

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Proposed Slievegrine Renewable Energy Development

Table of Contents



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT..... 1-1

1.1	Introduction	1-1
1.1.1	References to the Proposed Project	1-1
1.1.2	Proposed Site Location	1-2
1.2	Legislative Context of Environmental Impact Assessment.....	1-6
1.2.1	EIAR Guidance	1-7
1.2.2	Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities	1-7
1.3	The Applicant.....	1-8
1.4	Brief Description of the Proposed Project	1-8
1.5	Need for the Proposed Project	1-10
1.5.1	Overview	1-10
1.5.1.1	Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Emissions	1-13
1.5.2	Energy Security	1-16
1.5.2.1	REPowerEU	1-18
1.5.2.2	Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 and 2024/223	1-18
1.5.3	Competitiveness of Wind Energy	1-19
1.5.4	European Renewable Energy Policy and Targets	1-19
1.5.4.1	Renewable Energy Directive.....	1-19
1.5.5	National Renewable Energy Targets	1-20
1.5.6	Increasing Energy Consumption.....	1-21
1.5.7	Reduction of Carbon Emissions and Other Greenhouse Gases	1-24
1.5.8	Economic Benefits.....	1-26
1.5.8.1	Employment potential	1-26
1.5.8.2	Commercial Rates	1-27
1.6	Purpose and Scope of the EIAR	1-27
1.7	Structure and Content of the EIAR	1-28
1.7.1	General Structure	1-28
1.7.2	Description of Likely Significant Effects and Impacts	1-28
1.8	Project Team	1-32
1.8.1	Project Team Responsibilities	1-32
1.8.2	Project Team Members	1-33
1.8.2.1	MKO	1-33
1.8.2.2	AWN Consulting	1-42
1.8.2.3	Tobar Archaeological Services	1-43
1.8.2.4	SYSTRA Ltd.....	1-43
1.9	Difficulties Encountered.....	1-45
1.10	Viewing and Purchasing of the EIAR.....	1-45

2. BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROJECT..... 2-1

2.1	Introduction	2-1
2.1.1	Statement of Authority	2-1
2.1.2	Renewable Energy Resources	2-2
2.1.3	Need for the Proposed Project.....	2-2
2.2	Climate Change Policy and Targets	2-3
2.2.1	International Climate Policy.....	2-4
2.2.1.1	Project Compliance with International Climate Policy	2-10
2.2.2	National Climate Policy	2-10
2.2.2.1	Project Compliance with National Climate Policy	2-16
2.3	Renewable Energy Policy and Targets	2-16
2.3.1	European Renewable Energy Policy	2-17
2.3.1.1	Renewable Energy Directive.....	2-17

2.3.2	National Renewable Energy Policy	2-21
2.3.2.1	Project Compliance with National Renewable Energy Policy	2-23
2.4	Climate and Renewable Energy Target Progress	2-23
2.5	Planning Policy Context	2-28
2.5.1	Introduction	2-28
2.5.2	National Planning Policy Context	2-29
2.5.2.1	Project Compliance with the National Policy	2-31
2.5.3	Regional Policy	2-31
2.5.3.2	Project Compliance with Regional Policy	2-34
2.5.4	Local Policy Context	2-34
2.5.5	Waterford City & County Development Plan 2022 -2028	2-34
2.5.5.2	Project Compliance with Local Policy	2-60
2.5.6	Other Relevant Onshore Wind Energy Planning Policy Publications	2-60
2.6	Planning History	2-64
2.6.1	Planning Applications within the Planning Application Boundary	2-64
2.6.2	Wind Energy Developments within 25km of the Site	2-65
2.7	Scoping and Consultation	2-69
2.7.1	Scoping	2-69
2.7.2	Scoping Responses	2-69
2.8	Other Consultations	2-90
2.8.1	Pre- Planning Meetings	2-90
2.8.1.1	An Coimisiún Pleanála	2-90
2.8.1.2	Waterford City & County Council	2-94
2.8.2	Community Engagement	2-95
2.9	Cumulative Impact Assessment	2-96
2.9.1	Methodology for the Cumulative Assessment of Projects	2-96
2.9.2	Establishing the Cumulative Long List	2-97
2.9.3	Projects Considered in the Cumulative Impact Assessment	2-103
2.9.3.1	Planning Applications & Permissions	2-103
2.9.3.2	Wind Farm Applications within 25km of the Proposed Turbines	2-104
2.9.3.3	Other Developments/Land uses	2-104
2.9.3.4	EPA Licenced Activities	2-104
2.9.3.5	Arterial Drainage Schemes	2-105
2.9.3.6	Commercial Forestry	2-105
2.9.4	Summary	2-105

3. CONSIDERATION OF REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES 3-1

3.1	Introduction	3-1
3.2	Consideration of Reasonable Alternatives	3-2
3.2.1	Methodology	3-2
3.2.2	‘Do Nothing’ Alternative	3-3
3.2.3	Alternative Site Locations	3-7
3.2.4	Alternative Renewable Energy Technologies	3-12
3.2.5	Alternative Project Design Options	3-18
3.2.6	Alternative Mitigation Measures	3-59

4. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT 4-1

4.1	Introduction	4-1
4.2	Proposed Project Layout	4-2
4.3	Proposed Project	4-8
4.3.1	Proposed Wind Farm	4-8
4.3.1.1	Wind Turbines	4-8
4.3.1.2	Site Roads	4-20
4.3.1.3	Underground Electrical (33kV) and Communications Cabling	4-25
4.3.1.4	Meteorological Mast	4-27
4.3.1.5	Telecommunications Relay Mast	4-27
4.3.1.6	Construction Compounds	4-27

