irish Aviation Authority; Leitrim County Council; Love Leitrim; Office of Public Works; Transport Infrastructure Ireland; Uisce Éireann.

The following bodies were consulted but did not provide a response: The Arts Council; An Taisce; BirdWatch Ireland; Broadcasting Authority of Ireland; Commission for Regulation of Utilities; Commission for Communications Regulation; Coras Iompair Éireann (CIE); Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media; Department for Infrastructure Northern Ireland; Environmental Protection Agency; Forest Service; Donegal Airport; The Heritage Council; Health Service Executive (HSE) (West); Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland; Inland Fisheries Ireland (*response previously received in 2021*); Ireland West Airport (Knock); Irish Rail; Irish Raptor Study Group; Irish Wildlife Trust; Irish Trails/Sport Ireland; Irish Red Grouse Association Conservation Trust; Northern and Western



Regional Assembly; Met Eireann; Mountaineering Ireland; Sligo Airport; Sligo County Council; Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland; Teagasc; Waterways Ireland.

A summary table detailing the responses received and details regarding how the topic or issue is addressed within the EIAR is provided in Appendix 1-2. Copies of all responses are also provided in Appendix 1-2.

Each individual chapter addresses any responses received that are relevant to that specific topic.

1.8.2.2 Consultation with Telecommunications Providers

An extensive consultation exercise was also carried out by the Project Telecommunications and Aviation Consultant - AI Bridges. Telecommunications providers that may have services in the area which could have the potential to be impacted by the proposed project were consulted regarding the proposal. The list of telecommunications consultees, feedback received, and design implications are discussed in Chapter 15 - Material Assets.

1.8.2.3 Pre-Application Consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála

SID Pre-Application Consultation – Section 37E Application (Proposed Wind Farm)

The first SID pre-application consultation meeting was held with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) on the 20th October 2025, with the second held on 27th January 2026. The purpose of the first meeting was to introduce the proposed project to the ACP in order to provide the necessary information to enable ACP to decide on the SID status of the project. The meeting was attended by the Applicant and members of the Project Team. The meeting discussion was centred around the following key points:

- Background and overview of the Proposed Wind Farm and ancillary development;
- Environmental setting, constraints and surveys undertaken;
- EIAR;
- Stakeholder and Community Consultation.

ACP 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.

ACP confirmed on 23rd April 2026 that the proposed wind farm and ancillary works constitutes SID and that a planning application should be made directly to the ACP (copy of response provided in Appendix 1-3).

SID Pre-Application Consultation – Section 182A Application (Proposed Substation & GCR)

The first SID pre-application consultation meeting was held with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP) on the 27th January 2026, with the second held on 30th March 2026. This meeting was attended by the Applicant and members of the Project Team to discuss the proposed 110kV substation and grid connection and provide the information required to determine the SID status. At this meeting the details of the grid connection route were provided to ACP, the discussion centred around the following key points:

- Background and overview of the Proposed Substation and Grid Connection;



- Environmental setting, constraints and surveys undertaken;
- Summary of route options considered;
- EIAR;
- Stakeholder and Community Consultation.

ACP 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 formal SID determination has not yet been issued by ACP in respect of this application.

Design Flexibility Consultation – Section 32H(1)

The exact make and model of a turbine cannot be confirmed prior to making a planning application as this will be dictated by a competitive tender process of the various turbines on the market at the time of procurement and construction.

Futureproofing and flexibility for turbines is required to ensure the most up to date technology can be deployed.

As the consenting processes are subject to their own independent timeframes and wind energy technology is also simultaneously changing and improving, this means that turbines available at the time of the planning application may become obsolete or have ceased production by the time the permitted wind farm development is ready to procure them on the market and to move into the construction phase.

Thus, given the nature of wind farm developments, built-in turbine flexibility is a key aspect of transitioning a grant of permission into an operational renewable energy generator. This necessitates the requirement for associated unconfirmed details to be included in the application.

