



## **APPENDIX 6-1**

### ***BOTANICAL REPORT***

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Introduction

MKO were commissioned to undertake detailed botanical surveys to provide an evaluation and assessments of the habitats occurring within, and directly adjacent to the Proposed Project. The detailed botanical surveys were undertaken on seven dates throughout 2024/2025/2026 as listed below by suitably qualified MKO ecologists.

## 1.2 Statement of Authority

This report has been prepared by Julie Kohlstruck (B.Sc., M.Sc.) and Kate Johnson (B.Sc.). Julie is a Project Ecologist with 5 years' experience in ecological consultancy and has undertaken various constraint surveys, habitat assessments and managements plans for upland wind farm developments and undertaken habitat mapping, monitoring and condition assessments as part of planning conditions, article 17 reporting and NPWS monitoring projects. Kate is a Graduate Ecologist with the relevant academic qualifications in Ecology and Environmental Biology. This report has been reviewed by Rachel Walsh (B.Sc., MCIEEM). Rachel is an experienced Senior Ecologist with over 6 years' experience in undertaking ecological assessments.

The baseline terrestrial ecological surveys were undertaken by Rachel Minogue (B.Sc.), Fiona Kileen (B.Sc.), Katy Beckett (B.Sc., M.Sc.), Kate Johnson (B.Sc.), Colin Murphy (B.Sc., M.Sc.), Tom Peters (B.Sc., M.Sc.), Matthew Kiernan (B.Sc.), Niamh Rowan (B.Sc.), Julie Kohlstruck (B.Sc., M.Sc.) and Rudraksh Gupta (B.Sc., M.Sc.). They all have relevant academic qualifications and are competent experts in undertaking the ecological surveys in which they were involved.

## 2. SURVEY METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Scope

The habitat surveys encompassed the entire Site, as depicted in **Figure 6-5** of **Chapter 6**. Habitats throughout the Site were surveyed with a particular focus on habitats of high conservation importance, such as areas mapped under Article 17 reporting, as described in the Desk Study section of Chapter 6 of the ELAR, and other habitat types listed under Annex I of the Habitats Directive present within the Site. Habitat surveys were also focused on habitats within the footprint of the Proposed Project and habitats likely to be impacted by the construction footprint. The surveys were carried out within the footprint of each turbine base, hardstand, borrow pits, construction compounds, substation, and met mast. Additional relevés were taken in the uncut blanket bog habitat adjacent to the infrastructure to inform the layout design and mitigation measures, and in the Proposed Enhancement Area, showing the current condition.

#### 2.1.1 Field Surveys

Dedicated habitat surveys were undertaken within the Site on the following seven dates in 2024 and 2025:

1. 02/07/2024
2. 03/07/2024
3. 16/09/2025
4. 17/09/2025
5. 18/09/2025
6. 26/03/2026
7. 13/05/2026

Plant nomenclature for vascular plants follows 'New Flora of the British Isles' (Stace, 2019), while mosses and liverworts nomenclature follow 'Mosses and Liverworts of Britain and Ireland - a field guide' (British Bryological Society, 2010). All surveys of vegetation were completed within the optimum period for vegetation surveys/habitat mapping, i.e., April to September in line with '*Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping*' (Smith *et al.*, 2011)<sup>1</sup>. One additional survey was undertaken in March 2026 in peatland habitat, in line with the survey guidance provided by Perrin *et al.* (2014). Habitats within the site were classified according to the guidelines set out in '*A Guide to Habitats in Ireland*' (Fossitt, 2000<sup>2</sup>), which classifies habitats based on the vegetation present and management history.

A comprehensive walkover of the entire Site was completed. Surveys undertaken outside of this period were not used to evaluate habitats.

The habitat assessment surveys described in this report, including EU Habitats Directive Annex I classification and condition assessment, have been undertaken with reference to the following guidelines and interpretation documents:

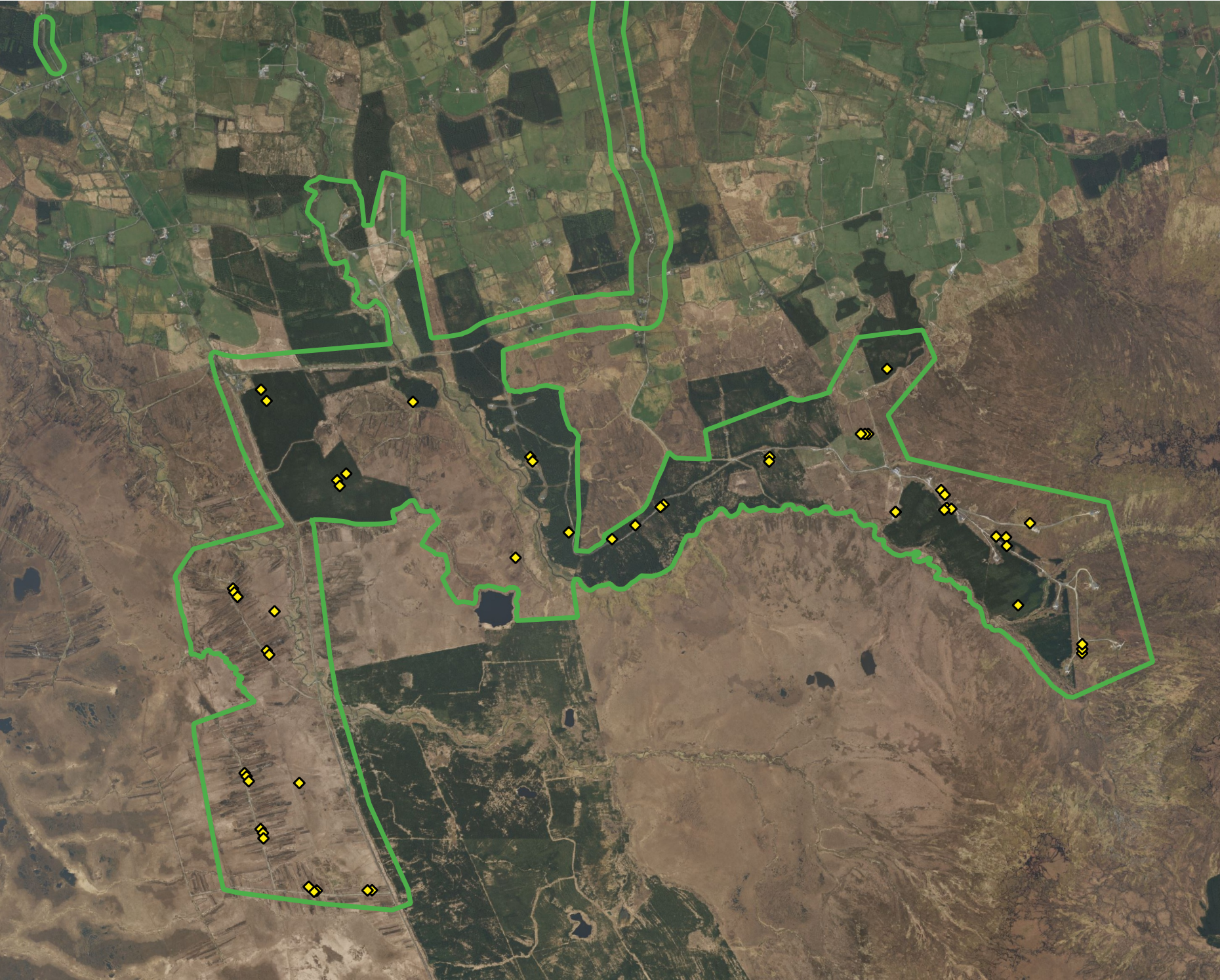
- Perrin, P.M, Martin, J.R., Barron, J.R., Roche & O'Hanrahan, B. (2014) *Guidelines for a national survey and conservation assessment of upland vegetation and habitats in Ireland*. Version 2.0. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 79. National Parks and Wildlife Service.
- O'Neill, F.H., Martin, J.R., Devaney, F.M. & Perrin, P.M. (2013) *The Irish semi-natural grasslands survey 2007-2012*. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 78. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.

<sup>1</sup> (Smith *et al* 2011). *Best Practice Guidance for Habitat Survey and Mapping*. Available at [https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/best\\_practice\\_guidance\\_habitat\\_survey\\_mapping\\_onscreen\\_version\\_2011\\_8mb.pdf](https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/content/files/best_practice_guidance_habitat_survey_mapping_onscreen_version_2011_8mb.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Fossitt (2000). *A Guide to Habitats in Ireland*. Available at <https://www.npws.ie/sites/default/files/publications/pdf/A%20Guide%20to%20Habitats%20in%20Ireland%20-%20Fossitt.pdf>

- Martin, J.R., O'Neill, F.H. & Daly, O.H. (2018) The monitoring and assessment of three EU Habitats Directive Annex I grassland habitats. Irish Wildlife Manuals, No. 102. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Ireland.
- NPWS (2025), The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland. Volume 2: *Habitat Assessments*. Unpublished NPWS report. Edited by: Domhnall Finch, Aoife Delany, Fionnuala O'Neill and Deirdre Lynn
- Commission of the European Communities (2007) Interpretation manual of European Union habitats. Eur 27. European Commission DG Environment.

The entire Site was subject to a walkover survey. Certain areas were subject to a more detailed assessment, including areas within and adjacent to the Proposed Project Infrastructure. A total of 53 relevés were undertaken within the Site. Surveys on peatland/ heath/ grassland habitats utilised a 2m x 2m relevé size as per Perrin *et al.* (2014). Surveys of woodland utilised a 10m x 10m relevé size as per Perrin et al (2008). The locations of all relevés are shown in **Figure 2-1**.