4.3.1.7	Security Compounds.....	4-35
4.3.1.8	Watercourse / Culvert Crossings.....	4-35
4.3.1.9	38kV Underground Electrical Cabling.....	4-36
4.3.1.10	38kV End Masts.....	4-36
4.3.1.11	38 kV Joint Bays.....	4-37
4.3.1.12	Proposed 110kV Substation.....	4-40
4.3.2	Proposed Grid Connection.....	4-46
4.3.2.1	Proposed 110kV Underground Cabling Route.....	4-46
4.3.2.2	110kV Joint Bays.....	4-46
4.3.2.3	Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation.....	4-48
4.3.2.4	Watercourse and Service Crossings.....	4-56
4.3.2.5	Construction Compound.....	4-56
4.3.3	Proposed Project.....	4-62
4.3.3.1	Tree Felling and Vegetation Removal/Replanting.....	4-62
4.3.3.2	Borrow Pits.....	4-64
4.3.3.3	Spoil Management Strategy and Placement of Spoil.....	4-71
4.3.4	Quantities of Spoil and Crushed Stone.....	4-72
4.3.4.1	Crushed Stone.....	4-72
4.3.4.2	Spoil Management.....	4-72
4.3.5	Biodiversity Management Plan.....	4-73
4.3.5.1	Hedgerow Enhancement.....	4-73
4.3.5.2	Native Woodland Planting.....	4-74
4.3.5.3	Water Quality Protection.....	4-75
4.3.5.4	Proposed Nest/Den Box Installation.....	4-75
4.3.5.5	Pollinator Foraging/Nesting Habitats.....	4-75
4.4	Site Activities.....	4-76
4.4.1	Environmental Management.....	4-76
4.4.2	Refuelling.....	4-76
4.4.3	Concrete Deliveries.....	4-77
4.4.3.1	Concrete Pouring.....	4-78
4.4.4	Dust Suppression.....	4-79
4.4.5	Vehicle Washing.....	4-79
4.4.6	Waste Management.....	4-79
4.5	Site Access and Transportation.....	4-81
4.5.1	Site Entrances.....	4-81
4.5.2	Turbine Component Transport Route.....	4-82
4.5.2.1	Delivery Accommodation Works.....	4-82
4.5.3	Construction Materials Transport Route.....	4-83
4.5.3.1	Traffic Management.....	4-87
4.6	Site Drainage.....	4-88
4.6.1	Introduction.....	4-88
4.6.2	Existing Drainage Features.....	4-88
4.6.3	Drainage Design Principles.....	4-89
4.6.4	Drainage Design.....	4-90
4.6.4.1	Interceptor Drains.....	4-91
4.6.4.2	Swales.....	4-93
4.6.4.3	Check Dams.....	4-93
4.6.4.4	Level Spreaders.....	4-94
4.6.4.5	Piped Slope Drains.....	4-94
4.6.4.6	Vegetation Filters.....	4-95
4.6.4.7	Stilling Ponds (Settlement Ponds).....	4-95
4.6.4.8	Silt Bags.....	4-96
4.6.4.9	Sedimats.....	4-96
4.6.4.10	Culverts.....	4-96
4.6.4.11	Silt Fences.....	4-97
4.6.4.12	Oil Interceptor.....	4-97
4.6.4.13	Tree Felling Drainage.....	4-97
4.6.5	Cable Trench Drainage.....	4-99
4.6.6	Site Drainage Management.....	4-100
4.6.6.1	Preparative Site Drainage Management.....	4-100
4.6.6.2	Pre-emptive Site Drainage Management.....	4-100
4.6.6.3	Reactive Site Drainage Management.....	4-100
4.6.7	Drainage Maintenance.....	4-100
4.7	Construction Management.....	4-101
4.7.1	Construction Timing.....	4-101
4.7.2	Construction Sequencing.....	4-101
4.7.3	Construction Phase Monitoring and Oversight.....	4-103
4.8	Construction Methodologies.....	4-103

4.8.1	Proposed Wind Farm.....	4-104
4.8.1.1	Turbine, Met Mast and Telecommunications Relay Mast Foundations	4-104
4.8.1.2	Site Roads and Hardstand Areas	4-105
4.8.1.3	33kV Underground Electrical and Communication Cabling	4-107
4.8.1.4	Construction Compounds.....	4-108
4.8.1.5	Watercourse Crossings.....	4-109
4.8.1.6	38kV Underground Electrical Cabling.....	4-114
4.8.1.7	38kV End Masts.....	4-114
4.8.1.8	38 kV Joint Bay.....	4-115
4.8.1.9	Proposed 110kV Substation and Control Buildings.....	4-116
4.8.2	Proposed Grid Connection	4-117
4.8.2.1	Site Preparations	4-117
4.8.2.2	Trenching and Ducting.....	4-117
4.8.2.3	Proposed 110kV Underground Cabling Route.....	4-118
4.8.2.4	110 kV Joint Bays.....	4-119
4.8.2.5	Proposed 220kV Loop-in Substation and Control Buildings.....	4-119
4.8.2.6	220kV Underground Electrical Cabling	4-120
4.8.2.7	220kV End Masts.....	4-121
4.8.2.8	Watercourse/Service Crossings on the Proposed 110kV Underground Cabling Route.....	4-122
4.8.2.9	Construction Compound	4-126
4.8.2.10	Site Roads and Hardstand Areas	4-126
4.8.3	Proposed Project.....	4-126
4.8.3.1	Borrow Pits.....	4-126
4.8.3.2	Spoil Management Practices	4-128
4.9	Community Gain Proposal	4-128
4.9.1	Background.....	4-128
4.9.2	Renewable Energy Support Scheme.....	4-129
4.9.3	Community Benefit Fund.....	4-130
4.10	Operation.....	4-131
4.10.1	Maintenance.....	4-131
4.10.2	Monitoring	4-132
4.11	Decommissioning.....	4-132

5. POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH.....5-1

5.1	Introduction	5-1
5.1.1	Statement of Authority.....	5-1
5.1.2	Relevant Guidelines and Data Sources	5-2
5.1.3	Scoping.....	5-2
5.2	Assessment Methodology	5-3
5.2.1	Population.....	5-3
5.2.2	Human Health.....	5-3
5.2.2.1	National Guidance	5-3
5.2.2.2	IEMA Guidance 2017	5-4
5.2.2.3	EIA Significance Matrix for Human Health, IEMA Guidance 2022.....	5-5
5.2.3	Shadow Flicker	5-5
5.2.3.1	Background.....	5-5
5.2.3.2	Guidance.....	5-7
5.2.3.3	Shadow Flicker Prediction Methodology	5-8
5.2.3.4	Shadow Flicker Assessment Criteria	5-9
5.2.3.5	Shadow Flicker Study Area	5-9
5.3	Population.....	5-13
5.3.1	Receiving Environment.....	5-13
5.3.2	Population Trends	5-16
5.3.3	Population Density	5-16
5.3.4	Household Statistics	5-17
5.3.5	Age Structure.....	5-17
5.3.6	Employment and Economic Activity	5-18
5.3.6.1	Economic Status of the Population Study Area	5-18
5.3.6.2	Employment and Investment Potential in the Irish Wind Energy Industry	5-19
5.3.7	Land-Use Patterns and Activities.....	5-21
5.3.8	Services	5-22