The following describes the details of the proposed project that cannot be confirmed at planning application stage and for which design flexibility is sought:

- The turbine blade tip height to range from 180 m– 185 m inclusive;
- The turbine rotor diameter to range from 149 m – 163 m inclusive;
- The turbine hub height to range from 101 m to 110.5 m inclusive.

The proposed range of turbine parameters is limited to a variation of 5m in tip height, 14m in rotor diameter and 9.5m in hub height. The planning application and accompanying documents and drawings will contain the necessary information and details of the parameters set out above on which the application can be made and decided.

Further details regarding how the proposed turbine design flexibility is addressed in this EIAR are provided in Section 2.5.4.1 of Chapter 2 – Description of the Proposed Project.

A design flexibility consultation request under Section 32H(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), was submitted to the relevant planning authority ACP on 20th November 2025 and a subsequent meeting was held on the 27th January 2026.

An opinion on design flexibility requested by the Applicant was provided by ACP on the 28 April 2026. A copy is provided in Appendix 1-4.



1.8.2.4 Community Engagement & Consultation

The Applicant commenced engagement with the local community during the early stages of the proposed project design. This had the objective of ensuring that the views and concerns of all members of the local community were considered as part of the project design and the Environmental Impact Assessment process. This engagement continued throughout the design development stage and has ultimately informed the design of the proposed project. Two Community Liaison Officers (CLO) were appointed during this process to provide consistent and on-the-ground engagement with the local community. Their role is to ensure project communications are distributed to the local community and to be the main point of contact for the community to discuss any queries or concerns that they might have. Contact details for the CLO (phone number and email address) were included in all project communications with the community.

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

A Community Engagement Report has been prepared by the Applicant and is included as Appendix 1-5.

1.8.3 Information to be Contained in an EIAR

The minimum information that must be contained in an EIAR is set out in Part X of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000*, as amended, and Schedule 6 of the *Planning and Development Regulations, 2001*, as amended. This legislation implements the requirements of 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 on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports*, published by the EPA in May 2022 as well as the *Guidelines for Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála on carrying out Environmental Impact Assessment* published by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government (DoHPLG) in August 2018 and all others listed in Section 1.6 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.

Volume I: Non-Technical Summary

This document provides an overview and summary of the EIAR using non-technical terminology. It is a standalone document and is intended to offer a clear and concise summary of the existing environment, characteristics of the project and mitigation measures for the project.



Volume II: Environmental Impact Assessment Report

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

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

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

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

The remaining chapters in the EIAR are as follows:

- Chapter 4: Population and Human Health
- Chapter 5: Biodiversity
- Chapter 6: Ornithology
- Chapter 7: Land, Soils and Geology
- Chapter 8: Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- Chapter 9: Noise and Vibration
- Chapter 10: Shadow Flicker
- Chapter 11: Air Quality
- Chapter 12: Climate
- Chapter 13: Landscape and Visual
- Chapter 14: Archaeological, Architectural & Cultural Heritage
- Chapter 15: Material Assets
- Chapter 16: Traffic and Transportation
- Chapter 17: Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
- Chapter 18: Interaction of the Foregoing
- Chapter 19: Schedule of Mitigation Measures

Each of the assessment chapters (Chapters 4 – 18) 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 developments (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 potential effects to identify and assess the likely significant effects that could arise from the Project, including direct, indirect, cumulative, inter-related and transboundary effects. The assessment of likely significant effects is informed by the existing environment and characteristics of the Proposed Project, while also referring to the magnitude, duration, consequences, and significance of the Proposed Project during construction, operation and decommissioning, and feedback gained through consultation.

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 Proposed Project.

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.

The EPA (2022) *Guidelines on the Preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* outline the approach to mitigation in EIA required by the 2014 EIA Directive and implementing legislation in Ireland. The guidelines state that ‘the established strategies for mitigation of effects are avoidance, prevention and reduction’ and that ‘the best mitigation measures are fully incorporated into the permitted design and operation of the project’.