Map Legend

- Relevé locations
- EIAR Site Boundary



|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Drawing Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |             |
| Relevé Locations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |             |
| Project Title                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |             |
| Crumhach Wind Farm, Co. Sligo                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |             |
| Drawn By                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Checked By  |
| KJ                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | RW          |
| Project No.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Drawing No. |
| 230841                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Figure 2-1  |
| Scale                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Date        |
| 1:30,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 22.06.2026  |
| <div><div></div><div><div>MKO</div><div>Planning and<br/>Environmental<br/>Consultants</div><div>Tuam Road, Galway<br/>Ireland, H91 VW84</div><div>+353 (0) 91 735611</div><div>email: info@mkofireland.ie</div><div>Website: www.mkofireland.ie</div></div></div> |             |

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## 2.1.2 Vegetation Composition Assessment

Detailed habitat classification and assessment was undertaken by MKO at targeted locations within the Site, with relevés undertaken in 2024 & 2025 within the footprint of each turbine base, borrow pits, construction compounds, and substation. The extent of each habitat on site was mapped on site using aerial photography, handheld GPS and smartphone technology. A representative photograph was also taken for each of the habitats recorded on site, including all relevés.

Vegetation was sampled by taking botanical quadrats/relevés within representative habitat areas of the Site. This allowed for accurate habitat classification. The survey results were then analysed in accordance with the Irish Vegetation Classification (IVC) system. The IVC is a project with aims to classify, describe, and map in detail all aspects of natural and semi-natural vegetation in Ireland within a single, unified framework. The National Vegetation Database (NVD), upon which the IVC is based, holds data for over 30,000 relevés and is the core resource upon which the classification system is based.

A fundamental requirement of the IVC is to “*aid in definition and **identification** of EU Habitat Directive (92/43/EEC) Annex I habitats*” and to ‘*inform the planning process, for example through environmental impact assessments*. The Engine for Relevés to Irish Communities Assignment (ERICA)<sup>3</sup> is a web application for assigning vegetation data to communities defined by the Irish Vegetation Classification (IVC). Data can be uploaded, checked for errors and analysed and the results can then be downloaded. ERICA works with both quantitative vegetation cover data (such as are recorded in relevés and other types of botanical recording plots) and presence/absence data, such as species lists. ERICA covers grasslands, woodland, duneland, heaths, bogs, fens, mires, freshwater, saline waters, rocky habitats, scrub, strandline, saltmarsh and weed communities (Perrin, 2019).

The data collected from the botanical assessments were uploaded to ERICA, analysed and the results data downloaded. The analysis procedure uses a clustering process to assign classification affinity to vegetation plots based on a degree of membership to each of the communities defined by the IVC. The table below details the categorizing types of plots utilizing the clustering analysis. This categorizing procedure was utilized to determine if relevés within the Study Area Boundary had any affinity to Annex I habitats.

Table 2-1 Categorising types of plots using clustering analysis (after Wiser & de Cáceres, 2013).

| Plot Type           | Definition                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Assigned</b>     | The plot has membership $\geq 0.5$ for one of the vegetation communities and therefore relates to the core definition of that vegetation community.                                                                                     |
| <b>Unassigned</b>   | The plot has membership $\geq 0.5$ for the noise class and is poorly represented by the current classification scheme                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Transitional</b> | The plot has membership $< 0.5$ for all vegetation communities and for the noise class. It falls within the scope of the current classification scheme but does not relate to the core definition of any of the vegetation communities. |

<sup>3</sup> Perrin, 2019, ERICA – Engine for Relevés to Irish Communities Assignment V5.0 User’s Manual, Online, Available at: [https://biodiversityireland.shinyapps.io/vegetation-classification/w\\_9cd4889a/manual.pdf](https://biodiversityireland.shinyapps.io/vegetation-classification/w_9cd4889a/manual.pdf), Accessed December 2025

## 2.2 Relevé Results

### 2.2.1 Turbine 1 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 1 is located in the southwest of the Proposed Wind Farm on an area of Cutover Bog (PB4). The area has been subject to on-going turbary activity and drainage and as a result is degraded. Large areas of exposed, bare peat were recorded in the area (Plate 2-1 & Plate 2-2). Evidence of historic peat cutting was also recorded in the vicinity of T1, with these areas now revegetated with pioneer species including Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), Ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and Deer grass (*Trichophorum germanicum*) (Plate 2-3).

All three relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T1\_1 is a species poor degraded example of the IVC Community GL2D *Juncus effusus* – *Rumex acetosa* grassland which was 70% assigned to the habitat. Relevé T1\_2 and Relevé T1\_3 were 63.1% and 92% assigned to the IVC community BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland. The relevés recorded showed clear signs of peat cutting and degradation with 20-40% cover of bare peat and low numbers of species (average species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 6.7). Including high cover of *Campylopus introflexus*, further emphasising the degradation due to peat cutting. Therefore, the area for Turbine 1 and associated infrastructure is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog.

The botanical data for Turbine 1 is shown in Table 2-2 below.

Table 2-2 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 1 and hardstand

| Relevé (2m x 2m)                |                    | Date 16/09/2025                   | Date 16/09/2025                  | Date 16/09/2025                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                 |                    | Relevé T1_1<br>ITM: 543502 826746 | Relevé T1_2<br>ITM 543514 826726 | Relevé T1_3<br>ITM 543527 826697 |
| Species                         | Common Name        | % Cover                           |                                  |                                  |
| Vascular Plants                 |                    |                                   |                                  |                                  |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>         | Purple Moor-grass  | 10                                | 30                               | 0                                |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>           | Cross-leaved Heath | 0                                 | 15                               | 10                               |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>         | Ling Heather       | 0                                 | 40                               | 35                               |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | Common Cottongrass | 0                                 | 0                                | 8                                |
| <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>    | Bog Asphodel       | 0                                 | 15                               | 0                                |
| <i>Juncus bulbosus</i>          | Bulbous Rush       | 0                                 | 0                                | 15                               |

|                                                 |                                                                            |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                          |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <i>Juncus effusus</i>                           | Soft Rush                                                                  | 70                                                                                                         | 0                                                                                                        | 0  |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>                  | Deer grass                                                                 | 20                                                                                                         | 40                                                                                                       | 40 |
| <i>Epilobium montanum</i>                       | Broadleaved willowherb                                                     | 5                                                                                                          | 0                                                                                                        | 0  |
| <i>Ranunculus repens</i>                        | Creeping Buttercup                                                         | 2                                                                                                          | 0                                                                                                        | 0  |
| <b>Non-vascular Plants</b>                      |                                                                            |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                          |    |
| <i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>                      |                                                                            | 20                                                                                                         | 0                                                                                                        | 0  |
| <i>Campylopus introflexus</i>                   |                                                                            | 0                                                                                                          | 40                                                                                                       | 20 |
| <i>Cladonia portentosa</i>                      |                                                                            | 0                                                                                                          | 10                                                                                                       | 0  |
| <i>Cladonia coccifera</i>                       |                                                                            | 0                                                                                                          | 5                                                                                                        | 0  |
| Bare Peat Cover                                 |                                                                            | 50                                                                                                         | 20                                                                                                       | 40 |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                                                                            | 6                                                                                                          | 8                                                                                                        | 6  |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                            |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                          |    |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Wet grassland (GS4)                                                        | Cutover Bog (PB4)                                                                                          | Cutover Bog (PB4)                                                                                        |    |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | GL2D <i>Juncus effusus</i> – <i>Rumex acetosa</i> grassland (70% assigned) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland (63.1% assigned) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland (92% assigned) |    |



*Plate 2-1 T1 turbine located on an area of Cutover Bog (PB4) dominated by bare peat.*



*Plate 2-2 Active turf cutting recorded in the vicinity of T1*



*Plate 2-3 Evidence of historic peat cutting in the vicinity of T1, revegetated with pioneer species.*

## 2.2.2

# Turbine 2 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 2 is located in the western section of the Proposed Wind Farm in an area of Cutover Bog (PB2)/ Dry-Humid Acid Grassland (GS3) (Plate 2-4). The area has been subject to on-going turbary activity and drainage as a result is degraded. Evidence of historic peat cutting was also recorded in the vicinity of T2, with these areas now revegetated with pioneer species including Ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), Deer grass (*Trichophorum germanicum*) and Mat grass (*Nardus stricta*) (Plate 2-5).

All three relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T2\_1 was 57.1% assigned to the IVC community BG2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog. The IVC community GLAB *Nardus stricta* – *Potentilla erecta* grassland was classified as 39.8% transitional for Relevé T2\_2. Relevé T2\_3 was 65.1% assigned to the IVC community BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland. The recorded relevés showed clear signs of peat cutting and degradation with 20-40% cover of bare peat and low numbers of species (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 8.3). Therefore, the area for Turbine 2 and associated infrastructure is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog.

The botanical data for Turbine 2 is shown in Table 2-3 below.

Table 2-3 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 2 and hardstand.

| Relevé (2m x 2m)                |                    | Date 17/09/2025                     | Date 17/09/2025                     | Date 17/09/2025                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                 |                    | Relevé T2_1<br>ITM 543432<br>827863 | Relevé T2_2<br>ITM 543440<br>827839 | Relevé T2_3<br>ITM 543459 827813 |
| Species                         | Common Name        | % Cover                             |                                     |                                  |
| Vascular Plants                 |                    |                                     |                                     |                                  |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>           | Cross-leaved Heath | 0                                   | 0                                   | 15                               |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>         | Ling Heather       | 40                                  | 0                                   | 40                               |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | Common Cottongrass | 30                                  | 0                                   | 10                               |
| <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>    | Bog Asphodel       | 1                                   | 0                                   | 0                                |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i>           | Soft Rush          | 0                                   | 30                                  | 0                                |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>  | Deer grass         | 20                                  | 0                                   | 70                               |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>        | Tormentil          | 8                                   | 10                                  | 0                                |
| <i>Nardus stricta</i>           | Mat grass          | 20                                  | 15                                  | 0                                |
| <i>Agrostis capillaris</i>      | Common bent grass  | 0                                   | 20                                  | 0                                |
| <i>Bellis perennis</i>          | Daisy              | 0                                   | 5                                   | 0                                |
| <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>      | Crested dogs tail  | 0                                   | 5                                   | 0                                |

|                                                 |                                                                            |                                                                                      |                                                                                                            |    |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| <i>Tussilago farfara</i>                        | Colts foot                                                                 | 0                                                                                    | 3                                                                                                          | 0  |
| <i>Juncus articulatus</i>                       | Jointed rush                                                               | 0                                                                                    | 10                                                                                                         | 0  |
| <i>Galium palustre</i>                          | Common bedstraw                                                            | 3                                                                                    | 0                                                                                                          | 0  |
| <b>Non-vascular Plants</b>                      |                                                                            |                                                                                      |                                                                                                            |    |
| <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>                     |                                                                            | 15                                                                                   | 20                                                                                                         | 15 |
| <i>Sphagnum rubellum</i>                        |                                                                            | 10                                                                                   | 0                                                                                                          | 10 |
| <i>Cladonia portentosa.</i>                     |                                                                            | 0                                                                                    | 0                                                                                                          | 10 |
| Bare peat cover                                 |                                                                            | 40                                                                                   | 0                                                                                                          | 20 |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                                                                            | 9                                                                                    | 9                                                                                                          | 7  |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                            |                                                                                      |                                                                                                            |    |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                  | Dry humid acid grassland (GS3)                                                       | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                                                  |    |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. Bog (57.1% assigned) | GLAB <i>Nardus stricta</i> – <i>Potentilla erecta</i> grassland (39.8% transitional) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland (65.1% assigned) |    |



Plate 2-4 T2 located on an area of Cutover Bog (PB4)/ Dry Humid Acid Grassland (GS3).