5.3.8.1	Education	5-22
5.3.8.2	Access and Public Transport.....	5-22
5.3.8.3	Amenities and Community Facilities	5-22
5.4	Tourism.....	5-23
5.4.1	Tourism and Revenue	5-23
5.4.2	Tourist Attractions.....	5-24
5.4.3	Tourist Attitudes to Wind Farms.....	5-25
5.4.3.1	Scottish Tourism Study 2021	5-25
5.4.3.2	Fáilte Ireland Surveys 2007 and 2012	5-26
5.5	Public Perception of Wind Energy.....	5-27
5.5.1	Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland Surveys on Opinions Towards Wind Farms..	5-27
5.5.2	Sustainable Energy Ireland Survey 2003	5-28
5.5.2.1	Background.....	5-28
5.5.2.2	2003 Findings.....	5-28
5.5.2.3	Survey Update 2017	5-29
5.5.2.4	Conclusions.....	5-29
5.5.3	Wind Energy Ireland National Polls on Wind Energy	5-29
5.5.3.2	University College Cork Wind Farm Acceptance Study, 2024.....	5-31
5.6	Health Effects of Wind Farms	5-33
5.6.1	Introduction	5-33
5.6.2	Health Impact Studies.....	5-33
5.6.3	Turbine Safety	5-38
5.6.4	Electromagnetic Interference.....	5-39
5.6.5	Effects on Human Health	5-40
5.6.6	Vulnerability of the Project to Natural Disasters and Major Accidents.....	5-41
5.7	Property Values	5-41
5.7.1	Property Values and Wind Farms.....	5-41
5.7.2	Property Values and Grid Infrastructure	5-43
5.8	Residential Amenity.....	5-44
5.9	Shadow Flicker Assessment Results	5-45
5.9.1	Daily and Annual Shadow Flicker	5-45
5.9.2	Cumulative Shadow Flicker.....	5-46
5.10	Likely Significant Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures	5-48
5.10.1	‘Do Nothing’ Scenario.....	5-48
5.10.2	Construction Phase.....	5-48
5.10.2.1	Population	5-48
5.10.2.2	Population Levels	5-48
5.10.2.3	Employment and Investment.....	5-49
5.10.2.4	Land Use Patterns & Activities	5-50
5.10.2.5	Property Values	5-51
5.10.2.6	Tourism.....	5-52
5.10.2.7	Residential Amenity	5-53
5.10.2.8	Health.....	5-53
5.10.3	Operational Phase	5-62
5.10.3.1	Population	5-62
5.10.3.2	Health.....	5-68
5.10.3.3	Interference with Communications Systems and EMF	5-82
5.10.4	Decommissioning Phase	5-82
5.10.5	Cumulative and In-Combination Effects	5-83
5.10.5.1	Employment and Economic Activity	5-83
5.10.5.2	Tourism and Amenity.....	5-83
5.10.5.3	Traffic.....	5-83
5.10.5.4	Air (Dust)	5-83
5.10.5.5	Health and Safety	5-84
5.10.5.6	Property Values	5-84
5.10.5.7	Services	5-84

5.10.5.8	Shadow Flicker	5-84
5.10.5.9	Residential Amenity	5-84
5.11	Summary	5-85

6. BIODIVERSITY 6-1

6.1	Introduction	6-1
6.1.1	Requirements for Ecological Impact Assessment	6-1
6.1.2	Review of Relevant Guidance and Sources of Consultation	6-4
6.1.3	Statement of Authority	6-4
6.2	Methodology	6-6
6.2.1	Desk Study	6-6
6.2.1.1	Designated Sites	6-6
6.2.2	Scoping and Consultation	6-7
6.2.2.1	Consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service	6-8
6.2.3	Field Survey Methodologies	6-10
6.2.3.1	Multi-disciplinary Walkover Surveys (as per TII Guidelines, 2009b)	6-11
6.2.3.2	Dedicated Habitat and Vegetation Composition Surveys	6-11
6.2.3.3	Terrestrial Fauna Surveys	6-12
6.2.3.4	Aquatic surveys	6-13
6.2.3.5	Invasive species surveys	6-14
6.2.4	Methodology for Assessment of Impacts and Effects	6-14
6.2.4.1	Identification of Target Receptors and Key Ecological Receptors	6-14
6.2.4.2	Valuing Ecological Receptors	6-14
6.2.4.3	Characterisation of Impacts and Effects	6-15
6.2.4.4	Determining the Significance of Effects	6-15
6.2.4.5	Incorporation of Mitigation	6-16
6.2.5	Limitations	6-16
6.3	Establishing the Ecological Baseline	6-18
6.3.1	Desk Study Results	6-18
6.3.1.1	Designated Sites	6-18
6.3.1.2	NPWS Article 17 Reporting	6-24
6.3.1.3	Protected Flora	6-24
6.3.1.4	Bryophytes	6-26
6.3.1.5	National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC) Records	6-26
6.3.1.6	NPWS Protected Species Records	6-29
6.3.1.7	Bats	6-30
6.3.1.8	Aquatic Fauna	6-31
6.3.1.9	Regional and Local Hydrology and Hydrogeology	6-32
6.3.1.10	Conclusions of the Desktop Study	6-32
6.3.2	Habitat Survey Results	6-34
6.3.2.1	Proposed Wind Farm site	6-34
6.3.2.2	Proposed Grid Connection site	6-43
6.3.2.3	Protected Habitats/Flora	6-50
6.3.2.4	Invasive species	6-50
6.3.3	Faunal Survey Results	6-51
6.3.3.1	Badger	6-51
6.3.3.2	Otter	6-51
6.3.3.3	Pine Marten	6-52
6.3.3.4	Red squirrel	6-52
6.3.3.5	Reptiles and Amphibians	6-53
6.3.3.6	Bats	6-53
6.3.3.7	Fisheries and Aquatic Fauna	6-55
6.3.4	Identification of Key Ecological Receptors	6-57
6.4	Ecological Impact Assessment	6-61
6.4.1	Do-Nothing Effect	6-61
6.4.2	Likely Significant Effects During Construction Phase	6-61
6.4.2.1	Effects on Habitats During Construction	6-61
6.4.2.2	Effects on Fauna During Construction	6-65
6.4.3	Likely Significant Effects During Operational Phase	6-76
6.4.3.1	Effects on Aquatic Habitats and Associated Fauna	6-76
6.4.3.2	Effects on Fauna during Operation	6-78
6.4.4	Likely Significant Effects During Decommissioning Phase	6-80
6.4.5	Effects on Designated Sites	6-81
6.4.5.1	European Designated Sites	6-81
6.4.5.2	Nationally Designated Sites	6-82
6.5	Cumulative Impact	6-83
6.5.1	Assessment of Plans	6-83