Embedded Mitigation - is defined in the IEMA (2024) guidance document *Impact Assessment Guidelines: Implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy from Concept to Construction*, as mitigation measures that have been incorporated into the project description and form an inherent part of the project design.

Embedded mitigation measures specific to the proposed project (wind energy generation and transmission) have been incorporated into the design of the proposed project, outlined in Chapter 2 – Description of the Proposed Project, and are therefore considered an inherent part of the project rather than additional, stand-alone mitigation. However, for transparency and to demonstrate how these measures will function in practice, the key embedded measures are also summarised in the mitigation section of each chapter, alongside any further mitigation that may be required to address residual effects.

This approach is intended to clearly show how environmental considerations have informed the project design, while still illustrating the combined effect of embedded and additional mitigation on the likely significant effects.

Residual Effects – this section describes the likely significant effects that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have been put in place.

Cumulative Effects – this section examines the cumulation of effects with other existing and/or approved plans and 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 gather a comprehensive view of cumulative effects and to inform the EIA process being undertaken by the consenting authority, each relevant chapter within this EIAR includes an assessment of likely significant cumulative effects, where appropriate.

The cumulative effects assessment considers developments that are ‘reasonably foreseeable’ such as:

- Existing developments either built or in construction;
- Approved developments, awaiting implementation; and
- Potential developments awaiting determination within the planning process with design information in the public domain.

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

A 10 km planning search (between January 2013 – March 2026) has been completed to identify relevant projects and developments currently within the planning system. A 10 km search of An Coimisiún Pleanála’s planning database and local authority planning databases was undertaken. This distance is sufficient to capture the zone of influence or study area for all EIAR chapter studies with the exception of Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (as discussed below). The results of this planning search are presented in Appendix 1-6.

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

All wind farm developments within 20 km of the proposed wind farm site, detailed in Section 1.4.1 and Figure 1-2 were also considered by the EIAR specialists.

Transboundary Effects – given the location of the Proposed Project in proximity to Northern Ireland, each assessment contains an assessment of transboundary effects, i.e. occurring outside the jurisdiction of the country where a project is located (Rep. of Ireland).

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).

Volume IV: Photomontages

This volume consists of a set of photomontages identifying the visibility from a variety of locations towards the proposed wind farm as described in Chapter 14 - Landscape and Visual.

The legislation and guidance referred to in Section 1.7 above have been adhered to in the preparation of this EIAR. .

1.8.4 Description of Likely Significant Effects

As per the *Guidelines on the Information to be contained in Environmental Impact Assessment Reports* (May 2022), the main purpose of an EIAR is to identify, describe and present an assessment of the likely significant 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 EIAR Guidelines (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 <i>Determining Significance</i>).	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.



<p>Describing the Duration and Frequency of Effects</p> <p>'Duration' is a concept that can have different meanings for different topics – in the absence of specific definitions for different topics the following definitions may be useful.</p>	<p>Momentary Effects Effects lasting from seconds to minutes</p>
	<p>Brief Effects Effects lasting less than a day</p>
	<p>Temporary Effects Effects lasting less than a year</p>
	<p>Short-term Effects Effects lasting one to seven years</p>
	<p>Medium-term Effects Effects lasting seven to fifteen years</p>
	<p>Long-term Effects Effects lasting fifteen to sixty years</p>
	<p>Permanent Effects Effects lasting over sixty years</p>
	<p>Reversible Effects Effects that can be undone, for example through remediation or restoration</p>
	<p>Frequency of Effects Describe how often the effect will occur. (once, rarely, occasionally, frequently, constantly – or hourly, daily, weekly, monthly, annually)</p>
	<p>Describing the Types of Effects</p>
<p>Cumulative Effects The addition of many minor or significant effects, including effects of other projects, to create larger, more significant effects.</p>	
<p>'Do-Nothing Effects' The environment as it would be in the future should the subject project not be carried out.</p>	
<p>'Worst case' Effects The effects arising from a project in the case where mitigation measures substantially fail.</p>	
<p>Indeterminable Effects When the full consequences of a change in the environment cannot be described.</p>	
<p>Irreversible Effects When the character, distinctiveness, diversity or reproductive capacity of an environment is permanently lost.</p>	
<p>Residual Effects The degree of environmental change that will occur after the proposed mitigation measures have taken effect.</p>	
<p>Synergistic Effects Where the resultant effect is of greater significance than the sum of its constituents, (e.g. combination of SO_x and NO_x to produce smog).</p>	



