

Water Catchment Unit

Planning Reference No.: Lissinagroagh Wind Farm, Co. Leitrim

Section Reference: WMU-PC-38966-1

Date: 10/06/2026

Key environmental considerations

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) must consider all transboundary issues, including the potential disturbance to/impact on Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland migratory/mobile species such as salmon. Such species rely can be impacted upon water quality and water resource issues.

Cross border river basins require special attention as ecological functionality cross jurisdictional boundaries. The EIA should consider all potential impacts including those which may impact Northern Ireland both directly and indirectly.

Water Catchment Unit would direct the attention of the applicant / agent to all the Agency's DAERA Standing Advice guidance documents.

The following DAERA Standing Advice will be particularly relevant to this application:

- DAERA Standing Advice Pollution Prevention Guidance
- DAERA Standing Advice Discharges to the Water Environment

Further guidance

Water Catchment Unit would request that any future application clearly demonstrate the following:

- How foul sewage will be disposed of from any welfare facilities during the construction phase.
- How surface water will be disposed of both during the construction and operational phases.
- Clear details of any proposed works in, near or liable to affect a waterway* including whether or not it is culverted.
- The application should clearly demonstrate compliance with all the relevant precepts contained in DAERA Standing Advice Pollution Prevention Guidance.

Consideration should be given as to how it is proposed to prevent suspended solids / cement or grout / fuel entering the aquatic environment during the construction phase.

*The applicant should note the definition of a 'waterway' as defined under the NI Water Order:

"Waterway" includes any river, stream, watercourse, inland water (whether natural or artificial) or tidal waters and any channel or passage of whatever kind (whether natural or artificial) through which water flows.

In this Order any reference to a waterway includes a reference to the channel or bed of a waterway which is for the time being dry.

The risks from certain activities to the aquatic environment are greater than others and all proposed mitigation must be proportionate and commensurate to that risk.

Baseline

Regarding Northern Ireland Baseline Information and Data Sources, DAERA have two map viewers in relation to the aquatic environment that may be of use, Water Information Request Web Viewer and NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer, both of which can be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/daera-map-viewers>

Several useful information sources are available that highlight the current state of the environment in Northern Ireland at a regional level which could be referenced, including the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report, the latest of which currently is dated May 2026. Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Reports: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report>

DAERA issued a consultation document on Significant Water Management Issues to inform the development of the fourth cycle River Basin Management Plan. This Plan covers the period from 1 January 2028 to 31 December 2033. This gives further consideration of the pressures and their sources on water quality in Northern Ireland. Further details on these issues can be found at [Significant Water Management Issues | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

DAERA has published the River Basin Management Plan for the third cycle period which runs from 2021-2027. The draft plan provides an update on the health of Northern Ireland's water environment (the status of water bodies) and sets out our targets (objectives) and actions (programme of measures) on how we want to improve our water environment in the next six years. The draft plan covers the North Western, Neagh Bann and North Eastern river basin districts (RBD) and includes detailed status updates on each RBD. This can be downloaded at: [Third River Basin Management Plan for Northern Ireland | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#)

There are several key pieces of environmental legislation relating to the Water Environment and its protection in Northern Ireland that will be relevant to this project.

A list of this environmental legislation including links to each individual piece of legislation is available at [Water | NetRegs | Environmental guidance for your business in Northern Ireland & Scotland](#)

Water quality baseline information can be obtained from NIEA's online information request web viewer: <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/information-requests>

The applicant should be informed that it is an offence under the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999 to discharge or deposit, whether knowingly or otherwise, any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter so that it enters a waterway or water in any underground strata. Conviction of such an offence may incur a fine of up to £20,000 and / or three months imprisonment.

The applicant should ensure that measures are in place to prevent pollution of surface or groundwater as a result of the activities on site, both during construction and thereafter.