6.5.2	Assessment of Projects	6-90
6.5.2.1	Proposed Grid Connection	6-91
6.5.2.2	Other Wind Farm Projects	6-92
6.5.2.3	Other EIA or Large-scale Projects	6-94
6.5.2.4	Existing Habitats and Land Uses	6-94
6.5.3	Assessment of Cumulative Effects	6-96
6.6	EIA Classification Summary	6-97
6.7	Conclusion	6-99

7.	ORNITHOLOGY	7-1
7.1	Introduction	7-1
7.1.1	Description of the Proposed Project	7-2
7.1.2	Legislation, Guidance and Policy Context	7-2
7.1.3	Statement of Authority	7-3
7.2	Methodology	7-4
7.2.1	Desk Study	7-4
7.2.2	Scoping and Consultation	7-4
7.2.3	Field Surveys	7-6
7.2.4	Receptor Evaluation and Impact Assessment	7-12
7.2.5	Assessment Justification	7-16
7.3	Baseline Ornithological Conditions	7-16
7.3.1	Designated Sites	7-16
7.3.2	Bird Atlas Records	7-26
7.3.3	Bird Sensitivity Mapping Tool	7-29
7.3.4	National Biodiversity Data Centre Records	7-29
7.3.5	Irish Wetland Bird Survey Records	7-34
7.3.6	Rare and Protected Species Dataset	7-35
7.3.7	Field Survey Results	7-35
7.4	Receptor Evaluation	7-68
7.4.1	Determination of Population Importance	7-68
7.4.2	Identification of Key Ornithological Receptors	7-79
7.4.3	Sensitivity Determination	7-91
7.5	Impact Assessment	7-91
7.5.1	'Do-Nothing' Scenario	7-91
7.5.2	Likely Effects of the Proposed Wind Farm	7-93
7.5.3	Likely Effects Associated with the Proposed Grid Connection	7-142
7.5.4	Likely Effects Associated with the Turbine Delivery Route	7-142
7.5.5	Likely Effects on Designated Sites	7-143
7.6	Mitigation and Best Practice Measures	7-143
7.6.1	Design of the Proposed Project	7-143
7.6.2	Construction and Environmental Management Plan	7-143
7.6.3	Mitigation and Enhancement Measures	7-144
7.6.4	Residual Effects	7-145
7.7	Cumulative Impacts	7-145
7.7.1	Plans Considered in the Assessment	7-145
7.7.2	Projects Considered in the Assessment	7-145
7.7.3	Cumulative Impact Assessment	7-152
7.8	Monitoring	7-182
7.8.1	Construction Phase	7-182
7.8.2	Operational Phase	7-182
7.8.3	Decommissioning Phase	7-182
7.8.4	Data Sharing	7-182
7.9	Conclusion	7-183
7.10	EIA Classification Table	7-183
8.	LAND, SOILS, GEOLOGY	8-1
8.1	Introduction	8-1
8.1.1	Objectives	8-1
8.1.2	Statement of Authority	8-1
8.1.3	Relevant Legislation	8-2
8.1.4	Relevant Guidance	8-2
8.2	Methodology	8-2
8.2.1	Desk Study	8-2
8.2.2	Baseline Data & Site Investigations	8-3
8.2.3	Scoping & Consultation	8-3
8.2.4	Impact Assessment Methodology	8-3
8.3	Existing Environment (Baseline)	8-5
8.3.1	Land Use & Topography	8-5
8.3.2	Soils and Subsoils	8-5

8.3.3	Bedrock Geology.....	8-10
8.3.4	Geological Heritage and Designated Geological Sites	8-10
8.3.5	Soil Contamination.....	8-10
8.3.6	Economic Geology.....	8-14
8.3.7	Geohazard.....	8-14
8.3.8	Receptor Importance/Sensitivity.....	8-14
8.4	Characteristics of the Proposed Project	8-14
8.5	Likely Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures.....	8-15
8.5.1	Do Nothing Scenario	8-15
8.5.2	Construction Phase.....	8-15
8.5.2.1	Land (Land-Take).....	8-16
8.5.2.2	Subsoil and Bedrock Excavation.....	8-17
8.5.2.3	Piling Works	8-18
8.5.2.4	Accidental Spills, Leaks, or Other Releases	8-19
8.5.2.5	Geological Heritage and Designated Geological Sites	8-20
8.5.3	Operational Phase	8-21
8.5.4	Decommissioning Phase	8-22
8.5.5	Potential Human Health Effects	8-23
8.5.6	Potential Cumulative Effects	8-24
8.5.7	Conclusion	8-24
8.5.8	EIA Classification Summary.....	8-25
9.	HYDROLOGY AND HYDROGEOLOGY	9-1
9.1	Introduction	9-1
9.1.1	Objectives	9-1
9.1.2	Statement of Authority.....	9-1
9.1.3	Relevant Legislation	9-2
9.1.4	Relevant Guidance.....	9-3
9.2	Methodology.....	9-4
9.2.1	Desk Study	9-4
9.2.2	Walkover Survey	9-4
9.2.3	Site Investigations and Monitoring.....	9-4
9.2.4	Scoping & Consultation	9-5
9.2.4.1	National Parks and Wildlife Service Consultation Meetings.....	9-5
9.2.5	Impact Assessment Methodology	9-6
9.2.6	Limitations and Difficulties Encountered.....	9-7
9.3	Existing Environment (Baseline)	9-8
9.3.1	Topography and Land Use.....	9-8
9.3.2	Regional Drainage.....	9-8
9.3.3	Site Drainage	9-12
9.3.3.1	Field Drains	9-12
9.3.3.2	Forest/Plantation Drains	9-12
9.3.3.3	Existing Access Track and Road Drains	9-13
9.3.4	Streamflow	9-15
9.3.5	Surface Water Quality.....	9-18
9.3.5.1	Site Sample Data	9-18
9.3.5.2	EPA Sample Data.....	9-21
9.3.6	EPA PIP Maps and Flow Delivery Points.....	9-25
9.3.7	Hydrogeology	9-26
9.3.7.1	Subsoil Types and Permeability.....	9-26
9.3.7.2	Bedrock Aquifer Classification	9-26
9.3.7.3	Groundwater Vulnerability.....	9-30
9.3.7.4	Groundwater Recharge.....	9-30
9.3.7.5	Groundwater Flow	9-30