1.9 PROJECT TEAM AND CONTRIBUTORS TO THE EIAR

TOBIN have been engaged by the Applicant to coordinate and prepare this EIAR and to submit it to An Coimisiún Pleanála as part of the planning applications for statutory consent.

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

TOBIN were responsible for Project Direction and Management, Scoping and Consultation, Co-ordination, Preparation of Figures, and the following Chapters:

- 1 - Introduction
- 2 - Description of the Proposed Project
- 3 - Reasonable Alternatives
- 4 - Population and Human Health
- 5 - Biodiversity: Flora & Fauna
- 7 - Land, Soils and Geology
- 8 - Hydrology and Hydrogeology
- 10 - Shadow Flicker
- 15 - Material Assets
- 16 - Traffic and Transportation
- 17 - Major Accidents and Disasters
- 18 - Interactions of the Foregoing
- 19 - Schedule of Mitigation Measures

TOBIN has also prepared the planning application documents and planning drawings.



Table 1-2: List of Competent Experts, Qualifications, Experience & Input to the EIAR

Company/ Individual	Competent Expert	Qualifications	Relevant Experience to Role/Input to EIAR (years)	Contribution to the EIAR
TOBIN	Sinéad Ryan	BSc Environmental Science, National University of Ireland Galway (NUIG), MSc Environmental Engineering, Queens University Belfast P. Member of ISEP (Institute of Sustainability & Environmental Professionals)(formerly IEMA)	12	Chapter 1 – Introduction, Chapter 2 – Description of the Proposed Project, Chapter 3 – Reasonable Alternatives, Non-Technical Summary Review of EIAR
TOBIN	Orla Fitzpatrick	BSc (Hons) Geophysical Science (1999), University College Dublin (UCD); MSc Environmental Consultancy (2003), University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne; Chartered Environmentalist (2012) Kings Inn Diploma of Planning and Environmental Law (2025).	22	Chapter 4 – Population and Human Health Review, Chapter 15 – Material Assets Review
TOBIN	Brian McDonnell	BCL Law and Business, Maynooth University; MSc Environmental Science, Trinity College Dublin	4	Chapter 4 – Population and Human Health, Chapter 15 – Material Assets Chapter 18 – Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
TOBIN	Oonagh Fleming	B.A (Hons) Geography and Sociology, Trinity College Dublin	2	Chapters 15 – Material Assets Chapter 18 – Major Accidents and Natural Disasters
TOBIN	Bertha Kasonde	Bachelor of Engineering in Environmental Engineering, M.Sc. in Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security, University of Galway	8	Chapter 18 – Interaction of the Foregoing



