



DESIGNING AND DELIVERING
A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

EIAR FOR POWERSTOWN BIOENERGY

Volume 2: Main Body of the EIAR

Chapter 5: Scoping and Consultation

Prepared for:
Greengate Biogas 001 Ltd.



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5. SCOPING AND CONSULTATION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the consultation process and Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) scoping that was undertaken to identify potential impacts associated with the proposed development to be considered in the EIAR.

It presents the issues that arose through the consultation process and how these issues were addressed in the preparation of the EIAR.

5.2 Statement of Authority

This chapter of the EIAR was prepared by Eibhlín Vaughan and Tanya Ruddy. Eibhlín is a Project Environmental Scientist in the Circular Economy and Environment Department at FT. She holds a First Class Honours BA in Environmental Science from Trinity College Dublin and a Master of Engineering Science Degree from University College Dublin. She has three years of experience supporting with Environmental Impact Assessment Reports (EIARs) for infrastructure projects. Eibhlín provides technical support to the EIAR teams for a variety of projects. Eibhlín maintained the scoping and consultation databases for this project.

Tanya is a Chartered Scientist and holds a BA in Environmental Science and a MSc in Environmental Management. She is a Chartered Waste Manager (MCIWM). Tanya has 25 years post qualification experience in consultancy. She is experienced in project management of complex projects for both the public and private sector including the management and coordination of planning applications to An Coimisiún Pleanála and local planning authorities, licence applications to the EPA and waste facility permit applications to local authorities. Tanya is a Technical Director in the Circular Economy and Environment group in Fehily Timoney and Company. Both Tanya and Eibhlín were involved in the scoping and consultation process since FT was appointed to prepare the statutory consent applications for Powerstown Bioenergy.

5.3 Scoping and Consultation

The purpose of the EIAR scoping process is to identify the key points and issues which are likely to be important during the environmental impact assessment (EIA) and to eliminate those that are not. The scoping process identifies sources or causes of potential environmental effects, the pathways by which the effects can happen, and the sensitive receptors, which are likely to be affected. It defines the appropriate level of detail for the information to be provided in the EIAR. The primary focus of scoping is to define the most appropriate assessment of significant effects related to the proposed development.

5.3.1 Consultation and Scoping Methodology

An informal, voluntary scoping exercise was carried out, which established the terms of reference for the EIA and identified the concerns and issues that warranted attention during the assessment phases. This process was carried out considering the four-stage process recommended in the EU guidance document Environmental Impact Assessment of Projects - Guidance on Scoping (European Commission, 2017) as per Figure 5-1.

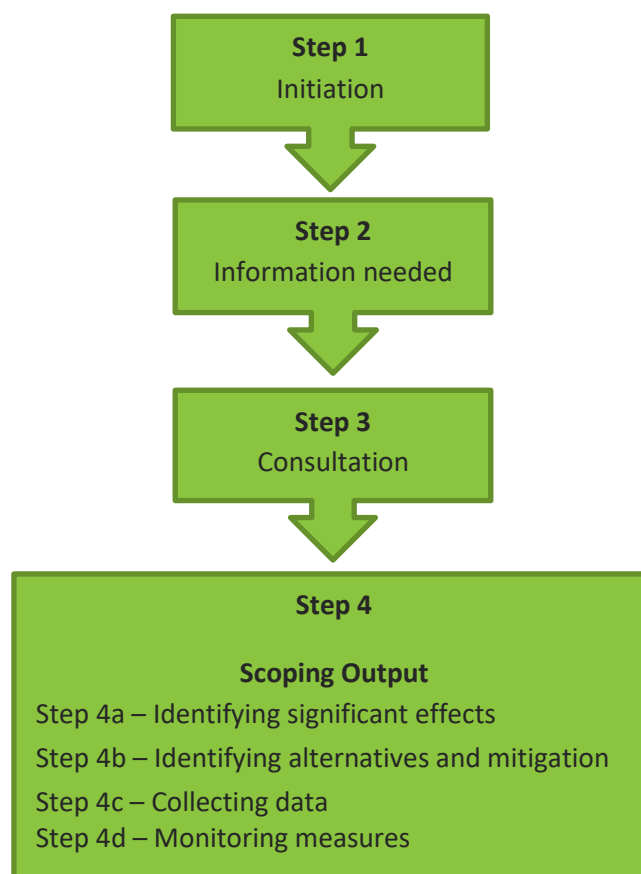


Figure 5-1: Consultation and Scoping Methodology

The guidelines on the Information to be Contained in Environmental Impacts Assessment Reports (EPA, 2022) advise that scoping should be an ongoing and iterative process, and assessors should "maintain a flexible view of the scope throughout the work on the EIAR, particularly during the earlier stages."

Using the methodology (European Commission, 2017), while maintaining a 'flexible view' of the scope of the EIAR, the following tasks were undertaken during the scoping exercise:

1. FT conducted a preliminary appraisal of planning and environmental considerations relevant to the proposed development. This involved the following:
 - A review of EIARs carried out for similar developments, or for developments situated in the vicinity of the proposed development site.
 - An examination of publicly available baseline environmental data and information relating to the development site and its environs.
 - A review of a similar scale facility developed by the applicant.
 - A walkover survey of the development site and the wider area surrounding the site.
 - An evaluation of reasonable alternatives associated with the proposed development, having regard to environmental criteria and considerations.
 - An examination of historic planning application files pertaining to the development site and surrounding sites.
 - A review of historic environmental monitoring data available for adjacent licensed site.
 - A review of the Carlow County Development Plan 2022 – 2028 (Carlow County Council, 2022) planning policy for the area and the Strategic Environmental Assessment, the Appropriate Assessment and the Carlow County Renewable Energy Strategy produced for this Plan.