9.3.8	Rainfall-Runoff Volumes.....	9-30
9.3.8.1	Long Term Annual Average Rainfall	9-33
9.3.8.2	Long Term Annual Average Runoff	9-33
9.3.8.3	Runoff During Storm Events	9-34
9.3.9	Summary of Flood Risk Identification	9-36
9.3.10	Public and Private Water Supplies	9-36
9.3.11	Groundwater Quality	9-39
9.3.12	WFD Water Body Status and Risk Assessment	9-40
9.3.13	Designated Sites and Protected Areas	9-41
9.3.14	Receptor Importance/Sensitivity	9-44
9.3.15	Drainage Planning	9-44
9.4	Likely Significant Effects and Mitigation Measures.....	9-48
9.4.1	Overview of Impact Assessment Process	9-48
9.4.2	Do Nothing Scenario	9-49
9.4.3	Construction Phase.....	9-49
9.4.3.1	Clear-felling of Coniferous Plantations.....	9-49
9.4.3.2	Earthworks	9-52
9.4.3.3	Watercourse Crossing Installation and Upgrades	9-55
9.4.3.4	Cable Works Installations	9-56
9.4.3.5	Hydraulic Effects of Drainage	9-57
9.4.3.6	Water Quality Effects of Drainage	9-58
9.4.3.7	Dewatering and Pumping from Open Excavations	9-58
9.4.3.8	Accidental Spills, Leaks or Other Releases	9-59
9.4.3.9	Release of Cement-Based Products.....	9-61
9.4.3.10	Piling Works	9-62
9.4.3.11	Wastewater Management.....	9-64
9.4.3.12	Public and Private Water Supplies.....	9-64
9.4.3.13	WFD Water Body Status.....	9-65
9.4.3.14	Designated Sites and Protected Areas	9-66
9.4.4	Operational Phase	9-69
9.4.4.1	Replacement of Natural Surfaces.....	9-69
9.4.4.2	Maintenance Works	9-69
9.4.4.3	Hydraulic Effects of Drainage	9-70
9.4.4.4	Water Quality Effects of Drainage	9-71
9.4.4.5	Groundwater Abstraction	9-71
9.4.4.6	Wastewater Management.....	9-72
9.4.4.7	WFD Water Body Status.....	9-72
9.4.4.8	Designated Sites and Protected Areas	9-73
9.4.5	Decommissioning Phase	9-73
9.4.6	Potential Human Health Effects	9-74
9.4.7	Potential Cumulative Effects	9-75
9.4.7.1	Effects Arising from Interactions Between Various Elements of the Proposed Project ..	9-75
9.4.7.2	Effects Arising in Combination with Other Projects	9-75
9.4.8	Proposed Monitoring	9-76
9.4.9	Conclusion	9-77
9.4.10	EIA Classification Summary	9-78
10.	AIR QUALITY	10-1
10.1	Introduction	10-1
10.1.1	Background.....	10-1
10.1.2	Statement of Authority.....	10-2
10.1.3	Relevant Guidance.....	10-3

10.1.4	Relevant Legislation	10-3
10.1.5	Air Quality Standards	10-5
10.1.6	Methodology.....	10-12
10.2	Baseline Air Quality	10-17
10.3	Likely and Significant Impacts and Associated Mitigation Measures.....	10-20
10.3.1	‘Do-Nothing’ Scenario.....	10-20
10.3.2	Construction Phase.....	10-21
10.3.3	Operational Phase	10-37
10.3.4	Decommissioning Phase	10-39
10.3.5	Cumulative Effects.....	10-40
10.3.6	EIA Classification Table	10-42

11. CLIMATE..... 11-1

11.1	Introduction	11-1
11.1.1	Background.....	11-1
11.1.2	Chapter Structure and Climate Study Areas	11-2
11.1.3	Statement of Authority	11-3
11.2	Climate Legislation, Policy, and Guidance	11-3
11.2.1	International Greenhouse Gas Emission and Climate Targets	11-4
11.2.2	National Greenhouse Gas Emission and Climate Targets	11-7
11.2.3	Local Greenhouse Gas Emission and Climate Targets	11-10
11.2.3.1	Waterford City & County Council Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029...	11-10
11.2.4	Relevant Guidance.....	11-10
11.3	Climate and Weather	11-11
11.3.1	Baseline Environment	11-11
11.3.1.1	Data Sources	11-11
11.3.1.2	Physical Environment.....	11-12
11.3.1.3	Existing Greenhouse Gas Emissions	11-17
11.3.2	Future Environment	11-17
11.3.2.1	Data sources.....	11-18
11.3.2.2	Physical environment	11-18
11.3.2.3	Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections	11-20
11.3.3	Summary.....	11-22
11.4	Carbon Assessment - Calculating Carbon Losses and Savings from the Proposed Project	11-22
11.4.1	Background.....	11-22
11.4.2	Methodology for Calculating Losses.....	11-23
11.4.3	Carbon Losses and Savings Calculations	11-24
11.4.3.1	Carbon Losses	11-24
11.4.3.2	Carbon Savings	11-26
11.5	Likely Significant Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures	11-27
11.5.1	‘Do-Nothing’ Scenario.....	11-27
11.5.2	Construction Phase.....	11-27
11.5.2.1	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	11-27
11.5.3	Operational Phase	11-29
11.5.3.1	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	11-29
11.5.4	Decommissioning Phase	11-30
11.6	Cumulative Assessment	11-31
11.6.1	Construction Phase.....	11-32
11.6.2	Operational Phase	11-32
11.6.3	Decommissioning Phase	11-32
11.7	EIA Classification Summary.....	11-33