Company/ Individual	Competent Expert	Qualifications	Relevant Experience to Role/Input to EIAR (years)	Contribution to the EIAR
TOBIN	Louise Byrne	BA Hons International Geography and German (2004) UCD; Masters in Regional and Urban Planning (MRUP) (2006), UCD; Chartered Member of Royal Town Planning Institute (2010); PG Certificate GIS (2016), University of Leeds	11	Planning Statement and other planning inputs
TOBIN	Eirene Varghese	BA Architecture, India (2018) Masters in Regional and Urban Planning, UCD (2021)	5	Planning Statement and other planning inputs
TOBIN	Meadhbh Costigan	BA Natural Science (2009) Trinity College Dublin; M.Sc. Botany (2010) University of Kent	5	Chapter 5 – Biodiversity co-author, AA Screening Report, NIS
TOBIN	Áine Sands	BSc Applied Ecology (2013), University College Cork; Irish Wild Flower Identification (NFQ Level 6) (2018) Sligo Institute of Technology	10	Chapter 5 – Biodiversity co-author
TOBIN	Ria Aherne	BSc. Ecology and Environmental Biology (2017) University College Cork	7	Chapter 5 – Biodiversity co-author, Phase 1 surveys, invasive species surveys, and terrestrial mammal surveys
TOBIN	Joe Freijser	MSc Applied Marine Biology (2012) University College Cork, B.A. Coastal Zone Management (2009) GMIT	12	Appendix 5-4 - Aquatic Baseline Report
TOBIN	Sinead O’Reilly	MRes Science (2014) University of Glasgow, B.Sc. Zoology (2008) University College Dublin	16	Appendix 5-4 - Aquatic Baseline Report
TOBIN	Jaroslav Majkusiak	MSc Ornithology (2022) Atlantic Technological University	4	Chapter 5 – Biodiversity - multidisciplinary surveys including aquatic surveys, marsh fritillary surveys, and invasive species survey
TOBIN	Joao Martins	BE (Hons) Environmental and Natural Resource Engineering (2007) Universidade de Tras-os-Montes e Alto Douro; M.Sc. Freshwater Science (2009) Universidade de Tras-os-Montes e Alto Douro	15	Chapter 5 – Biodiversity Review



Company/ Individual	Competent Expert	Qualifications	Relevant Experience to Role/Input to EIAR (years)	Contribution to the EIAR
TOBIN	Eoghan Phelan	BSc Hons. Environmental Science (2022) Atlantic Technological University	4	Chapter 5 – Biodiversity - multidisciplinary surveys including aquatic surveys, marsh fritillary surveys, invasive species surveys
TOBIN	Peter McSherry	BSc. Environmental Science (2012), University of Limerick; Postgraduate Diploma Hydrogeology (2025), University of Strathclyde	6	Chapter 7 - Land, Soils and Geology, Chapter 8 - Hydrology and Hydrogeology
TOBIN	John Dillon	BSc. Environmental Science (2000), NUIG MSc. and Diploma in Environmental Engineering (2003), Imperial College London Chartered Engineer, MCIWM Professional Geologist (PGeo) Member of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (Irish Group)	20	Chapter 7 - Hydrology and Hydrogeology Review, Chapter 8 - Land, Soils and Geology Review
TOBIN	Michael Nolan	City & Guilds in Computer Aided Design (2001), Griffith College Dublin	17	Civil design drawings
TOBIN	Samuele Pezzetta	MSc. Environmental Science and Geohazards (2019), UPEM, MARNE-LA-VALLE (Paris)	5	GIS inputs
TOBIN	Carol Rosario	B.Sc, M.Sc Transport Planning and Modelling, Newcastle University	7	Chapter 16 - Traffic and Transportation
TOBIN	Maria Rooney	BEng (Hons) Civil Engineering (2013), IT Carlow BEng (Ord.) Civil Engineering (2010), Dundalk Institute of Technology (DKIT) MEng Road and Transport Engineering (2019) IT Sligo. MIEI Member of Engineers Ireland Chartership (2021)	7	Chapter 16 - Traffic and Transportation Review
SLR	Duncan Watson	MSc Conservation (University College London) (1997) BSc Environmental Science (University of East Anglia) (1994)	26	Chapter 6 - Ornithology Review