2. In April 2025, a stakeholder consultation document, which set out a description of the proposed development and the proposed scope of the EIAR, was issued to relevant consultees, as listed in Table 5-1. This document requested scoping input from consultees. The scoping opinions from such bodies were taken into consideration when completing this EIAR.
3. In April 2025, a public consultation event was held in Carlow to inform members of the public about the proposed development and to engage with the local community.
4. In November 2025, a revised stakeholder consultation document, which included some updates to the description of the proposed development and the proposed scope of the EIAR, was issued to relevant consultees. This document requested scoping input from consultees. The scoping opinions from such bodies were taken into consideration when completing this EIAR.
5. During 2025 and 2026, pre-application consultations were undertaken with Carlow County Council, NPWS and An Coimisiún Pleanála to scope the planning and environmental matters and topics to be addressed in the planning application and EIAR.

5.3.2 Consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála

A pre-application consultation meeting under section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended was held with An Coimisiún Pleanála on 29 October 2025. A second meeting was held on 23 February 2026. Both meetings were held via Microsoft Teams. The initial discussions served to establish the project's scope; subsequent engagement finalised the requirements for the formal application. The Applicant wrote to ACP to request closure of the pre-application process. On 22 April 2026, ACP served notice under section 37B(4)(a) of the Act that it is of the opinion that the proposed development would be strategic infrastructure within the meaning of the Act. ACP stated that any application for permission for the proposed development must therefore be made directly to An Coimisiún Pleanála under section 37E of the Act.

Summary of the Consultation and Key Requirements

- Application for development consent within red line planning boundary and inclusion of the proposed gas pipeline within the assessment boundary for the EIAR
- Discussions were held regarding the impact of the RED III Directive on the application process.
- Use of clear language, mitigation measures to be set out as 'shall'.
- Applicant is not seeking design flexibility.
- Justify the scale of the plant and its location, justification of site selection.
- Consider cumulative impacts.
- Document the planning history of the existing development.
- Consider potential impacts on water quality due to proximity of River Barrow. Recommended inclusion of a standalone water framework directive assessment.
- Consider River Barrow SAC.
- Consider potential impact on residential amenities of properties in proximity to the proposed development.
- Recommended consultation with roads department of Carlow County Council and TII.
- Recommended consultation with NPWS.
- Consider the scenic route to the east in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment.



ACP included a list of prescribed bodies to be notified of the application for the proposed development as shown in Table 5-1.

Table 5-1: ACP List of Prescribed Bodies

Prescribed Bodies
Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine
Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment
Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage
Southern Regional Assembly
Carlow County Council
Health and Safety Authority
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Commission for Regulation of Utilities
Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
Uisce Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
Health Service Executive (HSE)
Office of Public Works
EirGrid
ESB Networks
Gas Networks Ireland
An Taisce
The Heritage Council
An Chomhairle Ealaíon
Fáilte Ireland

Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland has been added to this list by the Applicant in their role as the Single Point of Contact for the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 as amended.

5.3.3 Consultation with SEAI

SEAI is the Single Point of Contact for the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 as amended. The Applicant consulted with SEAI on foot of a recommendation from ACP with regards to the status of Powerstown Bioenergy as a renewable energy project. Following consultation, the Applicant submitted a statement to both ACP and SEAI outlining the grounds on which the proposed development is considered to a renewable energy project. The letter is included in Appendix 5.1.



Under the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 as amended 'renewable energy development' is defined to mean 'development the purpose of which is to generate renewable energy from one or more than one renewable non-fossil resource...'. Renewable energy is further defined as 'energy from a renewable non-fossil source, namely biomass, landfill gas.....or biogas'.

The feedstocks are manures made up of beef, dairy, pig, poultry, horse and farmyard manures. The farmyard manures contain wet straw. These feedstocks are listed in Annex 1X (Feedstocks for the production of biogas for transport and advanced biofuels) of the Renewable Energy Directive (RED). No feedstocks will be accepted that are not compliant with Annex IX. Biomass used in the heating centre will be RED compliant.

5.3.4 Stakeholder Consultation

A scoping consultation letter was sent out to stakeholders on 02 April 2025 for the period (02 April 2025 - 09 May 2025).

The recipients included relevant consultees, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and key stakeholders.

A sample of the consultation letter and scoping report is included in Appendix 5.1 of Volume 3 of this EIAR. Stakeholders consulted are identified in Table 5-1.

7 no. responses were received in response to this round of consultation as per Table 5-4.

Table 5-2: List of Scoping Consultees

Type of Stakeholder	Body/Department
Regional Authority	Southern Regional Assembly
Government Departments	Department for Rural and Community Development
	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
	Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
	Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage
	Department of Transport
Local Authority	Fire Department Carlow County Council
	Heritage Officer, Carlow County Council
	Planning Department, Carlow County Council
	Roads Department, Carlow County Council
	Biodiversity Officer, Carlow County Council
	Environment Department, Carlow County Council
	Roads Department, Laois County Council
	Heritage Officer, Laois County Council
	Environment Department, Laois County Council
	Roads Department, Kildare County Council
	Roads Department, Kilkenny County Council



Type of Stakeholder	Body/Department
Telecommunications	Commission for Regulation of Utilities
	Eircom Ltd (Eir)
	ESB Networks
Other Bodies or Interested Parties	An Taisce
	Bat Conservation Ireland
	Birdwatch Ireland
	EirGrid
	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
	Fáilte Ireland
	Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
	Geological Survey of Ireland
	Gas Networks Ireland
	Health and Safety Authority
	Health Service Executive (HSE)
	Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI)
	Uisce Éireann
	Irish Wildlife Trust
	Biodiversity Ireland
	National Monuments Service
	Development Application Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service
	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland
	Teagasc
	Road Safety Authority
	Waterways Ireland
	The Heritage Council
	Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)
	Irish Farmers Association
	Irish Bioenergy Association
	Renewable Gas Forum Ireland
	Lightnet Broadband
	Magnet Networks
	Premier Broadband
	Three Ireland
	Virgin Media Ireland Ltd



Type of Stakeholder	Body/Department
	Vodafone Ireland Ltd
	Arra Communications
	BT Ireland
	Enet
	Imagine Broadband

A second, updated scoping consultation letter was sent to stakeholders on 18 November 2025. The revised consultation letter was sent out to the original list of consultees as per Table 5- 1, with additional consultees as per Table 5-3 between dates 18th to 25th November 2025. The recipients included relevant statutory consultees (as defined under planning legislation), non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and key stakeholders with an interest in planning and environmental matters.