*Plate 2-5 Evidence of historic peat cutting in the vicinity of T2, revegetated with pioneer species.*

### 2.2.3

## Turbine 3 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 3 is located in the southwest of the Proposed Wind Farm on an area of Cutover Bog (PB4). The area has been subject to on-going turbary activity and drainage as a result is degraded. Large areas of exposed, bare peat were recorded in the area (Plate 2-6). Evidence of historic peat cutting was also recorded in the vicinity of T3, with these areas now revegetated with pioneer species including deer grass (*Trichophorum germanicum*), ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*) and cross-leaved heath (*Erica tetralix*) (Plate 2-7).

All three relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T3\_1 was 87.3% assigned to the IVC community BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland. Relevé T3\_2 was 86% assigned to the IVC community BG2C *Erica tetralix* – *Molinia caerulea* – *Cladonia portentosa* peatland. While relevé T3\_3 was classified as 40.9% transitional IVC community HE2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* heath. The recorded relevés showed clear signs of peat cutting and the area is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog

The botanical data for Turbine 3 is shown in Table 2-4 below.

Table 2-4 Botanical Survey results for Turbine 3 and hardstand.

|                                 |                     |                                  |                                  |                                  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Relevé (2m x 2m)                | ITM: 543600 826403  | Date 16/09/2025                  | Date 16/09/2025                  | Date 16/09/2025                  |
|                                 |                     | Relevé T3_1<br>ITM 543599 826407 | Relevé T3_2<br>ITM 543613 826383 | Relevé T3_3<br>ITM 543616 826351 |
| Species                         | Common Name         | % Cover                          |                                  |                                  |
| Vascular Plants                 |                     |                                  |                                  |                                  |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>  | Deer grass          | 70                               | 10                               | 60                               |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>         | Purple moor grass   | 0                                | 40                               | 10                               |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | Common cotton grass | 0                                | 20                               | 0                                |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>         | Ling heather        | 30                               | 30                               | 40                               |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>           | Cross leaved heath  | 15                               | 30                               | 20                               |
| <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>    | Bog asphodel        | 5                                | 5                                | 7                                |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>        | Tormentil           | 5                                | 5                                | 8                                |
| Non-vascular Plants             |                     |                                  |                                  |                                  |
| <i>Campylopus introflexus</i>   |                     | 10                               | 8                                | 20                               |
| <i>Sphagnum rubellum</i>        |                     | 5                                | 8                                | 0                                |

|                                                 |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>                        | 5                                                                                                          | 0                                                                                                         | 0                                                                                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>                      | 3                                                                                                          | 8                                                                                                         | 0                                                                                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>                        | 0                                                                                                          | 5                                                                                                         | 3                                                                                                   |
| <i>Cladonia portentosa</i>                      | 0                                                                                                          | 7                                                                                                         | 5                                                                                                   |
| <i>Cladonia spp.</i>                            | 2                                                                                                          | 0                                                                                                         | 0                                                                                                   |
| Bare peat                                       | 20                                                                                                         | 0                                                                                                         | 15                                                                                                  |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     | <b>10</b>                                                                                                  | <b>12</b>                                                                                                 | <b>9</b>                                                                                            |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                                                            |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                     |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Cutover Bog (PB4)                                                                                          | Cutover Bog (PB4)                                                                                         | Cutover Bog (PB4)                                                                                   |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland (87.3% assigned) | BG2C <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Cladonia portentosa</i> peatland (86% assigned) | HE2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> heath (40.9% transitional) |



Plate 2-6 Active turf cutting in the vicinity of T3.



*Plate 2-7 Evidence of historic peat cutting in the vicinity of T3, revegetated with pioneer species.*

## 2.2.4

# Turbine 4 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 4 is located in the west of the Proposed Wind Farm on an area of Cutover Bog (PB4). The area has been subject to on-going turbary activity and drainage as a result is degraded. Areas of actively cut turf were recorded in the vicinity of T4, and as a result large areas of exposed, bare peat were recorded in the area (Plate 2-8 & Plate 2-9). The dominant species within this habitat include ling heather (*Calluna vulgaris*), deer grass (*Trichophorum germanicum*) and common cotton-grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*).

All three relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T4\_1 was classified as 29.8% transitional IVC community HE2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* heath. Relevé T4\_2 was 57.1% assigned to the IVC community BG2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog. Relevé T4\_3 was 54.4% assigned to the IVC community BG2B *Erica tetralix* – *Andromeda polifolia* bog. The relevés showed clear signs of peat cutting and degradation with 15-50% cover of bare peat and low numbers of species (average species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 9). In addition, *Campylopus introflexus* was recorded within the relevés, further emphasising the degradation due to peat cutting. Therefore, the area for Turbine 4 and associated infrastructure is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog.

The botanical data for Turbine 4 is shown in Table 2-5 below.

Table 2-5 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 4 and hardstand

| Relevé (2m x 2m)                |                     | Date 17/09/2025                  | Date 17/09/2025                     | Date 17/09/2025                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                 |                     | Relevé T4_1<br>ITM 543636 827487 | Relevé T4_2<br>ITM 543640<br>543640 | Relevé T4_3<br>ITM 543651<br>827462 |
| Species                         | Common Name         | % Cover                          |                                     |                                     |
| Vascular Plants                 |                     |                                  |                                     |                                     |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>  | Deer grass          | 10                               | 15                                  | 10                                  |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | Common cotton grass | 40                               | 8                                   | 60                                  |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>         | Ling heather        | 40                               | 20                                  | 35                                  |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>           | Cross leaved heath  | 30                               | 25                                  | 5                                   |
| <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>    | Bog asphodel        | 0                                | 0                                   | 1                                   |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>        | Tormentil           | 15                               | 0                                   | 8                                   |
| <i>Rhynchospora alba</i>        | White beaked sedge  | 0                                | 30                                  | 0                                   |
| <i>Pedicularis palustris</i>    | Marsh lousewort     | 0                                | 2                                   | 0                                   |
| <i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>     | Round leaved sundew | 0                                | 0                                   | 5                                   |

| Non-vascular Plants                             |                                                                                                     |                                                                              |                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>                      | 0                                                                                                   | 0                                                                            | 10                                                                         |
| <i>Campylopus introflexus</i>                   | 10                                                                                                  | 10                                                                           | 0                                                                          |
| <i>Sphagnum rubellum</i>                        | 0                                                                                                   | 0                                                                            | 5                                                                          |
| <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>                        | 0                                                                                                   | 5                                                                            | 5                                                                          |
| <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>                   | 0                                                                                                   | 0                                                                            | 10                                                                         |
| <i>Cladonia portentosa</i>                      | 5                                                                                                   | 0                                                                            | 0                                                                          |
| <i>Cladonia coccifera</i>                       | 3                                                                                                   | 0                                                                            | 0                                                                          |
| Bare peat                                       | 15                                                                                                  | 50                                                                           | 0                                                                          |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     | <b>8</b>                                                                                            | <b>8</b>                                                                     | <b>11</b>                                                                  |
| Habitat Classification                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                              |                                                                            |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                                           | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                    | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                  |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | HE2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> heath (29.8% transitional) | BG2B <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Andromeda polifolia</i> bog (57.1% assigned) | BG2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. Bog (54.4% assigned) |



Plate 2-8 Exposed Bare Peat recorded in the vicinity of T4



*Plate 2-9 Active turf cutting in the vicinity of T4.*

## 2.2.5 Turbine 5 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 5 is located in the southwest of the Proposed Wind Farm on an area of Cutover Bog (PB4). The area has been subject to on-going turbary activity and drainage as a result is degraded. Large areas of exposed, bare peat were recorded in the area (Plate 2-10 & Plate 2-11). Evidence of historic peat cutting was also recorded in the vicinity of T3, with these areas now revegetated with pioneer species.

### 2.2.5.1 Temporary Construction Compound east of Turbine 5

The Temporary Construction Compound is located in the southwestern section of the Proposed Wind Farm, west of T5 in an area of cutover bog (PB4) that has been drained and was subject to previous peat extraction. The area is dry and firm with bare peat present. Man-made drainage features (FW4) are present throughout the wider area (Plate 2-12)

All three relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T5\_1 was 98.1% assigned to the ICV community BG1D *Eriophorum angustifolium* - *Campylopus introflexus* bog which is a species-poor, degraded peatland community. Relevé T5\_2 was classified as 46.7% transitional IVC community HE3C *Calluna vulgaris* - *Nardus stricta* heath. Relevé T5\_3 was 99.% assigned to the IVC community BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* - *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland. The relevés recorded showed clear signs of peat cutting and degradation with 15-40% cover of bare peat and low numbers of species (average species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 6). In addition, *Campylopus introflexus*, was recorded within the relevés further emphasising the degradation due to peat cutting. Therefore, the area for Turbine 5 and associated infrastructure is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog.