Company/ Individual	Competent Expert	Qualifications	Relevant Experience to Role/Input to EIAR (years)	Contribution to the EIAR
SLR	Jonathan Dunn	PhD, Newcastle University (2015) MSc, Imperial College London (2009) MA (Cantab.), University of Cambridge (2008)	11	Chapter 6 - Ornithology, Appendix 6-14 Collision Risk Modelling;
MKO	Zak O'Connor	BSc Zoology / Animal Biology, University of Galway	3	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Thalie Konstantinidis	BSc Wildlife Biology, Munster Technological University	4	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Patrick Manley	BSc Geology, University College Dublin	10	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Padraig Cregg	BSc Zoology, National University of Ireland; MSc Evolutionary and Behavioural Ecology, University of Exeter	11	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Andrew O'Donoghue	BSc Zoology, University College Dublin	10	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Lee Dark	BSc (Hons) Ecology – University of Plymouth 2004, MSc. Conservation Biology – University of Plymouth 2007	16	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Robert Vaughan	ESAS (European Seabirds at Sea) JNCC qualification, 8 years professional experience as bird surveyor including with IRSG.	8	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Kate Bismilla	BSc Wildlife Biology, Munster Technological University	9	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Niall McHugh	BSc Applied Freshwater and Marine Biology, Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology	6	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Susan Doyle	BSc Zoology, Trinity College Dublin; MSc Ecological Assessment University College Cork, PhD Population demography of Arctic breeding birds University College Dublin	6	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
MKO	Cillian Murphy	BSc Nautical Science; PGDip Environmental Protection	3	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys



Company/ Individual	Competent Expert	Qualifications	Relevant Experience to Role/Input to EIAR (years)	Contribution to the EIAR
MKO	Niamh Scanlon	BSc Wildlife Biology, Munster Technological University	4	Chapter 6 Ornithology - Ornithology Surveys
TLI	Damien Browne	B.Eng. Electrical Engineering, Cork Institute of Technology	8	Appendix 2-2 and 2-3- electrical substation and grid connection design and construction methodology
TLI	Ruairi Geary	B.Eng. (Hons.) in Mechanical Engineering – Napier University Edinburgh, Scotland; B.Eng. in Mechanical Engineering – Cork Institute of Technology; Chartered Engineer	13	Appendix 2-2 and 2-3- electrical substation and grid connection design and construction methodology – review
Causeway Geotech	Matthew Gilbert	Master of Earth Science with Honours in Geology PGeo (Institute of Geologists of Ireland) FGS (Geological Society of London)	10	Appendix 2-6B Ground Investigation and Report
Causeway Geotech	Eoin Lundy	BSc (Hons) Geography MSc Applied Environmental Geoscience	3	Appendix 2-6B Ground Investigation and Report
Ground Investigations Ireland	Diarmuid MagLochlainn	BSc (Hons) Geology (2014), UCD	12	Ground Investigation and Report (Appendix 2-6A, C)
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 Chartered Engineer, Engineers Ireland	17	Peat Stability Risk Assessment (Appendix 7-1)



Company/ Individual	Competent Expert	Qualifications	Relevant Experience to Role/Input to EIAR (years)	Contribution to the EIAR
AWN Consulting	Mike Simms	BE (Mechanical Engineering) (1995), University College Dublin MEngSc (Mechanical Engineering) (1997), University College Dublin IOA Diploma Acoustics & Noise Control (1999), Institute of Acoustics Member of the Institute to Acoustics Member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology	19	Chapter 9 – Noise and Vibration
AWN Consulting	Dermot Blunnie	BEng (Hons) in Sound Engineering (2007), University of South Wales PG Diploma in Acoustics and Noise Control (2010) Institute of Acoustics MSc. in Applied Acoustics (2013) University of Derby	14	Chapter 9 – Noise and Vibration Review
AWN Consulting	Ciara Nolan	MSc., Applied Environmental Science, University College Dublin BSc. Eng, Energy Systems Engineering, University College Dublin	8	Chapter 11 – Air Quality
AWN Consulting	Jovanna Arndt	BSc Environmental Science, University College Cork PhD in Atmospheric Chemistry, University College Cork	8	Chapter 11 – Air Quality
AWN Consulting	Sarah Berry	BSc Physical Geography, University of Leeds	9	Chapter 12 – Climate
Macro Works	Cian Doughan	BSc Landscape Architecture (2015) UCD Corporate Member of the Irish Landscape Institute	7	Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual, Volume 4 – Photomontages
Macro Works	Richard Barker	PG Diploma in Forestry (1996) BA Environmental Studies (1995) Master’s Degree in Landscape Architecture (2003) Corporate Member of the Irish Landscape Institute	19	Chapter 13 - Landscape and Visual Review