The second consultation letter included two updates:

- It showed the proposed gas pipe connection route for the proposed development.
- Greengate Biogas 001 Ltd. commenced a pre-application consultation with An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP), which provides basis for the anticipation that ACP will issue a positive Strategic Infrastructure Development (SID) determination in respect of the proposed development.

A copy of the consultation letter is included in Appendix 5.1 - Stakeholder Consultation Letter, in Volume 3 of this EIAR.

Table 5-3: Additional Consultees added for Second Round of Scoping

Type of Stakeholder	Body/Department
Other Bodies or Interested Parties	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)
	Office of the Planning Regulator
	Local Authority Waters Programme
	National Waste Management Office
	Climate Change Advisory Council

In total, 3 no. scoping responses were received (excluding summary acknowledgements) for the second round of consultation. A summary of the key issues raised and a note on how and where that issue is addressed in the EIAR is provided in Table 5-4. The responses received were fully considered and where appropriate, the topics raised were included within the EIAR.



Table 5-4: Stakeholder Consultation Responses

Consultee and Date of Response	Summary of Comments Provided	How and where Comments are Addressed in EIAR
Fire Department Carlow County Council Response 1: 18 March 2025 Consultation Meeting: 13 August 2025	Response 1: Organising consultation meeting. Consultation Meeting: A meeting was arranged between the Powerstown Bioenergy team and Carlow Senior Assistant Fire Officer to confirm the firefighting water supply requirements for the proposed facility. The consultation meeting was held on 13 August 2025, summarised below: • A 240 m³ supply of firefighting water should be provided onsite. • Firefighting water can be made available from proposed process water tanks and/or surface water storage lagoon. • Hydrant location(s) should be located in accordance with guidance. • Hydrants should be supplied by means of a dedicated internal pumped rising main. • Firewater pumps shall be backed up by means of a generator. • Water monitor or deluge system is recommended within the heating centres biomass storage bunker. • CCFRS will engage with the developer during the construction/preoperational stage. • CCFRS will submit a formal response at the planning submission stage.	Appendix 3.2 Firewater Risk Assessment
Environment Department Carlow County Council Response 1: 24 April 2025 Response 2: No Response	Response 1: Request clarity on the following: • Mass Balance Calculations for the following horizons: Start-up, 5 years, 10 years or whenever at full capacity • Energy Balance Calculations for the following horizons: Start-up (including transport, plant, energy from biogas, anticipated misc. losses such as flaring), 5 years, 10 years or whenever \at full capacity: • Details of calculated environmental and ecological gains vis-à-vis pollutant impact reduction to air and water via digestion of feed volatiles (GHG emission reduction, groundwater/surface water nutrient reduction etc.) – Quality of Life Capital Approach. • Mitigation measures to potential impacts on air quality, water quality, land • Reference to proposed design and safety: • COMAH Regulations for Anaerobic Digestion and Biogas Plants: Blog Article • Risk Management Services Biogas Production by AD: Risk Management Programme • Guidelines for Anaerobic Digestion in Ireland: CRE Handbook • Biogas Plant Explosions Update: Blog Article	Chapter 9 Climate Chapter 8 Air Quality Chapter 12 Soils Geology and Hydrogeology Chapter 13 Surface Water and Hydrology Land Use Assessment (COMAH) submitted with the application for development consent
Development Application Unit, National Parks and Wildlife Service Response 1: No Response Response 2: 19 November 2025 Consultation Meeting: 15 January 2026	Response 2: NPWS agreed to meet regarding the proposed development. Consultation Summary: A consultation meeting was held between the project coordinators and the NPWS on 15 January 2026. This included a short presentation on the proposed development, and a presentation on the status of ecological studies, including surveys undertaken and current findings. Topics discussed included ecological survey requirements, habitat management measures, and the potential ecological impacts of the proposed development. In particular, the NPWS requested clarification in relation to the scope and findings of ecological surveys undertaken thus far for birds, flora, fauna, and habitats. Ecological surveys discussed included consideration of specific species and groups such as plant species (including knapweed and bee orchid), herpetofauna (including newts), mammals (including badgers and bats), invasive alien species (including Japanese knotweed), and invertebrates (including the small skipper butterfly). Habitat surveys and requirements discussed include grassland management and hedgerows. Potential ecological impacts discussed include lighting, cumulative effects (such as emissions from the project in combination with emissions from traffic and agriculture), effects of wheel washing on streams, and potential effects should culvert/water crossing removal be required.	Chapter 11 Biodiversity