12. NOISE AND VIBRATION 12-1

12.1	Introduction	12-1
12.1.1	Background and Objectives	12-1
12.1.2	Statement of Authority	12-1
12.2	Fundamentals of Acoustics	12-2
12.3	Legislation, Policy and Guidance.....	12-3
12.3.1	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Description of Effects	12-3
12.3.2	Guidance Documents and Assessment Criteria.....	12-3
12.3.3	Construction and Decommissioning Phases - Noise.....	12-5
12.3.3.1	Commercial Receptors.....	12-6
12.3.3.2	Linear Construction Works	12-6
12.3.3.3	Interpretation of the Construction Noise Thresholds (CNT).....	12-7
12.3.3.4	Construction and Decommissioning Phases - Additional Vehicular Activity on Public Roads	12-7
12.3.4	Construction and Decommissioning Phase – Vibration.....	12-8
12.3.5	Operational Phase Noise – Wind Turbines	12-9
12.3.5.1	Wind Energy Guidelines for Planning Authorities	12-9
12.3.5.2	The Assessment and Rating of Noise from Wind Farms – ETSU-R-97	12-10
12.3.5.3	Assessment and Rating of Wind Turbine Noise – Key Updates.....	12-10
12.3.5.4	Institute of Acoustics Good Practice Guide	12-11
12.3.5.5	Background Noise Surveys	12-11
12.3.5.6	Noise Prediction Calculations	12-11
12.3.5.7	Cumulative Assessment Screening	12-12
12.3.5.8	Future Potential Guidance Changes.....	12-12
12.3.5.9	World Health Organisation (WHO) Noise Guidelines for the European Region ..	12-13
12.3.5.10	Low Frequency Noise and Infrasound	12-15
12.3.5.11	Tonality.....	12-15
12.3.5.12	Amplitude Modulation	12-15
12.3.5.13	Factors to Consider when Assessing Wind Turbine Operational Noise Effects	12-17
12.3.6	Operational Phase Noise – Fixed Plant Items.....	12-17
12.3.6.1	EPA NG4	12-18
12.3.6.2	BS4142.....	12-18
12.3.7	Operational Phase - Vibration.....	12-20
12.4	Assessment Methodology	12-21
12.4.1	Study Area.....	12-21
12.4.1.1	Construction and Decommissioning Study Area	12-21
12.4.1.2	Operational Phase Study Areas	12-24
12.4.2	Background Noise Survey	12-26
12.4.2.1	Choice of Monitoring Locations	12-26
12.4.2.2	Wind Data	12-29
12.4.2.3	Analysis of Survey Data	12-29
12.4.2.4	Consideration of Wind Shear	12-29
12.4.3	Construction Noise Calculations.....	12-29
12.4.4	Operational Noise Calculations	12-30
12.4.4.1	Noise Prediction Software	12-30
12.4.4.2	Proposed Turbine Details	12-30
12.4.4.3	Cumulative Turbine Details.....	12-32
12.4.4.4	Modelling Calculation Parameters	12-34
12.4.4.5	Effects of Propagation from Wind Directions	12-34
12.5	Receiving Environment.....	12-35
12.5.1	Summary of Derived Background Noise Levels.....	12-35
12.5.2	Wind Turbine Noise Criteria	12-36
12.5.2.1	Assigning Turbine Noise Limits	12-38
12.5.3	Noise Limits for Fixed Plant.....	12-38
12.6	Likely Significant Effects	12-40
12.6.1	Do-Nothing Scenario	12-40

12.6.2	Construction Phase	12-40
12.6.2.1	General Construction of Turbines, Hardstand Areas, Telecommunications Relay Mast and Met Mast	12-41
12.6.2.2	Construction and upgrades of Roads and Tracks	12-43
12.6.2.3	Borrow Pit Excavation and Reinstatement.....	12-44
12.6.2.4	Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan and Felling Measures	12-46
12.6.2.5	Construction Traffic.....	12-47
12.6.2.6	Substation Construction	12-49
12.6.2.7	Proposed 110kV Underground Cabling Route	12-51
12.6.3	Operational Phase.....	12-52
12.6.3.1	Assessment of Wind Turbine Noise	12-52
12.6.3.2	Fixed Plant Noise.....	12-63
12.6.4	Decommissioning Phase	12-65
12.6.4.1	Description of Effects	12-66
12.7	Mitigation Measures	12-66
12.7.1	Construction Phase	12-66
12.7.2	Construction Phase – Vibration	12-67
12.7.3	Decommissioning Phase	12-68
12.7.4	Operational Phase.....	12-68
12.7.4.1	Wind Turbine Noise.....	12-68
12.7.4.2	Fixed Plant	12-71
12.7.5	Monitoring.....	12-71
12.7.5.1	Noise Compliance Monitoring Plan	12-71
12.7.5.2	Complaints Procedure.....	12-72
12.8	Residual Effects	12-72
12.8.1	Construction Phase	12-73
12.8.2	Operational Phase.....	12-73
12.8.2.1	Wind Turbine Noise.....	12-73
12.8.2.2	Fixed Plant Operation	12-74
12.8.3	Decommissioning Phase	12-74
12.8.4	Cumulative Effects Wind Turbine Noise	12-74
12.8.5	Noise from Fixed Plant Operation	12-75
12.8.6	Construction and Decommissioning.....	12-75
12.8.7	Cumulative Operational Phase Effects	12-75
12.9	Difficulties Encountered During the Preparation of this Chapter	12-76
12.10	Interactions	12-76
12.11	Summary.....	12-76
12.12	EIA Classification Summary.....	12-76

13. LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL	3
13.1	Introduction
13.1.1	Statement of Authority.....
13.1.2	Proposed Project References
13.1.3	‘Essential Aspects of the Proposed Project and Primary Focus of the LVIA.....
13.1.4	Turbine Dimensions Assessed in this Chapter
13.1.5	Mitigation by Best Practice Wind Farm Design
13.1.6	Pre-Planning Meeting Topics in LVIA
13.1.7	Consideration of Alternative Turbine Layouts in Early-Stage Pre-Planning.....
13.2	Brief Methodology and Assessment Criteria.....
13.2.1	Guidance.....
13.2.2	Scope of the LVIA and Study Areas.....
13.2.3	Assessment of Potential Impacts.....
13.2.4	LVIA Wind Energy Context.....
13.3	Visibility of the Proposed Turbines
13.3.1	Zone of Theoretical Visibility (ZTV) Mapping