Company/ Individual	Competent Expert	Qualifications	Relevant Experience to Role/Input to EIAR (years)	Contribution to the EIAR
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	Chapter 14 – Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
IAC	Jonny Small	PhD Archaeology, QUB, 2022 MSci (Hons) Cultural Heritage and GIS, QUB, 2016 BSc (Hons) Archaeology, QUB, 2015 CSR and Manual Handling Member of the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland	3	Chapter 14 – Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
AI Bridges	Kevin Hayes	BEng Hons Electronic Engineering – Telecommunications & Industrial Automation (1991), University of Limerick MEng Hons Electronic Engineering – Telecommunications Engineering (2003), University of Limerick Harris Radio Design Certification (2008) WiMAX Certified Engineer (2005) Redline Communications Certified Engineer (2004) PM Certified Professional (1999)	30+	Appendix 15-1 and 15-2 Telecommunications and Aviation Assessments
AQUAFACT	Kevin Mc Caffrey	BSc Applied Freshwater Biology University College Dublin, MScs Environmental Sustainability, University College Dublin	10	Appendix 5-4 Aquatic Baseline Report - aquatic macroinvertebrate surveys
AQUAFACT	Dr. Brendan O'Connor	PhD. Zoology, National University of Ireland Galway	40	Appendix 5-4 Aquatic Baseline Report - aquatic macroinvertebrate surveys



Company/ Individual	Competent Expert	Qualifications	Relevant Experience to Role/Input to EIAR (years)	Contribution to the EIAR
AQUAFACT	Dr. Eddie McCormack	BSc Marine Science, PhD Zoology	20	Appendix 5-4 Aquatic Baseline Report - aquatic macroinvertebrate surveys
Aztec Management Consultancy	Dr. Martin O'Farrell	PhD Fisheries Management, National University of Ireland Galway	40+	Appendix 5-4 Aquatic Baseline Report - electrofishing surveys and report
Triturus Environmental Ltd	Dr. Ross Macklin	PhD Fisheries Ecology	15	Appendix 5-4 Aquatic Baseline Report - electrofishing surveys
AECOM	Nick Dadds	BSc (Hons) Zoology	23	Appendix 5-2 Annex I Condition Survey
Bat Eco Services	Dr Tina Aughney	PhD Environmental Policy and Entomology	25	Appendix 5-5 Bat Survey Report
INVAS	Dr. William Earle	PhD. Aquatic Ecology	17	Appendix 5-6 Invasive Species Management Plan
EcoQuest Environmental	David Parkinson	BSc; Full Member ISEP; Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv)	17	Appendix 5-6 Invasive Species Management Plan



1.10 ASSUMPTIONS AND LIMITATIONS OF ASSESSMENT

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

The assessment of cumulative effects from built or consented developments is partially reliant on the availability of information provided by relevant third parties. Local Authority and An Coimisiún Pleanála public planning registers were reviewed as part of the assessment process. None of the individual specialists have highlighted any limitations that are considered significant in terms of the undertaking of these specialist cumulative assessments.

The design flexibility ranges proposed in the project have been fully considered within this EIAR. For certain construction and operational stage impacts, the EIAR identifies, describes and assesses the greatest magnitude of impacts (i.e. worst case scenario). This limitation is proposed to ensure impacts determined are not disproportionate in the overall assessment (e.g. noise assessment, see EIAR Chapter 10 - Noise and Vibration). Any resulting mitigation measures will also be appropriate for other scenarios which have lesser impacts. This approach ensures that the design flexibility within the project has been appropriately assessed and is compliant with the EIA Directive.

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

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



1.11 REFERENCES

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