Consultee and Date of Response	Summary of Comments Provided	How and where Comments are Addressed in EIAR
Fáilte Ireland Response 1: 09 May 2025 Response 2: 04 December 2025	Response 1 and Response 2: Provided an EIAR guideline for consideration of tourism and tourism related projects. Key points include: Competency: - For tourism related projects, or projects likely to affect tourism assets, competent experts in the area of tourism should be utilised in the environmental assessment. - Where tourism projects involve for example heritage or cultural components, input from heritage consultants, conservation architects, or historians may be required. - Baseline Assessment - The location of sensitive tourism resources that are likely to be directly affected should be highlighted, and other premises which although located elsewhere, may be the subject of in combination impacts. - The character of an area from a tourism perspective should be described and the principal types of tourism in the area. - The significance of the tourism assets or activities likely to be affected should be highlighted. - If there are any significant concerns or opposition to the development known to exist among tourism stakeholders and interest groups, this should be highlighted. - Impact Assessment - Population and Human Health: The impact upon tourism can be considered within this section through the sensitivities of Hospitality, Safety and Pace of Life. - Biodiversity: The disturbance to ecology must be managed to minimise impacts. - Land, soils and Geology: Activities or facilities which use geological features may have an impact upon soils and geology. The impact upon Geotourism related to geoheritage within the natural environment should be considered (where applicable). Indirect impacts such as material use for extensive landscaping and public realm should also be considered. - Material Assets; Traffic and Transport: The impact of construction traffic can be a particular concern in tourism sensitive areas in terms of noise pollution and visual impact. The construction programme of developments should work to avoid peak tourism periods in tourism areas and should consider planned or anticipated tourism events and festivals. - Cultural Heritage: As a tourism attraction, cultural heritage should be strongly considered in non-tourism developments and the impact upon tourism considered as a potential impact. - Material Assets; Waste Management: Waste and Waste disposal issues can impact the perception of an unspoiled environment, affecting tourism, which should be considered. Landscape: A development intended to utilise or enjoy a particular vista or environment should minimise impact upon that environment.	Chapter 7 Population and Human Health
Health and Safety Authority Response 1: 16 April 2025 Response 2: 11 December 2025	Response 1: Highlights the following: - The application MAY BE covered by Regulation 24(2) (a) of S.I. 209 of 2015 [COMAH Regulations]. - The response given is only applicable to the specific circumstances of this proposal at this period of time. Document ref. P24188-FT-EN-ZZ-LT-EN-0001 does not indicate if the proposed development will be a COMAH establishment and information on the anticipated maximum quantity of dangerous substances in tonnes is not available. The Authority therefore requests further information on the hazardous classification, quantity of dangerous substances to be processed and stored in tonnes at the proposed site in accordance with Schedule 1 of the COMAH Regulations, 2015 and confirm if the COMAH Regulations will apply. Response 2: Letter outlining the procedure for COMAH land use planning application	Land Use Assessment submitted with the application for development consent



Consultee and Date of Response	Summary of Comments Provided	How and where Comments are Addressed in EIAR
Transport Infrastructure Ireland TII Response 1: 01 May 2025 TII Response 2: 18 December 2025 Applicant Response to TII 18 March 2026 TII Response 3: 7 April 2026 Applicant Request to Carlow County Council 17 April 2026	Responses 1 - 3: Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) observes with serious concern that the route options, with no details of methodologies, for the biomethane conveyance off site in a gas pipeline appear to be proposed in different circumstances to be located within the M9 and also in number of instances within M9 Junction 6. Proposals to 3rd party pipelines/ducting/cabling including associated maintenance/operational infrastructure in national road and asset reservation, have the potential to impact road authorities and TII in undertaking future maintenance and improvement requirements. There may also be additional cost implications to national road improvements and maintenance resulting from the presence of these pipelines within national road and associated infrastructure reservations. TII highlight the following: • The Roads Act, 1993, as amended, prohibits the granting of planning permission for any development of land entailing direct access to/from motorways. • Great care must be exercised particular care in their assessment of development proposals to achieve a satisfactory level of service for road users and to protect and maintain that service over the design period applying to the mainline road and associated interchanges per Section 2.7 Development at National Road Interchanges or Junctions of the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities'. • Elements of the national road network are operated and managed by a combination of Public Private Partnerships Concessions, Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts and local road authorities in association with TII. In relation to any proposed project, the applicant/developer should fully assess the network to be traversed to ascertain any legal, procedural, technical and management operational requirements, to ensure that the strategic function of the national road network is safeguarded. • With respect to interaction with TII Structures the requirements of TII Publications DN-STR-03001, Technical Approval of Road Structures on Motorways and Other National Roads will also appear to be applicable. This Standard specifies the procedures to be followed to obtain Technical Acceptance for structures on motorway and other national road schemes and for the submission of as-built records. The procedures cover the design of all road structures, including bridges, tunnels, subways, culverts, buried corrugated steel structures, retaining walls, reinforced earth structures, gantries, environmental noise barriers and temporary structures under or over motorways or other roads carrying public traffic. The Technical Acceptance requirements for the assessment, alteration, modification, strengthening and repair of all road structures shall be agreed with the Structures Engineering & Asset Management Section of TII. • Where pipeline routing involves proposals to cross a Motorway Works Specific Deeds of Indemnities, arrangements for third party access or consent from TII in accordance with Section 53 of the Roads Act, 1993, is required. The preferred method of necessary national road network crossings is by horizontal directional drilling (HDD). The launch and reception pits for HDD crossings need to be established outside of motorway reservation boundary. The construction and installation of cables can therefore be undertaken without direct contact with national road network assets and without interruption of the safe and efficient operation of the national road network as would occur for works on and maintenance of a cable route. TII strongly recommends that a full assessment of all route alternatives for the pipeline grid connection takes place, including alternatives to public road and construction methodologies, where appropriate. In TII's opinion, the pipeline connection routing, where it is proposed to utilise the national road network must demonstrate that the route proposed represents the 'optimal solution' and needs to address the appropriate legal, procedural and technical issues related to particularly the motorway network including associated assets including the junction The EIAR should have regard to the following: • National Road Network • National Road Pipelines and Crossings • TII Publications • Haul Routes Utilising the National Roads Network • TII Environmental Assessment Guidance	It is proposed to include an assessment of a deviation off the L3038 at TII structure (Eirspan Name Tomard Lower Road Overbridge 2 Ref no CW-M09-012.00). where the L3038 crosses the M9 motorway within this structure. This will be an assessment of crossing the M9 by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD). The EIAR will include TII requirements for GNI and the Contractor. The description of the proposed deviation and TII requirements are included in Chapter 3 of this EIAR. Assessment of the proposed pipeline route is included in chapters 6-16.