13.3.2	ZTV Map and Physical Landscape Features	12
13.3.3	Theoretical Visibility of the Proposed Turbines	15
13.3.3.1	Theoretical Visibility in the LVIA Study Area.....	15
13.3.4	Onsite Visibility Appraisal.....	15
13.3.5	Route Screening Analysis (RSA): Visibility in Close Proximity	15
13.3.5.1	Route Screening Categories	15
13.3.5.2	RSA Results.....	17
13.4	Landscape Baseline	19
13.4.1	Landscape Policy Context	19
13.4.1.1	Chapter 10 of the WCCDP 2022-2028	21
13.4.1.2	Landscape Character Type and Landscape Character Unit	21
13.4.1.3	Landscape Capacity to Absorb Development	22
13.4.1.4	Landscape Sensitivity Designations	23
13.4.1.5	Wind Energy Zoning	25
13.4.1.6	Designated Scenic Routes & Protected Views.....	28
13.4.1.7	Co. Cork High Value Landscapes	28
13.4.1.8	Co. Tipperary Primary and Secondary Amenity Areas.....	29
13.4.2	Designated Landscape Character Areas (LCAs) and Policy on LCAs	29
13.4.2.1	LCAs containing the Proposed Project	29
13.4.2.2	LCAs in the Wider LCA Study Area.....	30
13.4.2.3	LCAs Preliminary Analysis.....	31
13.4.3	Landscape Character of the Proposed Wind Farm site	37
13.4.4	Landscape Sensitivity of the Proposed Wind Farm site	41
13.4.5	Guidance for Siting and Design in the Guidelines (DoEHLG, 2006) and Draft Guidelines (DoHPLG, 2019)	42
13.4.6	Wider Landscape Setting	44
13.4.6.1	Landscape Character of the LVIA Study Area.....	44
13.4.6.2	Copper Coast UNESCO Global Geopark	44
13.4.7	Landscape Receptors Preliminary Analysis	45
13.4.7.1	Landscape Receptors Scoped In	45
13.4.7.2	Landscape Receptors Scoped Out	46
13.5	Visual Baseline.....	47
13.5.1	Designated Scenic Routes.....	50
13.5.2	Designated Protected Views.....	50
13.5.3	Recreational Routes.....	50
13.5.4	Popular Recreational, Cultural Heritage and Tourist Destinations.....	50
13.5.5	Tailte Éireann Viewing Areas.....	50
13.5.6	Settlements	50
13.5.7	Primary Transport Routes.....	50
13.5.8	Local Residential Receptors	51
13.5.9	Visual Receptors Preliminary Analysis	51
13.5.9.1	Visual Receptors Scoped In	51
13.5.9.2	Visual Receptors Scoped Out	55
13.5.10	Photomontage Viewpoint (VP) Selection	57
13.6	Cumulative Context	61
13.6.1	Wind Farms in the LVIA Study Area	61
13.6.2	Potential for Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects.....	61
13.7	Likely Significant Landscape and Visual Effects	64
13.7.1	‘Do-Nothing’ Scenario	64
13.7.2	Construction Phase Effects.....	64
13.7.2.1	Landscape Effects during the Construction Phase.....	64
13.7.2.2	Visual Effects during Construction Phase	66
13.7.3	Operational Phase Effects.....	68
13.7.3.1	Landscape Effects during the Operational Phase.....	68
13.7.3.2	Assessment Outcomes of Designated LCAs (Appendix 13-2).....	76
13.7.3.3	Assessment Outcomes of Photomontage Viewpoints (Appendix 13-3).....	78
13.7.3.4	Visual Effects during the Operational Phase.....	82
13.7.4	Cumulative Landscape and Visual Effects	104
13.7.5	Decommissioning Phase Effects	106
13.8	Conclusion	107
13.9	EIA Classification Summary	110

14. ARCHAEOLOGICAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE.....14-1

14.1	Introduction	14-1
14.1.1	Proposed Project.....	14-1

14.1.2	Location and Topography	14-1
14.1.3	Statement of Authority	14-4
14.1.4	Relevant Guidance and Legislation	14-4
14.1.4.1	Guidance	14-4
14.1.4.2	Legislation	14-4
14.1.4.3	National Policy	14-6
14.1.4.4	Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028	14-7
14.1.5	Scoping and Consultation	14-13
14.1.5.1	Waterford City & County Council	14-13
14.1.5.2	Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage	14-13
14.2	Assessment Methodology	14-15
14.2.1	Study Area	14-15
14.2.2	Geographical Information Systems (GIS)	14-16
14.2.3	Desktop Assessment	14-16
14.2.3.1	Record of Monuments and Places, Sites and Monuments Record and National Monuments	14-17
14.2.3.2	Cartographic Sources and Aerial Photography	14-17
14.2.3.3	Topographical Files - National Museum of Ireland	14-17
14.2.3.4	Archaeological Inventory Series	14-17
14.2.3.5	Record of Protected Structures	14-17
14.2.3.6	Excavations Database	14-18
14.2.3.7	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)	14-18
14.2.4	Field Inspection	14-18
14.2.5	Limitations Associated with the Assessment	14-18
14.2.5.1	Field Assessment	14-18
14.2.5.2	Desktop Assessment	14-18
14.2.6	Assessment of Likely Significant Effects	14-19
14.2.6.1	Types of Effect	14-19
14.2.6.2	Cultural Heritage Receptors Considered	14-19
14.2.6.3	Methodology for the assessment of effects on visual setting (indirect effects)	14-20
14.3	Existing Environment	14-22
14.3.1	Results of Field Inspection	14-22
14.3.2	Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	14-22
14.3.2.1	Proposed Wind Farm	14-22
14.3.2.2	The Proposed Grid Connection	14-83
14.3.2.3	Proposed Biodiversity Management and Enhancement Plan	14-91
14.3.2.4	Proposed Turbine Delivery Route (TDR) Overrun Areas	14-92
14.4	Likely Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures	14-92
14.4.1	Do Nothing Scenario	14-92
14.4.2	Construction Phase Potential Effects (Indirect)	14-92
14.4.3	Construction Phase Potential Effects (Direct)	14-92
14.4.3.1	UNESCO World Heritage Sites and those on Tentative List	14-93
14.4.3.2	National Monuments	14-93
14.4.3.3	Recorded Monuments	14-93
14.4.3.4	Previously Unrecorded Monuments within the Site	14-94
14.4.3.5	Sub-surface Archaeological Potential	14-94
14.4.3.6	Protected Structures	14-95
14.4.3.7	NIAH structures and Historic Gardens	14-95
14.4.3.8	Items of Local Cultural Heritage Merit	14-95
14.4.4	Operational Phase Potential Effects (Indirect)	14-96
14.4.4.1	UNESCO World Heritage Sites and those on Tentative List	14-96
14.4.4.2	National Monuments	14-97
14.4.4.3	Recorded Monuments	14-98
14.4.4.4	Previously Unrecorded Monuments	14-116
14.4.4.5	Sub-surface Archaeology	14-116
14.4.4.6	Archaeological Landscapes	14-116

14.4.4.7	Protected Structures	14-116
14.4.4.8	NIAH Structures and Historic Gardens.....	14-119
14.4.4.9	Items of Local Cultural Heritage Merit.....	14-124
14.5	Decommissioning Phase	14-124
14.6	Cumulative Effects.....	14-124
14.6.1	Non-Wind Farm Projects within 20km.....	14-125
14.6.2	Other Wind Farms	14-125
14.6.3	Cumulative Effects (Direct Effects – Construction stage).....	14-125
14.6.3.1	Cumulative effects (direct)	14-125
14.6.4	Cumulative Effects (Indirect Effects – Operational Stage).....	14-126
14.6.4.1	UNESCO World Heritage sites (tentative)	14-126
14.6.4.2	National Monuments.....	14-126
14.6.4.3	Recorded Monuments	14-126
14.6.4.4	Archaeological Landscapes	14-127
14.6.4.5	Protected Structures and NIAH	14-127
14.6.4.6	Items of Local Cultural Heritage Merit.....	14-128
14.7	Conclusion	14-128