The botanical data for Turbine 5 is shown in Table 2-6 below.

Table 2-6 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 5 and hardstand

| Relevé (2m x 2m)                |                     | Date 13/05/2026                  | Date 16/09/2025                  | Date 13/05/2026                  |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
|                                 |                     | Relevé T5_1<br>ITM 543939 826035 | Relevé T5_2<br>ITM 543922 826028 | Relevé T5_3<br>ITM 543890 826058 |
| Species                         | Common Name         | % Cover                          |                                  |                                  |
| Vascular Plants                 |                     |                                  |                                  |                                  |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>  | Deer grass          | 0                                | 20                               | 60                               |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | Common cotton grass | 15                               | 15                               | 30                               |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>         | Ling heather        | 0                                | 2                                | 8                                |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>           | Cross leaved heath  | 0                                | 0                                | 1                                |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i>           | Soft Rush           | 1                                | 0                                | 0                                |
| <i>Juncus bulbosus</i>          | Bulbous Rush        | 5                                | 0                                | 0                                |

|                                                 |                                                                                           |                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |                           |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <i>Nardus stricta</i>                           | Mat grass                                                                                 | 0                                                                               | 70                                                                                                   | 0                         |
| <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>                    | Bog asphodel                                                                              | 0                                                                               | 0                                                                                                    | 2                         |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>                        | Tormentil                                                                                 | 0                                                                               | 2                                                                                                    | 0                         |
| <b>Non-vascular Plants</b>                      |                                                                                           |                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |                           |
| <i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>                        |                                                                                           | 0                                                                               | 2                                                                                                    | 0                         |
| <i>Campylopus introflexus</i>                   |                                                                                           | 5                                                                               | 0                                                                                                    | 2                         |
| <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>                     |                                                                                           | 0                                                                               | 3                                                                                                    | 0                         |
| <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>                      |                                                                                           | 0                                                                               | 0                                                                                                    | 2                         |
| Bare peat                                       |                                                                                           | 15                                                                              | 40                                                                                                   | 30                        |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                                                                                           | 4                                                                               | 7                                                                                                    | 7                         |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                                           |                                                                                 |                                                                                                      |                           |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                                 | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                       | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                                            | Cutover blanket bog (PB4) |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG1D <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> - <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> bog (98.1% assigned) | HE3C <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Nardus stricta</i> heath (46.7% transitional) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> - <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> bog (99.% assigned) |                           |



*Plate 2-10 Cutover, exposed bare peat at the proposed location of T5.*



*Plate 2-11 cutover bare peat at the proposed hardstand area of T5*



*Plate 2-12 Temporary Construction Compound west of T5.*

## 2.2.6

# Turbine 6 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 6 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located within a large, mature, dense Conifer Plantation (WD4) to the northwestern parcel of the Site. The Conifer Plantation is located on a level slope, on peat soils. Ground conditions were wet with carpets of bryophytes and *Sphagnum* recorded. This plantation is dominated by dense, mature Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*). Drainage Ditches (FW4) with varying levels of water and flow (ranging from dry to standing water to fast flows) were recorded throughout the conifer plantation (Plate 2-13 & Plate 2-14).

All three relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. The relevés for Turbine 6 and associated infrastructure were 96-98.6% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of byrophyte species (average total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =3.7). The relevé overall was species poor (average total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =4.7). Therefore, the area for Turbine 6 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 6 is shown in Table 2-7 below:

Table 2-7 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 6 and hardstand

| Table 27. Botanical Survey Results for Fossitt 6 and Hagsland |              |                          |                          |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10)                                             |              | Date 16/09/2025          | Date 16/09/2025          | Date 16/09/2025          |
|                                                               |              | Relevé T6_1              | Relevé T6_2              | Relevé T6_3              |
|                                                               |              | ITM 544062 828518        | ITM 544078 828484        | ITM 544117 828559        |
| Species                                                       | Common Name  | % Cover                  |                          |                          |
| Vascular Plants                                               |              |                          |                          |                          |
| Canopy Layer                                                  |              |                          |                          |                          |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                                       | Sitka spruce | 100                      | 100                      | 100                      |
| Ground Layer                                                  |              |                          |                          |                          |
| <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>                                   |              | 0                        | 20                       | 30                       |
| <i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>                                      |              | 40                       | 30                       | 30                       |
| <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>                                      |              | 20                       | 30                       | 0                        |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                                   |              | 30                       | 40                       | 40                       |
| <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>                                     |              | 0                        | 20                       | 0                        |
| Number of Species Recorded in Relevé                          |              | 4                        | 6                        | 4                        |
| Habitat Classification                                        |              |                          |                          |                          |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification                         |              | Conifer Plantation (WD4) | Conifer Plantation (WD4) | Conifer Plantation (WD4) |

| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (98.6% assigned) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (96% assigned) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (98.1% assigned) |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|



Plate 2-13 Hardstand area at T6 within Conifer Plantation (WD4)



*Plate 2-14 Dense Conifer Plantation (WD4) in the vicinity of T6*

## 2.2.7 Turbine 7 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 7 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located within a large, mature, dense Conifer Plantation (WD4) (Plate 2-15). The plantation is separated from adjacent cutover peatland by an existing access road. The ground layer was sparse and dominated by pine needles.

This relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. The relevé for Turbine 7 and associated infrastructure was 98.4% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevés recorded contained low numbers of byrophyte species (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =1). The relevé overall was species poor (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =3). Therefore, the area for Turbine 7 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 7 is shown in Table 2-8 below.

Table 2-8 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 7 and hardstand

|                                                 |                   |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)                              | ITM 544521 828993 | Date 16/09/2025                                      |
| Species                                         | Common Name       | % Cover                                              |
| <b>Canopy Layer</b>                             |                   |                                                      |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                         | Sitka spruce      | 50                                                   |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i>                           | Lodgepole pine    | 50                                                   |
| <b>Ground Layer</b>                             |                   |                                                      |
| <i>Thamnobryum alopecurum</i>                   |                   | 5                                                    |
| Pine needles                                    |                   | 95                                                   |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                   | <b>3</b>                                             |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                   |                                                      |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           |                   | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                             |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) |                   | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (98.4% assigned) |



*Plate 2-15 Conifer Plantation (WD4) where T7 is proposed.*

## 2.2.8 Turbine 8 and Associated Infrastructure

As the Proposed Wind Farm involves the repowering of the Existing Wind Farm, a particular effort was made to utilise as much of the existing infrastructure (i.e. access tracks, grid connection infrastructure, areas of hardstanding) as possible. As a result, Turbine 8 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located on an existing turbine hardstand classified as Buildings and Artificial Surfaces (BL3) and in an area of Spoil and Bare Ground (ED2) and Dry Meadow and Grassy Verges (GS2) (Plate 2-16).

These relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. The two relevés for Turbine 8 and associated infrastructure were 72.9% and 53.3% assigned to IVC community HE4D *Molinia caerulea* – *Potentilla erecta* – *Erica tetralix* heath. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of species (average species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 7.5). Therefore, the area for Turbine 8 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 8 is shown in Table 2-9 below.

Table 2-9 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 8 and hardstand.

Table 26: Botanical Survey Results for Farthing 6 and Hagstone.

| Relevé (2m x 2m)                     |                        | Date 17/09/2025   | Date 17/09/2025   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                                      |                        | Relevé T8_1       | Relevé T8_2       |
|                                      |                        | ITM 545231 828660 | ITM 545245 828633 |
| Species                              | Common Name            | % Cover           |                   |
| Vascular Plants                      |                        |                   |                   |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i>                | Soft rush              | 10                | 0                 |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>              | Purple moor grass      | 30                | 40                |
| <i>Epilobium montanum</i>            | Broadleaved willowherb | 0                 | 5                 |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>             | Tormentil              | 10                | 10                |
| <i>Tussilago farfara</i>             | Colts foot             | 2                 | 0                 |
| <i>Juncus articulatus</i>            | Jointed rush           | 20                | 10                |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i>           | Ribwort plantain       | 10                | 0                 |
| <i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>         | Sweet vernal grass     | 0                 | 10                |
| <i>Trifolium repens</i>              | White clover           | 0                 | 15                |
| <i>Equisetum arvense</i>             | Field horsetail        | 0                 | 2                 |
| Non-vascular Plants                  |                        |                   |                   |
|                                      |                        | 1                 | 30                |
| Number of Species Recorded in Relevé |                        | 7                 | 8                 |

| Habitat Classification                          |                                                                                                        |                                                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Spoil and bare ground (ED2)/Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)                                        | Spoil and bare ground (ED2)/Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2)                                        |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | HE4D <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Potentilla erecta</i> – <i>Erica tetralix</i> heath (72.9% assigned) | HE4D <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Potentilla erecta</i> – <i>Erica tetralix</i> heath (53.3% assigned) |



Plate 2-16 Proposed turbine 8 area - existing turbine and hardstand

2.2.9

## Turbine 9 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 9 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located in the centre of the Proposed Wind Farm in an area of Conifer Plantation (WD4) bisected by an existing access road. The plantation is located on a level slope, underlain by peat soils. The plantation was dominated by Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) (Plate 2-17).

This relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. The relevé for Turbine 9 and associated infrastructure was 99.7% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevés recorded contained low numbers of byrophyte species (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> = 3). The relevé overall was species poor (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> = 7). Therefore, the area for Turbine 9 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 9 is shown in Table 2-10 below.

Table 2-10 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 9 and hardstand.

|                                                 |                   |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)                              | ITM 545464 828203 | Date 17/09/2025                                      |
| Species                                         | Common Name       | % Cover                                              |
| <b>Canopy Layer</b>                             |                   |                                                      |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                         | Sitka spruce      | 90                                                   |
| <b>Ground Layer</b>                             |                   |                                                      |
| <i>Molina caerulea</i>                          | Purple moor grass | 5                                                    |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>                        | Tormentil         | 2                                                    |
| <i>Galium saxatile</i>                          | Heath bedstraw    | 2                                                    |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                     |                   | 15                                                   |
| <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>                       |                   | 30                                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum fallax</i>                          |                   | 15                                                   |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                   | <b>7</b>                                             |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                   |                                                      |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           |                   | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                             |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) |                   | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (99.7% assigned) |



*Plate 2-17 Hardstand area at T9 within plantation (WD4)*

## 2.2.10 Turbine 10 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 10 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located within mature Conifer Plantation (WD4), in the centre of the Proposed Wind Farm. This plantation is located on a slight slope, underlain by peat soils. The plantation was dominated by Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) (Plate 2-18 and Plate 2-19).

This relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T10\_1 was classified as 25.4% transitional IVC community BG2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog. Relevé T10\_2 was 97.1% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of byrophyte species (average total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =3.5). The relevé overall was species poor (average total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =7.5). Therefore, the area for Turbine 10 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 10 is shown in Table 2-11 below.

Table 2-11 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 10 and hardstand.

| Table 2.11 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 10 and Hardsand. |                             |                   |                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)                                               |                             | Date 17/09/2025   | Date 17/09/2025   |
|                                                                  |                             | Relevé T10_1      | Relevé T10_2      |
|                                                                  |                             | ITM 546038 828371 | ITM 546019 828356 |
| Species                                                          | Common Name                 | % Cover           |                   |
| Canopy Layer                                                     |                             |                   |                   |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                                          | Sitka spruce                | 50                | 50                |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i>                                            | Lodgepole pine              | 20                | 50                |
| Field Layer                                                      |                             |                   |                   |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>                                   | Deer grass                  | 15                | 0                 |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                                          | Ling heather                | 25                | 0                 |
| <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>                                       | Bilberry                    | 2                 | 0                 |
| <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>                                      | Male fern                   | 0                 | 3                 |
| Ground Layer                                                     |                             |                   |                   |
|                                                                  | <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i> | 15                | 0                 |
|                                                                  | <i>Sphagnum rubellum</i>    | 20                | 0                 |
|                                                                  | <i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>    | 10                | 0                 |
|                                                                  | <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>    | 20                | 0                 |
|                                                                  | <i>Hylocomium splendens</i> | 0                 | 20                |

|                                                 |                                                                                      |                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>                       | 0                                                                                    | 20                                                      |
| <i>Polytrichum commune</i>                      | 5                                                                                    | 0                                                       |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     | 10                                                                                   | 5                                                       |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                                      |                                                         |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Conifer Plantation (WD4)/                                                            | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                                |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> –<br><i>Eriophorum</i> spp. bog<br>(25.4% transitional) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i><br>forest (97.1% assigned) |



Plate 2-18 Hardstand area at T10 within Conifer Plantation (WD4)



*Plate 2-19 Hardstand area at T10 within Conifer Plantation (WD4)*

## 2.2.11 Turbine 11 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 11 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located to the east of the mature Conifer Plantation (WD4), to the centre of the Proposed Wind Farm. The plantation was dominated by Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) (Plate 2-20 and Plate 2-21). Man-made drainage features (FW4) are present throughout the wider area and located at the proposed hardstand of T11.

The relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. The relevés for Turbine 6 and associated infrastructure were 65% and 98.8% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of byrophyte species (average total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =3). The relevé overall was species poor (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =7). Therefore, the area for Turbine 11 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 11 is shown in Table 2-12 below.

Table 2-12 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 11 and hardstand.

| Table 2.12 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 11 and Hardsand. |                   |                                   |                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)                                               | ITM 546685 828662 | Date 17/09/2025                   | Date 17/09/2025                   |
|                                                                  |                   | Relevé T11_1<br>ITM 546680 828660 | Relevé T11_2<br>ITM 546677 828632 |
| Species                                                          | Common Name       | % Cover                           |                                   |
| Canopy Layer                                                     |                   |                                   |                                   |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                                          | Sitka spruce      | 70                                | 60                                |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i>                                            | Lodgepole pine    | 20                                | 40                                |
| Field Layer                                                      |                   |                                   |                                   |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>                                   | Deer grass        | 5                                 | 0                                 |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>                                          | Purple moor grass | 5                                 | 0                                 |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                                          | Ling heather      | 3                                 | 0                                 |
| Ground Layer                                                     |                   |                                   |                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>                                       |                   | 20                                | 0                                 |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                                      |                   | 20                                | 30                                |
| <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>                                        |                   | 0                                 | 30                                |
| <i>Polytrichum commune</i>                                       |                   | 10                                | 0                                 |
| <i>Sphagnum fallax</i>                                           |                   | 20                                | 0                                 |
| Number of Species Recorded in Relevé                             |                   | 9                                 | 4                                 |

| Habitat Classification                          |                                                    |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Conifer plantation (WD4)                           | Conifer plantation (WD4)                             |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (65% assigned) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (98.8% assigned) |



Plate 2-20 T11 located within an area of Conifer Plantation (WD4)



*Plate 2-21 T11 area within conifer plantation (WD4)*

## 2.2.12 Turbine 12 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 12 is located in the east of the Proposed Wind Farm on an area of Cutover Bog (PB4). The area has been subject to on-going turbary activity and drainage as a result is degraded. Large areas of exposed, bare peat were recorded in the area (Plate 2-22 and Plate 2-23). Evidence of historic peat cutting was also recorded in the vicinity of T3, with these areas now revegetated with pioneer species.

These relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T12\_1 was 73.7% assigned to the IVC community BG2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog. Relevé T12\_2 and T12\_3 were 62% assigned and 46.1% transition IVC community BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of species (average species/4 m<sup>2</sup> =8.3). Therefore, the area for Turbine 12 and associated infrastructure is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog.

The botanical data for Turbine 12 is shown in Table 2-13 below.

Table 2-13 Botanical Survey Results for T12 and hardstand.

| Relevé (2m x 2m)                | ITM 547276 828805   | Date 17/09/2025                   | Date 17/09/2025                   | Date 17/09/2025                   |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
|                                 |                     | Relevé T12_1<br>ITM 547277 828799 | Relevé T12_2<br>ITM 547257 828799 | Relevé T12_3<br>ITM 547232 828799 |
| Species                         | Common Name         | % Cover                           |                                   |                                   |
| Vascular Plants                 |                     |                                   |                                   |                                   |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>  | Deer grass          | 60                                | 80                                | 60                                |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | Common cotton grass | 15                                | 10                                | 15                                |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>         | Ling heather        | 30                                | 20                                | 50                                |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>           | Cross leaved heath  | 10                                | 10                                | 20                                |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>        | Tormentil           | 0                                 | 0                                 | 5                                 |
| <i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>     | Round leaved sundew | 5                                 | 5                                 | 0                                 |
| Non-vascular plants             |                     |                                   |                                   |                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>      |                     | 0                                 | 15                                | 0                                 |
| <i>Sphagnum rubellum</i>        |                     | 8                                 | 20                                | 8                                 |
| <i>Sphagnum Papillosum</i>      |                     | 6                                 | 0                                 | 5                                 |
| <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>        |                     | 10                                | 0                                 | 0                                 |

|                                                 |                                                                            |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>                   | 10                                                                         | 0                                                                                                        | 0                                                                                                              |
| <i>Cladonia spp.</i>                            | 0                                                                          | 5                                                                                                        | 8                                                                                                              |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     | <b>9</b>                                                                   | <b>8</b>                                                                                                 | <b>8</b>                                                                                                       |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                            |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                  | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                                                | Cutover blanket bog (PB4)                                                                                      |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. bog (73.7% assigned) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland (62% assigned) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland (46.1% transitional) |



Plate 2-22 Degraded Cutover Bog (PB4) in the vicinity of T12.



*Plate 2-23 Evidence of historic peat cutting in the vicinity of T5, revegetated with pioneer species.*

## 2.2.13 Turbine 13 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 13 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located in the mature Conifer Plantation (WD4), to the east of the Proposed Wind Farm. This plantation is located on sloping ground, underlain by peat soils. The plantation was dominated by Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) (Plate 2-24). The access road to T13 is located on Dry humid acid grassland (GS3)/ Wet grassland (GS4).

This relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. The relevé for Turbine 13 and associated infrastructure was 51.1% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevé recorded showed low numbers of byrophyte species (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =4). The relevé overall was species poor (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =8). Therefore, the area for Turbine 13 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 13 is shown in Table 2-14 below.

Table 2-14 Botanical Survey Results for Turbine 13 and hardstand.

|                                                 |                                                      |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)                              | ITM 547391 829193                                    | Date 17/09/2025 |
|                                                 |                                                      | Relevé T13_1    |
| Species                                         | Common Name                                          | % Cover         |
| <b>Canopy Layer</b>                             |                                                      |                 |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                         | Sitka Spruce                                         | 60              |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i>                           | Lodgepole Pine                                       | 40              |
| <b>Field Layer</b>                              |                                                      |                 |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>                  | Deer grass                                           | 5               |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                         | Ling heather                                         | 5               |
| <b>Ground Layer</b>                             |                                                      |                 |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                     |                                                      | 30              |
| <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>                        |                                                      | 40              |
| <i>Sphagnum fallax</i>                          |                                                      | 30              |
| <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>                      |                                                      | 10              |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                                                      | <b>8</b>        |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                      |                 |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                             |                 |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (51.1% assigned) |                 |



*Plate 2-24 T13 located within a dense Conifer Plantation (WD4).*

## 2.2.14 Turbine 14 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 14 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located within mature Conifer Plantation (WD4) and dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2), to the east of the Proposed Wind Farm (Plate 2-25). The ground layer of the conifer plantation in the vicinity of T14 is dry underfoot. The plantation was dominated by Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) (Plate 2-26).

These relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T14\_1 and T14\_2 were classified as 17.5% and 46.5% transitional HE4E *Molinia caerulea* – *Calluna vulgaris* – *Erica tetralix* heath. Relevé T14\_3 was 74.4% assigned to IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevé overall was species poor (average total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> = 7.7). Therefore, the area for Turbine 14 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

### 2.2.14.1 Temporary Construction Compound west of Turbine 14

The Temporary Construction Compound is located in the eastern section of the Proposed Wind Farm, west of T14 in an area of Wet Grassland (GS4). (Plate 2-27). The grassland is dominated by Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*).

These relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for temporary construction compound. The relevé was 61.3% assigned to the IVC community GL2D *Juncus effusus* – *Rumex acetosa* grassland. The relevé recorded showed low numbers of species (average species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 5). Therefore, area of the temporary construction compound has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 14 is shown in Table 2-15 below.

Table 2-15 Botanical Survey Results for T14 and hardstand

| Relevé (10m x 10m)       |                   | Date 17/09/2025   | Date 17/09/2025   | Date 17/09/2025   |
|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
|                          |                   | Relevé T14_1      | Relevé T14_2      | Relevé T14_3      |
|                          |                   | ITM 547752 828352 | ITM 547780 828346 | ITM 547737 828339 |
| Species                  | Common Name       | % Cover           |                   |                   |
| Canopy Layer             |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>  | Sitka spruce      | 5                 | 0                 | 50                |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i>    | Lodgepole pine    | 0                 | 0                 | 50                |
| Field Layer              |                   |                   |                   |                   |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i>    | Soft rush         | 70                | 30                | 0                 |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>  | Purple moor grass | 40                | 20                | 10                |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>  | Ling heather      | 20                | 10                | 0                 |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i> | Tormentil         | 10                | 0                 | 0                 |
| <i>Galium saxatile</i>   | Heath bedstraw    | 10                | 0                 | 0                 |
| <i>Equisetum arvense</i> | Field horsetail   | 0                 | 10                | 0                 |

|                                                 |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                           |                                                      |                          |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Potentilla anserina</i>                      | Silverweed                                                                                                | 0                                                                                                         | 40                                                   | 0                        |
| <i>Holcus lanatus</i>                           | Yorkshire fog                                                                                             | 0                                                                                                         | 15                                                   | 0                        |
| <i>Lotus corniculatus</i>                       | Bird's foot trefoil                                                                                       | 0                                                                                                         | 10                                                   | 0                        |
| <i>Prunella vulgaris</i>                        | Self-heal                                                                                                 | 0                                                                                                         | 5                                                    | 0                        |
| <i>Vicia cracca</i>                             | Tufted vetch                                                                                              | 0                                                                                                         | 5                                                    | 0                        |
| <i>Euphrasia officinalis</i>                    | Eyebrights                                                                                                | 0                                                                                                         | 2                                                    | 0                        |
| <b>Ground Layer</b>                             |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                           |                                                      |                          |
| <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>                     |                                                                                                           | 25                                                                                                        | 0                                                    | 0                        |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                     |                                                                                                           | 0                                                                                                         | 0                                                    | 20                       |
| <i>Polytrichum commune</i>                      |                                                                                                           | 20                                                                                                        | 0                                                    | 0                        |
| <i>Thamnobryum alopecurum</i>                   |                                                                                                           | 0                                                                                                         | 40                                                   | 0                        |
| <i>Thuidium tamariscinum</i>                    |                                                                                                           | 0                                                                                                         | 0                                                    | 40                       |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                                                                                                           | 8                                                                                                         | 11                                                   | 4                        |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                           |                                                      |                          |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Conifer plantation (WD4)                                                                                  | Conifer plantation (WD4)                                                                                  | Conifer plantation (WD4)                             | Conifer plantation (WD4) |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | HE4E <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Erica tetralix</i> heath (46.5% transitional) | HE4E <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Erica tetralix</i> heath (17.5% transitional) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (74.4% assigned) |                          |



*Plate 2-25 Dry meadows and grassy verges (GS2) habitat within footprint of T14*



*Plate 2-26 Hardstand location at T14 within conifer plantation (WD4)*



*Plate 2-27 Temporary construction compound area west of Turbine 14 in an area of wet grassland (GS4)*

## 2.2.15 Turbine 15 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 15 will comprise the repowering of an existing turbine. The existing turbine hardstand consisting of bare ground (ED2) will be extended (Plate 2-29). Habitats on the margin of the existing hardstand comprise recolonising bare ground (ED3) and Blanket Bog (PB2). The footprint of the proposed extension to the hardstand area as well as the proposed crane pads expand to the north into an area of degraded blanked bog (PB2) (Plate 2-29). Sphagnum cover in this area was around 20% and the ling heather growth was tall and leggy. Further north, 2 flushed areas were recorded with Soft rush (*Juncus effusus*), Hare's tail cotton grass (*Eriophorum vaginatum*), Common cotton grass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*), Heath rush (*Juncus squarrosus*) *Polytrichum commune*, *Sphagnum palustre*, *Sphagnum fallax*, *Hylocomium splendens* and *Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*.

This relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. The relevé was 90.6% assigned to the IVC community BG1D *Eriophorum angustifolium* - *Campylopus introflexus* bog. The relevé overall was species poor (total species/4 m<sup>2</sup>=9). Therefore, the area for Turbine 15 and associated infrastructure is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog.

The botanical data for Turbine 15 is shown below in Table 2-16 below.

Table 2-16 Botanical Survey Results for T15 and hardstand

| Relevé (2m x 2m)                                | ITM 548256 828259        | Date 27/03/2026                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Species                                         | Common Name              | % Cover                                                                                   |
| <b>Vascular Plants</b>                          |                          |                                                                                           |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>                 | Common cotton grass      | 3                                                                                         |
| <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>                     | Hare's tail cotton grass | 35                                                                                        |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                         | Ling heather             | 50                                                                                        |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>                        | Tormentil                | 10                                                                                        |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>                         | Purple moor grass        | 1                                                                                         |
| <b>Non-vascular Plants</b>                      |                          |                                                                                           |
| <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>                     |                          | 25                                                                                        |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                     |                          | 15                                                                                        |
| <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>                        |                          | 10                                                                                        |
| <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>                   |                          | 10                                                                                        |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                          | <b>9</b>                                                                                  |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                          |                                                                                           |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           |                          | <b>ED2 Bare Ground/ PB2 Blanket Bog</b>                                                   |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) |                          | BG1D <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> – <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> bog (90.6% assigned) |



Plate 2-28 Hardstand area of T15 comprising Spoil and bare ground/Recolonising bare ground (ED2/ED3)



Plate 2-29 Area north of the existing turbine in the footprint of extension area comprising blanket bog (PB2)

## 2.2.16 Turbine 16 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 16 and associated infrastructure is located to the east of the Proposed Wind Farm, on a mosaic of Upland Blanket Bog (PB2) and Wet Heath (HH3) (Plate 2-30 & Plate 2-31). The habitat is dominated by Deer grass (*Trichophorum germanicum*). The area was dry underfoot, very dense and sloping. The area was severely drained and located approximately 30m from an internal access road which acts as a severe drain to the area. Evidence of sheep grazing and burning was also present. The peat depth was between 1.6m and 0.8m.

These relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé T16\_1 and T16\_3 were 92.5% and 35.7% transitional to the IVC community BG2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog. Relevé T16\_2 was 53.9% assigned to the IVC community BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland. The BG2E habitat has the potential to align with Annex I Blanket Bog (active)\* [7130], however only relevé T16\_1 was assigned to this habitat type and given the mosaic nature of the surrounding habitat, this relevé is not representative for a larger area of Annex 1 habitat. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of species (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 8.3), has evidence of grazing and is severely drained. Therefore, the area for Turbine 16 and associated infrastructure is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog.

The botanical data for Turbine 16 is shown below in Table 2-17 below.

Table 2-17 Botanical Survey Results for T16 and hardstand

| Table 2.17 Botanical Survey Results for T16 and hardstand |                     |                                      |                                   |                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Relevé (2m x 2m)                                          |                     | Date 18/09/2025                      | Date 18/09/2025                   | Date 18/09/2025                      |
|                                                           |                     | Relevé T16_1<br>ITM 548571<br>827472 | Relevé T16_2<br>ITM 548572 827497 | Relevé T16_3<br>ITM 548572<br>827526 |
| Species                                                   | Common Name         | % Cover                              |                                   |                                      |
| Vascular Plants                                           |                     |                                      |                                   |                                      |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i>                                     | Soft Rush           | 0                                    | 0                                 | 15                                   |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>                            | Deer grass          | 40                                   | 70                                | 40                                   |
| <i>Juncus squarrosus</i>                                  | Heath rush          | 0                                    | 0                                 | 15                                   |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>                           | Common cotton grass | 50                                   | 30                                | 0                                    |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                                   | Ling heather        | 20                                   | 8                                 | 30                                   |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>                                     | Cross-leaved Heath  | 10                                   | 0                                 | 0                                    |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>                                  | Tormentil           | 10                                   | 30                                | 15                                   |
| Non-vascular Plants                                       |                     |                                      |                                   |                                      |
|                                                           |                     | 0                                    | 0                                 | 15                                   |
|                                                           |                     | 30                                   | 20                                | 10                                   |

|                                                 |                                                                        |                                                                                                            |                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>                      | 15                                                                     | 25                                                                                                         | 25                                                                        |
| <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>                        | 0                                                                      | 15                                                                                                         | 0                                                                         |
| <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>                   | 0                                                                      | 0                                                                                                          | 10                                                                        |
| <i>Polytrichum commune</i>                      | 8                                                                      | 0                                                                                                          | 0                                                                         |
| <i>Rhytidiadelphus loreus</i>                   | 5                                                                      | 0                                                                                                          | 0                                                                         |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     | <b>9</b>                                                               | <b>7</b>                                                                                                   | <b>9</b>                                                                  |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                        |                                                                                                            |                                                                           |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Upland blanket bog (PB2)                                               | Upland Blanket Bog (PB2)                                                                                   | Upland blanket bog (PB2)                                                  |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Eriophorum spp.</i> (92.5% assigned) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland (53.9% assigned) | BG2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Eriophorum spp</i> (35.7% transitional) |



Plate 2-30 Turbine 16 hardstone located on a mosaic of upland blanket bog (PB2) and wet heath (HH3).



*Plate 2-31 Turbine 16 located on a mosaic of upland blanket bog (PB2) and wet heath (HH3).*

## 2.2.17 Turbine 17 and Associated Infrastructure

Turbine 17 and associated Wind Farm infrastructure (hard stand & access roads) are located in the mature Conifer Plantation (WD4), to the southeast of the Proposed Wind Farm. The plantation was dominated by dead Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) (Plate 2-32).

This relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. The relevé for Turbine 17 and associated infrastructure was 90.4% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. This relevé recorded showed low numbers of byrophyte species (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup>=5). The relevé overall was species poor (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup>=6). Therefore, the area for Turbine 17 and associated infrastructure has low conservation value.

The botanical data for Turbine 17 is shown in Table 2-18 below.

Table 2-18 Botanical Survey Results for T17 and hardstand

|                                                 |                   |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)                              | ITM 548184 827762 | Date 17/09/2025                                      |
| Species                                         | Common Name       | % Cover                                              |
| <b>Canopy Layer</b>                             |                   |                                                      |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                         | Sitka spruce      | 90                                                   |
| <b>Ground Layer</b>                             |                   |                                                      |
| <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>                     |                   | 15                                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>                        |                   | 15                                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum cuspidatum</i>                      |                   | 30                                                   |
| <i>Thamnobryum alopecurum</i>                   |                   | 15                                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum fallax</i>                          |                   | 15                                                   |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                   | <b>6</b>                                             |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                   |                                                      |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           |                   | Conifer Plantation WD4                               |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) |                   | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (90.4% assigned) |



*Plate 2-32 Hardstand area at T17 within dense conifer plantation (WD4)*

2.2.18

## Proposed Substation and Associated Temporary Construction Compound

The proposed substation and associated temporary construction compound are located within mature Conifer Plantation (WD4), to the northwest of the Proposed Wind Farm. The plantation is dominated by Sitka Spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) and Lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) (Plate 2-33).

These relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the proposed substation and temporary construction compound. The conifer plantation understory was 79% assigned to the IVC community BG2C *Erica tetralix* – *Molinia caerulea* – *Cladonia portentosa* peatland and classified as 16.8% transitional to the IVC community HE3A *Calluna vulgaris* – *Hylocomium splendens* heath. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of byrophyte species (average total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =4). The relevé overall was species poor (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =8). Therefore, the area for the proposed substation and temporary construction compound has low conservation value.

The botanical data for the proposed substation is shown in Table 2-19 below.

Table 2-19 Botanical Survey Results for the Proposed Substation.

| Site 216: Boundary Survey Results for the Proposed Substation |                    |                   |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)                                            |                    | Date 16/09/2025   | Date 16/09/2025   |
|                                                               |                    | SS1_1             | SS1_2             |
|                                                               |                    | ITM 543635 828999 | ITM 543601 829067 |
| Species                                                       | Common Name        | % Cover           |                   |
| Canopy Layer                                                  |                    |                   |                   |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                                       | Sitka spruce       | 30                | 50                |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i>                                         | Lodgepole pine     | 70                | 50                |
| Field layer                                                   |                    |                   |                   |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                                       | Ling heather       | 20                | 15                |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>                                       | Purple moor grass  | 50                | 0                 |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>                                         | Cross-leaved heath | 5                 | 0                 |
| Ground Layer                                                  |                    |                   |                   |
| <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>                                   |                    | 0                 | 20                |
| <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>                                    |                    | 0                 | 10                |
| <i>Sphagnum palustre</i>                                      |                    | 0                 | 40                |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                                   |                    | 15                | 30                |
| <i>Polytrichum commune</i>                                    |                    | 0                 | 20                |
| <i>Cladonia portentosa</i>                                    |                    | 5                 | 5                 |
| Number of Species Recorded in Relevé                          |                    | 7                 | 9                 |

| Habitat Classification                          |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                                                                                           | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                                                                    |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG2C <i>Erica tetralix</i> –<br><i>Molinia caerulea</i> –<br><i>Cladonia portentosa</i><br>peatland (79% assigned) | HE3A <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> –<br><i>Hylocomium splendens</i><br>heath (16.8% transitional) |



Plate 2-33 Proposed substation located within Conifer Plantation (WD4).

## 2.2.19 Proposed Borrow Pits

### 2.2.19.1 Proposed Borrow Pit East of Turbine 9

The proposed borrow pit east of T9 is located within conifer plantation (WD4) dominated by Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*) (Plate 2-34).

The relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the proposed borrow pit. The relevés for the proposed borrow pit were 96.5% and 99.4% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of byrophyte species (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =3.5). The relevé overall was species poor (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =6). Therefore, the area of the proposed borrow pit has low conservation value.

The botanical data is presented in the Table 2-20 below.

Table 2-20 Botanical Survey Results for proposed borrow pit east of Turbine 9

| Table 22: Detailed Survey Results for Proposed Brown Project of Phase 1 |                |                                                      |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)                                                      |                | Date 17/09/2025                                      | Date 17/09/2025                                      |
|                                                                         |                | Relevé PB1_1<br>ITM 545726 828162                    | Relevé PB1_2<br>ITM 545867 828246                    |
| Species                                                                 | Common Name    | % Cover                                              |                                                      |
| Canopy Layer                                                            |                |                                                      |                                                      |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>                                                 | Sitka spruce   | 70                                                   | 80                                                   |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i>                                                   | Lodgepole pine | 30                                                   | 20                                                   |
| Field Layer                                                             |                |                                                      |                                                      |
| <i>Blechnum spicant</i>                                                 | Hard fern      | 0                                                    | 1                                                    |
| Ground Layer                                                            |                |                                                      |                                                      |
| <i>Pleurozium schreberi</i>                                             |                | 20                                                   | 0                                                    |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                                             |                | 30                                                   | 20                                                   |
| <i>Hypnum jutlandicum</i>                                               |                | 10                                                   | 20                                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum fallax</i>                                                  |                | 30                                                   | 30                                                   |
| Number of Species Recorded in Relevé                                    |                | 6                                                    | 6                                                    |
| Habitat Classification                                                  |                |                                                      |                                                      |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification                                   |                | Conifer Plantation WD4                               | Conifer Plantation WD4                               |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)                         |                | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (96.5% assigned) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (99.4% assigned) |



*Plate 2-34 Conifer plantation within the footprint of a proposed borrow pit.*

## 2.2.19.2 Proposed Borrow Pit North of Turbine 14

The proposed borrow pit north of Turbine 14 is located on a steep, dry slope, in an area of Upland Blanket Bog (PB2) (Plate 2-35).

The relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for proposed borrow pit. Relevé PB2\_1 was 99.4% assigned to the IVC community BG2C *Erica tetralix* – *Molinia caerulea* – *Cladonia portentosa* peatland Relevé PB2\_2 was classified as 28.7% transition IVC community HE2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* heath. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of species (average species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 8). The area of the proposed borrow pit partially supports marginal blanket bog habitat which is highly degraded and of lower conservation value than nearby blanket bog communities and uncut blanket bog has low conservation value.

The botanical data is presented in the Table 2-21 below.

Table 2-21 Botanical Survey Results for borrow pit north of Turbine 14

| Table 2-21 Botanical Survey Results for borrow pit north of Talone 14 |                     |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Relevé (2m x 2m)                                                      |                     | Date 18/09/2025                                                                                             | Date 18/09/2025                                                                                     |
|                                                                       |                     | Relevé PB2_1                                                                                                | Relevé PB2_2                                                                                        |
|                                                                       |                     | ITM 547718 828459                                                                                           | ITM 547740 828431                                                                                   |
| Species                                                               | Common Name         | % Cover                                                                                                     |                                                                                                     |
| Vascular Plants                                                       |                     |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                     |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i>                                        | Deer grass          | 10                                                                                                          | 20                                                                                                  |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>                                       | Common cotton grass | 40                                                                                                          | 40                                                                                                  |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                                               | Ling heather        | 70                                                                                                          | 80                                                                                                  |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>                                               | Purple moor grass   | 10                                                                                                          | 10                                                                                                  |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>                                                 | Cross leaved heath  | 5                                                                                                           | 10                                                                                                  |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>                                              | Tormentil           | 10                                                                                                          | 10                                                                                                  |
| Non-vascular Plants                                                   |                     |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                     |
|                                                                       |                     | 0                                                                                                           | 5                                                                                                   |
| <i>Campylopus introflexus</i>                                         |                     | 0                                                                                                           | 5                                                                                                   |
| <i>Sphagnum rubellum</i>                                              |                     | 15                                                                                                          | 0                                                                                                   |
| <i>Cladonia portentosa</i>                                            |                     | 20                                                                                                          | 10                                                                                                  |
| Number of Species Recorded in Relevé                                  |                     | 8                                                                                                           | 8                                                                                                   |
| Habitat Classification                                                |                     |                                                                                                             |                                                                                                     |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification                                 |                     | Upland blanket bog (PB2)                                                                                    | Upland blanket bog (PB2)                                                                            |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification)                       |                     | BG2C <i>Erica tetralix</i> – <i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Cladonia portentosa</i> peatland (99.4% assigned) | HE2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> heath (28.7% transitional) |



*Plate 2-35 Habitat within the footprint of proposed borrow pit north of Turbine 14.*

### 2.2.19.3 Proposed Borrow Pit west of Turbine 15

The proposed borrow pit west of Turbine 15 is located partially within conifer plantation (WD4) and partially on Upland Blanket bog (PB2). (Plate 2-36).

The relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the turbine infrastructure. Relevé PB3\_1 and PB3\_3 for the proposed borrow pit were 45.3% transitional and 99.4% assigned to the IVC community WL5A *Picea sitchensis* forest. This IVC community represents non-native conifer plantation that are generally regarded as having a low conservation value. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of byrophyte species (average total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =2.3). The relevé overall was species poor (total species/100 m<sup>2</sup> =6). Relevé PB3\_2 was 63.2% assigned to the IVC community BG2F *Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum* – *Eriophorum angustifolium* peatland is on average a species-rich community (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 19.2, *n* = 152). However, as stated above the relevés recorded contained low numbers of species therefore, the area of the proposed borrow pit has low conservation value.

The botanical data is presented in the Table 2-22 below.