Consultee and Date of Response	Summary of Comments Provided	How and where Comments are Addressed in EIAR
	Applicant Response to TII March 2026 The Applicant noted the following: • It is anticipated that the proposed development as a renewable energy project will be subject to the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 as amended, therefore Coimisiún Pleanála has advised that consultation should be carried out directly with TII in advance of submission because the Board will not be in a position to issue further information requests under the European Union (Planning and Development) (Renewable Energy) Regulations 2025 as amended. • The Applicant responded to each of the discussion points raised by TII: ○ Please note that there is no proposal for direct access to/from a motorway. ○ A detailed Traffic and Transport Assessment has been carried out to include assessment of potential impacts on several TII road links (listed in response letter) during construction, operation and decommissioning of both the proposed development and the proposed gas pipeline. Applicant listed guidance to be used in the assessment and confirmed a full Traffic and Transport Assessment carried out. ○ GNI as the Statutory Undertaker will be responsible for obtaining development consent for the gas pipeline route. The EIAR will include the TII provision for GNI to comply with the ‘Technical Approval of Road Structures on Motorways and Other National Roads for structures’ (TII, 2009, DN-STR-03001). ○ In response to TII’s concern regarding use of TII structures, Applicant states: It is proposed to include an assessment of a deviation off the L3038 at this location to facilitate crossing the M9 by HDD. The EIAR will include TII requirement above for GNI and the Contractor. ○ In response to TII’s concern regarding the use of the road network for the proposed gas pipeline, the applicant stated that GNI is wholly responsible for the selection of the route as the Statutory Undertake, not the Applicant. The development consent application for the gas pipeline route will only be submitted following development consent from An Coimisiún Pleanála for the proposed development (Powerstown Biogas within the red line boundary shown). At that point, the relevant planning authority will consult with TII and Carlow County Council Roads Department in respect of the proposed gas pipeline. ○ Official policy for development at or near national roads is set out in in the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012). The Applicant is aware of this guidance. There are no constraints identified in this guidance that apply to the proposed development. ○ TII highlights that the current application boundary coincides with the motorway boundary of the M9 at a location within Motorway Maintenance and Renewal Contracts (MMaRC) network. The proposed development boundary is wholly within a privately owned quarry. The planning boundary does not overlap with the MMaRC network at Junction 9. Applicant requests a map of the MMaRC network in the area to confirm. ○ TII concerned about use of national road network for proposed gas pipeline. Applicant responded that It is not proposed to install any pipeline in the national road network. The proposed route is within the regional and local road network. There is a proposed interaction with one TII structure with solution to assess HDD as an option. ○ TII recommended use of TII guidelines for noise assessment. Applicant responded that as proposed development is not a national road scheme, more appropriate guidance was selected. ○ Applicant requested a meeting to discuss TII points raised. TII response 7 April TII recommended that Carlow County Council planning/road authority should facilitate any meeting. Carlow County Council at the request of the Applicant wrote to TII on 24 April 2024 to request a meeting. Meeting held 4th June 2026 - Refer to Section 5.3.5.3.	



Consultee and Date of Response	Summary of Comments Provided	How and where Comments are Addressed in EIAR
Uisce Éireann Response 1: 03 April 2025 Response 2: 20 January 2026	Three responses to first round of scoping and consultation: 03 April 2025: Raised an additional escalation case and forwarded the query to the relevant department. 10 July 2025: Request from Asset Planning Coordinator to be added to the mailing list 29 July 2025: Uisce Éireann has the following observations: • Service Connections: The documentation submitted does not indicate whether the development will seek to connect to the public water and wastewater network. No details on water usage have been provided. If connections to public water and wastewater services are required, it is strongly recommended that a Pre Connection Enquiry (PCE) is lodged with Uisce Éireann as soon as possible in order to determine whether there is capacity available to cater for the development. • Proximity to Uisce Éireann Assets: There are a number of Uisce Éireann abstractions points in proximity to the proposed development site. A number of public water boreholes/wells are located downstream in Bagenalstown. The applicant must identify and provide details of measures to be taken to ensure that there will be no negative impact to Uisce Éireann’s Drinking Water Source(s) during the construction and operational phases of the development. Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant’s site and receiving waters should be identified as part of an EIAR and/or the planning application. • Proposed Pipeline: All Uisce Éireann assets along the proposed pipeline routes must be identified. Uisce Éireann does not permit build over of its assets. Separation distances from public infrastructure, as per Uisce Éireann’s Standards, Codes and Practices must be achieved. The applicant must obtain a Confirmation of Feasibility from Uisce Éireann Diversions team prior to the lodgement of a planning application if it seeks to build under/over or divert Uisce Éireann’s assets. • Additional Advice for consideration in EIAR: - Hydrological / hydrogeological pathways between the applicant’s site and receiving waters should be identified as part of an EIAR and/or the planning application. - Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is required to include a waste sampling strategy to ensure the material is inert. - If your proposals require a connection(s) to either a public water supply or sewage collection system, you are advised to submit a Pre-Connection Enquiry to Uisce Éireann. - In relation to a development that would discharge trade effluent – any upstream treatment or attenuation of discharges required prior to discharging to an Uisce Éireann collection network. - The potential impact of surface water discharges to combined sewer networks and potential measures to stop surface waters from combined sewers. Uisce Éireann does not permit surface waters into our sewer network. - Any physical impact on Uisce Éireann assets. - When considering a development proposal, the applicant is advised to determine the location of public water services assets, possible connection points from the applicant’s site / lands to the public network and any drinking water abstraction catchments to ensure these are included and fully assessed in any pre-planning proposals. - Other indicators or methodologies for identifying infrastructure located within the applicant’s lands are the presence of registered wayleave agreements, visible manholes, vent stacks, valve chambers, marker posts etc. within the proposed site. - Any potential impacts on the assimilative capacity of receiving waters in relation to Uisce Éireann discharge outfalls including changes in dispersion/circulation characterises. - Any potential impact on the contributing catchment of water sources either in terms of water abstraction for the development (and resultant potential impact on the capacity of the source) or the potential of the development to influence/present a risk to the quality of the water abstracted by Uisce Éireann for public supply. - Where a development proposes to connect to an Uisce Éireann network and that network either abstracts water from or discharges wastewater to a “protected”/ sensitive area, consideration as to whether the integrity of the site / conservation objectives of the site would be compromised should be identified within the report.	No proposed connections to public water or wastewater No backfilling materials proposed Chapter 12 Soils Geology and Hydrogeology Chapter 13 Surface Water and Hydrology