15. MATERIAL ASSETS 15-1

15.1	Traffic and Transport.....	15-1
15.1.1	Introduction	15-1
15.1.1.1	Overview.....	15-1
15.1.1.2	Statement of Authority.....	15-1
15.1.1.3	Relevant Guidance.....	15-2
15.1.1.4	EIAR Scoping and Consultation	15-2
15.1.1.5	Methodology.....	15-7
15.1.2	Receiving Environment.....	15-8
15.1.2.1	Site Location	15-8
15.1.2.2	Proposed Turbine Delivery Route	15-8
15.1.2.3	Proposed Construction Traffic Haul Routes	15-9
15.1.2.4	Proposed Grid Connection.....	15-10
15.1.2.5	Existing Road Network.....	15-11
15.1.2.6	Road Safety.....	15-12
15.1.2.7	Baseline Traffic Volumes	15-13
15.1.2.8	Sustainable Transport Provision.....	15-15
15.1.3	Proposed Project.....	15-15
15.1.3.1	Access Locations	15-16
15.1.3.2	Construction Traffic	15-17
15.1.3.3	Operational Traffic.....	15-22
15.1.3.4	Decommissioning Traffic	15-23
15.1.4	Likely and Significant Effects.....	15-23
15.1.4.1	Do Nothing Scenario	15-23
15.1.4.2	Potential Effects – Construction Phase.....	15-24
15.1.4.3	Potential Effects – Operational Phase	15-28
15.1.4.4	Potential Effects – Decommissioning Phase.....	15-28
15.1.5	Mitigation Measures	15-28
15.1.6	Residual Effects	15-30
15.1.7	Cumulative Effects.....	15-30
15.2	Telecommunications and Aviation	15-32
15.2.1	Introduction	15-32
15.2.1.1	Statement of Authority.....	15-32
15.2.2	Methodology and Guidance.....	15-33
15.2.2.1	Legislation, Policy and Guidance.....	15-33
15.2.2.2	Broadcast Communications	15-33

15.2.2.3	Domestic Receivers	15-34
15.2.2.4	Other Signal Types	15-34
15.2.2.5	Electromagnetic Interference	15-34
15.2.2.6	Aviation	15-37
15.2.3	Scoping and Consultation	15-37
15.2.3.1	Broadcasters	15-39
15.2.3.2	Other Consultees	15-40
15.2.3.3	Aviation	15-43
15.2.4	Telecommunications Impact Assessment	15-45
15.2.5	Likely Significant Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures	15-46
15.2.5.1	‘Do Nothing’ Scenario	15-46
15.2.5.2	Construction Phase	15-46
15.2.5.3	Operational Phase	15-46
15.2.5.4	Decommissioning Phase	15-48
15.2.5.5	Cumulative Effects	15-49
15.3	Other Material Assets	15-49
15.3.1	Methodology and Guidance	15-49
15.3.2	Scoping and Consultation	15-49
15.3.2.1	Utilities	15-50
15.3.3	Baseline Environment	15-50
15.3.3.1	Existing and Built Services and Utilities	15-50
15.3.3.2	Waste Management Services	15-51
15.3.4	Likely Significant Effects and Associated Mitigation Measures	15-51
15.3.4.1	‘Do-Nothing’ Scenario	15-51
15.3.4.2	Construction Phase	15-52
15.3.4.3	Operational Phase	15-55
15.3.4.4	Decommissioning Phase	15-56
15.3.4.5	Cumulative Impact Assessment	15-56
15.4	Difficulties Encountered	15-57
15.5	EIA Classification Summaries	15-57

16. MAJOR ACCIDENTS AND NATURAL DISASTERS 16-1

16.1	Introduction	16-1
16.1.1	Statement of Authority	16-1
16.2	Assessment Methodology	16-2
16.2.1	General	16-2
16.2.2	Legislative Context	16-3
16.2.2.1	Guidance Documents	16-3
16.2.3	Categorisation of the Baseline Environment	16-3
16.2.4	Impact Assessment Methodology	16-4
16.2.4.1	Introduction	16-4
16.2.4.2	Site-Specific Risk Assessment Methodology	16-4
16.3	Baseline Conditions	16-9
16.3.1	Natural	16-9
16.3.2	Meteorological	16-10
16.3.3	Transport	16-11
16.3.4	Industrial/Hazmat	16-12
16.3.5	Loss of Utilities	16-13
16.4	Risk Assessment	16-13
16.4.1	Likely Significant Effects	16-13
16.4.1.1	Do-Nothing Scenario	16-13
16.4.1.2	Assessment of Effects During Construction	16-14
16.4.1.3	Identification of Effect During Operation	16-16
16.4.1.4	Identification of Effect During Decommissioning	16-17

16.4.1.5	Risk Assessment Summary	16-18
16.4.1.6	Assessment of Effect – Summary	16-19
16.4.1.7	Pollution/Contamination (E,P).....	16-38
16.4.1.8	Severe Weather During Construction, Operation and Decommissioning (B, G, M) ...	16-38
16.4.2	Mitigation Measures	16-39
16.4.2.1	Mitigation - Contamination During Construction and Decommissioning (E)	16-39
16.4.2.2	Mitigation – Severe Weather During Construction, Operation and Decommissioning (B, G, M)	16-39
16.4.3	Residual Effects	16-40
16.4.4	Monitoring	16-40
16.4.4.1	Monitoring During Construction.....	16-40
16.4.4.2	Monitoring During Operation	16-40
16.4.4.3	Monitoring During Decommissioning	16-40
16.4.5	Assessment of Cumulative Effects and In Combination Impacts	16-40

17. INTERACTION OF THE FOREGOING.....17-1

17.1	Introduction	17-1
17.1.1	Statement of Authority.....	17-3
17.2	Impact Interactions.....	17-4
17.2.1	Population and Human Health	17-4
17.2.2	Biodiversity	17-10
17.2.3	Ornithology.....	17-14
17.2.4	Land, Soils and Geology.....	17-18
17.2.5	Air Quality	17-20
17.2.6	Climate.....	17-21
17.2.7	Landscape and Visual.....	17-22
17.2.8	Vulnerability to Natural Disasters	17-22
17.3	Mitigation and Residual Effects.....	17-23

SCHEDULE OF MITIGATION & MONITORING MEASURES 18-1

18.1	EIAR Mitigation Measures	18-2
18.2	EIAR Monitoring Measures	18-90