Table 2-22 Botanical Survey Results for borrow pit west of Turbine 15

|                                |                    |                                   |                                   |                                   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Relevé (10m x 10m)             | ITM: 548052 828177 | Date 17/09/2025                   | Date 17/09/2025                   | Date 17/09/2025                   |
|                                |                    | Relevé PB3_1<br>ITM 548051 828178 | Relevé PB3_2<br>ITM 548111 828174 | Relevé PB3_3<br>ITM 548115 828121 |
| Species                        | Common Name        | % Cover                           |                                   |                                   |
| Canopy layer                   |                    |                                   |                                   |                                   |
| <i>Picea sitchensis</i>        | Sitka spruce       | 80                                | 0                                 | 100                               |
| <i>Pinus contorta</i>          | Lodgepole pine     | 20                                | 0                                 | 0                                 |
| Field layer                    |                    |                                   |                                   |                                   |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>        | Purple moor grass  | 60                                | 5                                 | 0                                 |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i>          | Soft rush          | 0                                 | 5                                 | 0                                 |
| <i>Trichophorum germanicum</i> | Deer grass         | 0                                 | 30                                | 0                                 |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>       | Tormentil          | 0                                 | 5                                 | 0                                 |
| <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>    | Male fern          | 5                                 | 0                                 | 0                                 |
| <i>Carex echinata</i>          | Star sedge         | 0                                 | 2                                 | 0                                 |
| Ground layer                   |                    |                                   |                                   |                                   |
| <i>Polytrichum commune</i>     |                    | 20                                | 0                                 | 20                                |
| <i>Sphagnum tenellum</i>       |                    | 0                                 | 0                                 | 10                                |

|                                                 |                                                          |                                                                                                            |                                                      |
|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>                   | 0                                                        | 10                                                                                                         | 0                                                    |
| <i>Hylocomium splendens</i>                     | 0                                                        | 0                                                                                                          | 15                                                   |
| <i>Thuidium tamarascinum</i>                    | 40                                                       | 0                                                                                                          | 30                                                   |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     | <b>6</b>                                                 | <b>6</b>                                                                                                   | <b>5</b>                                             |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                          |                                                                                                            |                                                      |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                                 | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                                                                                   | Conifer Plantation (WD4)                             |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (45.3% transitional) | BG2F <i>Trichophorum cespitosum/germanicum</i> – <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> peatland (63.2% assigned) | WL5A <i>Picea sitchensis</i> forest (99.4% assigned) |



Plate 2-36 Conifer plantation in the footprint of proposed borrow pit

2.2.20

## Upland Blanket Bog Habitat within the EIAR boundary outside the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm

This habitat is located in the southwest of the Proposed Wind Farm on an area of intact Upland Blanket Bog (PB2) adjacent to Turbine 2-Turbine 4 and Turbine 1- Turbine 5 (Plate 2-37). This habitat is located within the EIAR boundary outside the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm infrastructure. The area adjacent to T1-T5 (relevé **Q2603263**) contains bog pools and several drains were recorded surrounding this habitat. The ground surface was hard but wobbly. The habitat is homogeneous in nature. The area adjacent to T2-T4 (relevé **Q2603261**) was hard and firm to walk on, with no pools recorded.

The relevés were conducted in an area representative of the entire area. The relevés were 84.9% and 96.4% assigned to the IVC community BG2E *Calluna vulgaris* – *Eriophorum* spp. bog. The relevés recorded showed low numbers of species (species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 9.5). Therefore, this area contains a higher number of species present in comparison to the areas of degraded cutover bog and aligns with Annex I Blanket bog (active)\* [7130] habitat. Species numbers are still low compared to pristine examples of this Annex I habitat Type, but the lack of negative indicators and the lack of bare peat, in conjunction with an extended layer of Sphagnum mosses supports the alignment with Annex 1 Blanket bog (active)\* [7130] habitat.

The botanical data for this habitat is shown in Table 2-23 below.

Table 2-23 Botanical Survey results for the habitat to the southeast of Turbine 2 and to the southeast of Turbine 1 within the EIAR boundary outside the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm

CLAR boundary outside the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm

|                                 |                          |                   |                   |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Relevé (2m x 2m)                |                          | Date 26/03/2026   | 26/03/2026        |
|                                 |                          | Relevé Q2603261   | Relevé Q2603263   |
|                                 |                          | ITM 543683 827725 | ITM 543833 826686 |
| Species                         | Common Name              | % Cover           |                   |
| Vascular Plants                 |                          |                   |                   |
| <i>Molinia caerulea</i>         | Purple moor grass        | 15                | 15                |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> | Common cotton grass      | 5                 | 3                 |
| <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>     | Hare's-tail cotton grass | 45                | 25                |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>         | Ling heather             | 30                | 45                |
| <i>Erica tetralix</i>           | Cross leaved heath       | 5                 | 5                 |
| <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>    | Bog asphodel             | 0                 | 7                 |
| <i>Potentilla erecta</i>        | Tormentil                | 3                 | 1                 |
| Non-vascular Plants             |                          |                   |                   |

|                                                 |                                                                                 |                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sphagnum capillifolium</i>                   | 15                                                                              | 50                                                                              |
| <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>                      | 15                                                                              | 2                                                                               |
| <i>Cladonia portentosa</i>                      | 25                                                                              | 4                                                                               |
| <i>Kindbergia praelonga</i>                     | 0                                                                               | 4                                                                               |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     | <b>9</b>                                                                        | <b>11</b>                                                                       |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                                 |                                                                                 |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Upland Blanket Bog (PB2)                                                        | Upland Blanket Bog (PB2)                                                        |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. peatland (96.4% assigned) | BG2E <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> - <i>Eriophorum</i> spp. peatland (77.1% assigned) |



Plate 2-37 Intact Upland Blanket Bog habitat within the EIAR boundary outside the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm adjacent to T1-T5

## 2.2.21 Proposed Enhancement Area

The enhancement area is located in the central parcel of the Proposed Wind Farm on an area of Eroding Blanket Bog (PB5) to the south west of Turbine 9 (Plate 2-38). The area shows sign of overgrazing with some areas of up to 60% bare peat. This area also contained numerous sheep tracks with some erosion channels being up to 30cm deep. In addition, deep drains, up to 1m in depth, were recorded within this area.

The relevé was conducted in an area representative of the entire area for the proposed enhancement area. The relevé was 74.6% assigned to the IVC community BG1D *Eriophorum angustifolium* - *Campylopus introflexus* bog. The recorded relevé showed clear signs of degradation with 72% cover of bare peat and low numbers of species (average species/4 m<sup>2</sup> = 6). Including cover of *Campylopus introflexus*, further emphasises the degradation due to erosion.

The botanical data for this habitat is shown in Table 2-24 below.

Table 2-24 Botanical Survey results for the habitat to the southeast of Turbine 1 within the EIAR boundary outside the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm

|                                                 |                                                                                                |                 |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Relevé (2m x 2m)                                | ITM: 545142<br>828050                                                                          | Date 19/02/2026 |
|                                                 |                                                                                                | Relevé EA_1     |
| Species                                         | Common Name                                                                                    | % Cover         |
| <b>Vascular Plants</b>                          |                                                                                                |                 |
| <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>                 | Common cotton grass                                                                            | 5               |
| <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i>                     | Hare's-tail cotton grass                                                                       | 1               |
| <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>                         | Ling heather                                                                                   | 7               |
| <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>                    | Bog asphodel                                                                                   | 5               |
| <i>Trichophorum cespitosum germanicum</i>       | Deergrass                                                                                      | 5               |
| <b>Non-vascular Plants</b>                      |                                                                                                |                 |
| <i>Campylopus introflexus</i>                   |                                                                                                | 5               |
| Bare Peat Cover                                 |                                                                                                | 72              |
| <b>Number of Species Recorded in Relevé</b>     |                                                                                                | <b>6</b>        |
| <b>Habitat Classification</b>                   |                                                                                                |                 |
| Fossitt (2000) Habitat Classification           | Eroding Blanket Bog (PB5)                                                                      |                 |
| IVC (Irish Vegetation Community classification) | BG1D <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> - <i>Campylopus introflexus</i> peatland (74.6% assigned) |                 |



*Plate 2-38 Eroding Blanket Bog recorded in Enhancement Area to the southwest of Turbine 9*

## Discussion

The habitats within the footprint of the Proposed Wind Farm are primarily composed of Cutover bog (PB4), Conifer plantation (WD4) and Existing Wind Farm infrastructure (BL3), with limited areas of upland blanket bog (PB2). Most habitats that are proposed to be lost are degraded, modified non-Annex I habitat and are of low ecological value.

The cutover bog at Turbine 1 to Turbine 5, Turbine 12 and the proposed temporary construction compound west of Turbine 5 are in poor condition, with low species diversity and bare peat present, and does not meet the requirement for Annex I blanket bog [7130]. Conifer plantation, which occurs at Turbine 6, Turbine, Turbine 9 to Turbine 11, Turbine 13, Turbine 14, Turbine 17 and at the proposed borrow pits are species poor, non-Annex I habitat and are of low ecological value.

Turbine 8 and Turbine 15 are located on existing infrastructure (BL3 and ED2), with only minor loss of wet grassland (GS2) or small areas of modified upland blanket bog. The temporary construction compound west of Turbine 14 is located on wet grassland (GS2). This habitat is species poor and non-Annex I habitat and therefore of low ecological value.

Only Turbine 16 and the borrow pits near Turbine 14 and Turbine 15 are located within upland blanket bog with some affinity to Annex I blanket bog [7130] habitat. These areas are species-poor and modified, reducing their conservation significance. Upland blanket bog outside the development footprint supports a moderate species assemblage with no bare peat present and may have Annex I potential, but this habitat is not being directly impacted by the Proposed Project.

The proposed enhancement area comprises of degraded, Eroding blanket bog (PB5) with high bare peat cover (72%) and presence of *Campylopus introflexus*, indicating poor condition and suitability for restoration.

Overall, the project results primarily in the loss of low-value, modified habitats, with only limited loss of degraded blanket bog. No high-quality Annex I habitat will be removed, and the proposed enhancement area provides an opportunity for ecological gain through targeted restoration.

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