Consultee and Date of Response	Summary of Comments Provided	How and where Comments are Addressed in EIAR
	- Uisce Éireann does not permit build over of its assets. Separation distances from public infrastructure, as per Uisce Éireann's Standards, Codes and Practices must be achieved. It is the applicant's responsibility to submit a diversion enquiry to Uisce Éireann Diversions Section (diversions@water.ie) prior to construction, where a potential build over of public assets is in question and/or where the applicants proposals cannot achieve separation distances from public infrastructure as per UÉ Standards & Codes of Practice. - Where an existing connection is on place, the applicant or developer may be required to enter into a new or revised water and/or wastewater connection agreement(s) with Uisce Éireann prior to the commencement of this development. - Where new connection(s) are sought, the applicant shall enter into water and/or wastewater connection agreement(s) with Uisce Éireann prior to the commencement of this development. Response 2: • It is noted that the proposed route of the pipeline connection runs parallel to a number of Uisce Éireann in situ asset, with a high potential for crossing and build over of said assets at several points of the route. Please note that Uisce Eireann cannot permit the build over of its underground infrastructure. Where such a build over is anticipated, the applicant is required to submit a diversion enquiry to Uisce Éireann and receive a Confirmation of Feasibility (COF) letter from Diversions Dept prior to any planning application submission This will form part of the formal planning application lodgement documentation. • While not explicitly stated, the size of this proposed plant will likely require human welfare facilities which would require an Uisce Eireann service connection. To facilitate such a connection, the applicant will be required to engage with Uisce Éireann by submitting a pre-Connection Enquiry (PCE) to assess feasibility of connection to the public water/wastewater infrastructure. The outcome of the PCE shall be submitted to the Planning Authority as part of the formal planning application documentation. Reiterated the same Additional Advice points as above, with the addition of: • Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is requested to include breakdown of the chemical components of the materials proposed. • Where the development proposes the backfilling of materials, the applicant is requested to include details of best practice monitoring regime(s) to inform protection of ground waters, aquifers and drinking water source abstractions. • Any person discharging trade effluent (defined in the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (as amended)) to a sewer, must have a Trade Effluent License issued pursuant to section 16 of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (as amended).	



5.3.5 Stakeholder Consultation Meetings

The Applicant carried out stakeholder consultation meetings with Carlow County Council and NPWS.

5.3.5.1 *Meetings with Carlow County Council*

The Applicant met with various departments in Carlow County Council to discuss the scope of the EIAR. At each of the meetings, the Applicant presented information on the proposed development, and the scope of the various assessments ongoing including methodologies, surveys, preliminary assessments and mitigation. The Applicant took note of queries and commentary to ensure inclusion in EIAR. Key issues raised was protection of the River Barrow, protection of the residential environment and traffic management. The design of the proposed development had sought to mitigate potential impacts by design, and Carlow County Council were satisfied with the responses.

- Meeting with Carlow County Council Fire Officer 18 June 2025
 - See Appendix 3.2 Firewater Risk Assessment, Volume 3.
- Meeting with Planning Department 27 February 2025
- Meeting with Carlow County Council Roads Department 31 March 2026
 - Discussion of the proposed discharge of clean excess stormwater to the existing Carlow County Council storm drain network following a 1 in 30 year storm event. A hydraulic capacity assessment was prepared to demonstrate existing capacity. It is included in Appendix 13.3 of Volume 3 of this EIAR. The proposed controls on the stormwater system were discussed to explain how the drainage system is designed and how only clean water can be pumped out of the enclosed basin of the site following a 1 in 30 year storm event if the drainage network and fire and process water tanks are full. The drainage design and strategy is described in Chapter 3 Description of the Existing and Proposed Development and in Chapter 13 Surface Water and Hydrology.
- Meeting with Carlow County Council Planning and Environment 13 April 2026
- Meeting with Carlow County Council Environment Department 27 April 2026

Meetings with the Planning and Environment Departments of Carlow County Council were held to inform the local authority in detail of the proposed development, the scope of the EIAR, the assessments conducted and to clarify details. The Environment Department recommended the inclusion of baseline soil and groundwater data to facilitate future comparison if required. Monitoring was carried out as recommended, an interpretation of which is included in Chapter 12 Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology with testing certificates included in Appendix 12 of Volume 3 of this EIAR.

The Applicant made a presentation to the Elected Members of Carlow County Council on 13 April 2026. Some of the members had previously attended the public consultation meeting and represented the queries of their local communities. Issues raised included concerns about air quality, traffic, climate and traffic all of which are addressed in the assessment within the EIAR.



5.3.5.2 Meetings with NPWS

The Applicant, along with consultant ecologists from Fehily Timoney and Company met with NPWS (Local Ranger, District Conservation Officer and Division Ecologist) on 16 January 2026. The Applicant presented the proposed development, the findings of all ecological surveys to date for the site of the proposed development, its hinterland and the proposed gas pipeline route. The interaction between air quality and biodiversity was discussed confirming assessment of potential for significant effects on designated site. Potential for biodiversity enhancement was discussed. The topics raised at the meeting are addressed in Chapter 11 Biodiversity. Following completion of all of the biodiversity surveys, a memo was submitted to NPWS on 15th June 2026 to provide an update on findings and a further opportunity for consultation. NPWS sought reassurance that delivery vehicles were double skinned. A description of feedstock transport and unloaded is included in Chapter 3 Description of the Existing and Proposed Development.

5.3.5.3 Meeting with Carlow County Council Roads Department and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)

Carlow County Council facilitated a pre-application meeting between the Applicant, TII and the Roads Department on 4th June 2025. TII provided advice on procedures for consent for the construction of the proposed gas pipeline by GNI including, Requirements for the Reinstatement of Openings in National Roads CC-PAV-04007 (TII, 2019) and Design for Durability DN-STR-03012 (TII, 2024) and stated “where pipeline routing involves proposals to cross a Motorway Works Specific Deeds of Indemnities, arrangements for third party access or consent from TII in accordance with Section 53 of the Roads Act, 1993, is required. If deemed appropriate, the preferred method of necessary national road network crossings is by horizontal directional drilling (HDD) outside of the motorway reservation”.

TII clarified permission will not be granted for a gas pipeline within or attached to a TII structure (Eirspan Name Tomard Lower Road Overbridge 2 Ref no CW-M09-012.00) and that any trenchless crossing must be seamless and requires prior approval from TII. Carlow County Council confirmed that permission will not be granted for a gas pipeline within or attached to a Carlow County Council bridge structure (Cardinal Moran Bridge on R448). Carlow County Council stated that a road opening licence will be required for any works.

TII requested the inclusion of the proposed development boundary and any TII Motorways Maintenance and Renewals Contract (MaMRC) boundaries in the application to show that there is no overlap. This is shown in Figure 5-2. As stated, a trenchless construction method is proposed for crossing the River Barrow and the M9 motorway. All works to install the pipeline will be outside of the MMaRC boundary.

TII remarked that the traffic and transportation assessment carried out in support of the planning application appears to be in line with guidance and best practice.

Carlow County Council queried the need for any abnormal loads. It was confirmed that there are no proposed abnormal loads.

Following the meeting, the EIAR was updated to include the advice of TII and Carlow County Council (Refer Chapter 3).



Figure 5-2: Proposed Development Boundary, Proposed Gas Pipeline Route and MMaRC Boundaries



5.3.5.4 Meeting with EPA

The Applicant met with the EPA on 1st May 2025 to carry out pre application consultation regarding the proposed IE licence application to ensure the EIAR addresses relevant topics. This EIAR will be submitted in support of the IE licence application following submission. The EPA directed the Applicant to the Waste Framework Directive to determine the appropriate type of licence. The EPA advised that the following be considered in the application, i.e. the Applicant should demonstrate:

1. how end of waste status will be achieved. Noted the EU Fertiliser Product Regulations 2019 (Regulation (EU) 2019/1009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 June 2019
2. 4 days capacity at intake and offtake
3. how odour will be managed from incoming loads of feedstock
4. where digestate goes once it leaves the proposed development
5. bunds to be compliant with EPA guidance
6. compliance with guidance document Assessing the Impact of Ammonia Emissions to Air and Nitrogen Deposition from EPA licensable activities on European Sites (EPA, 2024)

The above topics have been addressed in Chapter 3 Description of the Existing and Proposed Development (topics 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Topic 6 is addressed in both Chapter 8 Air Quality and in Chapter 11 Biodiversity and in the NIS.

5.3.6 Public Consultation

A public consultation meeting was held on 10th April 2025 to discuss the proposed development, offering community members an opportunity to voice their opinions and concerns. The meeting was advertised in local media. 280 no. members of the public attended the meeting. Representatives from the Greengate Bioenergy 001 team presented an overview of the plant's purpose, environmental benefits, and operational details. Attendees were provided with the opportunity to raise their concerns, a summary of which is presented in Table 5-5.

The Applicant set up a website www.greengatebiogas.ie in 2025 with details of the proposed development and contact details for queries.



Table 5-5: Public Consultation Meeting Engagement

Topic Raised	No. People	Notes	Response
Odour	2	Concerns were raised regarding odour and smell generated by the operation of the plant.	Applicants representatives summarised the proposed odour management controls. See Chapter 3 and Chapter 8 Air Quality. The odour management system is described in Chapter 3 and the potential for significant effects from odour are described in Chapter 8. The assessment concluded no potential for significant effects.
Monetary compensation	5	- A number of questions raised regarding the potential for community compensation and the development of a community fund by the developers. - Some queries regarding the potential for personal compensation for inconvenience caused by the development. - One query relating to devaluation of housing surrounding the proposed development and potential compensation.	Applicants representatives acknowledged requests. Monetary compensation is not within scope of the EIAR.
Opportunities for local collaboration	3	- Number of opportunities for collaboration with local businesses to provide: - Haulage - Process and cooling equipment - Gas fitters and contractors - One query regarding supplying the plant without receiving digestate back.	Applicants representatives acknowledged requests. The potential for local employment is addressed in Chapter 2 and Chapter 7 of this EIAR.



Topic Raised	No. People	Notes	Response
Power requirement	1	Query regarding the power onsite and whether it will be solar/wind.	The power requirements for the proposed development is included in Chapter 3 and in Chapter 14. Power will be supplied by an ESB electrical supply and it is proposed to generate solar power for use on site.
Tree planting	1	Suggestion of native/hardwood trees.	The proposed Landscape Plan is in Volume 3 of the EIAR and includes the requirement for native species.
Route of gas pipeline	1	Concern regarding the route of the gas pipeline as this has not been provided. Contributor was eager to review this.	Subsequent to the public consultation meeting, GNI provided a proposed gas pipeline route. This is assessed in the EIAR.
Traffic increase/safety for walkers	4	- Concern regarding increased traffic on regional roads. - Suggestion that GBG trucks should not be allowed on these routes. - One call to make the traffic impact assessment publicly available.	Chapter 6 of the EIAR is an assessment of traffic and transportation. The EIAR will be published and available to the public.
Noise	2	Concern regarding noise produced from the site.	Chapter 10 of the EIAR assess the potential for significant effects from the proposed development on the noise environment. The assessment concluded no potential for significant effects.
Respiratory issues	2	Concern regarding potential for respiratory issues to arise/be triggered by the site.	Chapter 7 Human Health and Population and Chapter 9 Air Quality assessed the potential for significant effects on air quality and human health. The assessment concluded no potential for significant effects.
Ecology/biodiversity	1	Concern regarding impacts on ecology/biodiversity.	Chapter 11 Biodiversity assessed the potential for significant effects on biodiversity. The assessment concluded no potential for significant effects.



Topic Raised	No. People	Notes	Response
			An NIS was also prepared and accompanies the planning application. The assessment presented in the NIS has determined that the Project will not cause significant adverse effects on the integrity of European sites under the mitigation scenario. An evaluation of plans and projects within the ZOI shows that this Project will not contribute to any adverse effects to the River Barrow and River Nore SAC when considered alongside other plans or projects. Therefore under the mitigated scenario, in the light of the best scientific knowledge in the field, and considering all aspects of the Project by itself and in combination with other plans or projects, it is concluded that the Project does not pose a risk of, directly or indirectly, adversely affecting the conservation objectives that support QI habitats and species of River Barrow and River Nore SAC on its own or in combination with plans or projects and will not impair the integrity of any European site.
Ground stability	1	Concerns regarding ground stability.	Chapter 12 Soils, Geology and Hydrogeology assessed the potential for significant effects. The assessment concluded no potential for significant effects.



Topic Raised	No. People	Notes	Response
Risk of explosion/fire	1	Concerns regarding the risk of explosion/fire at the facility.	A land use assessment has been prepared to accompany this application. The proposed development will be classified as a “lower tier” COMAH establishment and as such will be subject to the provisions of the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations, S.I. No. 209 of 2015. The land use assessment concluded that the individual location-based risk contours corresponding to tolerable levels for new COMAH establishments do not extend to an off-site work location or to an indoor area where the public are present. Therefore, it is concluded that the criteria in Table 1 of the Guidance on Technical Land Use Planning advice (HSA, 2023) are met, and level of off-site risk at the proposed development is acceptable. The land use assessment is submitted as a stand alone report accompanying the planning application. In addition, the Applicant consulted with Carlow County Council Fire Department regarding emergency access and firewater. A firewater risk assessment was conducted and is included as Appendix 3.2 in Volume 3 of this EIAR. Finally, the facility will be operated in accordance with an IE licence from the EPA. This will require EPA approval of emergency response planning in advance of commencement of operations.



5.4 Conclusion

Consultation was sought from a number of stakeholders, including Carlow County Council, An Coimisiún Pleanála, Government departments and NPWS, TII, Non-Governmental Organisations, telecommunications providers, local councillors, community and local residents. Their comments and feedback were incorporated into the design iterations and subsequently into the EIAR as identified in this chapter.

Pre-planning consultation was held with both Carlow County Council and An Coimisiún Pleanála determine the key points and potential impacts of the proposed development and to inform the assessment methodology. These engagements were conducted separately to address the specific statutory remit of each body:

- An Coimisiún Pleanála (ACP): Engagements with ACP were held in accordance with Section 37B of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). The aim and intention of these meetings was to determine the strategic nature of the development, establish the appropriate planning consent pathways for the infrastructure, and clarify the requirements for cumulative assessments and project boundaries.
- Carlow County Council (CCC): As the local planning authority, the intention of the consultation with CCC was to address localised environmental, infrastructural, and water impacts. The aims included aligning proposed traffic management and haulage routes with road maintenance programmes, agreeing upon archaeological testing requirements, and ensuring the protection of sensitive local ecology, such as the River Barrow.

The observations and issues raised during the scoping and consultation process have directly informed the final project design, environmental assessments, and proposed mitigation measures. Significant outcomes of this process include:

- Consultation with Carlow County Council led to the inclusion of Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) for the assessment of the proposed gas pipeline route at the River Barrow crossing to avoid the Cardinal Moran Bridge.
- Consultation with TII led to the inclusion of Directional Drilling (HDD) for the assessment of the proposed gas pipeline route crossing of the M9 motorway to avoid the TII overbridge at Tomard.
- Consultations with Carlow County Council on storm water controls and monitoring requirements for the Powerstown Stream during 1 in 30 year storm events.
- Engagement with An Coimisiún Pleanála for SID determination.
- Engagement with NPWS on surveys conducted and survey methodologies.

This comprehensive engagement process ensures that the development is undertaken in observance of best industry practices and with the full engagement of the surrounding communities.



5.5 Bibliography

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